

TITLE SEQUENCE:

Images of two iconic women pitted against each other; one blonde, beautiful, dressed in white with the white rose of York, ELIZABETH WOODVILLE, the White Queen. The other dark haired, wearing blood red, the pious MARGARET BEAUFORT, the Red Queen, wearing the red rose of Lancaster. And between and around them, a third woman, ANNE NEVILLE, in purples, lilacs and yellows, caught in this storm of history, a pawn at the hands of her father WARWICK and the other men who determine her life.

Around and among them, the lineage and family trees of these women branch off, showing their mothers and fathers, daughters and sons, sisters and brothers: the main players in the English Wars Of The Roses, where two lines of one family, the Red and White cousins of York and Lancaster waged war upon each other for the throne of England.

The emphasis is on the women as this is to be women's war, and our show a female, epic, family saga of war and love, passion and loyalty, death and survival. The portraits of our main characters dissolve into their real life younger selves as the drama begins...

1 DREAM - BATTLEFIELD/WATER 1

Blood and carnage - jolting flash frames of battle -

- then the sudden thrust of a silver mermaid's tail in water saves us from the sight, wiping the frame clean - SPLASH!

2 INT. ELIZABETH'S BEDROOM, GRAFTON MANOR - DAWN **SPRING 1464** 2

ECU on ELIZABETH WOODVILLE's blue, blue eyes as they snap open from her dream, wide awake in bed. She looks to the window with sudden foresight of something approaching.

3 INT. BOYS' BEDROOM, GRAFTON MANOR - DAWN 3

ELIZABETH, 27, beautiful but poor, is in a tatty robe/shawl as she rouses her boys; THOMAS 8 and RICHARD 6, who are sleeping in their tiny trestle beds:

ELIZABETH

Thomas, Richard - come. Wake now.

They grumble and moan and rub their eyes at being woken so early as ELIZABETH selects some clothes for them to wear - around them her parents' house, once a well tended but modest manor, is falling into disrepair, money evidently short.

ELIZABETH V/O

My father is Sir Richard Woodville,
now made Baron Rivers, but born a
(MORE)

ELIZABETH V/O (CONT'D)
common squire. My mother Jacquetta
descends from the Royal Dukes of
Burgundy and carries in her line
the blood of the water goddess
Melusina who founded -

ELIZABETH'S POV through the tiny window to the River Tove -

ELIZABETH V/O (CONT'D)
- their house and can still be
heard at times of trouble, singing
her warning songs over the water.

Beat. She listens but hears only the ripple of moving water.

ELIZABETH V/O (CONT'D)
Or so they say, those who believe
in such things.

ELIZABETH turns away, back to the BOYS, with love but haste -

ELIZABETH
Come. Dress quickly please.

She turns to exit.

4 INT. LANDING, GRAFTON MANOR - DAY 4

JACQUETTA appears as ELIZABETH crosses back to her room, and
as they meet each other's eye, JACQUETTA immediately
understands what her daughter is about and its importance.

ELIZABETH breaks off first with apprehension, and goes into
her room.

5 INT. ELIZABETH'S ROOM, GRAFTON - DAY 5

ELIZABETH shares the room with her sisters, ANNE 24, MARY 20
QUETTI 19, MARTHA 13, ELEANOR 11, MARGARET 10 and KATHERINE
5, who sleep as she rifles through her scant choice of
clothes, looking for the best dress. She rejects one with a
hole, frowning, but JACQUETTA is in the doorway, quiet as -

JACQUETTA
Elizabeth? Take this.

ELIZABETH looks at the small glass vial but hesitates.

JACQUETTA (CONT'D)
It may help you. And it cannot
harm.

A beat, then ELIZABETH takes it.

The BOYS bundle in, needing help to dress, and JACQUETTA
catches them in the doorway, indicating the sleeping SISTERS -

JACQUETTA (CONT'D)
Shhhh. Quietly.

JACQUETTA helps them, as ELIZABETH dresses -

ELIZABETH V/O
With this parentage of mine, solid
English earth and French water
goddess, I could have been an
enchantress or just a common girl.

ELIZABETH stares at herself in a looking glass -

ELIZABETH V/O (CONT'D)
There are those who would say I am
both.

ELIZABETH sprinkles a few drops of her MOTHER'S liquid onto
her hair and veil of her conical henet (hat). She's ready.

6 EXT. COUNTRY FIELDS - MORNING

6

ELIZABETH leads THOMAS and RICHARD briskly by the hand
through the spring morning, bright flowers sprouting in the
dewy grass, but the burnt out or abandoned peasant houses on
their route and make-shift graves and crosses attest to the
ravages of war, and of plague -

ELIZABETH V/O
But today I am nothing but a widow
and a mother who will beg on her
knees in the dirt if she must, to
give her sons a future.

THOMAS
Where are we going Mother?

RICHARD
And why must we go so *early*?

ELIZABETH
(light but apprehensive)
We are going to meet the King.

RICHARD
(excited)
King Henry?! Is he back?

THOMAS frowns at his little brother's stupidity -

ELIZABETH
No. The new king. Edward.

THOMAS
Edward of York is not the King! He
killed our father!

ELIZABETH

Hush. He is King now. And we must show our loyalty to him.

The BOYS don't like the sound of that. As they continue on-

ELIZABETH V/O

But Thomas is right. This upstart boy is not a king we recognise. He is a York and a usurper, and my family, supporters of true Lancastrian kings of England have fought against him bitterly. My own father was there as -

7 EXT. BATTLE OF TOWTON - DAY

7

A shrieking battle cry cuts through a blizzard of snow as a York CAVALRYMAN swings his blade - and blood and heads of LANCASTRIANS tumble across the frame, and crash into the whiteness, turning it red.

ELIZABETH V/O

-he cut down 20,000 men in a single day at Towton, in a slaughter we had never seen in England.

All around, the same is happening - until the snow cannot be seen and the field is rendered a sea of blood -

DISSOLVE TO:

8 EXT. DARK COUNTRYSIDE - NIGHT

8

Two dark cloaked, hooded FIGURES and their retinue urge their horses hard through the windswept darkness as they flee.

9 EXT. SCOTTISH CASTLE - NIGHT

9

The figures thunder up to the castle under cover of darkness, and as some loyal Scottish NOBLES hurry out to greet them, the first figure throws back her hood to reveal herself as the French born QUEEN MARGARET OF ANJOU. 30s, Dark haired, tiny but determined, selfish, proud and ruthless, she has the warring spirit of a man.

ELIZABETH V/O

He drove the rightful King Henry and Queen Margaret of Anjou into exile in Scotland, paupers in their own land while he seized the crown.

But as she helps her husband, LANCASTRIAN KING HENRY VI down from his horse, he is a profoundly small and childlike figure dressed like a townsman in a long, plain tunic with a hair

shirt beneath and simple, broad toed shoes. And from his shaking and vacant look, he is also mentally unwell as his wife helps him impatiently into the castle.

10 EXT. COUNTRY FIELDS - DAY

10

ELIZABETH and the BOYS still hurry across the green English landscape, heading towards a giant oak tree -

ELIZABETH V/O

My husband John, my boys' father,
was killed at St Albans, and all my
land seized. Yet it is this savage
York boy-king who I must beg to
this morning as he rides out with
his army to another harvest of
heads.

They reach a crossroads where a country track intersects a wider road, the tree overshadowing it. ELIZABETH is dark -

ELIZABETH V/O (CONT'D)

He will not be in the mood for
women; he will be spoiling for a
slaughter.

THOMAS

Well I shan't bow to him! And I
shall not call him king!

ELIZABETH

(kind but firm)

You will do as I ask, please
Thomas.

THOMAS pouts, but adores his mother and will do whatever she says in the end. And then we hear it - the distant sound of hooves pounding like rain, a huge army on its way.

ELIZABETH tenses, and her BOYS look alert, their bravado failing as they turn open-mouthed and agog towards the hill in the dusty road, as the jingle of harnesses, flutter of standards, chink of chain mail and blowing out of horses signal the army's nearness...

...and then, in a billowing of dust it bursts at once over the hill, and in the blinking of an eye the STANDARD BEARERS at the front are thundering past.

ELIZABETH steps back instinctively, and THOMAS sees her loss of nerve, steps forward to shout (as in, 'Hey there!') -

THOMAS

Hurrah there! Stop!

-ELIZABETH pulls him back in fear, but a MAN in the centre on a great white war horse snatches his reins to bellow -

KING EDWARD

Halt!

The whole CAVALCADE stops, swearing at the suddenness and dust billows around them. Suddenly all is quiet, but ELIZABETH has lost the words as she stares at KING EDWARD OF YORK and is mesmerised - he is 22, blond, very handsome, a natural easy charm, arrogant but with a cheeky, boyish edge to it. And he is staring back at her.

ELIZABETH looks away, and RICHARD NEVILLE, THE EARL OF WARWICK (30s, razor-sharp, 'The Kingmaker'), EDWARD's cousin who rides one side of him, shakes his head with exasperated impatience of EDWARD ever responding to a pretty face -

WARWICK

Edward...?

EDWARD glances round but WARWICK is forgotten in a heartbeat as he jumps down from his great horse FURY and walks towards her.

WARWICK laughs in response to a loved but naughty charge, and signals the MEN to move -

WARWICK (CONT'D)

Rest a moment. In the shade.

The MEN moves to rest under the oak tree. As EDWARD reaches them, THOMAS and RICHARD crane their necks to look at him - so very tall - awed despite themselves, but still ELIZABETH is frozen, whether from fear or something else it's hard to say. THOMAS sees there's nothing for it but to speak himself -

THOMAS

This is my mother, Lady Elizabeth
Grey -

THOMAS pulls off his cap and drops to his knee politely as he should. Then, a frowned afterthought -

THOMAS (CONT'D)

- your Grace.

Following his brother's example, RICHARD also kneels, and dips his head, but mutters too loudly -

RICHARD

He is the tallest man in the world!
Is he really the King?!

ELIZABETH too finally drops to a curtsey, wresting her eyes from his face. Still he stares at her as, quietly -

KING EDWARD

Have you come to see me?

She takes a breath -

ELIZABETH

I have, your Grace.

His stare has an intensity that could be anger or desire -

KING EDWARD

Rise up.

ELIZABETH does so; she swallows but finally braves -

ELIZABETH

I cannot obtain my dowry lands.

(her throat is dry)

My jointure. I am a widow. And my boys and I have nothing to live on.

(he says nothing, so she's forced to add, damningly)

My husband was Sir John Grey. He died at St Albans.

EDWARD's face changes but WARWICK, now behind him, makes it clear to EDWARD how little he thinks of this -

WARWICK

Commander of the Lancastrian cavalry!

ELIZABETH

(to EDWARD)

He did his duty as he believed it to be, Your Grace. He was loyal to the man he thought King. My boys are innocent of anything.

EDWARD turns his shrewd look on her sons.

KING EDWARD

These are his sons?

ELIZABETH

My only fortune. This is Richard and this is Thomas Grey.

The BOYS gaze up at him. A beat -

WARWICK

Edward? We should go -

- but EDWARD looks around -

KING EDWARD

Your home is near here?

ELIZABETH hesitates - his meaning is unclear - the last thing she wants is to bring hostile men on her parents' home. But THOMAS does not pick up the subtlety and eagerly obliges -

THOMAS

It is over the fields! And just a short walk.

