

BUCKINGHAM & QUEEN ANNE SIDES

START

40.

BUCKINGHAM

My God. You are more beautiful than ever.

ANNE

Why have you returned to France? Why??

BUCKINGHAM

I had no choice. I had to see you again.

ANNE

I am not worth risking your life.

BUCKINGHAM

On the contrary. You are worth risking everything.

ANNE

This madness can go on no longer. We must never see each other again.

BUCKINGHAM

Anne...

ANNE

I am a married woman. I refuse to break the sanctity of those vows. It would be sacrilege.

BUCKINGHAM

Sacrilege lies in separating hearts that God made for each other. You love me.

ANNE

I have never said so.

BUCKINGHAM

Well, you don't love Louis. You couldn't possibly.

(Beat. She remains silent.)

Three years ago, I saw you for the first time, and I have loved you ever since.

ANNE

Stop it!

BUCKINGHAM

You were wearing that green satin dress...

ANNE

What madness, to feed a hopeless passion with memories!

BUCKINGHAM

Memories are all I have. How you looked. The sound of your voice. The words we spoke when last we met.

ANNE

Do not talk about that night. I was lonely – and foolish – and you were a kind listener. That is all.

BUCKINGHAM

That was not all!

ANNE

Cardinal Richelieu saw us together that night. He told the King – and now I am watched incessantly. Richelieu has spies everywhere. There is no hope for us – no hope... no hope...

BUCKINGHAM

Then you *do* love me!

ANNE

God help me, I do. But I will never break my vows. And now, if you really love me, you will leave and go back to England.

BUCKINGHAM

My darling...

ANNE

Please.

(Long beat.)

BUCKINGHAM

I do your bidding.

(He turns to leave.)

ANNE

Wait!

(He turns back. She gestures to someone off. CONSTANCE enters from the shadows carrying a rosewood box. She gives it to ANNE. ANNE in turn gives it to BUCKINGHAM.)

ANNE (cont.)

A gift. Remember me.

BUCKINGHAM

I could never forget.

(He exits.)

END

ANNE

Will he be safe, Constance?

CONSTANCE

It is a difficult voyage, Your Majesty.

ANNE

It is not the voyage that worries me. It is that venomous Cardinal Richelieu...

(Special up on RICHELIEU.)

Let us pray Lord Buckingham can escape Paris without being caught in his web.

(Lights down on ANNE and CONSTANCE as the scene shifts to RICHELIEU's chambers. ROCHEFORT enters.)

ROCHEFORT

Your Eminence.

RICHELIEU

Well, Rochefort? Where is he? Where is Buckingham?

ROCHEFORT

Gone, monsieur.

RICHELIEU

Gone?!

ROCHEFORT

Back to England. He left over a week ago.

RICHELIEU

And you just now discovered it?

ROCHEFORT

A man like Buckingham is very good at covering his tracks.