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EP#106

UNTITLED SHONDA RHIMES QUEEN CHARLOTTE PROJECT

"Crown Jewels"

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1 INT. ST JAMES PALACE/CORRIDOR - NIGHT 1

A distressed and disheveled Dr. Monroe is waiting outside in the hall. Several servants eyeing him. Finally, the doors to the meeting room open. He stands. Takes a deep breath.

2 INT. ST JAMES PALACE/MEETING ROOM - NIGHT 2

Dr. Monroe stands waiting. Finally Princess Augusta enters. Simmering. Unhappy.

PRINCESS AUGUSTA

Doctor. It does you honor that you came so quickly.

DOCTOR MONRO

Your Highness, I believe I should inform-

PRINCESS AUGUSTA

I do not have time for pleasantries. I returned to Buckingham House this afternoon only to be told that Her Majesty is no longer residing there. It seems she has moved to Kew to be with the King. You told me that His Majesty required intensive private treatment.

DOCTOR MONRO

I did, Your Highness-

PRINCESS AUGUSTA

Then perhaps you would like to offer me some explanation? Inform me of the next course of treatments?

DOCTOR MONRO

I cannot.

PRINCESS AUGUSTA

You cannot. Doctor-

DOCTOR MONRO

I cannot as I am no longer His Majesty's doctor.

PRINCESS AUGUSTA

Nonsense. Of course you are-

(CONTINUED)

2 CONTINUED:

2

DOCTOR MONRO
I have been dismissed.

PRINCESS AUGUSTA
(shocked)
Dismissed? That is not possible.
The King would not do such a thing.
What is he up to?

DOCTOR MONRO
It is not the King, Your Highness.

And Princess Augusta understands. This is not good.

PRINCESS AUGUSTA
She did this?

Off Princess Augusta, entering scary new territory...

2A EXT. MAYFAIR/ESTABLISHING - DAY (BPT)

2A

Winter is turning to spring.

LADY WHISTLEDOWN (V.O.)
Dearest Gentle Reader: As winter
turns to spring, England wakes to
welcome nature's abundance.

2B INT. LADY DANBURY'S ESTATE/SITTING ROOM - DAY (BPT)

2B

Lady Danbury is pulling on her gloves as Violet waits.

VIOLET
I am so pleased you decided to ask
me to join you on a walk. I do enjoy
the winter but I have been longing
for the weather to turn-

LADY DANBURY
Today is the first fine day.

VIOLET
Perfect for a stroll.

LADY DANBURY
Yes.

Violet hesitates. Then:

VIOLET
Agatha. I am contemplating...starting
anew.

(CONTINUED)

2B CONTINUED:

2B

LADY DANBURY

Why, Violet Bridgerton. Hurrah for you.

VIOLET

Only contemplating. I try to imagine it. Another man besides Edmund. He is all I have ever known. We were children together. He was... I had a great love. I do not expect another. Yet I suppose my standards are high.

LADY DANBURY

You have a right to high standards. Violet, this is a great adventure you embark upon. Enjoy every moment. -- Now, do I need more?

VIOLET

There is a bit of chill in the air.

LADY DANBURY

I shall ring for my cloak.

Lady Danbury steps out of the room. Leaving Violet to peruse her shelves. Little bits and bobs from around the world.

VIOLET

How lovely. Are these from your travels? Or do your children send these your way?

But Lady Danbury is gone so there is no answer. Violet looks at the items. And then Violet pauses. Because tucked away, behind an ivory box, a familiar piece of fluff is sticking out. Violet stares at it a long moment. And then she cannot help herself. She has to pull it out.

It is the birthday hat that Lord Ledger made for Agatha.

LADY WHISTLEDOWN (V.O.)

One can find gardens in bloom in the most interesting of places. Discoveries are everywhere. Mother nature is sharing her secrets.

Violet holds it in her hands. For such a long time. We watch every emotion cross her face. And then at the sound of footsteps, Violet puts the hat back. Steps back. Agatha returns, cloaked and ready.

(CONTINUED)

2B CONTINUED: (2)

2B

AGATHA

There. I am now warm enough. Shall we walk?

VIOLET

Yes. Let us walk.

3 INT. BUCKINGHAM HOUSE/SOME SPECIAL ROOM - DAY (BPT)

3

A giant canvas. A portrait artist BENJAMIN WEST at work. Queen Charlotte sits on her throne wearing her crown, posing for the portrait artist. The throne next to her is empty. She is surrounded by all of her children. The tableau -- save for the missing King is stunning. This is power posing at its absolute best.

LADY WHISTLEDOWN (V.O.)

Sadly, the royal house remains infertile ground. It seems as if a certain continued lack of *fruitful bounty* has left a despondent chill in the palace halls.

*

The artist is beside himself with how fabulous it all is. And we are too. From a distance, we want to be them. Up close, we can see the cracks and flaws. Queen Charlotte is sweating under the weight of her crown, her position is uncomfortable. And the children -- they are still the same group of sullen and moody people we know them to be. Everyone is silent. Over this experience.

QUEEN CHARLOTTE

Brimsley.

Brimsley hurries over. Dabs her forehead.

QUEEN CHARLOTTE (CONT'D)

This crown is breaking my neck.

BENJAMIN WEST

It is gloriously regal to behold, Your Majesty.

PRINCE REGENT

I am hot.

PRINCE FREDERICK

We are all hot.

PRINCESS ELIZABETH

I cannot breathe. Move, switch positions with me.

(CONTINUED)

3 CONTINUED:

3

PRINCE REGENT

I will not move. This is my spot.

They shove one another a little. Other siblings turn to watch. Smiles drop away. Everyone falls out of their posed positions.

QUEEN CHARLOTTE

Cease talking! None if it has any significance. Without an heir, this portrait will be meaningless, a faint relic in a dusty storage room. Our lineage will be a page in a history text.

The siblings exchange glances.

PRINCE REGENT

Mother, you are being most unfair-

QUEEN CHARLOTTE

Am I? Has anyone created a baby yet? Is there any fruit to show for all of my efforts on your behalf? As the eldest, have you been of any assistance to the crown in this manner?

PRINCE REGENT

I...I...

PRINCESS ELIZABETH

I think what Georgie was trying to say, Mother, is that-

QUEEN CHARLOTTE

Is that his brothers continue to fail in their duties as you have failed in yours.

(to the artist)

Paint faster. That we might end this nightmare. POSES!

And we watch as they all settle back down in to the poses they were in at the very beginning. Smiles on their faces. Elegance and royal grace personified. What a gorgeous group. Until:

BENJAMIN WEST

Will His Majesty be joining us soon?

And that is it. All peace shattered. The Queen is up and pushing her way out of the group. The children break pose.

(CONTINUED)

3 CONTINUED: (2)

3

The Prince Regent and his brothers reach for their drinks. Elizabeth is yanking at her sister's corset, helping her get some air. And they are all scattering. Leaving the room. Brimsley looks at the artist.~

LADY WHISTLEDOWN (V.O.)

This author has it on good authority that the Queen's growing displeasure was on full display at a recent family portrait sitting.

BRIMSLEY

You may continue.

BENJAMIN WEST

But...I need...they are gone.

BRIMSLEY

Are you saying Her Majesty is not sitting for her portrait?

BENJAMIN WEST

I...no, no.

BRIMSLEY

The family is right there. Happy and graciously providing you with a reputation of excellence. I see them. Do you not?

The artist looks at the empty chairs and scattered abandoned shoes, gloves, jackets and drinks.

BENJAMIN WEST

I *DO* see them.

Brimsley smiles. With shaking hands, the artist picks up his palette. And continues to paint what is not there.

LADY WHISTLEDOWN (V.O.)

One has to wonder: will Queen Charlotte's relentless pursuit of a royal heir be the royal family's undoing? Or can a mother's love conquer all?

TITLE CARD.

4 OMITTED

AND

5

4

AND

5

6 INT. KEW PALACE/OBSERVATORY - NIGHT

6

Young Charlotte enters. A freshly bathed Young King George is eating frantically -- like someone who has not been fed in some time. He's shaky, raw. Young Charlotte watches him a beat. Finally, he finishes eating.

YOUNG CHARLOTTE

A warm meal and a bath must be a balm. You seem more yourself. You look better.

He just stares at her.

YOUNG CHARLOTTE (CONT'D)

Do you...do you feel better?

YOUNG KING GEORGE

You should not have come.

YOUNG CHARLOTTE

I was most happy to come.

YOUNG KING GEORGE

No.

YOUNG CHARLOTTE

I am so sorry, I should have come sooner...Do not fear, I shall remain by your side-

YOUNG KING GEORGE

NO. Charlotte. Listen to my words: You should not have come. I do not want you here.

YOUNG CHARLOTTE

George?

YOUNG KING GEORGE

Go back to Buckingham House. Please.

YOUNG KING GEORGE (CONT'D)

(off her silence)

Do you hear me? I said go back to Buckingham House. That is where you live. That is where you belong. Go.

She is unmoving. He gets up and comes at her. Screaming.

(CONTINUED)

6 CONTINUED:

6

YOUNG KING GEORGE (CONT'D)

I do not want you. I want never to see you. Leave! -- GET OUT! -- I order you!

YOUNG CHARLOTTE

No. No, George.

YOUNG KING GEORGE

Charlotte-

YOUNG CHARLOTTE

You cannot force me away. I will not go.

YOUNG KING GEORGE

I command it! GO!

YOUNG CHARLOTTE

I WILL STAY! I COMMAND IT!!

George is startled by her force.

YOUNG KING GEORGE

Please. Charlotte. Please go.

YOUNG CHARLOTTE

No.

YOUNG KING GEORGE

Charlotte, you are not listening-

YOUNG CHARLOTTE

I am. I have heard that you wish I had not come, that you want me to go, that you do not want to see me-

YOUNG KING GEORGE

Charlotte-

YOUNG CHARLOTTE

-What I have not heard is that you do not love me.

A beat.

YOUNG CHARLOTTE (CONT'D)

I have been suffering and alone and believing I am a failure as a wife and as your Queen because you stay from me as though I am a disease.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

6 CONTINUED: (2)

6

YOUNG CHARLOTTE (CONT'D)

And then today it quite suddenly occurred to me, that perhaps there is another reason. A better reason. Perhaps you stay away from me because you care for me. Perhaps you stay away because you love me. Do you love me?

