THE CROWN

Episode 610
"SLEEP DEARIE SLEEP"

LEFT BANK Pictures

NETFLIX

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PRE-TITLE:

1 EXT. HIGHGROVE ESTATE - DAY 1

First light. Day breaking. Birdsong. Two young foxes playing chase in Highgrove's grand, manicured gardens.

2 INT. HIGHGROVE, CHARLES'S BEDROOM - DAY 2

The PRINCE OF WALES lies in bed. Eyes open. Lost in thought. Beside him, CAMILLA, still sleeping.

CHARLES stares at her. Staring meaningfully. Significantly.

3 INT. BUCKINGHAM PALACE, ELIZABETH'S BEDROOM - DAY 3

ELIZABETH is in bed, looking at the clock. It's 8:59am. As the clock clicks to 9:00..

The sound of the Piper as he starts playing.

4 EXT. BUCKINGHAM PALACE, GARDENS - DAY 4

The PIPER walks through the mist, playing as he does every morning.

5 INT. BUCKINGHAM PALACE, DRESSING ROOM - DAY 5

Elizabeth's DRESSER is busy preparing the day's outfit. She carefully steams a floral dress. Polishes a pair of heels to a shine.

6 INT. BUCKINGHAM PALACE, ELIZABETH'S BEDROOM - DAY 6

ELIZABETH, still in bed, is listening to the Piper's music.

As always it lifts her spirits. Sets her up for the day.

7 INT. BUCKINGHAM PALACE, DRESSING ROOM - DAY 7

ELIZABETH is getting dressed with her DRESSER..

DRESSER
(reading from notes)
You have an investiture ceremony at eleven, then lunch with the Commonwealth Secretary General. So I thought the with the black shoes and low heel. Which also works nicely for the first meeting after breakfast..

ELIZABETH
Remind me?

DRESSER
The Duke of Edinburgh, the Lord Chamberlain and the Duke of Norfolk.

ELIZABETH
Oh, yes. Did we ever discover what that was about?

DRESSER
They wouldn't say.

ELIZABETH
That's not normally a good sign.

8 INT. HIGHGROVE, DINING ROOM - DAY 8

CHARLES and CAMILLA at breakfast. Radio 4 news plays. The latest on the Blair/Bush/Iraq situation.

RADIO COMMENTATOR (ON RADIO)
...It's almost two years since British and American forces went to war in Iraq. The justification for the invasion at the time? That Saddam Hussein had amassed a huge stockpile of "Weapons of Mass Destruction"...

But CHARLES is not listening to the news. He continues to stare at CAMILLA, who listens, snorting in reaction..

CAMILLA
It's ridiculous.

Finally, CHARLES says what he has been thinking for the past several hours...

CHARLES
Marry me.

CAMILLA continues to react to the radio.

CHARLES
That's not a proposal. I can't do that without my mother's permission, but I realise more than anything in the world I want you to be my wife.

RADIO COMMENTATOR (ON RADIO)
...However, the elusive chemical, biological and nuclear weapons have still not been unearthed.

CAMILLA stares. Stunned. She heard him. But it's too momentous to take in.

CAMILLA
It's a complete disaster.

9 INT. BUCKINGHAM PALACE, STATE ROOM - DAY 9

ELIZABETH walks through a state room where a scale model is being set up, preceded by her PAGE. She reaches a door. Her PAGE opens the door.

10 INT. BUCKINGHAM PALACE, DRAWING ROOM - DAY 10

A large boardroom full of MEN; white-haired establishment figures including the DUKE OF NORFOLK, the LORD CHAMBERLAIN, and PHILIP. They talk amongst themselves.

They seem nervous. Apprehensive.

Presently, the door opens and ELIZABETH enters. EVERYONE gets sharply to their feet.

LORD CHAMBERLAIN
Your Majesty...the purpose of this meeting is...and I should say it's not because we have any reason to be fearful...

PHILIP
Get on with it, David...

LORD CHAMBERLAIN
..that we might really step up our planning of 'Operation London Bridge'.

ELIZABETH looks up.

DUKE OF NORFOLK
That's the code name for your funeral.

PHILIP
We know what it is, Edward.

ELIZABETH stares, thrown.

ELIZABETH
Is that really necessary? I recently got a clean bill of health and in terms of age I'm only...

PHILIP
Eighty.

ELIZABETH
(terse)
Yes, all right. Not quite.

PHILIP
A matter of months.

LORD CHAMBERLAIN
Simply for reasons of prudence and good order...

ELIZABETH
In which case why not start with the Duke of Edinburgh?
(shoots a sharp look)
He's even older than me. And statistically, men tend to <u>die</u> earlier.

PHILIP
Well that's true. And that's why we've been working on mine for years. 'Operation Forth Bridge'.

PHILIP indicates the file he has been working on. We see it has 'Operation Forth Bridge, the Funeral of HRH The Duke of Edinburgh' written on it.

ELIZABETH
Oh, don't say that.

PHILIP
Why?

ELIZABETH
It's so sad.

PHILIP
Oh no, I'm finding it all rather stimulating. You might, too! It's surprising what it all stirs up. Isn't it, Edward?

DUKE OF NORFOLK
So with your permission, ma'am? Can we make a start?

Elizabeth's face. All eyes on her. A significant moment, as doors open and ELIZABETH is led into...

11 INT. BUCKINGHAM PALACE, STATE ROOM - DAY 11

A vast scale model of the Mall is on a table. Toy soldiers. Miniature horses. Gun carriages. ELIZABETH stares.

DUKE OF NORFOLK
As a template we've used the funeral of the late King, George the Sixth...We would call on an estimated six thousand military personnel for the procession, a tri-service parade embracing each of the armed services, alongside representatives from the fifteen other Commonwealth realms. The gun carriage will be drawn by the Sovereign's Guard. They will march at the customary rhythm of seventy-five paces per minute, which will dictate the speed of the 1.5 mile procession...

The Duke of Norfolk's words fade into the background. ELIZABETH stares at the model - speechless. As the reality of her own mortality hits her.

Around the room, the MEN - tough establishment boots - exchange looks - suddenly all moved by seeing her reaction. And the shared reality, in the room, of her inevitable death one day.

FADE TO BLACK.

FRONT TITLE SEQUENCE

CUT TO:

12 EXT/INT. BUCKINGHAM PALACE - DAY 12

Blair's car leaves the Palace, post-audience.

It is met by huge anti-war protests. For BLAIR, an unwelcome ambush.

As BLAIR leaves, CHARLES's car pulls in. He looks out of the window.

CHARLES
What's going on?

PPO
The Prime Minister's just coming out, sir.

CHARLES (V.O.)
Do you remember when he first came to power? How they took to the streets and cheered? Now they want to impeach him for "high crimes and misdemeanours". Tony Blair has become 'Tony B-liar'.
(MORE)

CHARLES (V.O.) (CONT'D)
And one is reminded once again that a career as prime minister is nasty, brutish and short.

13 INT. BUCKINGHAM PALACE, DRAWING ROOM - DAY 13

The meeting between CHARLES and ELIZABETH continues...

CHARLES
Except I gather he has no intention of stepping down. His ambition is to be the first Labour Prime Minister to win a successive third term. But that's the thing...
(a beat)
Once people get a taste of life at the top, they never want to leave.