The hint of a smile crosses EDWARD's face and he smiles. WARWICK sighs, and calls to the MEN, making a show of knowing what's coming -

WARWICK

The King would have us make a detour.

(shakes his head in amusement, to EDWARD)

We have some time.

KING EDWARD

Then you may lead the way.

But an edge remains in EDWARD as he looks at her and ELIZABETH feels it. Is this to be a siege or a seduction?

From his expression, WARWICK clearly hopes and believes the former as EDWARD turns sharply back to his horse, mounts it, then kicks it forward in the direction THOMAS indicated - his ARMY, as one, moving out from the shade to follow.

11 EXT. COUNTRYSIDE/ROAD TO GRAFTON MANOR - DAY

11

EDWARD OF YORK rides slowly - ELIZABETH and the BOYS walking to one side of him in silence, and WARWICK only just behind him on the other. Whatever this is to be, there is no chance of conversation with WARWICK and the BOYS there.

As they near the house, JACQUETTA is waiting in the doorway, as though she expected this, a steady confidence about her. She curtseys low as EDWARD approaches.

JACQUETTA

You are very welcome to Grafton Manor, Your Grace.

WARWICK

Most others of your House at least put up a fight, Lady Rivers!

The MEN behind him laugh and ELIZABETH is nervous, but JACQUETTA's nerve doesn't waiver as she ignores him -

JACQUETTA

Will you take a glass of small ale, Your Grace? Or we have a good wine from my cousins in Burgundy?

KING EDWARD

I'll take the ale, if you please -

-but he glances back at WARWICK with a disapproving frown -

KING EDWARD (CONT'D)
Lord Warwick and my men can wait
out here..

Now it's WARWICK's turn to frown - doesn't understand what EDWARD's up to, nor the purpose of this visit.

As EDWARD steps into the hallway, ELIZABETH cannot hide her unsettling attraction to him.

12 INT. GREAT HALL, GRAFTON MANOR - DAY

12

JACQUETTA leads them into the Great Hall, where refreshments are waiting on a table, a GIRL standing by to serve. Off EDWARD's surprise, JACQUETTA smiles -

JACQUETTA
I had them draw our best ale.
There's not a man on earth could
ride past my daughter, Your Grace.

ELIZABETH looks away, uncomfortable, but EDWARD laughs -

KING EDWARD
Not one with his sight at any rate.

He looks at her again and what now seems clear attraction flares. JACQUETTA nods the GIRL away and pours the drinks herself, handing one to each of them -

JACQUETTA
Good health, your Grace.

He drinks and nods, it's good. Then to ELIZABETH -

KING EDWARD
You father is here?

JACQUETTA
(as much for ELIZABETH's
information as EDWARD's)
Sir Richard has ridden over to see
our neighbours, but we expect him
back for dinner.

ELIZABETH looks at her, startled by mother's stage-managing. But JACQUETTA pretends to find a flaw in her glass and tuts -

JACQUETTA (CONT'D)
Excuse me.

She exits, clearly to leave them alone. EDWARD is pleased, has a permanent air of seeming slightly amused -

KING EDWARD
Please. Sit.

ELIZABETH sits beside him like his Queen. He nods -

KING EDWARD (CONT'D)
Are you not happy here, with your
father and mother?

ELIZABETH
My parents are kind, but I am used
to running my own lands and
household. And my sons will have
nothing if I cannot reclaim them.

KING EDWARD
Too many have suffered in these
wars. But if I can keep my throne,
I will see the law of England run
from one coast to the other, and we
will all be Englishmen again.

ELIZABETH
I wish for nothing more than that
my sons will never fight!

Too passionate. Perhaps inappropriate. He watches as she
regains her composure -

ELIZABETH (CONT'D)
Do you doubt that you will keep
your throne?

KING EDWARD
The Duke of Somerset has run to
Henry again, a Lancastrian turncoat
like all the Beauforts; they are
raising the north against me. Henry
has only a handful of castles but
he can muster brigands like any
outlaw, and his Queen will bring
the French who hate us all.

ELIZABETH
Another battle then...

KING EDWARD
I will try to keep it from your
door, my Lady. But it must be done,
and peace restored.

ELIZABETH
You are confident of winning.

KING EDWARD
(smiles arrogance)
I am quick on the field and I am
skilled. I am brave and I am lucky.
I outguess and outpace my enemy. I
am as lucky in battle..
(MORE)

KING EDWARD (CONT'D)
(he looks at her)
... as I am in love.

ELIZABETH blushes, looks away.

KING EDWARD (CONT'D)
And those who fight for me will be
rewarded, but even those who oppose
me will see that I am just in
victory. Yes. I will win.
(a beat)
Thank you for the ale.

He stands suddenly, charming but abrupt. ELIZABETH tries to
hide her disquiet as she also jumps up -

ELIZABETH
Oh! You are leaving?!

He examines her face with some ghost of amusement -

KING EDWARD
Yes.

ELIZABETH
But!
(desperately tries to
think how to stall him)
May we not -

She can't think of anything, he puts her out of her misery.

KING EDWARD
Write down the details of your
claim. The land you say is yours
and details of your ownership.

ELIZABETH
Yes, of course -

She looks round hurriedly for something to write with and on,
but he catches her hand with a smile, and stops her -

KING EDWARD
I shall fetch the paper from you
tomorrow.
(significant)
On my own.

He turns her palm upwards and bends a low bow as he plants a
highly charged kiss upon it. ELIZABETH almost swoons - but
catches herself. EDWARD smiles. He closes her hand as though
to keep it safe, then stands face to face, teasing.

KING EDWARD (CONT'D)
Did you think I could walk away
from you so quickly? Your mother
could have told you I could not.

ELIZABETH can't hide that she is flustered.

KING EDWARD (CONT'D)
Tomorrow at dusk.

ELIZABETH
(nods, breathless)
Dusk.
(as he goes, she blurts)
And - will you stay to dinner? When
you come?

He stops and smiles at her evident keenness -

KING EDWARD
If I am invited.

ELIZABETH
Of course. We would be honoured.

Something in his smile says he doubts it, but he inclines his head obligingly, so be it. Then bows, and goes.

ELIZABETH catches her breath but her MOTHER is straight back in (clearly hovering in a different dark doorway watching) -

JACQUETTA
Well?

ELIZABETH
(still watching after him)
He is... coming back tomorrow.

JACQUETTA smiles satisfaction.

JACQUETTA
Of course he is.

ELIZABETH frowns; her mother's certainty is unnerving.

13 INT. BOYS' BEDROOM, GRAFTON MANOR - SUNSET

13

The BOYS kneel at the ends of their beds, their eyes squeezed shut and hands together as they say their evening prayers, ELIZABETH'S SISTERS with them -

ELIZABETH
Finish your prayers, then off to
sleep.

JACQUETTA waits for her in the doorway, as ELIZABETH tousles their hair, smiles thanks at her SISTERS, and exits.

14 EXT. RIVERSIDE - SUNSET

14

JACQUETTA carries a lantern as she leads the way from the

house down a winding footpath to the River. She hoists up her long skirts to walk across the two planks that serve as a bridge, in a well practised routine, her conical headdress brushing the overhanging trees, then beckons ELIZABETH.

ELIZABETH edges less confidently to join her the other side and JACQUETTA puts her hand upon a great ash tree. ELIZABETH sees a dark thread of silk is wound around its thick trunk.

ELIZABETH

What is it?

JACQUETTA

Reel it in. A foot every day.

ELIZABETH frowns as she puts her hand on the thread and pulls it experimentally, it comes easily but something small and light is tied the other end, a long way into the river reeds.

ELIZABETH

(flatly)

Magic. Do you want to be drowned on a ducking stool?! It is forbidden - and you promised father you would n-

JACQUETTA

- no-one knows but you and I. And magic is my heritage - and yours. Come every day and reel it in.

She turns to go but -

ELIZABETH

And what will I catch? At the end of this great fishing line of yours, mother?

JACQUETTA smiles -

JACQUETTA

Your heart's desire.

ELIZABETH frowns conflict as JACQUETTA walks back over the footbridge. But after a moment, she begrudgingly winds in the thread as she was told, and ties it fast again.

As she starts back, JACQUETTA is smiling satisfaction as she watches her.

JACQUETTA (CONT'D)

You were not born to be a lonely widow in a cold bed, Elizabeth.

ELIZABETH isn't happy but bleakly concedes -

ELIZABETH

Then may the new moon bring me something better.

JACQUETTA smiles, and as they silently walk back up the dark path a new moon is indeed rising.

MUSIC STING DENOTES TIME JUMP

15 EXT. COUNTRYSIDE - DUSK 15

Sunset light stains the sky red as EDWARD rides his horse hard through the fields, flanked by two PAGES, struggling to keep up.

16 INT. ELIZABETH'S PRIVY CHAMBER, GRAFTON MANOR - DUSK 16

MARY rushes excitedly in to ELIZABETH, who is waiting in an ordinary dress, pretending to embroider -

MARY
Lizzie, Lizzie! It's - !

ELIZABETH
(stands bolt upright,
embroidery discarded)
I know who it is.

ELIZABETH tries to calm her nerves, as she smooths her dress.

17 INT. HALLWAY, GRAFTON MANOR - DUSK 17

EDWARD is already in the hallway, eyes fixed on the wooden stairs and they light up as ELIZABETH appears and descends, a studiously calm expression masking her pounding heart.

ELIZABETH opens her mouth to greet him, starts to curtsy but-

KING EDWARD
Lady Elizabeth.

He all but grabs her, can't help himself, and kisses her too passionately on the cheek. ELIZABETH steadies herself -

KING EDWARD (CONT'D)
Ah, and Baron Rivers.

- as EDWARD steps back a decent distance, ELIZABETH'S FATHER and oldest BROTHERS, ANTHONY, mid 20s, tall and strong but gentle, sensitive and studious; JOHN, more brawny, shorter fuse, early 20s; and LIONEL, 20, devout, have indeed appeared behind - wary, veiling hostility.

A long enough pause to show BARON RIVERS' disapproval then -

BARON RIVERS
Your Grace. And these are my sons,
John, Anthon-

JOHN

(hostile)

We have met. On the battle field.

EDWARD does not react, just concedes agreement, as quietly -

ANTHONY

And in Calais. When your cousin
Warwick, your father and yourself
captured my parents, and taunted my
mother for marrying 'beneath
herself'.

JACQUETTA

Anthony...

The whole family is there now; EDWARD and RICHARD,
ELIZABETH's other brothers, all her sisters, and ANTHONY's
wife ELIZA - and it's very tense -

KING EDWARD

But that was another time. And now
my father is murdered, Henry
defeated and I am King. And Lady
Elizabeth tells me she has lost her
dower lands.

BARON RIVERS and the MEN frown at what seems to be some
situation already between ELIZABETH and EDWARD. He turns to
her pleasantly -

KING EDWARD (CONT'D)

You have written down your title
and your claim for me?

ELIZABETH

Yes.

KING EDWARD

(takes the paper)

They shall be returned to you. Your
sons will have their inheritance.

Her FAMILY are agog. Only JACQUETTA is unsurprised.

ELIZABETH

Thank you. Oh thank you, Your G-!