YOUNG KING GEORGE

I am trying to protect you-

YOUNG CHARLOTTE

Do you love me?

YOUNG KING GEORGE

I cannot...we cannot...this conversation is not...I cannot do this.

YOUNG CHARLOTTE

Do you love me?

YOUNG KING GEORGE

I never intended to marry. I never wanted-

YOUNG CHARLOTTE

Do you love me?

She is breaking his heart.

YOUNG KING GEORGE

Charlotte. Please. Stop.

YOUNG CHARLOTTE

Is it that you do not believe that I could love you? I do. I love you, George. I love you so much that I will do as you wish. If you do not love me. All that you have to say is that you do not love me and I will go. I will go back to Buckingham House and we can live our separate lives and I will have this baby alone and make do and fill my days and survive all on my own. I will do that. But first you have to say that you do not love me. You have to tell me that I am utterly alone in this world.

And it just hangs there between them. Finally...

(CONTINUED)

6 CONTINUED: (3)

6

YOUNG KING GEORGE

I am a madman. I am a danger. In my mind, there are other worlds creeping in. The heavens and the Earth collide and I do not know where I am.

YOUNG CHARLOTTE

Do you love me?

YOUNG KING GEORGE

You do not wish a life with me for yourself. No one wishes that.

YOUNG CHARLOTTE

GEORGE. I will stand with you between the heavens and the Earth. I will tell you where you are. DO YOU LOVE ME?!

And that brings down the walls...

YOUNG KING GEORGE

I love you. From the moment I saw you trying to go over the wall, I have loved you desperately. I cannot breathe when you are not near. I love you, Charlotte. My heart calls your name.

And then they are in each other's arms. He is kissing her and she is kissing him. As if they cannot be close enough.

YOUNG KING GEORGE (CONT'D)

I wanted to tell you, I wanted you to know but...this madness has been my secret my entire life, this darkness is my burden. You bring the light.

YOUNG CHARLOTTE

George. It is you and me. We can do this. Together.

And they are kissing again.

7 INT. KEW PALACE/OBSERVATORY - SUNRISE

7

Young Charlotte and Young King George are in bed together. In the early morning space of just waking. He touches her belly.

(CONTINUED)

7 CONTINUED:

7

YOUNG KING GEORGE
When will he come? Our little King.

YOUNG CHARLOTTE
Soon. Very soon.

George speaks into her belly.

YOUNG KING GEORGE
Hello, Little King. Hello.

Young Charlotte lies there. Stroking George's hair. A little bit overwhelmed. Unsure of how she will manage all of this.

8 INT. DANBURY ESTATE/FRONT HALL - DAY

8

Coral helps fix Agatha's hat and gloves. Ties her cloak.

CORAL
More solitude?

AGATHA
Yes.

CORAL
Your cloak makes a fine blanket. If you decide to have solitude on the ground.

AGATHA
Coral!

CORAL
He was kind?

AGATHA
He was joyful. I felt joy.

CORAL
Then I am glad for you.

Agatha heads out.

8A EXT. FIELDS - DAY

8A

Agatha waits in the place we have seen her wait so many times before. Restless. Determined. At the sound of someone approaching, she leaps to her feet. Freezes. It is Lord Ledger. With his daughter Violet.

LORD LEDGER
Lady Danbury.

(CONTINUED)

8A CONTINUED:

8A

AGATHA

Lord Ledger.

They stare at one another.

VIOLET

I am Violet.

AGATHA

Hello, Violet. What are you doing all the way out here?

VIOLET

Getting out of mother's hair. Though how we can be in her hair when our house has twenty rooms-

LORD LEDGER

Violet. It is nice to see you, Lady Danbury.

AGATHA

It is nice to see you too.

LORD LEDGER

I wish that we might see one another again but I understand how busy you are.

AGATHA

And how busy you are. With Violet.

So aware of Violet's eyes on them.

LORD LEDGER

Yes. She is growing into a fine young lady. Perhaps one day she will have a unimpeachable reputation. Much like yours.

AGATHA

Yes. My reputation is...quite respected. What every lady dreams of.

A beat.

AGATHA (CONT'D)

I wish you much happiness. On this fine day.

(CONTINUED)

8A CONTINUED: (2)

8A

LORD LEDGER

I wish you happiness as well. On this day.

AGATHA

I wanted to thank you. For your...kindness. After my husband passed.

LORD LEDGER

Lady Danbury. It is your kindness for which I should be showing gratitude.

A beat.

AGATHA

Goodbye, Lord Ledger.

LORD LEDGER

Goodbye, Lady Danbury.

And Agatha turns and walks rapidly away. Devastated. Lord Ledger watches her go, his heart breaking.

9 OMITTED

AND

13A

9

AND

13A

13B INT. ST JAMES PALACE/SITTING ROOM - DAY

13B

Princess Augusta is with Lord Bute and Earl Harcourt.

PRINCESS AUGUSTA

All is well.

LORD BUTE

He has dismissed his doctor.

PRINCESS AUGUSTA

He has a new doctor.

EARL HARCOURT

Oh? That is good. What is his name?

PRINCESS AUGUSTA

I do not remember names. I am female.

EARL HARCOURT

Of course. Apologies.

(CONTINUED)

13B CONTINUED:

13B

LORD BUTE

They are staying at Kew? Both of them?

PRINCESS AUGUSTA

They are married.

LORD BUTE

Sharing a home. Highly irregular.

PRINCESS AUGUSTA

All is well.

LORD BUTE

So says the King?

PRINCESS AUGUSTA

He is the King.

LORD BUTE

You have laid eyes on him? Spoken to him?

PRINCESS AUGUSTA

I am his mother.

EARL HARCOURT

I do not speak to my mother.

LORD BUTE

Nor I to mine. Dreadful woman.

PRINCESS AUGUSTA

All is well. He is the King.

LORD BUTE

What of the future arrival?

PRINCESS AUGUSTA

The baby. The baby is well. All is well.

She smiles. Hoping that is the end of it.

LORD BUTE

Then it is settled. I will let Parliament know he is available for an address.

PRINCESS AUGUSTA

Of course.

Fuck, fuck, fuck...

14 OMITTED

14

14A INT. BUCKINGHAM HOUSE/SITTING ROOM - DAY (BPT)

14A

Queen Charlotte works on a puzzle. Her ladies nearby.
Brimsley approaches.

BRIMSLEY

The Prince Regent and your daughter
are here to see you.

She looks up. The Prince Regent and Princess Elizabeth stand
in the door.

QUEEN CHARLOTTE

Ladies, away. Children. Come.

The Ladies in Waiting go as the Prince Regent and Elizabeth
approach. Stiff. Angry. Eyes on her puzzle, Queen Charlotte
doesn't notice.

QUEEN CHARLOTTE (CONT'D)

What is the trouble now? Or is there
good news?

PRINCE REGENT

There is no news. This is...

PRINCESS ELIZABETH

We come on behalf of all of us.
Your children.

They are quite nervous. That much is obvious. Young
Charlotte puts down her puzzle.

QUEEN CHARLOTTE

You represent the family, do you?

PRINCE REGENT

Yes.

QUEEN CHARLOTTE

Your siblings have entrusted you as
their champions? Please. Do tell
me what this is about.

PRINCE REGENT

Mother, we only want to have a
discussion about this baby race that
you-

(CONTINUED)

14A CONTINUED:

14A

PRINCESS ELIZABETH

No. Not a discussion. We are here to ask: Does Father know of this baby race?

QUEEN CHARLOTTE

Your father? Of course he does. What of it?

PRINCESS ELIZABETH

Your baby race is cruel.

QUEEN CHARLOTTE

Cruel?

PRINCESS ELIZABETH

You focus on nothing else. Georgie is grieving. His daughter is dead.

QUEEN CHARLOTTE

I am well aware-

PRINCESS ELIZABETH

Yet you have shown him not one moment of real kindness. No regard or compassion. You show none of us regard or compassion. Do you know how hard we have worked to provide you with your precious heir? The herbs? The tonics? Do you know how many babies I have lost before they were ready to be born?

QUEEN CHARLOTTE

I did not...you lost babies?

PRINCESS ELIZABETH

We have all lost...we are trying, Mother. Do you know what this has done to Edward? To William? To all of us?

QUEEN CHARLOTTE

Of course this is a difficult task but I ask a great deal of you because I know each one of you can rise to the occasion-

PRINCE REGENT

You do not know us. Any of us. You do not learn about us. You do not care for what we care for. Our happiness is not your goal.

(CONTINUED)

14A CONTINUED: (2)

14A

QUEEN CHARLOTTE

Nonsense. I want what is best for you. As your mother-

PRINCE REGENT

You have never been a mother.

QUEEN CHARLOTTE

I have done all I could for you. If you understood, the sacrifices...how hard I have worked to make sure you each...I have been an excellent mother.

PRINCE REGENT

No. You have been our Queen. But you have never really been our mother.

Off Queen Charlotte, stung...

15 INT. KEW PALACE/SITTING ROOM - DAY

15

Young Charlotte is doing embroidery. Young King George comes in all dressed for farm work.

YOUNG KING GEORGE

I am off to work in the fields. We are cycling millet. Would you like to join me?

YOUNG CHARLOTTE

Never. I shall stay here and grow our King.

He kisses her. Playful and happy.

YOUNG CHARLOTTE (CONT'D)

George! Oh. You received a letter. Where is it?

REYNOLDS

Here. From Princess Augusta.

YOUNG KING GEORGE

My mother is writing me? Well...

He takes the letter. Tosses it into the fireplace. Kisses Young Charlotte again.

YOUNG KING GEORGE (CONT'D)

You are beautiful! My wife is beautiful!

(CONTINUED)

15 CONTINUED:

15

And he goes. Young Charlotte smiles, continues to embroider. Looks up to see Reynolds's eyes on her.

YOUNG CHARLOTTE
Did you want to say something,
Reynolds?

REYNOLDS
No, Your Majesty.

A beat. He clears his throat.

YOUNG CHARLOTTE
Speak.

REYNOLDS
His Majesty has good days. And down
days.

YOUNG CHARLOTTE
He did. Now that I am here, his
days are good. He is better. Is he
not?