ELIZABETH
Is that right?

CHARLES
They just want to keep on and on.

ELIZABETH's face: this suddenly has extra meaning for her, and she scrutinises CHARLES for his intent.

ELIZABETH
Ye-es. Anyway, I'm sure this is not why you've come to see me today?

CHARLES
No. I have come to make a request I wish I'd made thirty years ago. To ask your blessing...
(a beat)
..to marry Camilla.

ELIZABETH flinches.

CHARLES
You cannot say this has come out of the blue, Mummy. She and I have been in love now for thirty years. And every day of those thirty years she has been heroic.

Another flinch at the word.

ELIZABETH
You don't think ending her relationship with you once you'd married Diana would have been heroic?

CHARLES
She did! Camilla was blameless in that regard. She always wanted to keep her marriage.

ELIZABETH
Then why didn't she?

CHARLES
Because her husband left.

ELIZABETH
And why did he do that? Because he'd had enough, as I understand it, of reading about her adultery with you in the newspapers.

CHARLES
You know and I both know, Andrew was no angel - he was serially unfaithful himself.

ELIZABETH
So can we agree? There is nothing heroic about any of this.

CHARLES
For years and years Camilla has suffered judgment and calumny and never ever complained. Not once. THAT is heroic. Instead she has stayed silent. And loyal to you and the Crown. With not a single thank you in return.

ELIZABETH
A thank you?

CHARLES
Yes, "thank you". Not just for her discretion, but for loving and making happy the person who is next in line. That, surely, is in all our interests.

ELIZABETH appears momentarily thrown. She goes to the window, where she sees PHILIP in conference with the DUKE OF NORFOLK.

CHARLES joins her at the window and looks down.

CHARLES
What is he doing?

ELIZABETH
Planning his funeral. He wants that as his hearse.

PHILIP is showing the DUKE OF NORFOLK an open-top green Land Rover: his future hearse.

CHARLES
You've always said you couldn't do the job without Papa by your side, that he is your strength and stay. Well, Camilla is MY strength and MY stay and I couldn't do it without *her*. So, do I have your blessing?

ELIZABETH stares. Charles's words in her ears.

ELIZABETH
I will reflect on it, take advice, and give you an answer soon.

CHARLES is stunned by the momentousness of it. She didn't say no!!!!

CHARLES
Thank you.

CHARLES goes. ELIZABETH is left deep in thought.

14 INT. BUCKINGHAM PALACE, STATE ROOM - DAY 14

ELIZABETH is still deep in thought. All around her, a packed room. The 'London Bridge' committee is in session.

LORD CHAMBERLAIN
You all have in front of you a first draft of the plans for 'London Bridge'...

ELIZABETH looks at a huge file in front of her, 'Operation London Bridge, the State Funeral of HM Queen Elizabeth II'.

ELIZABETH
(weighing it)
Oh for heaven's sake.

DUKE OF NORFOLK
Yes, a little heavy at the moment, ma'am, but it will shrink down nicely as you begin to express your preferences.

ELIZABETH
My preference would be a quiet service in Scotland. Out of sight. And over in twenty minutes.

A ripple of affectionate smiles among the MEN.

LORD CHAMBERLAIN
Perfectly understandable. But this is the funeral of what we expect to be the longest-serving monarch in history. People will want to celebrate your reign, and mark the end of an era. Not just here, but all around the world.

The weight of this hits ELIZABETH.

DUKE OF NORFOLK
So...I'd like to start with the logistical contingencies depending upon where the...forgive me, ma'am...the death actually occurs...

ELIZABETH looks quizzical.

LORD CHAMBERLAIN
If it's abroad...or here in the United Kingdom...

A sombre mood descends.

ELIZABETH
I shall do my best to keep it local.

The mood lightens..

DUKE OF NORFOLK
Thank you, ma'am. So the first chapter...is if the... event occurs on a foreign tour. Please turn to page ten.....

15 EXT. HIGHGROVE, TERRACE ROOF/GARDENS - DAY 15

HARRY and WILLIAM and a friend, GUY PELLY, are shooting air rifles, target practice, from a rooftop. They aim into the garden below, where another FRIEND lines up cans of beer on a wall.

It's a raucous mood. "Bang", "Bang", "Bang". Cigarettes. Music. Booze.

GUY
Are you guys going to Harry Meade's birthday party?

HARRY
Definitely.

WILLIAM
When is it?

GUY
Next week. It should be good. Two hundred and fifty people going. Fancy dress.

WILLIAM
I hate fancy dress. You have to rent a costume, which invariably stinks of other people's B.O.

HARRY
Meet my brother. Life and soul.

The ground-level FRIEND replaces the cans on the wall - narrowly missing a pellet.

HARRY
What's the theme?

GUY
'Colonials and Natives.'

WILLIAM
Then there's *that*! You think they could have picked a more offensive theme?

HARRY
Mate, you're such an 'undergraduate' now. You'd have never said that before you went to university.

WILLIAM
Well, now I am saying it.

HARRY
Clichéééé!

FRIEND
Right, that's me done. I'm out. You fucking idiots!

HARRY and GUY take aim at the FRIEND and begin firing.

FRIEND
Fuck you, fuck the rich!

WILLIAM
Hit him!

The FRIEND moons the group.

A female private secretary, HELEN ASPREY, comes out to the garden below in search of the boys with two suited AIDES. She sees that the spray of pellets is coming from the roof.

She calls out to the BOYS...

HELEN
Your Royal Highnesses, I've just had a call from the Queen's private secretary. Can you come down please?

On the roof, WILLIAM and HARRY see her, but can't hear her. It's clear from her face it's serious. HELEN looks meaningfully at WILLIAM and HARRY.

HARRY
It's never good when they come in packs.

16 INT. BUCKINGHAM PALACE, LOBBY/STAIRCASE - DAY 16

A swathe of purple robes as the most senior CLERGYMEN of the United Kingdom ascend the staircase at Buckingham Palace along with other senior ESTABLISHMENT FIGURES and constitutional ADVISERS.

17 INT. BUCKINGHAM PALACE, MEETING ROOM - DAY 17

The ARCHBISHOPS of DURHAM and YORK. ROWAN WILLIAMS (54), Welsh, cerebral, inscrutable, the Archbishop of Canterbury, and DAVID STANCLIFFE (62), Bishop of Salisbury and Chairman of the Liturgical Commission. Talking earnestly.

They tail off, and fall silent as ELIZABETH approaches. They bow from the neck.

WILLIAMS
Your Majesty..

ELIZABETH
My Lord Bishops.

ELIZABETH
I asked you all here today because the Prince of Wales has requested my permission to marry Mrs Parker-Bowles...and I think I'd like to grant it.

A ripple of concerned reactions in the room. This has clearly caught everyone off guard.

STANCLIFFE
And, of course, as Head of the Church of England that is your right. But it will not be straightforward. Or, one suspects, popular.

ELIZABETH
Why? I was led to believe that the General Synod had eased its stance on the marriage of divorcees.

WILLIAMS
It has but many people in this country still believe that the relationship between the Prince of Wales and Mrs Parker Bowles was responsible for the breakdown of a royal marriage.