She clasps his hand instinctively, inappropriately and
JACQUETTA steps forward and eyes her warningly -

JACQUETTA

We thank you, Your Grace -
(ELIZABETH drops his hand)
- you are most -

But EDWARD is still irked at her family's response and
pointedly interrupts, to ELIZABETH -

KING EDWARD

Will you show me around the garden
before I leave, Lady Elizabeth?

ELIZABETH hesitates, unsure if she should, and BARON RIVERS
opens his mouth to say it is too dark but -

JACQUETTA

Yes. Do, Elizabeth.

BARON RIVERS looks at his wife - but nothing he can do.

18 EXT. GRAFTON MANOR GARDEN - NIGHT

18

It's almost dark as EDWARD and ELIZABETH move down the stone
steps into the garden. He offers her his arm with a smile and
she takes it as they move towards the trim hedges and neat
white stones, the lavender coming into flower.

KING EDWARD

I have only a little time.

He gathers her hand in closer -

KING EDWARD (CONT'D)

Henry has regained his wits, for
now at least, and will lead his
army himself, which will give them
courage. The Queen has enough of
her own already.

ELIZABETH can't hide her fear -

ELIZABETH

You fear that you may lose?!

KING EDWARD

(smiles, gently teasing)
Is that not what you would wish?
Are you not on the side of
Lancaster?

They both know that her attraction to him has overwhelmed
that.

KING EDWARD (CONT'D)

Warwick does not even know that I
have come. If he did...
(but no matter)
May I send a pageboy to bring you
to me tonight? I have a longing for
you, Lady Elizabeth. More than I
have had for any woman.

ELIZABETH

Your Grace, I am a woman of honour -

KING EDWARD
- I may die in battle, and this
could be my last request. Would you
deny your King that?

ELIZABETH
You know that I must.

But he moves closer, can barely keep his hands off her -

KING EDWARD
Are you not lonely?

His lips are almost grazing her forehead and she can't help
but yield to him, her lips parting instinctively -

KING EDWARD (CONT'D)
Yes. You want me. I have to have
you.

ELIZABETH struggles to disentangle herself -

ELIZABETH
I - cannot be your mistress! I
would dishonour my family, and my
sons. And I would rather die than
do that.

KING EDWARD
Then must I go? Must I leave you
here? And that be the end of it?

She clearly doesn't want him to. It makes him bold -

KING EDWARD (CONT'D)
Tomorrow. At sunset. Meet me where
I first saw you, under the big oak
tree. Even if only to say goodbye,
meet me there then.

She knows she shouldn't but she nods, just once. He turns and
strides to the stable before she can change her mind.

A second later, his horse thunders down the track to his two
PAGES, who have to spur their horses to keep pace with him.
ELIZABETH turns towards the river.

19 EXT. RIVERSIDE - NIGHT - LATER

19

The river courses, dark and mysterious as hands clasp the
thread and reel it carefully in.

ELIZABETH barely dares to breathe with the hope she now
nurtures as she carefully ties the thread.

20 INT. GREAT HALL, GRAFTON MANOR - NIGHT - LATER

20

JOHN strains to see through the dark glass of the window, trying to see ELIZABETH and EDWARD in the garden; BARON RIVERS paces agitatedly, JACQUETTA and ANTHONY sit calmly at the table finishing their dinner, ELIZABETH'S SISTERS, other BROTHERS and ANTHONY'S WIFE silent beside them.

BARON RIVERS

She should not have gone with him alone. He is a lecher and a-

JACQUETTA

(interrupts, calm)
They are looking at the garden, Richard.

JOHN

What? In the dark?! And what comes next?! He will not return her lands for charity! We are Lancastrians who stood against him -

ANTHONY

(agrees)
- he will want payment -

JOHN

- if he has not taken it already! He has bedded every woman in his court, why would he not try Elizabeth? He could be forcing her this very moment while we argue!

ANTHONY

(quiet, weary, wise)
He will not take her in a rosebush John. He will summon her to court when she is obligated. When he has returned her lands -

But ANTHONY has spotted ELIZABETH in the doorway, returned alone and listening to their hot debate.

ANTHONY (CONT'D)

- is that not so, Elizabeth?

The others look up sharply, see her.

ELIZABETH

And why should I be 'obligated' Anthony? I only ask for what is mine to be returned to me. I ask for justice, and the King has promised it -

(JOHN looks askance, she glares, and firmly)
- as he should.

BARON RIVERS

But a hard man to refuse,
Elizabeth. And if he summons you to
court, how will you answer?

ELIZABETH

However you advise me at the time,
father.

Her simple obedience draws her FATHER's sting, and even JOHN
seems calmed.

ELIZABETH (CONT'D)

Is there still dinner?

As she sits and coolly helps herself, BARON RIVERS is calmed
and nods 'quite right too' -

BARON RIVERS

Well...! I shall certainly advise
against it.

(but he nods, reassured)

It is not you we question. The man
has worked his way through half the
wives of London. And the Yorkist
army rape our women as they go -

JACQUETTA

- as does King Henry's.

(stands, clearing)

But at least this new king has his
wits.

Edgy sideways looks at her dig at KING HENRY -

BARON RIVERS

(quiet, sad, tender)

Do you turn your coat so quickly,
Jacquetta? Were you not friends
with Queen Margaret of Anjou at her
Court?

JACQUETTA sighs cool pragmatism tinged with sadness -

JACQUETTA

I was. And then she turned quite
vicious, let her son murder good
and honest men and lost the people
of England. And now I would have
peace.

No-one can argue with that. JACQUETTA exits with bowls, BARON
RIVERS sighs, row over -

BARON RIVERS

I am late to Old Stratford village.
Will you ride alongside me, John?

JOHN nods, takes a last piece of meat to eat as he stands.

But as they go, the FAMILY dispersing, ANTHONY has been watching ELIZABETH and JACQUETTA and, more sensitive than the others, has gleaned something of their collusion.

Alone with her now at the table, he wonders at her quietly -

ANTHONY

And yet you want him. In spite of everything.

ELIZABETH

(doesn't meet his eye,
picks at her food)
He is the King of England. I must show fealty if I am to have my way.

ANTHONY smiles sardonically, eyes her shrewdly -

ANTHONY

'How else can a poor widow make her way in the world?'
(ELIZABETH says nothing)
You would be a fool to sell yourself too cheaply, Elizabeth.

ELIZABETH

I do not intend to sell myself at all. I am not a leg of meat, Anthony. I am not for sale to anyone.

But as she eats, there's guilt in her eyes at her own desires, and ANTHONY can see it.

21

EXT. COUNTRYSIDE BY GIANT OAK TREE - SUNSET

21

The sun is sinking over the distant fields as ELIZABETH waits under the huge oak tree, hidden in green shadows, excitement, fear and guilt that she has come at all battling within her.

The sound of hooves and she stiffens - but is relieved to see just one rider - EDWARD alone - as he promised. He beams as he pulls up his horse and leaps off.

KING EDWARD

You came.

ELIZABETH

I cannot stay for long.

He loops the reins of his horse over a branch of the tree and slides his hand around her waist -

KING EDWARD

I have been like a boy all day.
Will you take off your headdress so
I may see your hair?

ELIZABETH hesitates, but the headdress is unwieldy anyway, so she complies, unstrapping it and putting it on the ground.

He immediately puts his hand to her head and gently pulls out her ivory pins, tucking them in the pocket of his doublet.

KING EDWARD (CONT'D)

You are driving me mad. I have
thought about you all day long.

Her hair falls thickly around her face, and he smells it. He unties his cloak and swings it on the ground at her feet.

KING EDWARD (CONT'D)

Sit with me.

It sounds like 'lie with me' and ELIZABETH knows it. She sits cautiously on the edge, her knees drawn up and he strokes her hair, caresses her neck, turns her face towards him for a kiss. ELIZABETH responds -

- and suddenly he can't stop himself - moves on top and bears down on her, his hand pulling at her gown to push it up -

KING EDWARD (CONT'D)

Elizabeth...

She struggles to push him off -

ELIZABETH

I told you no! I meant it.

KING EDWARD

(still kissing her,
doesn't believe her)
You came to meet me!

ELIZABETH

To say goodbye! So now I shall say
it and go!

Still on top of her, he is surprised at her sincerity. He seems sorry -

KING EDWARD

Don't run away.
(but -)
Dear god, Elizabeth, let me have
you. I am desperate for you...

His mouth is on her again, his weight pushing her down as he kisses her neck and breast.

She's nearly giving in to it, wants him too, but then he puts his knee between her legs to force them open and suddenly she's angry -

ELIZABETH

I said no!

But he has her gown up and she isn't strong enough to push him off, but as he fumbles with his jerkin, the hilt of his dagger is exposed - and she doesn't hesitate - draws it from its scabbard with a hiss of metal.

EDWARD rears back on his knees in instant reflex - and ELIZABETH wriggles away from him and springs up, the dagger bright and wicked in the last rays of the sun. He is furious -

KING EDWARD

You dare to draw a blade upon your King? Do you know treason when you commit it, Madam?!

ELIZABETH

I draw the blade upon myself.

She holds the point to her own throat and he narrows his eyes-

ELIZABETH (CONT'D)

I swear that if you come one step closer, I will kill myself and bleed out on the ground before you.

KING EDWARD

Play-acting!

ELIZABETH

It is no game to me, Your Grace. I beg your pardon for my folly in coming here if I have misled you, but I will not be your mistress.

KING EDWARD

(steps towards her)

I could take that knife in a second-

ELIZABETH

- but not before I cut my throat -

- she sticks the blade's tip in and blood drips down her throat - shocking him and he stops in horror -

KING EDWARD

Stop it!

ELIZABETH

Do not doubt my courage, Your Grace, I am match for any man.

He glares, sorely deprived, but he will not try her again.

KING EDWARD

So I see. And I shall leave you be.
You may keep my dagger as a
souvenir.

He unbuckles the scabbard and throws it at her feet, snatches up his cape and stalks stiffly to his horse.

ELIZABETH

Your Grace?!

KING EDWARD

You have made a fool of me. You may
congratulate yourself on that.
(beat)
And you will never see me again.

His horse gallops off in a cloud of dust, towards the night sky. ELIZABETH holds her sleeve to her bleeding throat as she watches him get smaller and smaller.

She sinks to the ground, but she does not cry.

MUSIC STING DENOTES TIME JUMP

22 EXT. GRAFTON MANOR GARDEN - AFTERNOON 22

Laughter as ANNE and MARY run to the river, starting to peel off their dresses to skinny-dip. Summer is nearly upon them, foxgloves and lilies abound, roses just starting to bloom.

MARGARET is with them but sits on the bank, making daisy chains, and MARY snatches a daisy from her -

MARY

He loves me, he loves me not, he
loves me - Anne!

ANNE snatches the daisy and jumps in the river with it - MARY laughs at their game as she splashes in after her -

MARY (CONT'D)

Give it back!

Little THOMAS and RICHARD jump in to swim with their aunts.

CUT TO:

23 EXT. RIVERSIDE - DAY 23

The laughter continues over but in contrast to her SISTERS ELIZABETH is pale and has lost weight as she stands bleakly by the ash tree.

She shuts her eyes... and there's a sudden flash from ELIZABETH's POV of-

- EDWARD turning her face and kissing her under the oak tree.
- Then his face and mouth large in frame as he bears down on her, hot with lust.