REYNOLDS
He is better now... But perhaps
caution would be-

YOUNG CHARLOTTE
Reynolds. Let him be. All he needed
was his wife and a routine and to
get rid of that dreadful doctor. He
is well.

16 INT. KEW PALACE/REYNOLDS QUARTERS - NIGHT

16

Young Brimsley and Reynolds are in a tub, bathing together. Blissful and relaxed.

YOUNG BRIMSLEY
Will it last? Will he stay...as he
is? Well?

REYNOLDS
One can hope.

YOUNG BRIMSLEY
Reynolds?

YOUNG BRIMSLEY (CONT'D)
If it lasts, they would have one
another. They will be together.
Have a marriage. Grow old as one.
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

16 CONTINUED:

16

YOUNG BRIMSLEY (CONT'D)

(beat)

We would serve them together.

REYNOLDS

A lifetime.

YOUNG BRIMSLEY

Yes. A lifetime.

REYNOLDS

It is...possible.

YOUNG BRIMSLEY

Truly possible?

REYNOLDS

I do not know. Perhaps. -- Great love can make miracles.

YOUNG BRIMSLEY

It can.

They lean into one another. Hoping for their own miracle.

*

17 OMITTED

17 *

18 INT. ST JAMES PALACE/TEA ROOM - DAY

18

Agatha sits with Princess Augusta. Another uncomfortable tea. Both women want something...

AGATHA

Thank you for seeing me, Your Highness.

PRINCESS AUGUSTA

Thank YOU for paying me a visit, Lady Danbury.

A beat.

AGATHA

I am so glad that you met Lord Danbury. The new Lord Danbury.

18 CONTINUED:

18

PRINCESS AUGUSTA

Did I? I know I met your son. Very handsome.

A beat.

PRINCESS AUGUSTA (CONT'D)

I have been told that you had the honor of a visit by Her Majesty.

AGATHA

The Queen was kind enough to offer her sympathies upon the loss of my dear husband. The late Lord Danbury.

PRINCESS AUGUSTA

Yes. My condolences. Losing a husband is...inconvenient. -- The Queen must be very fond of you. To come out during her confinement.

AGATHA

Yes.

PRINCESS AUGUSTA

Yes.

A beat. Agatha decides to jump in the deep end.

AGATHA

As it is a fact that my son will inherit his father's title-

PRINCESS AUGUSTA

Is it?

AGATHA

Is it not?

PRINCESS AUGUSTA

Whether or not the great experiment will go on past this generation is something only His Majesty can determine. Such a complicated debate.

AGATHA

I see.

PRINCESS AUGUSTA

Of course I am sure I could expedite your answer. If you have information that may be useful.

(CONTINUED)

18 CONTINUED: (2)

18

Long beat.

AGATHA

I am not sure what information I could possibly possess that one as brilliant as Your Highness could not obtain yourself.

Fuck you.

PRINCESS AUGUSTA

I believe the matter of title inheritance shall be difficult to settle. More tea?

Fuck you.

19 INT. DANBURY ESTATE/HER BEDCHAMBER - NIGHT

19

Coral helps Agatha prepare for bed.

CORAL

I am sure you could give Princess Augusta the smallest of details. Pears. Her Majesty asked for pears while she was here.

AGATHA

I will not engage with the Princess. I have promised the Queen friendship.

CORAL

If you are friends, perhaps you could ask Her Majesty to intervene. She seemed so kind. I am sure she would-

AGATHA

Her Majesty has gone away. To Kew. I cannot simply turn up at Kew. And she is with child. She is in a state. I cannot do anything that might cause her upset or worry.

CORAL

She has enough of that as it is.

AGATHA

What do you mean?

CORAL

Well, there are the rumors to consider.

(CONTINUED)

19 CONTINUED:

19

AGATHA

Rumors?

CORAL

I am hearing that the palace stands not on firm ground. That the King is ill or injured or...well, there is something amiss with the King.

AGATHA

Coral. That is *gossip*.

CORAL

No. I am not a person for gossip. If I were, I would say that I heard from several kitchen maids that the members of the House of Lords were concerned for the King's welfare. There is talk that the palace is in jeopardy.

AGATHA

But you are not one to gossip.

CORAL

Never.

AGATHA

I certainly cannot ask Her Majesty for help if that is true.

CORAL

If I did gossip, I would say that I have heard that all the power lies with Princess Augusta and Lord Bute now.

Off Agatha...

20 EXT. KEW PALACE - DAY

20

A carriage rolls through the gates. A footman helps Princess Augusta climb out. She looks around. Stealing herself.

21 INT. KEW PALACE/SITTING ROOM - DAY

21

Princess Augusta waits under the watchful eye of Reynolds. She eyes him. Young Brimsley arrives. He and Reynolds speak in low voices. From what we can tell the conversation seems to be some non-audible version of: *Are you fucking kidding me, Brimsley?/That is what she said. /Well, I am not telling the Princess. You tell her. /You tell her. /No, YOU tell her.*

(CONTINUED)

21 CONTINUED:

21

PRINCESS AUGUSTA
This is tedious. You will tell the
King that his mother is waiting.
Now.

Brimsley and Reynolds share a look.

CUT TO:

22 INT. KEW PALACE/SITTING ROOM - DAY

22

Young Charlotte is with Princess Augusta.

PRINCESS AUGUSTA
I do not understand.

YOUNG CHARLOTTE
The King is not receiving visitors
at this time.

PRINCESS AUGUSTA
I am not a *visitor*.

YOUNG CHARLOTTE
You are most welcome to return some
other time in the future.

PRINCESS AUGUSTA
I am here now.

YOUNG CHARLOTTE
George is not available now.

PRINCESS AUGUSTA
Does he know I am here?

YOUNG CHARLOTTE
He is occupied.

PRINCESS AUGUSTA
I may be forced to worry that you
are holding the King against his
will. Which would be-

YOUNG CHARLOTTE
Treason.

PRINCESS AUGUSTA
Yes. It could be considered treason.
If you do not allow me to see him.

(CONTINUED)

22 CONTINUED:

22

YOUNG CHARLOTTE

The King does not wish to receive
at this time.

PRINCESS AUGUSTA

You dare to speak for him? You are
not the King.

YOUNG CHARLOTTE

No but I am *your* Queen.

A standoff. Then:

PRINCESS AUGUSTA

Well. You certainly have become
comfortable.

YOUNG CHARLOTTE

You chose me well.

A beat.

PRINCESS AUGUSTA

You carry just one king in your womb.
The other king? George? I carried
that King. And while your little
king can hide out, cosy and warm in
the embrace of your belly, MY King
cannot. How do you not know what I
have always understood? From the
moment a King is born, there is no
hiding for him. There is no room
for illness or weakness. There is
only power. I have done all I can
to ensure his power. And you are
undoing it.

YOUNG CHARLOTTE

That is not-

PRINCESS AUGUSTA

He is not even trying. And you are
allowing it. You cannot allow him
to hide. His crown will not survive.
He has a country. He has people.
He must RULE. Lord Bute is waiting.
The government is growing restless.
And suspicious. George must face
Parliament.

Augusta stands to go.

(CONTINUED)

22 CONTINUED: (2)

22

PRINCESS AUGUSTA (CONT'D)

This is on you now. He is yours.

Augusta leaves. Charlotte breathes.

23 INT. KEW PALACE/OBSERVATORY - DAY

23

Young King George is surrounded by his books. Reynolds stands by. Young Charlotte enters, Young Brimsley behind her.

YOUNG KING GEORGE

Charlotte! How goes the day?

YOUNG CHARLOTTE

Your mother was here.

George shrinks a bit, his light dimming.

YOUNG KING GEORGE

I do not want to see her.

YOUNG CHARLOTTE

I know. I sent her away.
However...we must away as well.
Back to Buckingham House.

George turns to look at her. Full of dread.

YOUNG KING GEORGE

Charlotte...?

YOUNG CHARLOTTE

You have to address Parliament. The
people need their King.

Off George, taking in the weight of that...

24 INT. BUCKINGHAM HOUSE/HER BEDCHAMBER - NIGHT (BPT)

24

Queen Charlotte is being prepared for bed by her servants.
Brimmsley stands by.

QUEEN CHARLOTTE

Ungrateful. The most ungrateful
whining children. How dare they
speak to me that way. A better life
they could not have asked for. I was
a most extraordinary mother.

Brimmsley is quiet.

QUEEN CHARLOTTE (CONT'D)

I was a *most extraordinary* mother.

(CONTINUED)

24 CONTINUED:

24

Brimsley clears his throat. The Queen waves off her maids.

QUEEN CHARLOTTE (CONT'D)

Leave us.

When they are gone, she looks at Brimsley.

QUEEN CHARLOTTE (CONT'D)

Your silence does not bode well for you.

BRIMSLEY

Your Majesty. You are the greatest of Queens...

QUEEN CHARLOTTE

-And mothers.

BRIMSLEY

You are the greatest of Queens yet you share one trait in common with all of the people here in the palace. You serve one person - the King. That is not a flaw. It is a gift. Everyone serves the King. We all care for His Majesty. Above all.

QUEEN CHARLOTTE

Not true. Brimsley, above all, you care for me.

BRIMSLEY

Yes. And I will continue to do so until my last days.

That felt loaded. A long beat. Charlotte begins to realize...

QUEEN CHARLOTTE

Brimsley. Have you any family? Did you never marry?

BRIMSLEY

No, Your Majesty. Who could I ever find who would be free to spend a lifetime with me? I am here. Everyone here cares for the King.

That was painful. What happened with Reynolds?

QUEEN CHARLOTTE

Brimsley...

(CONTINUED)

24 CONTINUED: (2)

24

BRIMSLEY

Your Majesty.

QUEEN CHARLOTTE

Send in my dressers.

BRIMSLEY

Yes, Your Majesty.

And he heads out to call in the dressers. Off Brimsley, a little broken...

24 OMITTED
THRU
26

24
THRU
26

27 EXT. BUCKINGHAM HOUSE - DAY

27

Servants unload luggage from the carriages. Young King George and Young Charlotte ascend the steps. Hands linked, locked together. He pauses, faltering just before going inside at the sight of the servants lined up to greet them. She gives him a reassuring look. It's going to be okay. They head in.