STANCLIFFE
The Church, I think, needs to be satisfied that permitting the new marriage would not, in effect, consecrate a past infidelity.

WILLIAMS
For the Church of England to be seen to be blessing it could risk a split in the Anglican Communion.

STANCLIFFE
One suggestion could be, and I'd be interested in hearing the Archbishop of Canterbury's view, that the Prince and Mrs Parker Bowles marry in a civil ceremony and then have a church blessing afterwards.

ELIZABETH
In a *registry office*?

WILLIAMS
In the eyes of the Church no marriage service is more legitimate than another.

STANCLIFFE
It's more a question of signals. Appearances.

WILLIAMS
A condition of the blessing could be some form of atonement...

STANCLIFFE
Quite so. Some acknowledgement of wrongdoing on the couple's part.

WILLIAMS
The service might include a prayer of penitence in which the couple join with the congregation in asking forgiveness for past....wickedness.

ELIZABETH flinches at the cruelty of the word.

ELIZABETH
I've always taken comfort in the knowledge that God 'retaineth not his anger for ever, because he delighteth in mercy'. Whatever short-term risk the marriage may present to the integrity of the Church, one has to imagine it would do less damage than if I were to die...

The BISHOPS look up. Horrified.

ELIZABETH
..well, it is going to happen one day...and my heir acceded to the throne while living in sin.

18 INT. BUCKINGHAM PALACE, CORRIDOR O.S. MEETING ROOM - DAY 18

WILLIAM and HARRY sit on a bench in a corridor as departing BISHOPS exit the room. All those serious-looking grand men. All those flowing robes. It takes them aback. Heavy.

The Queen's PAGE enters the corridor.

PAGE
Her Majesty will see you now.

HARRY watches the BISHOPS go. A sense of dread.

WILLIAM
Come on, Harold.
(hurrying him)
Harold.

We follow WILLIAM and HARRY into the room.

19 INT. BUCKINGHAM PALACE, MEETING ROOM - DAY 19

ELIZABETH gets to her feet as WILLIAM and HARRY are shown into the room. They affectionately, but respectfully, greet ELIZABETH.

WILLIAM
Granny.

ELIZABETH
Thank you both for coming. Now, I need some air. Would you be very cross if I suggest we go for a walk?

20 EXT. BUCKINGHAM PALACE, GARDENS - DAY 20

ELIZABETH, HARRY and WILLIAM find a quiet spot to sit.

ELIZABETH
I'd like to discuss your dear Papa.

WILLIAM
What's he done now?

ELIZABETH
Nothing he's done. It's what he wants to do.
(a beat, here goes)
How would you both feel about him getting married?

HARRY
(to WILLIAM)
I knew it!!
(to ELIZABETH)
Why can't they just carry on as they are?

ELIZABETH
Because Charles will be King one day. And the last time we had an unmarried King on the throne - it did not end well. William?

WILLIAM
Obviously, both of us prefer to think of him with Mummy, and anything other than that feels..

HARRY
Wrong. So wrong!!

HARRY looks away. Clearly still a wound.

WILLIAM
But I suppose this is the reality...and she does seem to make him happy.

ELIZABETH looks to HARRY..

ELIZABETH
Does she?

HARRY refuses to answer.

WILLIAM
And having him happy and settled is good for us and ultimately, good for...
(he tails off)

ELIZABETH
Good for?

WILLIAM
As you say, he IS going to be King, isn't he? One day.

ELIZABETH
Yes.

WILLIAM
Plus then he might finally shut up about it all!

ELIZABETH
So? Is that a 'yes'?

WILLIAM
Yes.

HARRY seems stunned at William's position.

ELIZABETH
Thank you. I didn't want to give my blessing until you had given yours.

Elizabeth's face. HARRY stares at Judas WILLIAM.

21 INT. HIGHGROVE, CHARLES'S STUDY - DUSK 21

CHARLES is busy working in his study with AIDES. The phone rings.

CHARLES
Yes.
(listens)
Oh? Yes of course.
(straightens)
Put her through, please.

CHARLES indicates, 'The Queen'. The AIDES immediately disappear.

CHARLES
Mummy?

22 INT. BUCKINGHAM PALACE, DRAWING ROOM/ANTEROOM - DUSK 22

WILLIAM and HARRY watch from a distance, into the neighbouring room...

HARRY
I can’t believe you caved like that.

WILLIAM
I didn’t ‘cave’. I’m just being a realist.

HARRY
And changing your tune. And not saying what you FEEL.

WILLIAM
That’s what being a realist is.

HARRY
(shaking head)
Such a fucking company man.

WILLIAM
I’m just trying to be adult. I don’t expect you to understand what that feels like.

WILLIAM watches ELIZABETH talk to Charles on the telephone..

WILLIAM
It’s done.

WILLIAM walks off. HARRY watches him go.

23 INT. HIGHGROVE, CHARLES’S STUDY - DUSK 23

CHARLES is at the other end, listening to his mother. We do not need to hear what’s being said.

CHARLES
Thank you. Thank you, Mummy.

Tears start to roll down Charles’s face. Tears of joy and relief.

24 EXT. HIGHGROVE, GARDENS - DUSK 24

CHARLES comes out into the garden. He walks over to CAMILLA. She looks up, sees his expression, puts down her tools.

Then he gets on his knee.

CAMILLA laughs at first, nervously, then is overcome by emotion...as she realises everything that it means...

And they fall into an embrace.

25 INT. BUCKINGHAM PALACE, ELIZABETH'S BEDROOM - NIGHT 25

ELIZABETH is on her knees, saying her prayers. PHILIP comes in. ELIZABETH finishes her prayers..

PHILIP
How was it with the boys today?

ELIZABETH
Fine. They supported the idea of the marriage, slightly through gritted teeth. Harry's more gritted than William's.
(a beat)
I worry about Harry.

PHILIP
We all do. Some time in the Army will sort him out.

PHILIP looks at her, sensing something..

PHILIP
Everything all right?

ELIZABETH
I think so. Though, as you predicted, all this talk of my funeral has stirred things up a bit.

PHILIP
Anything you want to discuss?

ELIZABETH
Not yet.

PHILIP stares at her. Scrutinising her.

PHILIP
Right, well in that case. Good night.

ELIZABETH
Good night.

ELIZABETH is left alone.

26 INT. BUCKINGHAM PALACE, PIPER'S ROOM - DAY 26

The PIPER is warming up. Lips. Reeds. Air in bag.

INT/EXT. BUCKINGHAM PALACE, CORRIDOR/GARDENS - DAY

The PIPER marches out into the gardens. And begins to play.

27 INT. BUCKINGHAM PALACE, BREAKFAST ROOM - DAY 27

ELIZABETH is at breakfast, with dogs, reading the newspapers. In the background the Piper plays.

ELIZABETH listens to the music, then is struck by something. As if getting an idea.

28 INT. BUCKINGHAM PALACE, DRAWING ROOM - DAY 28

ELIZABETH is in a grand drawing room, when there's a knock, and the PIPER is shown in, carrying his bagpipes.

PIPER
Your Majesty. You asked to see me?

ELIZABETH
I did. I hope you know how much everyone appreciates your beautiful music every day. I don't mind telling you there are days when I wake up and it all feels a bit...then I hear you play and all that...goes away.