ELIZABETH snaps her eyes open against the memory, which is driving her mad, making her yearn for him. She takes the thread from the tree, and darkly reels it in - perfunctory - cross - then ties it up.

24 EXT. GRAFTON MANOR GARDEN - DAY 24

MARY and ANNE are play fighting in the water with the daisy, laughing -

ANNE
First you must say who he is!

MARY
Anne!

ELIZABETH is not interested in their jollity as she stalks back to the house. JACQUETTA frowns to see her go.

25 INT. ELIZABETH'S ROOM, GRAFTON - EVENING 25

Sitting very still in a chair, ELIZABETH stares unseeing out of the window. She blinks her heavy eyes and again-

- EDWARD's mouth kisses her.

Unbearable. She stands to shake it off, but -

JACQUETTA
You do it every evening, pull the line?

ELIZABETH jolts to see her MOTHER in the doorway, witness to her torment.

ELIZABETH
(yes)
Sometimes in the day. What difference.

A beat, JACQUETTA sighs and sits beside her -

JACQUETTA
And he has sent no token? No word at all?

ELIZABETH
He said I would never see him again.

JACQUETTA

(nods, then shrugs)

They say the battle will be any day, and if King Henry wins then it will not matter what Edward thinks or does for he will be dead. And you will have your land back either way.

A beat - ELIZABETH has to confide in someone..

ELIZABETH

You know that there is more to it than that. He asked me to lie with him, mother, and I refused. And if he dies then I will regret that... 'honour' forever! I regret it now.

JACQUETTA

Elizabeth. You are a girl from the House of Lancaster, and we live in a country that is divided. You may not fall in love with a York King unless there is some profit in it for you. Your life will not be easy because you wish it so; you will have to wade through blood and you will know loss, you must be stronger.

ELIZABETH

(turns angrily)

This is your fortune for me?! Do you foresee nothing good at all?!

JACQUETTA

What do you see for yourself? For you may do it as well as I.

ELIZABETH shakes her head impatiently -

ELIZABETH

I know what you think mother, but I do not share your gifts. I am the daughter of a humble squire; I have no 'seeings' or foresight.

JACQUETTA

You are of my line, Elizabeth. And you will come to know that in time.
(beat)

But what I foresee, is that you may have whatever you may want.

ELIZABETH looks at her, hope rearing - but -

JACQUETTA (CONT'D)

If you will take the consequences.

A bleaker prediction then, and an uncertain one.

26 EXT. RIVERSIDE - DUSK

26

The thread reels in again, ELIZABETH's hands now deft, but as we angle on her face her mind is elsewhere, doing it by rote.

But - chink! The sound of metal against stone and ELIZABETH looks down to see a flash of gold in the water.

She bends and pulls out a ring of gold, simple and pretty. One side is straight but the other is forged into points, like the points of a crown. It was on the end of the thread.

ELIZABETH puts it on her palm and looks at it. She tries it on her finger, careful to avoid her wedding finger, and it fits. She takes it off again and stares at it.

27 EXT. GRAFTON MANOR - DUSK

27

A horse and MESSENGER with the white rose of York on his banner are outside as ELIZABETH heads back up the path from the river (the ring now heavy in her pocket), and BARON RIVERS is at the door with him -

BARON RIVERS

Tell his Grace I will be there the day after tomorrow.

The MAN bows, throws salutes ELIZABETH and rides away.

ELIZABETH

What is it?

BARON RIVERS

A muster. We are to go to war again.

ELIZABETH

Not you, Father! Or Anthony or my brothers? Not again?!

BARON RIVERS

(shakes his head)

The King commands me to provide ten men from Grafton and five from Stony Stratford. Fitted and kitted to march under his command against the Lancaster King.

(heavy)

We are to change sides.

ELIZABETH is relieved her family are spared. But can't help -

ELIZABETH

Did he say anything else?

BARON RIVERS

It is a muster. Not an invitation to a May Day breakfast. They will be through the day after tomorrow, and the men must be ready to fall in then.

He turns on his heel and goes into the house, leaving ELIZABETH to ponder this.

28

INT. GREAT HALL, GRAFTON MANOR - MORNING

28

Sun streams in as the RIVERS FAMILY eat breakfast.

JACQUETTA

(casual)

We should go out and wave them off. I'm sure the girls would like to see the army on their way.

JACQUETTA is scheming as usual, wants ELIZABETH to see EDWARD, and ELIZABETH knows it. Her SISTERS are merely excited at the prospect of preening before the army-

BARON RIVERS

Have you not had your fill of men going off to war?

JACQUETTA

We should show our support, Richard. If he wins, it will be better for us, and if he loses, no-one will remember that we wished him well and we can soon deny it.

BARON RIVERS

I am paying them, aren't I?! Arming them with what I have?!

JACQUETTA

And we should find a purse of gold from the treasure room, for His Grace.

BARON RIVERS

A purse of gold! To wage war on King Henry? Have you lost your wits, woman? Are we Yorkists now?!

JACQUETTA

Yes, if he wins. And he is likely to. And then it will be him who allows the marriages, and we have many girls to wed.

For a moment the FAMILY freeze, expecting wrath from BARON RIVERS - but then suddenly he laughs, defeated and defused.

BARON RIVERS

God bless you, you spellbinder. You are right, just as you always are.

(nods)

We will do as you say and wear white roses too if you wish, if we can get any this early.

BARON RIVERS gets up from the table with a shake of his head and goes. The GIRLS are excited. ELIZABETH steeling herself.

29 INT. ELIZABETH'S BEDROOM, GRAFTON MANOR - DAY

29

Giggling and excitement as ANNE and QUETTI hold up dresses and ribbons and MARY bathes and washes her hair in a half barrel, the younger GIRLS looking on.

MARY

The King and the Lords, right near our house!

MARGARET

What will you wear, Elizabeth?

ELIZABETH sits aloof from the GIRLS and their excitement, not joining in the game of dress up.

ELIZABETH

I shall wear my grey gown, and grey veil.

ANNE

But that isn't your best! Why wouldn't you wear your blue dress?

ELIZABETH

Because... I have no-one to impress.

MARGARET and the GIRLS frown at this, but ANTHONY's wife ELIZA is in the doorway and heard, notes objectively -

ELIZA

The grey dress fits her better. It is far more becoming.

ELIZABETH bristles, tries to hide that that was her reasoning too.

MARY

What about you Eliza, what will you wear?

ELIZA

I am not coming. Anthony is my husband and he has fought for Henry all his life; I stand with him.

A moment, then the GIRLS carry on with their dress up and giggling anyway.

Only ELIZABETH looks at her, with admiration but also sadly - this is how families are split.

30

EXT. GRAFTON MANOR / ROAD TO GRAFTON - MORNING

30

ELIZABETH's brightly dressed SISTERS jostle as their hurry down the road to Grafton, THOMAS and RICHARD with them trying to be male and unconcerned but just as excited as the GIRLS.

ELIZABETH, in her elegant grey dress and veil looks a Lady alongside her SISTERS' peasant-girl-brightness, but feels sick with nerves, as she walks more sedately behind with her MOTHER and FATHER.

As they reach the meeting point on the road, a dozen MEN with staves and cudgels, BARON RIVERS' recruits, each wearing the badge of the white rose are waiting, and the RIVERS FAMILY take up position nearby.

Just in time, as a burst of trumpets makes every head turn - and around the corner come the KING's colours and TRUMPETERS, then the HERALDS, the YEOMEN, and behind them MEN AT ARMS and NEW RECRUITS, followed by a train of wagons with food, supplies and weapons - but in the middle of it all, with WARWICK beside him, is EDWARD.

ELIZABETH jolts as he raises his hand and the CAVALCADE comes to a standstill. EDWARD swings down from his horse and moves to BARON RIVERS, who bows and indicates his MEN -

BARON RIVERS

My men, Your Grace, all sworn to your service. And this, to help your cause.

JACQUETTA steps forward and offers him the purse of gold, and he takes it and weighs it with his hand.

KING EDWARD

I will not forget your support.

And then his gaze goes past her to ELIZABETH, who he has been acutely aware of since he rode up. ELIZABETH and her SISTERS all curtsey as one, and WARWICK gives EDWARD a look as though they've talked about her and not flatteringly and now share a joke and confidence about her.

But ELIZABETH can't help it, takes a step towards him, and then another and he steps to meet her and for a second they are out of everyone else's earshot.

EDWARD looks as stern as he was when she last saw him, but then he suddenly surrenders, tormented -

KING EDWARD (CONT'D)
I cannot sleep. I have not slept
since I last saw you.

ELIZABETH
Nor I.

KING EDWARD
(doubts her)
Truly? Because of me?

ELIZABETH
Yes.

- a beat of relief for him -

KING EDWARD
Nor can I eat.

ELIZABETH
(smiles darkly)
No.

KING EDWARD
How can I ride out to battle like
this? I have to have you Elizabeth.
And if you will not be my mistress
then you must marry me.

ELIZABETH
Please don't joke with me -

KING EDWARD
Marry me. There is no other way.
I am mad for you, Elizabeth. Will
you marry me?

Finally she realises he is serious, and can hardly breathe -

ELIZABETH
Yes.

KING EDWARD
Tomorrow morning. Meet me at nine
at your little chapel. I will bring
my chaplain; bring your Mother as
witness. It will have to be a
secret for a while.

ELIZABETH reels but -

ELIZABETH
Tomorrow...

BARON RIVERS
Can we offer you refreshment?

BARON RIVERS has grown worried by their private conversation,

and escapes JACQUETTA's attempts to keep him back.

KING EDWARD

No. But I will take supper with you tomorrow if I may? I will be hunting nearby and it would suit me.

BARON RIVERS nods agreement. EDWARD bows to ELIZABETH and JACQUETTA, throws a salute to her SISTERS, swings into his saddle, then turns to the NEW MEN.

KING EDWARD (CONT'D)

Fall in.

He glances at ELIZABETH one last time, then rides his ARMY away. She turns to meet her MOTHER's eye open-mouthed - and from JACQUETTA's look she gets it in an instant.

MUSIC STING DENOTES TIME JUMP

31 EXT. CHAPEL - MORNING

31

Summer flowers are bright in the early morning sunshine as ELIZABETH and JACQUETTA hurry down the path.

ELIZABETH is wearing her best blue dress but clearly nervous, worried he will not come, so she takes it out on her dress -

ELIZABETH

It does not fit me well enough!

JACQUETTA

He will not care. And it is too late to worry about that now.

- but as they near the tiny chapel, she breathes a sigh to see him already there with his PAGEBOY and a CHAPLAIN, and he moves to her as though to a drug that will save his life.

KING EDWARD

I was early. I could not wait.

ELIZABETH's need is just as intense as they move inside.

32 INT. CHAPEL - DAY

32

EDWARD and ELIZABETH's hands are intertwined as they stand before the CHAPLAIN, JACQUETTA behind them, as the PAGEBOY sings a Psalm, all of them bathed in colour from the tiny stained glass window.

EDWARD and ELIZABETH gaze and smile at each other, and then as the Psalm ends, the CHAPLAIN turns to EDWARD -

CHAPLAIN

Do you have the ring?