27A INT. BUCKINGHAM HOUSE/ORANGERIE - DAY

27A

Young Charlotte is with Agatha. Both rather reserved. Distant. A step back to that unfamiliar ground of their first private meeting.

AGATHA

It is lovely to see you progressing. I do hope Your Majesty has found the experience to be without too much discomfort thus far?

YOUNG CHARLOTTE

It has been...Life at Kew...It has not been without discomforts.

AGATHA

And the King? He must be full of excitement surrounding the coming of his heir.

Charlotte drifts off to an even more distant place. *My husband is batshit crazy. I'm royally fucked. I have no idea what I'm doing or what to do, help me see a way forward...*

(CONTINUED)

27A CONTINUED:

27A

YOUNG CHARLOTTE

(deflecting)

It is good to be home. I have missed your company. Tell me, what have I missed while I was away.

AGATHA

As for the Ton, I have no gossip of consequence to share. I have been occupied tending to the estate in the wake of the death of my husband.

YOUNG CHARLOTTE

Of course. You are mourning a great loss. And the children? Is there anything I can do?

Bestow a title upon my son. Solve my inheritance issues. Help me not be destitute...

AGATHA

...This. Spending time with a friend helps. This is all I need.

Opportunity missed. And Young Charlotte's interest in her is gone.

YOUNG CHARLOTTE

Wonderful. -- Now. I have asked the royal physician and he says getting a baby out of me shall be quick and painless. You have babies. Tell me. Does it hurt?

AGATHA

Having children is the worst pain imaginable.

YOUNG CHARLOTTE

I knew it. -- Wait. Really?

She looks a little ill.

AGATHA

No. It only hurts a little. And you will hardly remember it once it is over.

YOUNG CHARLOTTE

Good.

And we're off their sipping in silence. Both squirming, sitting on uncomfortable secrets they dare not share.

27B EXT. BUCKINGHAM HOUSE - DAY

27B

A pensive Agatha is leaving as Adolphus is arriving.

ADOLPHUS

Lady Danbury!

AGATHA

Oh. Hello. I was visiting Her Majesty.

ADOLPHUS

How nice. It is lovely to see you.

AGATHA

And you.

She keeps moving and he moves beside her.

ADOLPHUS

With the impending new arrival, it seems I may be in England longer than I expected. I wonder if I might call upon you.

AGATHA

On me.

ADOLPHUS

Yes. You are out of mourning? Or am I mistaken-

AGATHA

I am out of mourning. Yes.

ADOLPHUS

Then may I call?

Taken aback but thinking of her future:

AGATHA

I would like that very much.

Off Agatha as she climbs into her carriage, taking in the possibilities.

27C INT. CONSERVATORY/BOTANICAL GARDENS - DAY (BPT)

27C

Lady Danbury and Violet stroll amongst the beautiful flowers and crowds.

(CONTINUED)

27C CONTINUED:

27C

LADY DANBURY

This may be my favorite place in all of London. Look at how tall those have grown.

VIOLET

Agatha. You told me that your garden did not bloom until after Lord Danbury died. What did you mean?

LADY DANBURY

That is a change of topic.

VIOLET

It is a return to the topic. As I told you I am contemplating.

*

LADY DANBURY

Do you want to marry again?

VIOLET

I had not thought that far. It would be quite a change. I do like my life as it is now. And the children... Yet... I do not know. - Was there ever anyone else for you? After Lord Danbury? Did you ever want to marry again? Or did you ever want...to take a lover?

AGATHA

I wanted to feel alive.

Violet looks at her.

VIOLET

There was someone after Lord Danbury.

AGATHA

I have lived a life. Yes.

VIOLET

We are going to need a quiet place to talk.

LADY DANBURY

Violet. I have loved. And been loved. That is all I shall say.

VIOLET

That is all?

(CONTINUED)

27C CONTINUED: (2)

27C

LADY DANBURY

I am discreet.

VIOLET

You have just told me you were in
love with a man after your husband.
Agatha. We are friends, are we not?

A long beat.

LADY DANBURY

Did I ever tell you about the Queen's
brother?

VIOLET

You and Queen Charlotte's brother?
That is a surprise.

LADY DANBURY

Because I am discreet.

They walk on, continuing their conversation. Leaving us out
of it.

27D INT. DANBURY ESTATE/HER BEDCHAMBER - NIGHT

27D

Coral helps Agatha undress.

AGATHA

Coral. I have solved my problem.

CORAL

You asked Her Majesty? She will
secure the title?

AGATHA

No. I spoke to the Queen's brother.

CORAL

Prince Adolphus?

AGATHA

He would like to court me. I said
yes. I shall marry him.

CORAL

He is German.

AGATHA

He is a nice man. He rules his own
land. And not because of an
experiment. His title is his own.

(CONTINUED)

27D CONTINUED:

27D

CORAL

But I thought...Lord Ledger...?

AGATHA

What of Lord Ledger?

That had an edge to it. Beat:

CORAL

You shall learn German.

AGATHA

I shall. You shall learn it too.

Coral was not planning on that.

28 OMITTED
THRU
30B

28
THRU
30B

31 INT. BUCKINGHAM HOUSE/KINGS OFFICE - DAY

31

Piles of discarded papers are everywhere. Young King George is working on draft after draft, intense and anxious. Reynolds stands in the corner. Young Charlotte appears in the doorway. Watches him a beat.

YOUNG KING GEORGE

I can feel you watching me.

YOUNG CHARLOTTE

I like watching you.

YOUNG KING GEORGE

You make it more difficult for me to write.

YOUNG CHARLOTTE

You are doing a fine job, of that I am sure.

YOUNG KING GEORGE

This is a speech to Parliament. I cannot do a fine job. I must be brilliant.

Young Charlotte stoops to pick a discarded draft. And another.

YOUNG CHARLOTTE

These are certainly the words of a brilliant man. And so are these.

(CONTINUED)

31 CONTINUED:

31

YOUNG KING GEORGE

Charlotte-

YOUNG CHARLOTTE

Perhaps you need some distraction. *

YOUNG KING GEORGE

Distraction?

YOUNG CHARLOTTE

Yes. I believe that I have just the distraction to help. Maybe-

YOUNG KING GEORGE

I do not need distraction. What I need is to deliver a perfect speech before all of Parliament. Or do you wish me to no longer be King? Perhaps I should simply surrender and offer them my head. Put an end to the monarchy. Let them call me Mad King George and laugh? Is that what you wish?!

That was loud.

YOUNG CHARLOTTE

Stop.

YOUNG KING GEORGE

I am...my deepest apologies. I need this to be...this is important. It might be best if we left the distractions for another time.

YOUNG CHARLOTTE

George. Stop.

YOUNG KING GEORGE

Charlotte-

YOUNG CHARLOTTE

The baby...it is coming.

And George is at her side.

YOUNG KING GEORGE

Now?

YOUNG CHARLOTTE

I believe so.

(CONTINUED)

31 CONTINUED: (2) 31

YOUNG KING GEORGE
REYNOLDS!

31A OMITTED 31A
AND AND
31B 31B

32 INT. BUCKINGHAM HOUSE/CORRIDOR - NIGHT 32

Young King George is striding down the halls. Two footmen are coming in his direction.

YOUNG KING GEORGE
GET OUT OF MY PATH!

The footmen flee. George rounds the corner. Sees Reynolds.

YOUNG KING GEORGE (CONT'D)
Where is he?! Why has he not
arrived?! She cannot do this without
a doctor. Opium! She needs opium!

REYNOLDS
I was searching for you to tell you:
The Royal Physician arrived. Moments
ago. He is in with Her Majesty.

George turns and runs the opposite direction. Reynolds runs after him.

33 INT. BUCKINGHAM HOUSE/CORRIDOR OUTSIDE HER BEDCHAMBER - NIGHT 33

Young King George races down the hall. Slows at the sight of six men standing outside the door. Including Lord Bute. They bow.

MEN
Your Majesty! /God save the King.

YOUNG KING GEORGE
Archbishop. Prime Minister. Hello.
Thank you for coming.

He heads past them going into the room. The Archbishop steps in his path.

LORD BUTE
Your Majesty. Surely you are not
entering the...there is womanly work
afoot.

ARCHBISHOP
We wait out here.

(CONTINUED)

33 CONTINUED:

33

YOUNG KING GEORGE

Right. Yes.

He stands there a beat. Pacing. Feeling their eyes on him. A scream comes from inside the room. The door opens. Agatha is looking out at him.

AGATHA

Your Majesty. She is asking for you.

YOUNG KING GEORGE

I...

ARCHBISHOP

He cannot be in there.

AGATHA

Your Majesty.

George heads for the door again. The Archbishop blocks him.

YOUNG KING GEORGE

Do you like being Archbishop of Canterbury? Would you like to remain Archbishop of Canterbury?

ARCHBISHOP

Your Majesty-

YOUNG KING GEORGE

Do you believe you can remain Archbishop by defying the Head of the Church of England? MOVE.

The Archbishop steps out of his path. And, much to the shock and consternation of the men in the hall, George goes into the room.

34 INT. BUCKINGHAM HOUSE/HER BEDCHAMBER - NIGHT

34

Charlotte is desperate and wide-eyed with pain as she takes George's hand, gripping with all her might.

YOUNG CHARLOTTE

I want to go over the wall.

YOUNG KING GEORGE

Too late, I'm afraid.

George smiles. Charlotte studies his face, comforted by the quality of his presence.

(CONTINUED)

34 CONTINUED:

34

YOUNG CHARLOTTE

You are here.
(then, pleading)
Stay.

YOUNG KING GEORGE

I am here. Whatever comes. Whatever
you need.

YOUNG CHARLOTTE

The baby, he is--

But just then the pain takes over and Charlotte cries out. It's horrible to behold. George whips his head around, frantically takes in the scene. There's Brimsley off in the corner, at attention, facing the window. Agatha hands a stack of new cloths to a MAID as another MAID removes blood soaked cloths from the bed. DR. HUNTER paces patiently.

YOUNG KING GEORGE

Doctor! What is happening? What is
to be done--

DOCTOR HUNTER

--Your Majesty. The baby is breached.
We must await the natural evolution.

YOUNG KING GEORGE

How long?

Doctor Hunter doesn't have an answer ready. Charlotte cries out again. George winces but shakes it off, looks to Agatha.