PIPER
Thank you, ma'am.

ELIZABETH
They've got me planning my funeral at the moment...
(off the Piper's concerned look)
Just as a precaution...and I'm in the process of choosing the music...and wondered if there was a piece for the bagpipes you thought might work.

The PIPER is blown away. Flattered.

PIPER
Well..there are a number of laments written for fallen soldiers. 'I Will Go Home To Kintail' springs to mind. And 'Lord Love's Lament'.

ELIZABETH
But is there a particular one that you like?

PIPER
What? Me, ma'am?

ELIZABETH
Yes, Pipes. You.

PIPER
There is one that I particularly like. ‘Sleep Dearie Sleep’.

ELIZABETH
Will you play it for me?

PIPER
What, now?

ELIZABETH
Why not?

PIPER
Inside? It’s a hell of a din.

ELIZABETH
It’s not a din to me.

The PIPER picks up his bagpipes and starts to play. It’s instantly stunning and devastating.

We close on Elizabeth’s face. Visibly stirred.

29 INT. BUCKINGHAM PALACE, CORRIDOR - DAY 29

Uniformed STAFF walk in corridors. They stop when they hear the sound of the gorgeous bagpipe music...

30 INT. BUCKINGHAM PALACE, ELIZABETH’S STUDY - DAY 30

JANVRIN looks up when he hears the sound of the bagpipes.

31 INT. BUCKINGHAM PALACE, STATE ROOM - DAY 31

MAIDS cleaning a state room stop when they hear the sound of the bagpipes. One of the MAIDS sits down and begins to sing.

MAID
“Soldier lie down on your wee pickle straw.
It’s not very broad and it’s not very braw,
but dearie it’s better than nothing at all.
Sleep dearie sleep.”

32 INT. BUCKINGHAM PALACE, DRAWING ROOM - DAY 32

The PIPER continues to play and ELIZABETH continues to listen to the lament.

Finally he finishes. ELIZABETH looks at him, a tear in her eye.

33 EXT. GLOUCESTERSHIRE, COTSWOLD COSTUMES - DAY 33

A large costume shop. To establish. Two Range Rovers outside.

34 INT. GLOUCESTERSHIRE, COTSWOLD COSTUMES - DAY 34

A plain-clothed PERSONAL PROTECTION OFFICER watches from the door as...

WILLIAM, HARRY, GUY and KATE walk through the costume shop, examining..

GUY
What about an astronaut?
(holds up costume)
Or a cowboy?

HARRY
He's more of a goodie-goodie.

He holds up an angel costume, with halo..

HARRY
Or a dick.

He holds up a large penis in the girls' direction. They laugh..

WILLIAM
I'm going as a lion. Obviously.

GUY
'The Lion King'!

WILLIAM
Arf, arf.

HARRY
And I'm going to as...

He picks out a uniform. Puts on some flying goggles.

HARRY
What about Biggles!

GUY
What's that got to do with
'colonials and natives'?

HARRY
Good point.

HARRY picks out another uniform. Holds it up against himself.

HARRY
Germany had an empire, didn't they?
What about this?

KATE
I don't know....maybe cover the swastika?

WILLIAM
C'mon, wearing the uniform doesn't make him a Nazi! Isn't that the joke?

HARRY picks out a wedding dress costume and holds it up in front of KATE.

HARRY
How about that wedding dress for you?

KATE laughs, embarrassed.

HARRY
C'mon...don't pretend you haven't already thought about it!!

KATE tries to laugh it off but is quietly hurt.

WILLIAM
(under his breath)
Thanks, Harry. Nice touch.

WILLIAM shoots KATE a look, "Ignore him".

HARRY
Where's Guy?

GUY (O.S.)
(Elizabeth's voice)
Okay, who stole my ganja?

GUY emerges from a dressing room dressed as Queen Elizabeth II in full costume with crown..

WILLIAM
That's my grandmother.

WILLIAM, KATE and HARRY laugh. HARRY looks at the pilot costume, boring, and goes back and takes the cool-looking Nazi uniform.

35 EXT. GLOUCESTERSHIRE, CHURCH FARM - EVENING 35

A car carrying the royals and their friends is waved in as it arrives at Church Farm. The sounds of a 'Queen' tribute band blares from a marquee. Flashing party lights.

WILLIAM, KATE, GUY and HARRY emerge from the car, followed by PPOs in a separate car. WILLIAM is dressed as a lion; GUY as the Queen. HARRY gets out last; in full Afrika Korps uniform.

The PRINCES walk down the drive and join the party in full, wild throng. HARRY joins in boisterous “hellos” with GUESTS: young, hell-raising MEN and WOMEN from the polo and Royal Agricultural College crowd.

HARRY turns to find William. But WILLIAM and KATE split off from Harry’s crowd. HARRY watches them go.

36 INT. CHURCH FARM, MARQUEE - EVENING 36

Later: the party has continued into the early hours. The ‘Queen’ tribute band are performing on stage; GUESTS in a state of drunken abandon. HARRY smokes and drinks vodka, surrounded by GIRLS. GUY gets on the stage and joins in with the band.

Unbeknownst to HARRY, a MALE GUEST is taking photos with a mobile phone. He takes one of WILLIAM, in his lion costume...

37 INT. HIGHGROVE, ENTRANCE HALLWAY - DAY 37

WILLIAM reads the newspaper. *The Sun:* ‘HARRY THE NAZI’.

WILLIAM
Oh, shit.

38 INT. HIGHGROVE, HARRY’S BEDROOM - DAY 38

A PAGE brings in a tray of tea, toast, and the day’s newspapers. HARRY rolls over in bed, badly hungover. GUY PELLY, still in his Queen costume, lies passed out in an armchair.

39 INT. BUCKINGHAM PALACE, BREAKFAST ROOM - DAY 39

ELIZABETH reads *The Sun,* whilst PHILIP reads the *Daily Express.*

ELIZABETH
(closes newspaper)
Oh, Harry.

ELIZABETH passes *The Sun* to PHILIP, the headline: ‘HARRY THE NAZI’.

40 INT. HIGHGROVE, DINING ROOM - DAY 40

CHARLES reads the newspaper in disbelief. *The Sun*: ‘HARRY THE NAZI’.

CHARLES
(groans)
Oh, God.

41 INT. HIGHGROVE, HARRY'S BATHROOM - DAY 41

HARRY stares at the newspaper.

HARRY takes in the headline. 'HARRY THE NAZI'. The full magnitude of what he's done suddenly dawning on him.

HARRY
Oh, fuck.
(dying inside)
Fuck, fuck, fuck!

42 INT. BUCKINGHAM PALACE, AUDIENCE ROOM - DAY 42

ELIZABETH is with BLAIR. A sympathetic shrug.

BLAIR
I was a troublemaker at school. Repeatedly caned by my housemaster. "Six of the best". We all make mistakes in the flushes of youth.

ELIZABETH
Rarely as gross a misjudgment as this. A swastika armband? Two weeks before Holocaust Memorial Day?

BLAIR
There is a great deal of affection in the country for Harry. An apology followed by a period of contrition should pave the way for forgiveness.