KING EDWARD

A ring! I am a fool! I forgot! Lady Rivers, have you a ring that we could borrow?

ELIZABETH

Oh! I have one!

ELIZABETH produces the crown ring from her pocket and hands it to him, and the CHAPLAIN smiles.

CHAPLAIN

Then let us hurry to the vows.

33 EXT. CHAPEL - DAY

33

EDWARD and ELIZABETH emerge from the cool chapel into the sunlight, JACQUETTA smiling behind them. EDWARD nods to the CHAPLAIN and hands him a small purse for his trouble -

KING EDWARD

Thank you.

The CHAPLAIN nods goodbye to all, and makes his way off. EDWARD's arm is round ELIZABETH's waist -

KING EDWARD (CONT'D)

Your Ladyship? Where can I take my bride?

JACQUETTA

There is a hunting lodge by the river. I had it made ready for you.

She hands him a key and he nods, sweeps ELIZABETH onto his horse, then mounts behind her, putting his arms around her. JACQUETTA smiles as they go, the PAGEBOY following at a respectful distance. JACQUETTA heads home alone.

34 EXT. HUNTING LODGE/RIVER - DAY

34

EDWARD hands his PAGEBOY the horse's reins to one side, and exchanges a few quiet words with him.

ELIZABETH smiles, and opens the door to the hunting lodge -

35 INT. HUNTING LODGE/RIVER - DAY

35

-her POV of a fire burning in the hearth, a wooden table laid with bread, cheese, meat and a jug of wedding ale, and most importantly a large wooden bed, made up with the best linen.

The room goes dark as EDWARD enters the room behind her, ducking tall head under the beams as he moves to wrap his arms round her from behind, and nuzzles into her hair.

KING EDWARD
Mmm. 'Wife'. To bed.

ELIZABETH smiles heavy desire, she needs no persuading.

36 INT. HUNTING LODGE/RIVER - LATE AFTERNOON

36

The red setting sun warms the room, as EDWARD finally stirs from sleep, his arms still round ELIZABETH as both of them lie naked on the bed, the linen sheet largely discarded.

EDWARD traces round her breast with his hand - starts to kiss and caress her again -

KING EDWARD
Thank the Lady of Heaven we are dining at your Father's. I am starving to death, you witch.

But he shows no sign of removing himself from her -

ELIZABETH
Well if you'd let me out of bed to fetch the bread and cheese you w -

KING EDWARD
(kissing her)
It would have taken you too long. I could not spare you.

But he groans, aware of the time, and forces himself off her -

KING EDWARD (CONT'D)
I must wash. Shall I bring you a jug of water?

ELIZABETH nods. She watches as EDWARD stands, naked, his head brushing the ceiling, his body perfect as he crosses the room and opens the door to disappear outside.

ELIZABETH wraps a sheet around herself and she drifts across the room to see him better as he wades into the river without hesitation, enjoying the cool water on his skin. She breaks off a piece of cheese to nibble as she watches him - eyes him lustfully as he returns.

ELIZABETH
However shall I keep my hands off you at dinner?

He grins and kisses her, he's no idea.

37 INT. GREAT HALL, GRAFTON MANOR - NIGHT 37

The RIVERS family eat dinner with EDWARD. It's formal, and in the clattering of cutlery, ELIZABETH tries not to look at

him, tries to control the smug, secret smile that keeps playing on her lips but it's a struggle.

She pushes her food around her plate listlessly, no appetite, then notices that EDWARD is doing exactly the same. Her father has also noticed.

BARON RIVERS

You have no appetite your Grace? I thought you would be hungry after hunting?

KING EDWARD

I - thought the same myself, Baron Rivers, but -

EDWARD's eyes meet ELIZABETH's; they stifle a complicit smile-

KING EDWARD (CONT'D)

- I fear I am exhausted. She led me quite a merry dance.

It's deadpan for ELIZABETH's benefit and again she tries not to smile. But BARON RIVERS has glimpsed something of their flirtation and doesn't like it.

38 INT. HUNTING LODGE/RIVER - DAWN 38

Close on ELIZABETH's sleeping face, a smile of contentment forming before her eyes are even open as she remembers her joy, but as she opens her eyes, EDWARD is not only awake but dressed, leaning in close and watching her. He smiles apology-

KING EDWARD

My love, I have to go.

ELIZABETH blinks - is he serious? And now she's really awake -

ELIZABETH

Go?

KING EDWARD

To battle. Henry is commanded by his wife to bring her troops and meet her on the east coast. I shall have to cut them off.

ELIZABETH

(leaping out of bed naked)
You must go now?! Today?

KING EDWARD
This moment, I'm afraid. Or else I
risk my crown.

He is already gathering the last of his things together, and
outside the door, his PAGE is already holding his horse.
ELIZABETH wraps the sheet around herself for modesty.

KING EDWARD (CONT'D)
(teases)
And how should you be First Lady
then?

But he sees her face, frowns, clearly not a time for jokes.

KING EDWARD (CONT'D)
Elizabeth.

He sits her down again on the bed, and sits beside her,
putting his arm around her.

KING EDWARD (CONT'D)
When I return we will announce our
marriage. But... we must discuss that
should luck go against me -

ELIZABETH
- it will not -

KING EDWARD
- and I am killed, then you will
say nothing of this marriage.

He raises his hand to quell her objection -

KING EDWARD (CONT'D)
You would gain nothing from being
the widow of a dead imposter. You
will remember me in your prayers I
hope, and I should like you to
marry again.

ELIZABETH
(shock)
Ha!

KING EDWARD
Choose a good man, who will care
for the boys and make you happy. I
want you to be happy.

She shakes her head in misery at his too quick pragmatism -

KING EDWARD (CONT'D)
If you find yourself with child you
will have to leave England.
(MORE)

KING EDWARD (CONT'D)

It may be that Henry and his son
die young and if you have a boy he
will be the only heir to the throne
- I don't count the Lancaster
woman, Margaret Beaufort, or her
son.

ELIZABETH

(can't take this in)
Just... come back to me, Edward.

He grins cockily -

KING EDWARD

Be happy, Elizabeth, you will not
lose me on the battlefield. I shall
die in bed beside the most
beautiful Queen that England has
ever seen.

He kisses her, his mind already elsewhere, then detaches
himself from her clutching hands and ducks out the door.

39

EXT. HUNTING LODGE/RIVER - EARLY EVENING

39

He's already in the saddle as ELIZABETH runs out after him.
His horse rears, strong and powerful, and EDWARD towers
against the sun for a second -

ELIZABETH

God speed, Edward. Come back to me...

He salutes her and rides off, all too fast. ELIZABETH keeps
her hand raised in farewell until his white rose standard is
no long visible -

- and then she turns -

ANTHONY

You whore.

ELIZABETH jumps as ANTHONY steps from the shade of a tree -

ANTHONY (CONT'D)

You have shamed our house and our
name. And your dead husband who
gave his life fighting that usurper-

ELIZABETH

(reaches him to explain)
No, Anthony I -

ANTHONY

Don't touch me, you slut.

She's shocked as he swats her away.

ELIZABETH

It is not what you think!

ANTHONY

What? My eyes deceive me? This is an 'honourable' coupling -

ELIZABETH

It is honourable!

- furious, she thrusts her left fist towards him and he ducks away, expecting a punch in the face. Then he sees the ring -

ELIZABETH (CONT'D)

We are married! See? So what do you say now?

ELIZABETH is triumphant. ANTHONY stares as he reaches to look at the ring - then crumples with sadness -

ANTHONY

Oh dear God, Elizabeth... he has fooled you.

ELIZABETH

What?

She snatches her hand away but he reaches, holds her to him -

ANTHONY

Oh my poor, dear sister...

ELIZABETH

Stop it Anthony! What are you saying?

She pushes him off and he sighs, shakes his head -

ANTHONY

Let me guess, a secret wedding in our chapel? None of his family attended and Lord Warwick must not be told?

ELIZABETH

(bristles)

For now, but -

ANTHONY

Elizabeth... think. This is a man who is King of England. He will marry a princess, not some commoner from the camp of his enemy who he found begging by the roadside! Most likely he will marry his cousin Warwick's daughter Isabel, for Warwick has pulled the strings this far...

ELIZABETH

Well he cannot! He is married to me now!

ANTHONY

(hates to hurt her but)

You are not married, Elizabeth. You have been tricked. It was a pretend service.

ELIZABETH

No! There were witnesses -

ANTHONY

Who?

ELIZABETH

Mother! And a pageboy -
(off ANTHONY's look)
And there was a priest.

ANTHONY

Which priest?

ELIZABETH

(caught out)

I don't know. The King brought him..

Suddenly even ELIZABETH fears the worst, and ANTHONY sighs -

ANTHONY

A fool or a mummer. He has tricked you with a pretend priest to get you into bed.

(ELIZABETH reels)

He is Warwick's puppet, Elizabeth. Without him Edward could never have claimed the throne. Warwick is The Kingmaker, and you can be very sure he will make the Queen as well.

ELIZABETH

You are wrong. Edward is King! He does not have to do what Warwick tells him.

(but she's tearful)

You are wrong, I tell you!

ANTHONY

I must speak to mother.

ELIZABETH

Do! And she will tell you!

But her protests are so loud because she fears he is right.

40 INT. GREAT HALL, GRAFTON MANOR - NIGHT

40

The RIVERS FAMILY gather for dinner but there's tension between ELIZABETH and ANTHONY and she glares at him repeatedly. BARON RIVERS does not notice as he joins them -

BARON RIVERS
His Grace has gone to battle.

ELIZABETH'S SISTERS are disappointed but ANTHONY meets her eye as everyone sits. JACQUETTA notices and frowns.

BARON RIVERS (CONT'D)
I must say I am pleased as his attentions were too much upon you Elizabeth.
(she doesn't meet his eye)
The King is in his wits and has mustered a force against him.
(corrects himself)
Henry... is in his wits...

BARON RIVERS is clearly conflicted; pleased that HENRY may yet win, worried that he has publicly had to change sides.

BARON RIVERS (CONT'D)
We may yet have a Lancastrian King again.

ANTHONY looks at ELIZABETH and she can't stand it any more -

ELIZABETH
I am not hungry.

ELIZABETH gets up and leaves. JACQUETTA looks again between her and ANTHONY wondering what's up.

41 EXT. GARDEN, GRAFTON MANOR - NIGHT

41

ELIZABETH broods in the darkness as JACQUETTA appears.

JACQUETTA
Elizabeth?

ELIZABETH looks up, but ANTHONY has followed his MOTHER -

ANTHONY
Mother, I think that Edward of York has deceived you, and deceived my sister cruelly.

JACQUETTA
Oh do you?

She's studiously inscrutable as she makes a show of calmly tidying up some flower border.

ANTHONY

I do. I believe it was a fake wedding and that he will deny it ever happened -

JACQUETTA opens her mouth to give a noncommittal answer but-

ANTHONY (CONT'D)

- because he has done the same before.

JACQUETTA's words dry in her throat and the bottom drops out of ELIZABETH's world -

ELIZABETH

What - !?

ANTHONY

He pretended a wedding to a lady he wanted to bed, and she was higher born than us; then he left her to his bastard child and her ruin.

Even JACQUETTA is visibly shaken as she swallows, horribly worried that she has encouraged her daughter to the same.