YOUNG KING GEORGE (CONT'D)

You have been here before, yes?

AGATHA

Four times, your Majesty.

YOUNG KING GEORGE

And? What are your thoughts.

AGATHA

(very concerned)
She is losing blood.

DOCTOR HUNTER

That is natural. All normal.

A tense beat. George stews, watches as Charlotte writhes and moans a bit.

(CONTINUED)

34 CONTINUED: (2)

34

BRIMSLEY

(without turning)

Too much, it seems. If I may.

DOCTOR HUNTER

All part of...Nothing to do but--

YOUNG KING GEORGE

--Doctor. Were we to leave all decisions to nature--

Charlotte cries out again, George turns back to her. Comforting, in control.

YOUNG KING GEORGE (CONT'D)

Charlotte. No. This will not do. You shall wake the neighbors.

With a nearby cloth, George dabs at Charlotte's sweaty neck and brow.

YOUNG KING GEORGE (CONT'D)

I had a horse, my favorite as a boy. He was breached in his mare. The stable hands, they...I've seen it too with sheep, with calves...There are ways to aid in this situation. (to the Doctor)
Are there not?

DOCTOR HUNTER

There are methods, yes. However with a *Royal patient*--

YOUNG KING GEORGE

--*Prepare them! Now!*

The doctor moves towards a basin of water to wash as Agatha shoots George a grateful look.

YOUNG KING GEORGE (CONT'D)

I believe we shall need you moved. Just there to the edge. If you put one arm here and another here.

George positions Charlotte's arms around his neck.

YOUNG KING GEORGE (CONT'D)

Hold tight. One. Two. And...

And as George pulls Charlotte out of danger and out of frame Charlotte cries out and WE CUT TO:

35 INT. BUCKINGHAM HOUSE/NURSERY - DAY

35

-A crying baby. The new Prince. Young King George holds him in his arms. Turns to Adolphus and Princess Augusta.

ADOLPHUS

He is magnificent. How is Her Majesty?

YOUNG KING GEORGE

Taking a well-deserved rest.

Augusta moves in. Eyeing the baby.

PRINCESS AUGUSTA

Is he healthy? Are there any signs of...

YOUNG KING GEORGE

Of what, Mother?

Augusta's well aware of Adolphus' presence.

PRINCESS AUGUSTA

I am only asking-

YOUNG KING GEORGE

He is our next King. Could he be anything but perfection?

PRINCESS AUGUSTA

He is perfection.

35A EXT. MAYFAIR/STROLLING PLACE - DAY

35A

Agatha strolls with Adolphus.

ADOLPHUS

He is a very strong baby. Intelligent.

AGATHA

You are a proud uncle. And Her Majesty must be full of joy.

ADOLPHUS

Not that I have seen much of her. She and the King are quite taken with one another. She hardly spares me a glance. Though I suppose with the baby, she- Agatha?

(CONTINUED)

35A CONTINUED:

35A

Because Agatha has stopped in her tracks. She is staring across the way. At Lord Ledger who is rolling hoops on the grass with his daughter Violet. Laughing. Enjoying himself.

ADOLPHUS (CONT'D)

Agatha? Are you all right?

AGATHA

Hmm? Yes. Apologies. I am not feeling myself. I think perhaps I have had too much sun.

*
*

ADOLPHUS

You should go home immediately and lie down. Sit here. I shall get the carriage.

AGATHA

Thank you.

Adolphus hurries off. Agatha sits on the bench. When she looks up, Lord Ledger is staring at her. As bereft as she is.

35B OMITTED

35B

35C INT. ST JAMES PALACE/SITTING ROOM - DAY

35C

A distressed Agatha has tea with Princess Augusta.

AUGUSTA

It is a surprise to see you again so soon. You have news?

AGATHA

News?

AUGUSTA

Of Buckingham House?

AGATHA

No, I do not have news- Has there been a decision?

AUGUSTA

A decision about what?

AGATHA

About the title. Is my son to be Lord Danbury?

(CONTINUED)

35C CONTINUED:

35C

AUGUSTA

As I told you before, that is a decision only His Majesty can make. I would think you would have news on the issue yourself. I am told you were there at the birth. Of my grandchild.

AGATHA

I cannot...I could not speak to the King or Queen on such matters.

AUGUSTA

Such a shame. I could be so helpful.
(leaning in)
Her Majesty is attempting to run the crown. I am sure of it. What do you know?

Agatha is silent. Growing more stressed.

AUGUSTA (CONT'D)

How unfortunate that you will not speak freely to me. We had a very fine arrangement, did we not? Were not all of your needs met? Would it not be a shame for you to lose the very fine estate in which you now reside?

A beat. And to the shock of both women, Agatha bursts into tears. Painful tears. Broken. Augusta stares at her.

AUGUSTA (CONT'D)

Hush. Stop that. Do not...do that.
No. No.

Agatha is trying to stop. But she cannot. Augusta waves the servants out of the room. When they are gone, Augusta reaches into the pocket of her gown. Pulls out a flask. Pours some of the contents into Agatha's tea.

AUGUSTA (CONT'D)

Pear brandy. I have it shipped in from Germany. Now drink. And cease crying this instant, please.

Agatha drinks.

AGATHA

I am sorry. I -

(CONTINUED)

35C CONTINUED: (2)

35C

AUGUSTA

No. I do not want to know your burdens or hear what problems plague your life. Nor do I care.

A beat. Then:

AUGUSTA (CONT'D)

When my dear husband died, I had to throw myself on the mercy of his father, the King. A cruel evil man. My husband loathed him. I loathed him. He was vicious with Georgie. The bruises. I had bruises as well. There were no other options. So I endured. And over the years I learned I need not be content to surrender to the uselessness of female pursuits. Instead I secured my son as King. I found a way to control my own fate.

(beat)

I do not like you. However you have been an admirable adversary thus far. Our battles bring me satisfaction. So this? Will not do. You are not allowed to come here and sob. You may not quit. You are a woman. Cover your bruises and endure. Do not lose control of your fate, Agatha.

Agatha takes this in. Augusta pours Agatha another drink.

AUGUSTA (CONT'D)

Now, tell me how goes life at Buckingham House?

AGATHA

I believe that news depends on what is to become of my son's title, Your Highness.

Augusta can't help but smile. Her adversary is still there.

36 OMITTED
THRU
39

36
THRU
39

40 INT. BUCKINGHAM HOUSE/SITTING ROOM - DAY

40

In his royal military garb, Young King George paces back and forth, a sheath of papers in hand. Reynolds keeps a worried eye on him.

(CONTINUED)

40 CONTINUED:

40

YOUNG KING GEORGE

Where is Charlotte?

REYNOLDS

She is on her way, Your Majesty.

Just then Charlotte enters the room. Young Brimsley behind her.

YOUNG CHARLOTTE

Here I am.

YOUNG KING GEORGE

I have been waiting.

Brimsley glances at Reynolds -- *how is he?* Reynolds silently directs Brimsley's gaze to George's shaky hands. Brimsley and Reynolds exchange a worried look.

YOUNG CHARLOTTE

I was with the baby. I am not late. There is plenty of time. You look very handsome. Do you have your speech?

YOUNG KING GEORGE

In hand. Though I am rethinking the middle section on the Colonies...

YOUNG CHARLOTTE

Parliament will appreciate all of your thoughts. You are ready.

She kisses him. Their foreheads touch briefly. And George seems to still. Calm. Brimsley and Reynolds relax too.

YOUNG KING GEORGE

Thank you.

YOUNG CHARLOTTE

Off you go.

And George sets off, Reynolds behind him. Charlotte looks at Brimsley.

YOUNG CHARLOTTE (CONT'D)

He is going to be brilliant.

YOUNG BRIMSLEY

Of course, Your Majesty. He is the King.

Off Charlotte, hopeful.

41 INT. ROYAL CARRIAGE - DAY 41

Young King George sits in the carriage, eyes on his document. Mouthing the words. As the ride goes on, as Parliament gets closer, his lips still. His hands slowly begin to shake. He makes himself smaller, trying to create a wall of protection. Gets down on the floor of the carriage...

42 EXT. PARLIAMENT/INT. ROYAL CARRIAGE - DAY 42

The carriage comes to a stop. Reynolds moves to the door of the carriage. Tries the handle. It will not open. He tries again. Aware of all the eyes upon him. He climbs up, peers in the window of the carriage. Sees Young King George on the floor, head down.

REYNOLDS

Your Majesty. Your Majesty...

Off Reynolds...

43 OMITTED 43

44 INT. BUCKINGHAM HOUSE/CORRIDOR - DAY 44

Young Charlotte is moving swiftly down the hall with Young Brimsley and Reynolds.

YOUNG CHARLOTTE

What was it? Did his speech not go well?

REYNOLDS

His Majesty did not deliver a speech. He never got out of the carriage.

YOUNG CHARLOTTE

What do you mean, he never got out?

REYNOLDS

His Majesty could not get out of the carriage.

YOUNG CHARLOTTE

Well, what happened? What did you do? He was quite fine when he left here.

REYNOLDS

He was not fine!

Brimasley and Charlotte look at Reynolds shocked by the outburst.

(CONTINUED)

44 CONTINUED:

44

REYNOLDS (CONT'D)

Your Majesty. Forgive me. Only.
He was not fine. He was not. That
was merely...hope.

Charlotte takes that in. They reach the King's bedroom door.

YOUNG CHARLOTTE

Wait here.

And she goes in alone.

45 INT. BUCKINGHAM HOUSE/HIS BEDCHAMBER - DAY

45

The curtains are drawn, the room is dark.

YOUNG CHARLOTTE

George? George, it is me.

YOUNG KING GEORGE (O.S.)

Charlotte?

YOUNG CHARLOTTE

Yes...Reynolds told me. What
happened. I am here.

Young Charlotte opens the curtains, letting in light. Looks
around. But still, there is no George visible anywhere.

YOUNG CHARLOTTE (CONT'D)

George? George, where are you?

She looks around. And then...

YOUNG KING GEORGE

I am sorry.

It takes a moment for her to get it. But finally Charlotte
gets down the floor and peers under the bed. George is under
there flat on his back.

YOUNG CHARLOTTE

George. Dearest. Can you come out
for me?

YOUNG KING GEORGE

I want to. But I cannot. The
heavens, they cannot find me under
here. I am hiding.