ELIZABETH
Is that advice you'll be giving yourself over Iraq? I think we can agree things are not working out too well over there.

BLAIR
(chastened)
My hope is that the democratic elections scheduled for the end of this month will form the beginnings of an exit strategy that should allow us to close this chapter and move on.

ELIZABETH
(tailing off)
Exit strategy.

BLAIR
Ma'am?

We close in on Elizabeth's face. Clearly in a world of her own.

ELIZABETH
That's a subject that's been coming up a lot recently.

43 INT. WINDSOR CASTLE, DRAWING ROOM - EVENING 43

ELIZABETH is with a FOOTMAN as they are setting up an old projector..

ELIZABETH
Thank you...I remember, I remember...
(she takes over, sensing the FOOTMAN hovering)
Thank you.

ELIZABETH sets up the projector, the FOOTMAN goes, and she starts watching old home movies shot with the camera her father gave her...videos of her father's funeral, of her own coronation...

Eventually, ELIZABETH drifts off to sleep, the film reel spinning as it plays out.

44 EXT. WINDSOR CASTLE STABLES, COURTYARD - DAY 44

The following morning: ELIZABETH is getting ready for a ride. Presently, PHILIP arrives..

PHILIP
There you are.

ELIZABETH
Yes.
(with private meaning)
Here I still am.

PHILIP
No breakfast?

ELIZABETH
Wasn't hungry.

PHILIP
That's not like you.

A silence, PHILIP tactfully doesn't press.

ELIZABETH
How was Harry?

PHILIP
A bit subdued. His father's got him mucking out pigs as punishment.

45 EXT. HIGHGROVE ESTATE, PIGSTY - DAY (FLASHBACK) 45

A large group of pigs. HARRY is mucking out the mess. It's gruesome. PHILIP stands over him. Watching this tableau.

46 EXT. WINDSOR CASTLE STABLES, COURTYARD - DAY 46

ELIZABETH listens, puckers her face in distaste.

ELIZABETH
That feels a little harsh and Old Testament.

PHILIP
I agree. Harry was foolish to go to that party in that uniform, but he was bloody unlucky a fellow guest would go to the newspapers like that.

ELIZABETH
Yes.

PHILIP
So I phoned the costume rental shop, gave them a piece of my mind.

ELIZABETH
Why?

47 INT. GLOUCESTERSHIRE, COTSWOLD COSTUMES - DAY (FLASHBACK) 47

The SHOP ASSISTANT's blood runs from his face. Has never been spoken to like this before.

48 INT. WINDSOR CASTLE, PHILIP'S STUDY - DAY (FLASHBACK) 48

PHILIP, on the phone, tearing into some unfortunate male shop assistant...

PHILIP
What will it take to get to understand? Should I draw it in sodding crayon?!

PHILIP slams down the phone. And laughs.

49 INT/EXT. WINDSOR CASTLE STABLES, COURTYARD/STABLE BLOCK - DAY 49

PHILIP is with ELIZABETH...

PHILIP
The uniform was inaccurate. The German Afrika Korps never wore swastikas. A fact I impressed upon the Sandhurst top brass who happily agreed that this latest episode shouldn't prevent Harry entering officer training.

ELIZABETH
Oh, well done.

PHILIP
To ban him would be madness. And would only exacerbate the real problem.

ELIZABETH
Which is?

PHILIP
A lack of a sense of purpose due to a failure of responsible parenting.

ELIZABETH
(chiming for her)
Yes.

PHILIP notices ELIZABETH drifting away..

PHILIP
Do you want to discuss before I go?

ELIZABETH
About what?

PHILIP
The funeral. What it might have stirred up for you?

ELIZABETH thinks, then..

ELIZABETH
No. Thank you.

PHILIP stares at her. Checking.

PHILIP
Right, well, I'll be off. Duty calls.

It never ends. He goes. Presently, the sound of a familiar voice..

ELIZABETH 2
You coward! Why didn't you tell him?

ELIZABETH looks up to see her younger self ELIZABETH 2 (Olivia Colman)..

ELIZABETH 2
What you've been thinking since you started working on your funeral? In fact, ever since the Golden Jubilee. How tired...no, not just tired, *exhausted* you are by it all.

ELIZABETH
(quiet)
Yes.

ELIZABETH 2
How ready for a rest. And at the same time, how ready he suddenly looks?

ELIZABETH
Who?

ELIZABETH 2
Charles.

ELIZABETH
Oh, him!

ELIZABETH 2
Yes. You even have precedent. Queen Wilhemina of the Netherlands was sixty-eight when she stepped down in favour of her daughter. Charlotte of Luxembourg was also in her late sixties.

ELIZABETH
That's the Netherlands and Luxembourg. 'Bicycle monarchies'. Not the same thing at all.

ELIZABETH 2
It's *exactly* the same! And in both cases a great success. You've been on the throne for over half a century. That's longer than any other queen..

ELIZABETH
Apart from Queen Victoria.

ELIZABETH 2
And how effective was *she* at the end? Rheumatic and blind.
(MORE)

ELIZABETH 2 (CONT'D)
Weak and unwell. Hidden away on the Isle of Wight. You're almost eighty years old...

ELIZABETH
So everyone keeps reminding me..

ELIZABETH 2
So that's early TWENTY YEARS past the retirement age for women.

ELIZABETH
No need to go on.

ELIZABETH 2
That's what I'm saying! No need to go on. Your first loyalty has always been to the Crown, sometimes at the expense of being a mother. Stepping down is the right thing to do as Queen AND as a mother.

This strikes ELIZABETH with some force. She looks up, but Elizabeth 2 has gone.

50 EXT. WINDSOR GROUNDS - DAY 50

A tiny dot in the distance, ELIZABETH is on her beloved fell pony, lost in profound thought - processing everything.

51 INT. BUCKINGHAM PALACE, ELIZABETH'S STUDY - DAY 51

JANVRIN is with ELIZABETH, doing their daily round-up..

JANVRIN
Everyone has now agreed on a date for the wedding, 9th of April. At the Guildhall in Windsor. We also felt given your role as Head of the Church of England, and the church's position that marriage is a lifelong commitment, that it would be wrong for you to attend the ceremony in person. The idea being you can watch the coverage on television, then join everyone for the service at St George's Chapel, and the reception at Windsor Castle.

ELIZABETH stares, in a world of her own, then...

ELIZABETH
Has the Prime Minister been invited to the reception?

JANVRIN
Yes, ma'am.

ELIZABETH
And the Leader of the Opposition?

JANVRIN
(thrown)
Yes.

ELIZABETH
And the Archbishop of Canterbury?

JANVRIN
Ye-es.

ELIZABETH
And there will be an opportunity for me to say a few words?

JANVRIN
(thrown)
I'm sure everyone would be delighted. Would you...like me to draft something?

ELIZABETH
That won't be necessary. I'll write something myself.

JANVRIN hesitates.

ELIZABETH
That's all. Thank you, Robin.

JANVRIN turns, visibly thrown - goes.

52 EXT. HIGHGROVE, GARDENS - NIGHT 52

Highgrove lit up beautifully at night.

53 INT. HIGHGROVE, DINING ROOM - NIGHT 53

CHARLES is having dinner with WILLIAM and HARRY the night before the wedding.