ANTHONY (CONT'D)

I am sorry to be the messenger but -

But JACQUETTA brazens it out, raising a hand to silence him and shrugging her shoulders -

JACQUETTA

Well, we shall see. We shall see.

ELIZABETH is sickened as she walks unsteadily inside.

42 INT. ELIZABETH'S ROOM, GRAFTON MANOR - DAY 42

ELIZABETH walks and paces, fretting in the daytime -

43 INT. ELIZABETH'S ROOM, GRAFTON MANOR - NIGHT 43

- she tosses and turns, wide awake at night, while her SISTERS sleep peacefully beside her. She closes her eyes and -

44 EXT. BATTLE - DAY 44

- sees dream flashes of the battle - a giant glinting sword slicing towards EDWARD, but we see it from his POV as -

45 INT. ELIZABETH'S ROOM, GRAFTON MANOR - NIGHT 45

ELIZABETH jolts up in bed, as though the sword were for her. We hold on her panting, clammy face, can't take much more of this. Puts her head in her hands.

46 EXT. COUNTRYSIDE - DAWN 46

Horse's hooves, thundering nearer. Close on them and then the rider - a MESSENGER on his way to Grafton Manor.

47 INT. BOYS' BEDROOM, GRAFTON MANOR - DAWN 47

ELIZABETH is finally asleep, in bed with her two BOYS, her arms protectively around them but it's their comfort that she seeks, as the GIRL hurries in -

GIRL

Lady Elizabeth? A messenger-

ELIZABETH is up and out of the room in one swift movement.

48 EXT. GRAFTON MANOR - DAWN 48

The MESSENGER rides up as ELIZABETH hurtles out to meet him, still in her nightclothes -

ELIZABETH

You have news?! Of the battle?

She almost throttles him in her hunger for news as he gets off his horse, and the GIRL, behind her, hurriedly gives him water and he drinks thirstily.

BARON RIVERS, JACQUETTA and ELIZABETH's SISTERS can be seen peering out, also woken and preparing to hurry down.

MESSENGER

A bad and bloody battle -

ELIZABETH

Who has won?!

MESSENGER

The Lancaster forces -
(she stiffens with fear)
- were routed and Henry is
defeated.

ELIZABETH

Then Edward?! Edward has won?!

The MESSENGER nods and ELIZABETH melts with relief. Her FAMILY emerge, BARON RIVERS and JACQUETTA first and the MESSENGER bows and salutes -

MESSENGER

King Henry is defeated. He has fled to the moors of Northumberland, a price on his head like a border rebel. They say he has lost his wits again.

ELIZABETH sits heavily as her family digest the news.

BARON RIVERS

And Queen Margaret?

MESSENGER

To Scotland with her son the Prince. They say that she will not give up though... Not 'til her son is on the throne.

JACQUETTA

But that may never be. And now none may doubt that Edward of York is the King.

She exchanges a look with ELIZABETH; it's crunch time.

49 EXT. HUNTING LODGE/RIVER - DUSK 49

ELIZABETH and EDWARD race into each other's arms. They are half undressed before they are even through the door -

50 INT. HUNTING LODGE/RIVER - DAY 50

- they fall onto the bed and passionately make love.

51 INT. HUNTING LODGE/RIVER - DAY - LATER 51

ELIZABETH and EDWARD naked in bed, post coital. She strokes his skin, but sighs -

ELIZABETH

I have to go. Or father will miss me at dinner.

She kisses him and goes to get up, but he moans-

KING EDWARD

Mnn... don't leave me...

- he pulls her back in, kisses her again. She jokes -

ELIZABETH

You are not helping, husband.

KING EDWARD

I'm not trying to help.

ELIZABETH

Unless we were to announce our marriage and then -

KING EDWARD

(interrupts, too swiftly)
Not yet.

ELIZABETH tries not to show the stab of fear she feels.

KING EDWARD (CONT'D)

Lord Warwick would have me marry the Princess Bona of France, and he will need - some time - to see that that is not to be.

ELIZABETH

(lightly)
A few days?

KING EDWARD

Weeks.

ELIZABETH stiffens, but EDWARD appears not to notice. He continues talking as she gets out of bed and starts to dress.

KING EDWARD (CONT'D)

We have been close since my boyhood. He gave me my first sword and when Henry and his Queen murdered my father he rode out with me and we defeated them. He is an older brother to me, and I must take time to tell him and explain. I owe him that.

ELIZABETH

But... you will tell him? And I will come to court as your wife?

KING EDWARD

When the time is right.

It sounds like evasiveness.

ELIZABETH

May I at least tell father, so we can meet openly when you are -

KING EDWARD

(laughs)
We may as well tell the town crier. If we met openly the whole town would know and the rest of England shortly after. We must keep our secret a little longer.

She puts her headdress on, saying nothing.

KING EDWARD (CONT'D)
I'm rather enjoying it though,
aren't you?

He gets out of bed, wraps his arms round her and kisses her.

KING EDWARD (CONT'D)
Our humble hunting lodge?

ELIZABETH
(smiles tightly)
I have to go.

52 EXT. PATH FROM THE RIVER - DAY

52

ANTHONY appears as ELIZABETH broods from the lodge, turning to glimpse EDWARD as he rides away on his horse. ANTHONY frowns concern -

ANTHONY
You are not going with him?

ELIZABETH
(keeps walking)
He has to tell Lord Warwick first.
He must explain to him.

ANTHONY's worry deepens -

ANTHONY
Or perhaps Lord Warwick may explain to Edward that he must marry the Princess Bona of Savoy, and throw off his little commoner.

ELIZABETH
(rounds on him)
I will not hear it Anthony! And anyway, I love Edward so much that I would have him any way I had to! I would have him even if he were a nobody.
(admits, even to herself)
And yes - I would have him as his mistress!

ANTHONY
Then I am sorry. Because I think that you have seen the last of him.

ELIZABETH hardens herself to it and stomps towards the house.

DISSOLVE TO:

53 EXT. LONDON - DAY

53

EDWARD and his CAVALCADE ride into London, his colours flying, arrogant, powerful, royal, WARWICK beside him.

As PEOPLE cheer or bow as he passes, and WOMEN of all classes smile or flirt, we suddenly see him in a new light - his public persona as King is harder, wilier, more ruthless - and it makes us doubt his promises to ELIZABETH and whether she could ever compete with the women he has available to him.

Fade in, ELIZABETH sounding agitated, frustrated -

ELIZABETH V/O

He writes me 'Lady Elizabeth Grey'.
He does not say 'wife', he writes
'my love' - !

54 INT. ELIZABETH'S ROOM, GRAFTON MANOR - DAY

54

ELIZABETH is pacing as she waves the letter from EDWARD towards her MOTHER, who is standing in the doorway.

ELIZABETH

- there is nothing here that speaks
about a marriage, mother. Not a
word to prove it even happened!

JACQUETTA

Read the rest.

ELIZABETH

(shakes her head but
obliges, impatiently)
He writes... that he is busy but will
see me soon...

DISSOLVE TO:

55 INT. ROYAL COURT, READING - DAY

55

EDWARD strides into the grand and opulent chambers, flanked by WARWICK, as ELIZABETH scans and paraphrases the letter over, in exasperated impatience -

ELIZABETH V/O

- the court is at Reading, the
council is sitting -

- EDWARDS nods and greets his COUNCIL, his COURTIERS, and looks at and signs papers that are offered before him -

ELIZABETH V/O (CONT'D)

- Henry has still not been captured and Queen Margaret has sailed home to France with her boy demanding help.

56 EXT. HERB GARDEN, GRAFTON MANOR - DAY

56

ELIZABETH shrugs, shakes her head, that's all, but JACQUETTA darkly and slowly responds to the last section as though it confirms something bad she already knew.

JACQUETTA

So an alliance with France is even more important now... to stop her bringing them against us.

ELIZABETH shrugs, supposes so, missing what's weighing on her mother's mind, still focused on the letter.

ELIZABETH

He says he loves me. He burns for me. Lover's words, nothing more.

ELIZABETH sighs, throws the letter down.

JACQUETTA

Does he say if he has spoken to Lord Warwick?

ELIZABETH

He does not say. Which means that he has not. What should I do mother? Should I trust him?

A beat. This is very hard for JACQUETTA to say -

JACQUETTA

The messenger who brought your letter... also brought a summons for your father. It has gone to all the nobles, requesting they attend the court.

ELIZABETH freezes as she realises what this means -

ELIZABETH

It will be to announce his marriage.

JACQUETTA

(nods, careful)
That is what your father believes.

ELIZABETH stares, chilled, swallows -

ELIZABETH
To me? Or to another?

JACQUETTA can barely bring herself to tell ELIZABETH but -

JACQUETTA
They say..
(sighs heavily)
...the French Princess Bona is at
court.

ELIZABETH takes it as a body blow.

57 INT. CORRIDOR, ROYAL COURT, READING - DAY 57

ANGLE on PRINCESS BONA OF FRANCE; dark haired and beautiful as she glides gracefully down the long corridor with her LADIES, nodding greeting to the ENGLISH NOBLES as they arrive and bow (her LADIES curtseying) then move on to the KING's rooms.

BARON RIVERS smiles and bows, as do the RIVERS' boys ANTHONY, JOHN, LIONEL, EDWARD and RICHARD.

BARON RIVERS
(sotto voce)
What do you say Anthony? A fitting
Queen? At least a French bride
would welcome your mother back at
court as a kinswoman.

ANTHONY says nothing, too tense to comment as they enter the KING's rooms with the other male NOBLES.

58 INT. KING'S ROOM, ROYAL COURT, READING - DAY 58

A hubbub of low level chatter from the crowd of assembled MALE NOBLES prior to proceedings starting.

And then LORD WARWICK appears and addresses them -

WARWICK
My Lords. We welcome you to court.
The King has news that he wishes to
share, about the Princess Bona of
France.

A beat - everyone guesses it is to be a marriage announcement and there are 'aahs' of approval. But EDWARD suddenly appears, looking alarmed and awkward, surprised by this gathering that he clearly did not know had been called -

KING EDWARD
Lord Warwick?

EDWARD appears to one side beckoning - and WARWICK stops. He glances at the LORDS to excuse himself then moves to EDWARD.

No-one thinks anything of it, and a low buzz of chatter resumes, but we hear -

WARWICK

But - you know the Princess is here, you knew that she was coming?!

KING EDWARD

I knew that she was coming but I did not say I was ready to make any announcem -[ment] -

WARWICK

(interrupts, getting heated)

We must announce it Edward! King Louis of France has -

Their conversation is getting intense and BARON RIVERS and the BOYS look up, frowning curiosity as EDWARD becomes somewhat defensive in what appears to be embarrassment -

KING EDWARD

Warwick!
(hisses)
I cannot marry her!

He mutters something to WARWICK that we don't catch, but whatever it is, WARWICK goes white, EDWARD flustered, squirming at being cornered like this -

KING EDWARD (CONT'D)

So. I cannot marry her.

WARWICK simply gawps incomprehension, but EDWARD softens, appeasing -

KING EDWARD (CONT'D)

We have won. So politics may wait for now. There is time enough for that, we should be happy.

But WARWICK takes him firmly by the arm and steers him into a private chamber and the door closes behind them.

A hubbub of speculative chatter breaks out immediately.