YOUNG CHARLOTTE

You are hiding. From the heavens.

(CONTINUED)

45 CONTINUED:

45

YOUNG KING GEORGE
They are thwarted under here.

YOUNG CHARLOTTE
George, all is well.

YOUNG KING GEORGE
No. All is very very wrong.

He is in pain. Charlotte stares at him a long beat. Then she lies on her back and scoots under the bed with him. Until she is lying beside him. Staring up at the underside of the bed.

YOUNG CHARLOTTE
Tell me.

YOUNG KING GEORGE
I could not get out of the carriage.
I could not even read the words on
the page. I am not a King. I am no
one's King.

YOUNG CHARLOTTE
You will do better next time.

YOUNG KING GEORGE
No. There is no better. There is
no cure. This is who I am. I will
be here sometimes and sometimes I
will be... You can leave me. I would
understand and I would let you go.

YOUNG CHARLOTTE
George. I will not leave you.

YOUNG KING GEORGE
You should.

YOUNG CHARLOTTE
I will not.

YOUNG KING GEORGE
You have half a husband, Charlotte.
Half a life. I can not give you the
future you deserve. Not a full me.
Not a full marriage. Only half.
Half a man. Half a King. Half a
life.

(CONTINUED)

45 CONTINUED: (2)

45

YOUNG CHARLOTTE

If what we have is half, then we shall make it the very best half. I love you. It is enough.

She takes his hand.

YOUNG CHARLOTTE (CONT'D)

I am your Queen. And as long as I am so, I will never leave your side. You are King. You will be King. Your children will rule. Together, we are whole.

They lie there. Staring up.

YOUNG KING GEORGE

It is quite dust filled under here.

YOUNG CHARLOTTE

It really is.

A beat.

YOUNG KING GEORGE

I am so sorry that I did not give you a choice. That I did not tell you the truth of who I was before we wed.

*

YOUNG CHARLOTTE

You did tell me the truth. You said you were Just George. And that is who you are. Half King. Half Farmer. But always Just George. That is all you need to be.

They lie there.

YOUNG KING GEORGE

I do not know how to repair what happened at Parliament. I fear it will overtake my crown.

YOUNG CHARLOTTE

If the crown cannot go to Parliament, we shall bring Parliament to the crown. Perhaps it is time we opened the doors to Buckingham House.

45A INT. DANBURY ESTATE/CORRIDOR - DAY

45A

Coral listens at the door. Hopeful. A FOOTMAN approaches. She waves him away.

CORAL

Shoo. She is being courted!

Then she turns back to the door..

46 INT. DANBURY ESTATE/SITTING ROOM - DAY

46

Agatha sits with Adolphus who has come to call, flowers in hand.

ADOLPHUS

You are quiet today.

AGATHA

I do not mean to be. Come, tell me of your week's adventures.

ADOLPHUS

I made some headway with trade agreements. The British are an interesting lot. I do not speak of the ladies, of course.

AGATHA

Of course.

She smiles. He smiles. But she is distant. Adolphus crosses the room to sit beside her.

ADOLPHUS

Agatha. My business is complete. My nephew is born. I am to return home soon.

AGATHA

I did not think you would stay. We shall see one another again on your next visit.

ADOLPHUS

No, I...would you consider returning home with me? As my wife?

AGATHA

I...I...-

(CONTINUED)

46 CONTINUED:

46

ADOLPHUS

I know. It is quite soon. You are barely out of mourning, we have only just begun to court but...I will not say words with hearts and flowers because I know you are not a hearts and flowers woman but...there is something here. Between us. I feel it. And I believe we could be happy together.

AGATHA

Adolphus...

And he kisses her. It is a sweet kiss. A hot kiss. A tempting kiss. Adolphus has game.

ADOLPHUS

Do not answer me now. Think on it. I shall await your response.

Off Agatha, spun...

46A INT. VIOLET BRIDGERTON'S SITTING ROOM - SUNSET (BPT)

46A

Violet is just sitting. Deep in thought. Finally, she rings and a maid arrives.

MAID

Yes, my lady?

VIOLET

Ask the butler to open the attic. There is a crate I will need. One of the ones from my father's house. -- And let the cook know I am inviting Lady Danbury to tea on Friday.

46B OMITTED

46B

47 EXT. ST JAMES PALACE - DAY

47

Establishing.

48 INT. ST JAMES PALACE/MEETING ROOM - DAY

48

Princess Augusta is with a concerned Bute and Harcourt.

LORD BUTE

I would like to know: were you aware?

(CONTINUED)

48 CONTINUED:

48

PRINCESS AUGUSTA

Of course I was aware. I am always aware. Am I not?

EARL HARCOURT

You are often aware. But-

LORD BUTE

So you are aware of this?

PRINCESS AUGUSTA

What do we speak of?

LORD BUTE

They are hosting a ball to introduce the new Prince.

*

PRINCESS AUGUSTA

A ball? Yes. That. It is a lovely idea.

LORD BUTE

I do not believe you had any knowledge of a ball.

PRINCESS AUGUSTA

I had knowledge.

EARL HARCOURT

You did not mention it to us.

PRINCESS AUGUSTA

The palace need not mention all news to you. I was made aware.

Bute and Harcourt exchange a look.

LORD BUTE

You have lost control.

PRINCESS AUGUSTA

I am the mother of the King.

LORD BUTE

You are not the Queen.

PRINCESS AUGUSTA

I have control.

EARL HARCOURT

He could not address Parliament. They say he is farming away his days.

(CONTINUED)

48 CONTINUED: (2)

48

LORD BUTE
How goes His Majesty's medical state?

PRINCESS AUGUSTA
He is fine condition.

LORD BUTE
So says his doctor?

PRINCESS AUGUSTA
I am in control. The crown is safe.

LORD BUTE
Her Majesty has invited the world to Buckingham House. The King will be on display. If he cannot perform-

PRINCESS AUGUSTA
He will perform-

LORD BUTE
Parliament wants to discuss measures. I am holding them off. This ball is his first social appearance since the Coronation. The King must be...the King.

Off Princess Augusta, worried...

49 OMITTED

49

50 EXT. VARIOUS LONDON - DAY

50

Royal invitations to the ball are being delivered door to door.

51 INT. BUCKINGHAM HOUSE/HER BEDCHAMBER - DAY

51

Young King George and Young Charlotte are pulling clothes off, having passionate amazing sex. Intercut with...

52 INT. LEDGER ESTATE/SITTING ROOM - DAY

52

Lord Ledger and his wife open an invitation to the ball.

53 INT. BUCKINGHAM HOUSE/HER BEDCHAMBER - DAY

53

Young King George and Young Charlotte continue to have passionate sex.

54 INT. DANBURY ESTATE/BREAKFAST ROOM - DAY

54

Agatha opens an invitation to the ball.

55 INT. BUCKINGHAM HOUSE/HER BEDCHAMBER - DAY 55

Young King George and Young Charlotte finish having passionate sex.

56 EXT. BUCKINGHAM HOUSE/PARTY SPACE - DAY 56

The staff decorates for the ball. Flowers, tables, candles etc. Young Brimsley and Reynolds oversee...

REYNOLDS

The flowers are wrong.

YOUNG BRIMSLEY

They are not wrong-

REYNOLDS

They are not the correct color palette.

YOUNG BRIMSLEY

Did you choose the color palette?
Because I believe this is the Queen's choice.

REYNOLDS

It is His Majesty's ball.

YOUNG BRIMSLEY

She is the hostess.

REYNOLDS

The sculptures are also wrong-

YOUNG BRIMSLEY

Walking away.

And he walks away.

57 INT. DANBURY ESTATE/HER BEDCHAMBER - NIGHT 57

Coral dresses Agatha for the ball.

CORAL

He is quite a handsome man.

AGATHA

Yes.

CORAL

And you would not have to worry about your future.

(CONTINUED)

57 CONTINUED:

57

AGATHA

Yes.

CORAL

Or the title issue.

AGATHA

Yes.

CORAL

And it does signify that his sister is Queen Charlotte. Imagine, staying at the palace when we come to visit.

AGATHA

Mmmhmm.

CORAL

I have been practicing my German. *Ich diene der Konigin...* that means, "I serve the Queen." You would be a queen. Never have another moment's worry when you are royalty-

AGATHA

STOP TALKING, CORAL.

Coral falls silent. Steps back.

AGATHA (CONT'D)

Thank you. I will be down in a moment.

Coral heads for the door. Turns back.

CORAL

You are going to say yes to his proposal?

AGATHA

Good night, Coral...

Coral goes. Agatha puts her head down.

58 EXT. BUCKINGHAM HOUSE/PARTY SPACE - NIGHT

58

Day fades to night as lamps are lit, musicians take their places and fountains begin to spout...

59 INT. BUCKINGHAM HOUSE/PORTRAIT HALL - NIGHT

59

Dressed for the ball, Young King George stands in the hall staring up the portraits.

(CONTINUED)

59 CONTINUED:

59

He's looking at the wedding portrait of the two of them. A beat and then, dressed for the ball as well, Young Charlotte is by his side.

YOUNG CHARLOTTE

Ramsay is odious. But it is a very nice portrait.

YOUNG KING GEORGE

A portrait for which I did not even sit. I am an insertion.

YOUNG CHARLOTTE

It is still us. You and me.

YOUNG KING GEORGE

Yes. But not real.

She looks at him. He looks worried, tense.

YOUNG CHARLOTTE

George.

He looks at her. She looks amazing, glittery and magical in her gown.

YOUNG KING GEORGE

Look at you. You are a rare jewel.

He raises a hand to touch her face. But his hand is shaking uncontrollably. So he never touches her. He stares at it, mesmerized and tortured. Down the hall, Reynolds and Young Brimsley are watching. Reynolds steps forward but Brimsley puts a restraining hand on him. Wait. And they watch as Charlotte sees the shaking hand and reaches out. Takes his hand in hers. Holds it steady.

YOUNG CHARLOTTE

You and me.

YOUNG KING GEORGE

You and me.

YOUNG CHARLOTTE

You ready?

YOUNG KING GEORGE

Yes.

And hand in hand, they head down the hall. Brimsley and Reynolds trail after them.