CHARLES is making all the effort. The two BOYS are listening. Beers in hand. Heads down. A dark atmosphere. A palpable tension between the BOYS. They are clearly at odds.

HARRY
You were all for the uniform in the costume shop, egging me on! Now suddenly you're mister morality? Stabbing me in the back.
(MORE)

HARRY (CONT'D)
Ladies and gentlemen of the jury, how many faces does this man have?

CHARLES
Boys, please...

WILLIAM
You know I'm not sure I like what you're turning into.

HARRY
And I'm not sure I like who you've been all along.

CHARLES
Can you stop bickering please! I beg you! Can I just make one request, that you don't make my wedding day a misery. I've waited too long for it.

OVER THIS: the sound of Camilla's voice...

CAMILLA (V.O.)
How was supper?

54 INT. HIGHGROVE, DRAWING ROOM - NIGHT 54

CHARLES is speaking on the phone.

CHARLES
I'm sad to say it was all rather unpleasant. The boys were snapping at each other.

55 INT. CLARENCE HOUSE/HIGHGROVE, DRAWING ROOM - NIGHT 55

CAMILLA is on the phone at Clarence House. We INTERCUT.

CAMILLA
That's just..boys.

CHARLES
Yes. But you didn't witness it. It was horrid how they were with one another. Vicious and unkind.

CAMILLA
They're young. They're riding waves of emotion. Which is understandable, given what's happened to them.

CHARLES
Are they going to blame me, do you think, and hold me responsible for the way they've turned out?

CAMILLA
Well, being their father, you are certainly responsible for making it better. As soon as they're through tomorrow everything will be fine.

CHARLES
I do hope so. How are you?

CAMILLA
Me? I'm alright. My sister persuaded me to get a fake tan so now I smell like the dog's blanket.

Camilla's attention is drawn to a mannequin of herself in her wedding attire. She peers at it. All in front of her: the next phase of her life.

CHARLES
Having any last minute doubts?

CAMILLA
Not me. I'm in.

CHARLES
For all of it?

CAMILLA
For whatever being married to you turns out to be.

CHARLES
Well, you might find out what that entails sooner than you imagine.

CAMILLA
What's that supposed to mean?

CHARLES
I've been told the Queen intends to make a speech at the reception afterwards. A speech which nobody has seen, and which she's has written herself. It feels like she's planning a big announcement.

56 EXT. GATCOMBE PARK, GROUNDS - DAY (FLASHBACK) 56

PHILIP and ANNE are out walking...

CHARLES (V.O.)
My father met with Anne to ask what she thought was in it. But she's as baffled as the rest of us. Then Anne rang Andrew...

57 EXT. WINDSOR GROUNDS - DAY (FLASHBACK) 57

ANDREW is out horse riding with ELIZABETH.

CHARLES (V.O.)
And he want riding with the Queen but, well, you know Andrew, he drew a complete blank.

58 INT. HIGHGROVE, DRAWING ROOM/CLARENCE HOUSE - NIGHT 58

Charles and Camilla's phone call continues..We continue to INTERCUT.

CHARLES
So if her intention was to get tongues wagging she's certainly succeeded.

CAMILLA
Don't give it any further thought.

CHARLES
Yes.

CAMILLA
Just think about the boys.

CHARLES
Thank you, darling.

CHARLES hangs up. CAMILLA hangs up. Suddenly nervous.

59 INT/EXT. HIGHGROVE, GARDENS - NIGHT 59

Harry's face in conflicted thought: staring through a window/crack in a door at something in the distance.

WILLIAM is sitting alone outside. HARRY wants to make peace, so goes out to join his brother.

HARRY
(hands WILLIAM a jacket)
Here. Dinner was weird.

WILLIAM
(quiet)
Yeah.

HARRY
When he over-compensates like that...
(mimics Charles)
“This could be an exciting new chapter for us all”. Barf.

WILLIAM
A few years ago it would have pissed me off. Now I just don’t care.

HARRY
I heard Granny’s going to make a speech at the wedding.
(a beat)
Would you like to know what else I heard? That she’s going to use the occasion to tell the family she’s going to stand down after fifty years in the job.

Now WILLIAM looks up.

WILLIAM
She’d never do that. And even if she did, why on Pa’s big day?

HARRY
Because it’s the wedding present he most wants?

WILLIAM
He does want it, doesn’t he?

HARRY
(mimics Charles)
Craaaaaves it. For him and for Camilla.

WILLIAM
(ugh)
Yeah.

HARRY
If she did, you know what else it means...
(meaningful)
It would be you next.

William’s face. Not ready. Not remotely ready.

HARRY
William the...?

WILLIAM
(quiet)
Fifth.

HARRY
Better than Second. He was assassinated by his brother!

WILLIAM
(laughs)
Was he?

HARRY
Who, would you believe, was also called Prince Harry. He had William killed in a shooting ‘accident’ then galloped off to Winchester to claim the throne for himself! But don’t worry mate, I wouldn’t do that to you.

60 EXT. WINDSOR, HIGH STREET - DAY 60

The big day. POLICE start to put barriers in place. Block off the streets.

61 INT. CLARENCE HOUSE - DAY 61

CAMILLA gets dressed for the wedding.

62 INT. HIGHGROVE, CHARLES’S BEDROOM - DAY 62

CHARLES is dressed in a morning suit. He has a cerise hellebore flower pinned to his lapel, and he selects two more flowers from a tray. CHARLES hands them to his VALET.

CHARLES
For the boys.

63 EXT. WINDSOR, HIGH STREET - DAY 63

Police dogs are unloaded from vans by POLICEMEN. Start to patrol the area. A stream of WELL-WISHERS begin to trickle in.

64 INT. HIGHGROVE, WILLIAM’S BEDROOM - DAY 64

WILLIAM gets dressed in his morning suit. Charles’s VALET appears with the flower for WILLIAM.

65 INT. HIGHGROVE, HARRY’S BEDROOM - DAY 65

HARRY gets dressed in his morning suit. The hellebore is pinned to his lapel, too.

66 EXT. WINDSOR, GUILDHALL/HIGH STREET - DAY 66

WILLIAM, HARRY and a gang of GUESTS arrive at the Guildhall from Windsor Castle in a white bus.

67 EXT. WINDSOR, GUILDHALL/HIGH STREET - DAY 67

Hundreds of POLICE line the streets as Charles and Camilla's car makes its way through Windsor High Street.

The WELL-WISHERS now number in the thousands. They wave Union flags and cheer excitedly. The WINDSOR SCHOOLS' BOYS BAND plays jazz.

Then - finally - CHARLES and CAMILLA arrive. A Phantom IV Rolls Royce in claret livery.

CHARLES steps out first. The CROWDS cheer. The BAND plays 'Congratulations'. Then CAMILLA.

Television REPORTERS and cameras are covering the arrivals at the registry office.

68 INT. WINDSOR CASTLE, DRAWING ROOM - DAY 68

ELIZABETH is in a study watching television, writing a speech with a fountain pen.

On TV: Charles, Camilla, William, Harry etc. arrive at the registry office. They enter.

We close on Elizabeth's face as she watches, processing it. Then goes back to writing her speech. Presently, a VOICE.