BARON RIVERS

Whatever could be the problem?!

As his BROTHERS shake their heads, ANTHONY ushers them into a corner -

ANTHONY

Father I think the King may
announce... that he is married to my
sister Elizabeth.

On their shock and disbelief -

JOHN

Elizabeth?!

ANTHONY

Although, he married another before
her. And the first Lady has his
son. So he might equally announce
his marriage to the first one.

BARON RIVERS blanches -

BARON RIVERS

Dear God...!

The RIVERS MEN look at each other in shock, and ANTHONY
shrugs, sorry but there it is. They look at the door in worry
- no telling what is going on beyond.

But then the door finally opens, and EDWARD returns looking
shaken, WARWICK following, very grim indeed. EDWARD puts on
his happiest smile and looks round -

KING EDWARD

Thank you for your patience, my
Lords. I am happy and proud to tell
you... that I am married -

BARON RIVERS and the BOYS barely dare breathe -

KING EDWARD (CONT'D)

- to Lady Elizabeth Grey.

He nods towards BARON RIVERS and the BOYS, as if begging them
to go with it without a fuss, and they smile rictus grins and
bow low - very low, to hide their shocked expressions and buy
themselves some time to get their jaws closed.

All the other NOBLES stare in hostile silence - cannot
comprehend this and don't like it one little bit.

59

EXT. COUNTRY ROAD/GRAFTON MANOR - DAY

59

A MESSENGER thunders on his horse, a letter in his hand.

ELIZABETH snatches it off him the second he arrives. She rips
it open, greedily consumes its contents and then with a gasp -
sinks to the ground in a daze of relief, gulping in the air.

60 INT. JACQUETTA'S ROOMS, GRAFTON MANOR - DAY

60

A bustle around ELIZABETH; SEAMSTRESSES, SERVANTS and her SISTERS, fabric, lace and ribbon, ELIZABETH in a beatific fog in the middle -

GIRL O/C

Your Grace?

ELIZABETH still in her daydream -

GIRL O/C (CONT'D)

Your Grace?

ELIZABETH realises the GIRL is talking to her and jolts -

ELIZABETH

Oh! I'm sorry -

She sees the fabric the GIRL is holding out for her approval -

ELIZABETH (CONT'D)

- yes, that's, it's beautiful.

The GIRL goes. JACQUETTA enters, in her element -

JACQUETTA

I have written to my family in Burgundy, inviting them to London for the coronation. They will confer on us the royal status we shall need to see this through. And if we fail, we have them there for refuge and support.

ELIZABETH

You make it sound like a battle, mother, rather than a marriage!

JACQUETTA

(turns, sharp)

It is a battle, Elizabeth, and make no mistake. The King has done what he should not. He has married from another house, and a commoner at that. There are many who are cursing our luck and wishing us to fall.

ELIZABETH is shocked but JACQUETTA steams on, too much to do -

JACQUETTA (CONT'D)

You must dress with modesty for your court arrival. And our party must be small. We must not be seen to glory in it. It will not avert their envy but it may at least be something.

ELIZABETH hesitates, as the magnitude of this sinks in -

ELIZABETH
I am afraid, Mother.

JACQUETTA
You were born for this, Elizabeth.
(laughs darkly)
And I was at court as a Lady-in-
Waiting to Margaret of Anjou and
you cannot be a worse queen than
her! God save her, wherever she is...

But ELIZABETH frowns, considering what her MOTHER has said -

ELIZABETH
Did you miss the court life,
mother, all these years?

JACQUETTA
(smiles, no)
I chose your father. There was no
compromise in that. But you
Elizabeth, you may have it all. You
love your husband, your King, and
he will give you status too. You
will be great. And you are blessed.

JACQUETTA busies on, picking up and selecting fabric and
styles, dismissing those she deems inappropriate with a wave
of her hand to the GIRLS -

JACQUETTA (CONT'D)
When the coronation is over, your
boys must be sent to their kinsmen
to live, to learn how to be proper
gentlemen. They will need the -

ELIZABETH
(interrupts suddenly)
No! My boys will stay with me!

Her outburst is violent, sudden, almost irrational and
JACQUETTA stares. ELIZABETH realises but can't explain -

ELIZABETH (CONT'D)
I am afraid for them...!

JACQUETTA
(moves to her, quietly)
Elizabeth, is it a Seeing? Have you
come into the Sight?

ELIZABETH
I -

ELIZABETH shakes her head, doesn't know, and JACQUETTA takes
her hand, then touches her face with sudden certainty.

JACQUETTA

Why, you are as cold as ice! This is a Seeing! You are warned of danger to your boys. Do you see more?

ELIZABETH shakes her head mutely, suddenly pale.

ELIZABETH

Only that they must not be with strangers.

JACQUETTA stares at her and then nods -

JACQUETTA

So be it. And now we have warning. So we shall keep them close with us and they will be safe.

ELIZABETH's joy is dampened by fear. JACQUETTA smiles wanly -

JACQUETTA (CONT'D)

I told you you were of my line and that you have The Sight.

ELIZABETH stares at her mother, her joy now bittersweet.

61 EXT. GRAFTON MANOR - DAY

61

ELIZABETH's SISTERS are smart and waiting on their horses as ELIZABETH and JACQUETTA exit. THOMAS and RICHARD, who are also outside, look up at their mother with a fleeting nervousness to see her in her new clothes, but ELIZABETH moves to them reassuringly -

ELIZABETH

Thomas? Richard? Come here.
(she hugs them as one)
You will join me this evening. In just a few hours. You will be safe here with your Aunt Eliza and the girls.

ELIZABETH smiles gratefully at ELIZA, glad her marriage has not made her an enemy. The BOYS smile - reassured.

62 EXT. ROAD TO READING - DAY

62

ELIZABETH, her SISTERS and MOTHER ride in procession, but this is no great train with standards and trumpets - just the clop, clop of hooves and each of them silent with their thoughts at how this will change their lives.

The city looms ahead.

63 EXT. OUTSKIRTS OF READING - DAY

63

As the PROCESSION reaches the outskirts of the city, there are more PEOPLE on the road, but the party is modest enough that no-one at first realises who they are.

Near the city gates, a party of HORSEMAN rides to meet them -

JACQUETTA

It is your father.

BARON RIVERS and ELIZABETH's BROTHERS ride towards them and ELIZABETH smiles, but is surprised when, on reaching them first, her FATHER dismounts his horse, pulls off his hat and kneels in the dust before her.

ELIZABETH looks alarmed, not least because it attracts the attention of ONLOOKERS, but her BROTHERS follow suit.

ELIZABETH

Father, get up!

BARON RIVERS rises slowly and bows, his head still dipped -

BARON RIVERS

You are Queen of England now, Your Grace, and every man but one must bow to you.

ELIZABETH frowns as she realises he is right. But this is the first time she has seen him since he learned of her wedding -

ELIZABETH

Do you give me your blessing Father?

BARON RIVERS

Of course I do. And you will always be my daughter, no matter what. My little Elizabeth.

She smiles, glad for his support. Her BROTHERS are still kneeling in the dirt and ELIZABETH laughs to ANTHONY quietly -

ELIZABETH

You can stay down there, Anthony! The things you said to me.

ANTHONY

I beg your forgiveness, sister. I hope you know that it was out of love. And I give you joy of your triumph.

ELIZABETH of course forgives him, and smiles at all of them -

ELIZABETH

Stand. All of you.

They do so, and bow, but now quite a small CROWD has stopped to watch them, realising who this is, and wanting to catch a glimpse of this commoner whose beauty has ensnared a KING.

JOHN

Who would have thought it? Who even would have dreamed it?!

But a loud and bawdy joke from a WOMAN in the CROWD makes the RIVERS MEN turn and frown - flushing for ELIZABETH's sake.

ANTHONY makes as though to approach the impudent JOKER and reprimand her but ELIZABETH catches his shoulder, and quietly-

ELIZABETH

We had a secret wedding, Anthony.
We must expect some jibes.

He doesn't like it, but accepts her ruling. ELIZABETH tosses her head proudly, ready to take it, as BARON RIVERS and the BOYS mount their horses to escort the WOMEN in.

64

EXT. READING - DAY

64

The PROCESSION rides into the city where great CROWDS are waiting, watching, lining the roads, no-one now in doubt as to who this woman is, and some throw flowers in her path -

PERSON IN CROWD

Elizabeth Woodville!

PERSON IN CROWD 2

Your Grace!

ELIZABETH glances at her MOTHER beside her, but JACQUETTA's steady look calms her.

And then, up ahead, on his horse outside the Abbey, ELIZABETH sees him, her husband the KING, and all other thoughts vanish from her mind. Dressed in cloth of gold with a scarlet cape and hat, he's the tallest, most handsome man in the CROWD, and when he smiles at her she melts.

He breaks from his MEN and rides quickly to her side -

KING EDWARD

Elizabeth. My wife.

They drink in the sight of the other and then he lifts her off her horse and holds her in his arms. A roar of delighted applause from the CROWD and shock from the COURT assembled outside the Abbey at his breach of protocol.

But EDWARD doesn't care as he rides ELIZABETH over to join them. JACQUETTA and her family move to follow, but -

MARGARET BEAUFORT
Jacquetta Rivers. So you have
turned your coat to York.

- a tight faced, dark haired, pious woman in a wimple, 18 -
has caught her arm -

JACQUETTA
Lady Margaret Beaufort.
(corrects herself)
Lady Tudor.

MARGARET BEAUFORT
(not very happy about it)
Lady Stafford now.

She gestures cursorily to her husband HENRY STAFFORD, 40s, a
large but kind man, who is nearby and nods and bows greeting.

JACQUETTA
(didn't know)
You have remarried..

MARGARET BEAUFORT
As women must, it seems.
(pointed, icy)
Though some of us still loyal to
our own house.

JACQUETTA is only half listening, anxious to join her family
on the steps of the Abbey -

JACQUETTA
These are different times, Lady
Margaret. Lancaster brought us only
war. King Edward will bring peace.

MARGARET BEAUFORT
He has taken the throne by force.
He is a pretender -

JACQUETTA
(interrupts)
- he is the King. And those who
speak against him are guilty of
treason.

MARGARET scowls, but JACQUETTA moves on her way, ascending
the Abbey steps to join everyone assembled there, and as she
does so we ANGLE on WARWICK; his wife, the COUNTESS OF
WARWICK ANNE NEVILLE, and daughters ISABEL 14 and ANNE 9, all
of them dressed in purples, lilacs and yellows.

ANNE hears her father lean, sotto voce and disdainful to his
wife -

WARWICK

A common Lancastrian girl as Queen.
It is an insult to the Lords who
fought with him to take a woman
whose father, brothers and husband
fought for Henry.

COUNTESS OF WARWICK

The worst is that he kept it from
you.

WARWICK bristles at her implied criticism of him -

WARWICK

The boy is fogged by lust, but I
shall bring him back. I have
sacrificed too much to lose him now
when everything I have fought for
is in sight. The Rivers shall be
made to run away..

Everyone is now assembled on the steps, and WARWICK affects a
grimace of a smile as EDWARD introduces ELIZABETH:

KING EDWARD

My brothers George and Richard. My
sister, Margaret.

GEORGE 15 and RICHARD 13, and their sister MARGARET 18 are
all in dressed in gold or white of York, and they bow, nod
and curtsy appropriately, seemingly happy enough at their
brother's marriage.