60 EXT. BUCKINGHAM HOUSE/GARDENS (BALL) - NIGHT

60

Guests fill the gardens of this glorious ball. The entire ton has turned out. Princess Augusta is there along with Lord Bute and Harcourt. Agatha is there with Adolphus. Lord and Lady Ledger are there. And to our surprise, so is Young Violet. She's standing on her toes, trying to see over the crowd.

LADY LEDGER

Violet. A lady does not stretch her neck like a giraffe.

YOUNG VIOLET

I want to see the Queen.

LADY LEDGER

The Queen has not yet made an appearance.

(to her husband)

She behaves like a street urchin. She will humiliate us.

*

Violet shrinks a little.

LORD LEDGER

She is perfect. She will bring us nothing but accolades.

LADY LEDGER

I told you: she is not yet ready to be out in society.

LORD LEDGER

She is more than ready. Is that not right, brains?

YOUNG VIOLET

Yes, Father.

Violet glows with pride. She grips his arm.

YOUNG VIOLET (CONT'D)

Oh! Look. There is Lady Danbury. She looks marvelous. Hello!

She waves at Agatha. Her mother pulls her arm down. Lord Ledger gazes at Agatha. Agatha gazes back. The moment is not lost on Vivian. But the obvious heat is interrupted by the sound of trumpets.

YOUNG VIOLET (CONT'D)

Here comes the Queen!

(CONTINUED)

60 CONTINUED:

60

OVER AT THE DOORS:

The announcement is made by Reynolds:

REYNOLDS

His Majesty King George III and Queen
Charlotte!

And there's a long beat during which NO ONE emerges through
the doors. The crowd murmurs. Violet is on her tiptoes.

ON AUGUSTA AND BUTE:

Lord Bute leans in to Augusta.

LORD BUTE

If he cannot even face his people,
he is finished.

OVER AT THE DOORS:

All eyes are on the doors. And finally, we see Young King
George and Young Charlotte as they emerge to greet their
guests. George's hand is squeezing hers. Princess Augusta,
Bute and Harcourt are watching him closely.

We feel his disorientation staring at the huge crowd of
people. There are SO many people -- all looking at him.

YOUNG CHARLOTTE

George. George?

He focuses back on her. Through her smile:

YOUNG CHARLOTTE (CONT'D)

Do not feel nerves.

YOUNG KING GEORGE

I am fine. Do I not seem quite fine?

YOUNG CHARLOTTE

You are hurting my hand.

And he is squeezing too hard. Surprised, George releases her
hand.

YOUNG KING GEORGE

Charlotte. I did not mean to- This
was a mistake.

He turns to go but she grabs his hand again.

(CONTINUED)

60 CONTINUED: (2)

60

YOUNG CHARLOTTE

George. Look at me. Only at me.
(re her hand)
Squeeze if you must. It is alright.
Softer. There. Now. Let us smile
and wave. Ready? Smile. Wave.

And the two of them smile and wave. The crowd cheers. If he is a bit robotic, they do not yet notice.

YOUNG CHARLOTTE (CONT'D)

And let us dance.

And they step out onto the dance floor. The center of attention.

YOUNG KING GEORGE

Charlotte...

YOUNG CHARLOTTE

Keep your eyes on me. Do not look
at them. There is no one here but
us.

YOUNG KING GEORGE

You and me.

YOUNG CHARLOTTE

You and me.

And the music begins and the two of them dance. All eyes on them. And as they dance, George grows calmer and more confident. This dance is the story of two people becoming a single unit, a team. When it is over, we feel George's charm and grace. Fully present and with Charlotte. In front of everyone, he kisses her. And all cheer.

61 EXT. BUCKINGHAM HOUSE/GARDENS (BALL) - LATER

61

Young Charlotte by his side, glass in hand, Young King George addresses the guests.

YOUNG KING GEORGE

We thank you all for joining us to
celebrate the arrival of our new
prince. Unsurprisingly, given I am
the third, we have chosen to name
him George IV! To your future King!

EVERYONE

To our future King!

(CONTINUED)

61 CONTINUED: 61

Everyone drinks. George meets the gaze of Bute. Raises his glass to him. As if to say: fuck you. Then his eyes fall on his mother Augusta. She smiles and nods: well done, son. He looks away. Her face falls a little.

62 EXT. BUCKINGHAM HOUSE/GARDENS (BALL) - NIGHT 62

Dancing sequence: Adolphus and Agatha dance. Young King George and Young Charlotte dance. Princess Augusta and Bute dance.

63 OMITTED 63

63A INT. BUCKINGHAM HOUSE/RESTING ROOM - NIGHT 63A

Agatha stands in the french doors. We can hear the sounds of the ball in progress. But Agatha is taking a break in a quiet corner. Trying to get hold of her feelings. Adolphus appears in the door.

ADOLPHUS

You dislike crowds as much as I do.
Another way we are a match.

Agatha breathes. Puts on a smile.

AGATHA

True. I needed a moment to breathe.
It is such a crush out there.

ADOLPHUS

My sister is a shining success. I
am happy for her.

He moves closer.

ADOLPHUS (CONT'D)

It would be nice to be happy for
myself as well.

AGATHA

What would our life be like? If we
married and I went back home with
you?

ADOLPHUS

It is probably treason to say this
here but my province is the greatest
place in the world. The best people,
the best food...

AGATHA

That sounds nice.

(CONTINUED)

63A CONTINUED:

63A

ADOLPHUS

It is. I rule of course but you would have certain duties as well. We are more egalitarian there. Most of the wives at court there are older than you but you will like them. Once you learn the language. And it is good that you are young. It means you can have more children.

AGATHA

More children.

ADOLPHUS

Agatha, I will raise the Danbury children as my own. I will care for them as I do you. But I must have an heir. Perhaps two or three.

AGATHA

Two or three. Yes.

ADOLPHUS

You can travel with me. We can even come back here to England every few years if you are worried about missing home. But you will not miss home for long. There will be festivals and balls and charities and-

AGATHA

No.

She did not even realize she was going to say that. We are watching her make this discovery in real time.

ADOLPHUS

Agatha-

AGATHA

I cannot marry you. I am sorry.

ADOLPHUS

I have made you nervous with so much talk of change-

AGATHA

No. I cannot marry you. But only because...I cannot marry anyone.

Adolphus steps back from her.

(CONTINUED)

63A CONTINUED: (2)

63A

AGATHA (CONT'D)

You are a wonderful man. And something in me had been awakened so I felt hopeful. I believe if I said yes this could be different. Better. Likely it would be. You would have saved me from a thousand different problems. You would have rescued me. You would have listened to me and cared for me. Yet it does not change what I know to be true. I cannot marry you. I cannot marry anyone. I never want to be married again. Adolphus, I have spent my life breathing someone else's air. I did not know any other way. Now, it is time I learn to breathe all on my own.

ADOLPHUS

Agatha. Do not do this. You are...this is a terrible mistake you are making.

She leans in. Gently kisses his cheek.

AGATHA

Perhaps I am making a terrible mistake. But it is mine to make. I do hope you will forgive me.

And she turns and goes.

63B EXT. BUCKINGHAM HOUSE/CORRIDOR - CONTINUOUS

63B

Once out in the hall, Agatha sags against the wall. Shocked. Relieved. Elated. Wondering if she's gone mad. And not caring if she has.

63C EXT. BUCKINGHAM HOUSE/GARDENS (BALL) - NIGHT

63C

Young Queen Charlotte pauses for a moment in a quiet corner. Resting. A beat and then Princess Augusta approaches.

PRINCESS AUGUSTA

It is a lovely ball.

YOUNG CHARLOTTE

It is. We enjoy hosting. We shall do it more often.

PRINCESS AUGUSTA

Good.

(CONTINUED)

63C CONTINUED:

63C

YOUNG CHARLOTTE

Yes.

A beat. Princess Augusta searches Young Charlotte's face.
Then:

PRINCESS AUGUSTA

I have only ever wanted him to be
happy.

YOUNG CHARLOTTE

He is happy.

PRINCESS AUGUSTA

You make him happy.

A stamp of approval.

PRINCESS AUGUSTA (CONT'D)

Thank you. Your Majesty.

And a deep curtsy. A sign of respect. And then Augusta's
vulnerability is wiped away and she is gone. Young Charlotte
stands there. Then George comes up behind her. Wraps his
arms around her. Young Charlotte leans into him.

YOUNG KING GEORGE

Shall we dance?

YOUNG CHARLOTTE

Yes.

63D EXT. BUCKINGHAM HOUSE/GARDENS - NIGHT

63D

The orchestra continues playing. Out in the gardens, away
from the view of the party, the music drifts down on Brimsley
and Reynolds. Alone and out of sight, they are in each
other's arms, waltzing. It's sweet and romantic and they
are laughing and talking as they dance. Brimsley leans his
head on Reynolds' shoulder. Enjoying this stolen moment.
We all want to be them. This moment fades into...

64 EXT. BUCKINGHAM HOUSE/GARDENS - NIGHT (BPT)

64

Brimsley. Alone. Still hearing the music. Waltzing as if
he has someone in his arms. But all alone. No one is there
with him. Clinging to a magic moment from so long ago.

A noise startles Brimsley. A servant has stepped outside.

(CONTINUED)

64 CONTINUED:

64

BRIMSLEY

What are you doing rustling about out here? How dare you step away from your duties.

SERVANT

Apologies, sir. Her Majesty has visitors.

BRIMSLEY

You have delivered your message. You may go. I will be along.

The servant heads inside. Brimsley takes a moment to straighten his jacket, adjust his cuffs. Make himself perfect. Then he heads in, pausing once to take one last look around.

He can almost see the past, almost get a glimpse of himself waltzing with Reynolds. But then it is gone. Brimsley goes inside.

65 INT. BUCKINGHAM HOUSE/PORTRAIT HALL - NIGHT (BPT)

65

The portrait hangs on the wall. Queen Charlotte stands staring up at it. Where there was an empty throne, King George has been painted in. She looks at him.

At the sound of Brimsley clearing his throat, Queen Charlotte turns to see Prince Edward approaching with his wife Victoria.

QUEEN CHARLOTTE

Edward. Victoire. Have you come to complain. Or have you come to see the new portrait?

PRINCE EDWARD

No, Mother. We...well...

PRINCESS VICTORIA

We come bearing news. Your Majesty.