VOICE (O.S.)
I don't know what you think you're doing!

ELIZABETH looks up to ELIZABETH 3 (Claire Foy).

ELIZABETH
I'm doing the sensible thing. Standing down.

ELIZABETH
If we're not careful, if I go on....another twenty, twenty-five years, a tired, white-haired, geriatric Queen will hand over to a tired, white-haired, geriatric Prince of Wales!

ELIZABETH 3
Those are the rules.

ELIZABETH
But if he were then to go on another twenty, twenty-five years himself...it would mean for the next half century the British monarchy would be a *very* decrepit experience indeed. Is that the right thing to do to the institution? Charles is in the prime of his life NOW.

ELIZABETH begins to pace. Terrorised by her thoughts.

ELIZABETH 3
Honestly, I've never heard so much nonsense. Have you forgotten the oath that you took? "I declare before you all that my whole life, whether it be long or short, shall be devoted to your service". You're fit enough to ride and drive. So you're fit enough to wear the Crown. You remember what Queen Mary told you...

ELIZABETH
Another geriatric.

ELIZABETH walks out of the room.

69 INT. WINDSOR CASTLE, FIRST GEORGE ROOM - DAY 69

ELIZABETH walks through a new room, followed by ELIZABETH 3.

ELIZABETH 3
"Monarchy is something you ARE, not what you DO". The Crown is a symbol of permanence and stability and continuity. If you stand down - you'd be symbolising instability and impermanence.

70 INT. WINDSOR CASTLE, SECOND GEORGE ROOM - DAY 70

ELIZABETH gathers pace. She continues walking through the suite of rooms. Failing to escape her conscience.

ELIZABETH 3
You would also be indicating the luxury of choice which is the one thing we cannot have if we claim the Crown is also our birthright.

ELIZABETH
So you would have a superannuated old lady running the show?
(MORE)

ELIZABETH (CONT'D)
While a fit, energetic Prince of Wales watches on? Straining at the leash?

71 INT. WINDSOR CASTLE, THIRD GEORGE ROOM - DAY 71

ELIZABETH 3 - still in the room behind - continues speaking to ELIZABETH...

ELIZABETH 3
But I don't see you AS decrepit. Since the Jubilee, since Mummy's death, I actually see you as *liberated*. Confident.

ELIZABETH 3
You say Charles is in his prime? I see you in yours. And admit it, you sometimes think there is a difference between you and the rest of the family.

ELIZABETH
Yes.

ELIZABETH 3
It comes naturally to you. They all seem to make such a mess of it.

ELIZABETH
I didn't say that!

72 INT. WINDSOR CASTLE, HEAVEN ROOM - DAY 72

ELIZABETH paces ahead into a new room. She sits on the sofa. ELIZABETH 3 enters the room after her.

ELIZABETH 3
No, but you've thought it privately, and with good reason. This system is a dreadful thing to inflict on people. It's not natural. It's not fair. It's not kind. But YOU seem to thrive in it. And more importantly it seems to thrive under you. So shouldn't you stay on, for every single day that you can?

ELIZABETH
But what about the life I put aside? The *woman* I put aside when I became Queen.

ELIZABETH 3
What sort of question is that? For years now there has been just one Elizabeth. Queen Elizabeth. If you went looking for Elizabeth Windsor, you wouldn't find her. She's gone. Long gone.
(a beat)
You buried HER years ago.

73 INT. WINDSOR CASTLE, GREAT HALL - DAY 73

PHILIP is agitated. Waiting for Elizabeth.

He looks at the TV. On TV: Charles and Camilla emerge from the Guildhall. And into the sunlight.

COMMENTATOR (V.O.)
The bride and groom now face the public for the first time as man and wife. No fairytale kiss for the on-lookers, instead smiles and a brief wave as the couple get into their car...

PHILIP, face etched with concern, goes to look for Elizabeth.

74 INT. WINDSOR CASTLE, HEAVEN ROOM - DAY 74

PHILIP enters to find ELIZABETH sitting alone.

PHILIP
Ready?

ELIZABETH finishes last minute amendments to her speech. A strange serenity has taken hold.

ELIZABETH
Yes. I think so.

PHILIP looks at ELIZABETH...

PHILIP
This speech you're about to make...

ELIZABETH
Ye-es.

PHILIP
Everyone's got their knickers in a twist about it.

ELIZABETH
Have they?

PHILIP
Are you sure you don't want to discuss it?

ELIZABETH
Quite sure, thank you.

PHILIP stares at her. ELIZABETH stares back. PHILIP stares again. ELIZABETH stares back.

ELIZABETH walks out. PHILIP stares.

75 INT. WINDSOR, SAINT GEORGE'S CHAPEL - DAY 75

The FAMILY are assembled for the prayer service. CHARLES and CAMILLA, ELIZABETH and PHILIP, WILLIAM and HARRY, ANNE and TIM, ANDREW, and EDWARD and SOPHIE - plus BLAIR and CHERIE.

The Archbishop of Canterbury, WILLIAMS, presides. He leads the whole congregation, including CHARLES and CAMILLA, in a prayer of penitence.

WILLIAMS/CONGREGATION
'Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Maker of all things, Judge of all men; We acknowledge and bewail our manifold sins and wickedness, which we - from time to time - most grievously have committed by thought, word, and deed against thy divine Majesty, provoking most justly thy wrath and indignation against us. We do earnestly repent, and are heartily sorry for these our misdoings; the remembrance of them is grievous unto us; the burden of them is intolerable. Have mercy upon us, have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; forgive us all that is past, and grant that we may ever hereafter serve and please thee in newness of life in the honour and glory of thy name..'

76 INT. WINDSOR, SAINT GEORGE'S CHAPEL - DAY 76

The end of the service. CHARLES and CAMILLA proceed towards the aisle. A celebration fanfare ensues.

77 INT. WINDSOR, SAINT GEORGE'S HALL - DAY 77

The wedding reception is underway. FOOTMEN and STAFF carry canapés and champagne flutes.

CHARLES and CAMILLA receive congratulations from FRIENDS. On a raised platform, a rostrum for the speeches.

Through a corridor outside, we see ELIZABETH being handed a slip of paper by an EQUERRY. Collected. Composing herself. Speech in hand. JANVRIN approaches her.

JANVRIN
Ready for you, ma'am.

ELIZABETH makes her entrance. PEOPLE shoot looks at one another. ELIZABETH reaches the podium.

ELIZABETH
I suppose one has to start these things with an introduction. For those of you who don't know me, I am the mother of the groom.

Laughter.

ELIZABETH
Today has been a memorable day - with a single happy event bringing the whole nation together. The Grand National steeplechase finished twenty minutes ago, and the results were as follows...
(laughter)
'Hedgehunter', the 7/1 favourite, ridden by Ruby Walsh, trained by Willie Mullins, won the race by fourteen lengths. 'Royal Auclair' finished second. 'Simply Gifted' third.

Laughter.

ELIZABETH
In other news...there is a small family wedding in the Windsor area which the police have been keeping their eyes on. Chief Constable Darren Dedds said he was hoping displays of excessive exuberance would be kept to a minimum.

Laughter.