KING EDWARD (CONT'D)

My cousin, Lord Warwick; his
Countess, and daughters Isabel and
Anne.

WARWICK glowers, murderous; the COUNTESS, ISABEL and ANNE bob
curtseys.

EDWARD waves his arm towards JACQUETTA, BARON RIVERS and
their children, now lined up on the other side of the steps,
dressed in blues, greens and silvers.

KING EDWARD (CONT'D)

Baron Rivers, Jacquetta, the
Duchess of Bedford; the queen's
brothers and sisters.

Everyone bows, curtsies and nods greeting, then EDWARD raises
ELIZABETH's hand in his and bellows to the CROWD -

KING EDWARD (CONT'D)

People of Reading, my Royal Court,
I give you the Queen of England!

Wild cheering and applause and JACQUETTA laughs her joy. When she glances back to where MARGARET BEAUFORT was, she is gone, but the crowd is dotted with red dresses, the colour of Lancaster consigned, for now, to anonymity.

BARON RIVERS leans to his wife, sotto voce, but with humour -

BARON RIVERS

Lord Warwick looks as though he has
swallowed poison. His plans for
Edward smothered in their sleep.

JACQUETTA's POV of the murderous face of WARWICK, his wife pale, fragile and shocked beside him, ISABEL defiant and angry as she looks at the new Queen, ANNE simply bewildered.

JACQUETTA

I did not think he would be here to
bear this.

BARON RIVERS

There have been bitter scenes,
believe me. He thought the boy was
in his pocket, it was a rude
awakening. But he was defeated by
the power of love -
(takes her hand and
squeezes it)
- which marries a poor Squire to
his great and beautiful lady-

JACQUETTA

(smiles too, re ELIZABETH)
- and a commoner to a King.

BARON RIVERS

You cannot rule the heart.

JACQUETTA

(glancing back at WARWICK
and EDWARD's family)
But they will make him pay for it.
You can be sure of that.

ANGLE back with EDWARD and ELIZABETH, as he leans to nuzzle his forehead against hers -

KING EDWARD

I am so glad to have you here at
last.

ELIZABETH

I was afraid.

KING EDWARD

But now you will be Queen of
England. And we shall be happy.
See, Elizabeth, the people love you-

ELIZABETH looks round and smiles - they do indeed seem to -

KING EDWARD (CONT'D)
- all you must do now, is work the
same magic on my mother.

ELIZABETH's face - this doesn't sound so good.

65 INT. CORRIDOR OUTSIDE PRIVATE CHAMBERS - DAY

65

Whispering and nervousness, ELIZABETH and her SISTERS like frightened SCHOOLGIRLS as they assemble outside EDWARD's MOTHER DUCHESS CECILY's chambers. JACQUETTA joins them with a stern look at their nonsense -

JACQUETTA
Girls.

They shape up quickly, readying themselves to go in, but the door opens and -

- LORD WARWICK comes out. For a second he freezes, holding ELIZABETH's eye, unmistakably hostile and quite plainly fresh from talking about her to DUCHESS CECILY within.

He forces a half nod in greeting, but his eyes are narrowed as he goes. ELIZABETH looks to her MOTHER for support, but JACQUETTA simply nods towards the open door -

JACQUETTA (CONT'D)
Come.

66 INT. DUCHESS CECILY'S PRIVATE CHAMBERS - DAY

66

As ELIZABETH and her KIN enter, the dowager DUCHESS CECILY sits on a great chair covered by a cloth of estate, wearing a gown encrusted with jewels, and a large square headdress that she wears more like a crown.

She does not rise to greet ELIZABETH, nor respond to her curtsy, the first snub of many and the coldness of her sneer makes her contempt for this upstart commoner very clear.

Behind her stands her daughter MARGARET, careful not to outshine her mother, and other LADIES.

ELIZABETH
Duchess Cecily. It is a -

But DUCHESS CECILY puffs herself up to her intimidating best and interrupts -

DUCHESS CECILY
I am not happy with this marriage.

ELIZABETH falters, no idea how to respond, but JACQUETTA was expecting it, smiles pleasantly and noncommittally -

JACQUETTA

A shame, as we are all delighted.

DUCHESS CECILY

I would remind the 'Lady Rivers' that the wedding was a secret one which -

JACQUETTA

(corrects her)

Private. It was private. But not secret. I was there and so were other witnesses. But if your son the King did not invite you then you must take that up with him.

DUCHESS CECILY looks fit to burst, and ELIZABETH looks to JACQUETTA, starting to see that attack is how to play this.

DUCHESS CECILY

Your daughter is a widow and years older than my son!

JACQUETTA

Though he is hardly inexperienced as he has several bastards to his name.

(CECILY gasps)

And the age gap works to our advantage as my daughter has proved herself fertile with two handsome and legitimate boys, so we may feel confident that God will bless this new royal family with issue.

DUCHESS CECILY

Your daughter could never be 'royal'! She was not my choice nor that of my nephew Lord Warwick! Her father was a commoner! And while I might overlook it if Edward were not the King I -

ELIZABETH

But he is the King. And he has chosen me.

DUCHESS CECILY glares at ELIZABETH daring to weigh in, spits -

DUCHESS CECILY

Unless I should unseat him!

MARGARET gasps at the awfulness of her suggestion -

MARGARET

Mother!

ELIZABETH frowns, but JACQUETTA simply inclines her head -

JACQUETTA

And how would you do that, Duchess Cecily?

DUCHESS CECILY

I could disown him. I could put his brother George upon the throne in his place! And how would you like that as the outcome of your 'private wedding' Lady Rivers?

The LADIES blanch and sway back in horror, but JACQUETTA nods-

JACQUETTA

Hm. I did hear talk of that, yes, when Edward was born. An archer was it not, by the name of... yes, that's right, the name of Braybourne.

DUCHESS CECILY swallows with guilt, and even ELIZABETH looks down, unwilling to witness her shame. JACQUETTA steams on -

JACQUETTA (CONT'D)

They said that you had made a cuckold of your husband, but I was of the few who swore that a lady of your standing would never stoop so low. And yet it seems you did.

(beat)

If that is what you are saying Duchess, that here, in this moment, you admit yourself a whore and declare your son, the King, to be a bastard? For I cannot see how else you would unseat him.

DUCHESS CECILY

(hand up to silence her)

Enough... Enough...

JACQUETTA waits pleasantly - but DUCHESS CECILY is utterly dismantled. ELIZABETH finally shows her regal potential as -

ELIZABETH

Then your words against the King will go no further. And now that we are friends, I believe the proper custom when presented to the Queen of England, is to curtsy?

The DUCHESS looks shocked. Her DAUGHTER waits for guidance. ELIZABETH is waiting.

It nearly kills DUCHESS CECILY but she stands - and then as one with MARGARET, stiffly curtseys.

ELIZABETH (CONT'D)
An honour to meet you, Duchess.

JACQUETTA and ELIZABETH have won.

67 INT. ROYAL PRIVY CHAMBERS - NIGHT

67

EDWARD strides across the room, peeling off his clothes as ELIZABETH sits on a stool at a looking glass, taking the pins out of her hair, already in a nightgown/underclothes.

KING EDWARD
I am surprised you won her over.
You must really be a witch. I
confess I had expected quite a
battle.

ELIZABETH smiles enigmatically, clearly hasn't told him.

ELIZABETH
She is your mother, Edward. How
much trouble could she be?

He gets into bed with a smile, but she turns, something else on her mind -

ELIZABETH (CONT'D)
Edward? I don't like the Earl of
Warwick.

He frowns, darkening slightly, resisting this -

KING EDWARD
He made me what I am, Elizabeth,
and you must love him for my sake.
He is my closest kinsman.

A beat. He sees her hesitation.

KING EDWARD (CONT'D)
Truly. You have married into an
army at war. We cannot choose our
friends and allies, we must simply
be grateful for them.

But then she smiles and moves to him -

ELIZABETH
Then I shall try. But loving you is
very much easier.

She kisses him and he draws her into bed with him with a cheeky smile -

KING EDWARD

Now let us make a son, to scotch
the Lancastrian threat and start
our dynasty.

68 INT. BOYS' ROOM, READING COURT - NIGHT

68

THOMAS and RICHARD are in bed, seemingly asleep, a night-lantern burning with a low gold light, but as their door quietly opens RICHARD's head shoots up - unsettled in this new place, he's instantly awake.

But it's only JACQUETTA in the doorway and she smiles comfortingly.

JACQUETTA

Sleep, Richard. 'Tis only I.

She strokes his hair and he lies down again to sleep. A sense she's checking on them, after ELIZABETH's 'Seeing'.

After a moment, RICHARD's breathing grows heavy - like his brother, asleep again. JACQUETTA strokes his head thoughtfully as she listens to distant sounds of PEOPLE still up and creaking floorboards. Her eyes alight on a looking glass across the room.

69 INT. ROYAL PRIVY CHAMBERS - NIGHT

69

EDWARD is also now asleep, post coital, and ELIZABETH watches him with love, studying his face, boyish and vulnerable and content in his slumber.

Gently so as not to wake him, she untangles herself from his limbs, slips out of bed and pads to the door.

70 INT. BOYS' ROOM, READING COURT - NIGHT

70

JACQUETTA has leaned the looking glass against the wall, candles either side for light as she 'scares' into it - trying to read the future, moving her hands before it as though to stir up smoke.

A sound makes her turn sharply but she relaxes to see it's ELIZABETH who slides quietly in with a knowing, chastising look at what her MOTHER is doing.

ELIZABETH

I could have been anyone, Mother.

JACQUETTA

(no you couldn't)
Who else would come in here at
night?

ELIZABETH gives her a look, but after her 'Seeing' that's precisely what's been on both of their minds, hence them checking on the BOYS. ELIZABETH goes to each of them, pulls up their covers and kisses them gently in their sleep.

Satisfied that all is well, she moves to her MOTHER at the mirror, asks lightly, half joking -

ELIZABETH

Tell me then mother, who are my enemies?

JACQUETTA

I do not need to scry to tell you that! Lord Warwick. And the Duchess Cecily.

ELIZABETH knows as much herself. But smiles a happier thought-

ELIZABETH

Then tell me what we do not know. How many children shall I give to Edward? How many sons and daughters of York?

JACQUETTA smiles, turns back to the mirror, but ELIZABETH moves behind her and also looks in it, frowning at something odd she sees but we and JACQUETTA do not, but then suddenly -

ELIZABETH (CONT'D)

Hurrgh!

ELIZABETH jumps back violently.

JACQUETTA

Elizabeth? What is it? What did you see?

ELIZABETH can barely speak for horror.

ELIZABETH

A... a woman! Covered in blood. Smeared up her arms and -!

JACQUETTA

Who? Who is she?

JACQUETTA looks back at the mirror but sees nothing.

ELIZABETH shakes her head, doesn't know -

ELIZABETH

A woman, wearing red. I do not know-

JACQUETTA

Whose blood was it?

A beat. But then -

ELIZABETH

I - I think that it was mine.

She looks at her MOTHER in distress. Then climbs into bed with her BOYS. She gathers them to her tightly for comfort.

JACQUETTA stares at her, troubled by this Seeing..

- end of episode one -