Edward bows. Victoria curtsies. It's very formal. There is a moment as Queen Charlotte takes this in. Realizing. Knowing what it means but afraid to hope. She puts a hand under Victoria's chin, raising her face to meet the Queen's eyes.

QUEEN CHARLOTTE

Are you quite sure?

(CONTINUED)

65 CONTINUED:

65

PRINCESS VICTORIA

Yes, Your Majesty. I waited for quite some time so there would be no doubt.

PRINCE EDWARD

You will have your heir, Mother.

A beat. And then Queen Charlotte's blinking away tears and pulling Edward into her arms for a hug. Gentle. Maternal. Unlike any interaction we have seen the Queen have with her children before. Holding him so tight. So tender. Relieved.

PRINCE EDWARD (CONT'D)

Mother...?

Prince Edward does not know what to do with this. Queen Charlotte pulls back. Works to regain her composure.

QUEEN CHARLOTTE

Well done. Both of you.

PRINCE EDWARD

Victoire thinks it will be a girl.

PRINCESS VICTORIA

I hope that will be all right with you.

QUEEN CHARLOTTE

A girl is wonderful. And a strong queen is just what this country needs.

And she can't help it. She kisses Victoria's cheek. And she hugs Edward again. Genuine. Relieved.

QUEEN CHARLOTTE (CONT'D)

Thank you. Thank you.

Edward and Victoria try to take in the kindness. And then Edward gives in to the approval. Closing his eyes and hugging his mother back like a small boy finally being shown love.

Which fades into a...

66 OMITTED

66

67 EXT. BUCKINGHAM/BACK ENTRANCE - NIGHT

67

You know, the place we've never seen where the carriages pick up the guests that's not the front of Blenheim.

(CONTINUED)

67 CONTINUED:

67

Sense of the waning but still happening ball and tipsy guests finishing their nightcaps behind Agatha, who's about to step into her carriage when--

YOUNG CHARLOTTE (O.S.)

Lady. Danbury.

A new tone in that delivery. Harsh? Perhaps. Commanding? Definitely. Agatha spins on her heels. Brimsley has the good sense to hang back a bit further than is customary.

AGATHA

Your Majesty. Thank you so very much for--

Charlotte moves in on Agatha, bearing down.

YOUNG CHARLOTTE

--You refuse my brother? Offer him hope of union, of happiness, then break his heart? *At my ball? In my home?*

That just hangs, Charlotte giving Agatha nowhere to go.

AGATHA

Your Majesty, I...

YOUNG CHARLOTTE

His humor may lack wit. And yes. His condescendence knows no bounds. He is, however, a person of fine character and pure heart and someone in your position could find much worse options *could they not!?*

Again, bearing down. Whoa. Agatha submits.

AGATHA

They could indeed, Your Majesty. Please. Accept my apology. Tell me...what might I do in order to--

YOUNG CHARLOTTE

--Adolphus will survive. What concerns me is what I am to do with you.

A beat, Agatha now with good reason to be afraid.

(CONTINUED)

67 CONTINUED: (2)

67

YOUNG CHARLOTTE (CONT'D)

The fact that you did not bring your concerns to me. Your fears regarding your inheritance. Your title. The fate of your family. Of all the families recently titled.

AGATHA

I apologize, Your Majesty. I only did not wish to place my burden on top of your own. Yours which seems so...One crown is heavy enough. But to carry two...

It was a risk for Agatha to bring this up and now based on the stare-down she's getting from her Queen she's definitely regretting it.

YOUNG CHARLOTTE

We are one crown. His weight is mine and mine is his. One. Crown. We rule for the welfare of all our subjects. New and old. Rival and foe. Titled or not.

(threatening/loving)

You tell me my castle walls are too high? I tell you they must be. High as the sky if necessary. To protect you, to protect all our worthy subjects. I suggest you shift your fear to faith. And come to us with your concerns. Directly. To do otherwise would suggest that we are incapable of addressing them. Unless that is what you believe, *Lady Danbury?*

Agatha can barely speak. Impressed, intimidated.

YOUNG CHARLOTTE (CONT'D)

You may go. I shall send for you soon.

AGATHA

(bowing)

Your Majesty.

Agatha steps up and off she goes. Charlotte turns back towards the party to find a double-fisted George attempting to force a drink on Reynolds. Holding one up...

YOUNG KING GEORGE

Indulge, for once. For me.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

67 CONTINUED: (3)

67

YOUNG KING GEORGE (CONT'D)

(Reynolds doesn't
budge)

I am ordering you.

REYNOLDS

I am afraid my sworn commitment to
the welfare of the crown outweighs
your order, Your Majesty.

YOUNG KING GEORGE

Impossible. Off with you.

Reynolds bows and as he exits shoots a look to Brimsley who quickly surveys the situation then makes the call to knock off as well. George offers a glass to Charlotte.

YOUNG KING GEORGE (CONT'D)

Finally, someone who will drink with
me.

YOUNG CHARLOTTE

I will not.

YOUNG KING GEORGE

You refuse me as well!?

YOUNG CHARLOTTE

I do.

YOUNG KING GEORGE

Nonsense. You must.

YOUNG CHARLOTTE

I must not.
(then)
For a while.

George is intrigued.

YOUNG CHARLOTTE (CONT'D)

The stakes are too high. The fates
of too many rest on us securing our
line.

YOUNG KING GEORGE

Our line...Charlotte...

He looks down to her belly, she guides his hand there, confirming the news. George lights up. And that lights her up. Such happiness has rarely been known to mankind.

(CONTINUED)

67 CONTINUED: (4)

67

YOUNG KING GEORGE (CONT'D)

You and me.

YOUNG CHARLOTTE

And them.

YOUNG KING GEORGE

And them.

A shared smile and beautiful loving kiss takes us off to--

67A INT. VIOLET BRIDGERTON'S SITTING ROOM - DAY (BPT)

67A

Lady Danbury arrives for tea. Violet is waiting.

VIOLET

Agatha. Come in. It is lovely to see you. I wish it were a day for a stroll but the weather...

AGATHA

The weather does not obey our wishes.

VIOLET

Come, sit over here.

She has tea set up in an area of the room that requires Agatha to pass the shelves in the room. Agatha pauses. Staring at its contents. A large selection of the birthday hats.

VIOLET (CONT'D)

Those are my birthday hats. I believe I may have told you about them.

LADY DANBURY

Yes. You did. Your father made them for you every year on your birthday, correct?

VIOLET

Yes. And I used to make them for Edward. And then of course there are the ones I have made for the children over the years.

LADY DANBURY

You keep them all. On display?

VIOLET

I did not always but lately...I suppose I am feeling sentimental.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

67A CONTINUED:

67A

VIOLET (CONT'D)

Look, these are the ones my father made. They are cheerful, are they not?

LADY DANBURY

They are.

VIOLET

I thought I would enjoy them for a time. Before I pack them back up, let them go.

LADY DANBURY

You are packing them away?

VIOLET

Yes. It is a rather large collection. And these days I find myself feeling that it is best to leave the past in the past. Do you not agree?

Lady Danbury eyes the birthday hats.

VIOLET (CONT'D)

However, they are filled with memories. Ones I do not want to let go of.

And there is an endless beat. Where Lady Danbury feels like maybe Violet knows and Violet is wondering what will be confirmed. And the longer the moment goes on the more uncomfortable it is...

LADY DANBURY

Violet...

And Violet cannot do it.

VIOLET

Oh! Goodness. Tea. The tea is quite steeped. We should sit.

She turns.

LADY DANBURY

Violet. I believe that you should leave the hats where they are. They are lovely. Cheerful, as you say.

VIOLET

Yes.

(CONTINUED)

67A CONTINUED: (2)

67A

And that is all they are going to say about that. They sit...

VIOLET (CONT'D)

Now. Tell me more about the Queen's brother...

67B EXT. KEW PALACE - DAY (BPT)

67B

The Queen's carriage arrives at Kew. Brimsley waits as the Queen is helped out of her carriage. Hovering.

QUEEN CHARLOTTE

Do not hover, Brimsley. I am quite capable of seeing him on my own.

She heads off. A beat. And then Brimsley can't help himself. He takes a deep breath and heads off too.

67C OMITTED

67C

68 INT. KEW PALACE/BEDCHAMBERS - DAY (BPT)

68

Queen Charlotte enters the room. George is standing, drawing on the walls.

QUEEN CHARLOTTE

George.

GEORGE

Do not bother me in the sky. *

QUEEN CHARLOTTE

George. It is me. It is your Charlotte.

He ignores her, mumbling to himself.

QUEEN CHARLOTTE (CONT'D)

I have some news. George. Wonderful news. George? George?

She is getting nowhere. He isn't acknowledging her. Charlotte stands there. At a loss. And then Queen Charlotte does something that shocks us.

Queen Charlotte gets down on her knees. George pauses to watch as Charlotte lies down and scoots herself under the bed. Once she is under the bed:

QUEEN CHARLOTTE (CONT'D)

Just George? Farmer George?

(CONTINUED)

68 CONTINUED:

68

She waits. Will it work? And then there he is. Peering under the bed at her.

QUEEN CHARLOTTE (CONT'D)

Come. Hide from the heavens with me.

And George scoots under the bed with her. Eyes her with surprise.

GEORGE

Charlotte! Why, hello.

QUEEN CHARLOTTE

Hello, George.

GEORGE

It is quiet here.

QUEEN CHARLOTTE

George. We have succeeded. Our son Edward. He has married and his wife is with child.

GEORGE

Edward is going to be a father?

QUEEN CHARLOTTE

Yes. Your line will live on.

He takes her hand.

GEORGE

Our line.

QUEEN CHARLOTTE

Our line.

GEORGE

Thank you.

QUEEN CHARLOTTE

Thank you.

And very sweetly, he kisses her. Pulls back.

GEORGE

Fancy meeting you here.

Charlotte bursts out laughing. But then sobers at George stares at her, serious and loving.

(CONTINUED)

68 CONTINUED: (2)

68

GEORGE (CONT'D)

You did not go over the wall.

QUEEN CHARLOTTE

No, George. I did not go over the wall.

They lie there under the bed together. And throughout this scene we are sometimes seeing flashes of Young George and Charlotte in this scene intercut with Present Day George and Charlotte. We are watching the people they were and who they are now.