ELIZABETH
Almost six hundred and fifty years ago, the chapel at Windsor played host to the wedding of another Prince of Wales. Edward, the Black Prince. The young Edward was widely expected to marry a European princess. But Edward had other ideas.
(MORE)

ELIZABETH (CONT'D)
He set his heart on a woman he had known his whole life, slightly his senior, a mother who had previously been married. What ensued was a devoted, loving marriage that would last their whole lives.

Warm applause throughout the hall.

ELIZABETH
Charles. I know that over the years it hasn't been easy. Being Prince of Wales is hardly a recipe for happiness. History has taught us that. To be condemned to watch an old parent do a job one can imagine oneself doing better for years and years?
(laughter)
It is to your great credit that you have filled this vacuum not, like several predecessors, with idleness and excess, but with a great swell of activity and charitable endeavour.

A ripple of appreciation in the room.

ELIZABETH
And now a word of thanks to Camilla. It can't have been easy for you either, over the years. But your good cheer and warm humanity work wonderfully in your favour - both as a strength and stay for the Prince of Wales and as an addition to this family. Thank you for your patience and forbearance.

Cheers. CAMILLA is moved. CHARLES is moved. The Queen's use of "Strength and Stay" is highly significant.

ELIZABETH
So now will you all raise your glasses to the young couple...
(raises hers)
Charles and Camilla.

EVERYONE raises their glasses. And as applause rings out, WILLIAM looks at HARRY. ANNE looks at PHILIP. CHARLES looks at CAMILLA. Was that it?

The right thing has been done. Peace reigns in the land.

78 EXT. WINDSOR CASTLE, COURTYARD - DAY 78

Before the newlyweds depart, WILLIAM and HARRY tie red, white and silver balloons to the wedding car.

WILLIAM comes over to ELIZABETH.

WILLIAM
Nice speech, Granny.

ELIZABETH
Thank you.

WILLIAM
Though surprisingly short. Are you sure you didn't forget half of it?

WILLIAM shoots ELIZABETH a knowing smile. Their secret.

ELIZABETH
I don't know what you're talking about.

WILLIAM
(indicating car)
What do you think?

ELIZABETH
Lovely.

WILLIAM
Better than the beer cans Harry wanted to tie to the bumper.

WILLIAM rolls his eyes, and indicates HARRY now messing boisterously with his COUSINS.

ELIZABETH
Be kind to him. In many ways it's harder being number two than number one. The system protects number ones. Number twos tend to...

WILLIAM
Go mad?

ELIZABETH
I was going to say, "Need extra care and attention".

They look over at HARRY. An EQUERRY calls out.

ELIZABETH
Ah, photographs.

79 INT. WINDSOR CASTLE, GREAT HALL - DAY 79

The FAMILY gather for a group photo. The PHOTOGRAPHER energetically corrals the royals into position.

PHOTOGRAPHER
Your Royal Highnesses, Your Royal Highnesses!
(to the BRIDE)
Your future Majesty.
("click" of the camera)
Right!

The PHOTOGRAPHER begins organising the family. HARRY goes over to his younger COUSINS, both holding balloons..

HARRY
(smiles, gentle)
Girls, if you're going to have them, keep them low. And keep quiet.

WILLIAM enters with ELIZABETH. HARRY exchanges an uneasy look with WILLIAM.

CHARLES, CAMILLA, ELIZABETH, PHILIP and WILLIAM, the 'core' royals, gravitate towards the centre...

PHOTOGRAPHER
Ready for you, Your Majesty. This way please, everyone.
(reciting)
'Our revels now are ended. These our actors,
As I foretold you, were all spirits, and
melted into air...'

...Whilst the others hang back, knowing their place on the periphery: HARRY; ANNE, TIM and her CHILDREN; ANDREW and his DAUGHTERS; EDWARD and SOPHIE; and finally beyond them the KENTS and the GLOUCESTERS. Minor royals. Marginalized. Agitated chatter as they try to organise themselves.

PHILIP
(bursts out)
For God's SAKE!
(angry gesture)
Take the bloody photo!!!

PHOTOGRAPHER
'All's well that ends well. Still it defines the crown.
Whate'er the course, the end is the renown.'

“FLASH” and the photo is taken. Balloons are released, to EVERYONE’s surprise. ELIZABETH, allows herself a quiet smile. "FLASH", the photos continue.

A lull descends. Amid the good-humoured murmurs and mutterings, ELIZABETH leaves the room. PHILIP registers this.

80 INT. SAINT GEORGE’S CHAPEL - DUSK 80

ELIZABETH is sitting alone. PHILIP enters.

He reaches her. Sits in a pew beside her.

PHILIP
A good day, I think.

ELIZABETH
Yes. I had the winner on three of the four races at Aintree.

PHILIP
And how are you planning on celebrate?

ELIZABETH
A night on the town? Joy-riding. And ram-raiding. Give Chief Constable Dedds something to worry about, after all.

PHILIP smiles.

PHILIP
Well done with the speech.

ELIZABETH
Thank you.

PHILIP
It was funny.

ELIZABETH
Don’t sound so surprised.

PHILIP
And not a hint of the torment you’ve been through.

ELIZABETH
Was it that obvious?

PHILIP
Yes. But the right decision has been made. You will continue as Queen for as long as you possibly can for one reason.

ELIZABETH
Because those are the rules.

PHILIP
Because those that come after you aren't remotely ready to take over.

ELIZABETH
(quiet)
No.
(a beat)
But I wasn't either. Do you remember? I was so young.

PHILIP
You were always ready. You were born ready. You are one of a kind. By contrast, this lot..

He lets it hang. They exchange a look.

PHILIP
The good thing, it's not our problem. This is where we will be.
(indicates)
Right under this stone.

ELIZABETH
Yes.

PHILIP
We'll never hear the screams from in there.

ELIZABETH
Philip!

PHILIP
You know I'm right. The system makes no sense anymore. To those outside it. Nor to those of us inside it. "All human things are subject to decay, and, when fate summons, even monarchs must obey." We're a dying breed, you and I. I'm sure everyone will carry on pretending all is well. But the party's over. The good news is while Rome burns, and the temple falls, we will 'Sleep Dearie Sleep'.

ELIZABETH
Oh, you looked?

PHILIP
A piper's lament? Your sole musical choice. Very you.

ELIZABETH
And your coffin being driven in an old Land Rover is very you.

PHILIP
Oh, you looked?

ELIZABETH
I did.

PHILIP smiles lovingly.

PHILIP
I'll leave you to it. Say one for me?

Their eyes meet. A touching moment.

PHILIP smiles, goes. ELIZABETH smiles to herself. Still as smitten as the day she first set eyes on him.

As PHILIP goes, ELIZABETH stands and slowly walks around the space where her coffin will one day lie. She reflects on her life, and death. Calm. Settled by the thought of it.

Exactly as Philip had promised. We fade in the sound of the Piper playing 'Sleep Dearie Sleep'.

ELIZABETH looks up to see her younger self, PRINCESS ELIZABETH (Viola). She salutes ELIZABETH. Frugal and practical as ever.

ELIZABETH walks down the nave to leave the chapel. As she does, she passes ELIZABETH 2 (Olivia) and ELIZABETH 3 (Claire). She walks towards the door and disappears.

THE END.