

AN ENGLISH TALE

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ACT I

SCENE I

FADE IN:

EXT. TOWN SQUARE - WIDE ANGLE - DAY

MONTAGE - AROUND TOWN SQUARE

People amble about the busy town square, as they browse and shop around the open-air markets.

Horse-drawn carriages clap along the cobblestone roads.

A bunch of mischievous young children steal fruit from a peddler's cart. He quickly spots them, as they scoot away from a police officer, who chases after them.

A butcher diligently hews at a large slab of meat on a carving board at his meat stand.

Mendicants line the street corners. Some of them beseech passerby for alms, while others simply sleep.

END MONTAGE

EXT. TOWN SQUARE - BACK ALLEYWAY - DAY

One such mendicant, WINSTON MAXSON, is running for his life from a POLICE OFFICER. He makes a sharp turn down the alleyway, as he pulls away from the Police Officer. Winston dashes toward the exit of the alleyway, when he is brought down by the Police Officer, who leaps out of nowhere.

POLICE OFFICER

Forcefully pins Winston to the ground, and arrests him.

POLICE OFFICER
 (manacles Winston)
 Thought you could get away, did
 you? That's what they all think.

A VOICE suddenly interjects.

ARCHIBALD (O.S.)
 Officer, please. This man is with
 me.

The Police Officer looks up.

POLICE OFFICER'S POV

ARCHIBALD CAULFIELD

Stands majestically in the alleyway.

BACK TO SCENE

The Police Officer rises, as he greets and explains the
 situation to Archibald.

POLICE OFFICER
 (doffs his cap)
 Good afternoon, Mr. Caulfield.

ARCHIBALD
 (nods politely)
 Good afternoon, Officer Walden.

POLICE OFFICER
 Are you sure this man is with you,
 Mister Caulfield? I saw him trying
 to steal fruit from Ms. McArthur.

ARCHIBALD
 Oh yes.
 (looks admonishingly at
 Winston)
 Well, I think someone was a little
 impatient while I was purchasing
 the daily papers from the
 newsstand.
 (looks contritely at
 Police Officer)
 And I can assure you, officer, that
 it will never happen again.
 (looks again at Winston)
 Ever!

WINSTON

Unsure of how to react, relaxes and plays along, as he hangs his head in mock-embarrassment.

POLICE OFFICER
 (understanding; unlocks
 manacles on Winston)
 Well, seeing as how you made a
 generous donation to the
 authorities' office, I think we can
 let him go.

ARCHIBALD
 (takes two pence pieces
 from his pocket and
 rewards the Officer)
 Officer, we can't thank you enough
 for your cooperation in this
 matter. Have a frosty ale on the
 both of us. Good day.

POLICE OFFICER
 (kindly)
 Good day, Mister Caulfield.

The Police Officer departs, as Winston and Archibald are both left alone in the alleyway.

ARCHIBALD
 (extends his hands)
 Allow me to introduce myself.
 Archibald Caulfield. And you are?

WINSTON

Confused and slightly afraid, remains silent.

ARCHIBALD
 (sweetly)
 What's the matter? Cat got your
 tongue?

WINSTON
 (coyly)
 No. Rat tried to once.

ARCHIBALD
 (motions to Winston)
 Come with me.

Winston heeds Archibald, as they walk out of the alleyway.

EXT.TOWN SQUARE - SIDEWALKS - DAY

WINSTON AND ARCHIBALD

Promenade along the sidewalk as they are soon in front of a horse-drawn carriage parked in the street. Archibald goes over to the carriage, opens the door, and enters.

ARCHIBALD
 (motions to Winston from
 inside)
 Please come in. It's all right.

WINSTON

Stands suspiciously, as he tentatively moves towards the carriage and enters.

The carriage door closes, as it begins to move down the road.

INT. HORSE-DRAWN CARRIAGE- BACKSEAT - DAY

Winston and Archibald are both seated.

ARCHIBALD
 (pulls out a scone and
 piece of cheese and
 offers them to Winston)
 Are you hungry?

Winston eagerly grabs the edibles from Archibald and begins voraciously devouring them.

WINSTON
 (with mouth full)
 Thank you, kind sir.

ARCHIBALD
 (disgusted)
 You're very welcome.
 (explanatory)
 Anyhow, I have taken you here to discuss a proposition. I was wondering if you are interested. It involves a little bit of secrecy, protocol, and my favorite part, spying.
 (beat)
 In return for your services I will offer you all the opportunities, bare essentials, and even your own place in the monarchy. What do you say to that?

WINSTON
(witty)
Where do I sign up?

Both men shake hands. Archibald subsequently views his hand with disgust and wipes it on a handkerchief.

INT. ARCHIBALD'S PLACE - FRONT DOOR - EARLY EVENING

FRONT DOOR

Slowly opens, as Winston and Archibald are now home. Winston starts to give Winston an excursion.

ARCHIBALD
(shows Winston around)
Welcome to my humble abode.
Nothing fancy. I just enjoy something that gives me shelter with a modicum of decor. You will be living here with me, as we are to discuss in full detail our proposition. If you are not aware, I am part of the local monarchy.

WINSTON
(slightly astounded)
You are?

ARCHIBALD
Yes. My father was of the highest nobility in our homeland. Since his and my mother's untimely passings, I have bequeathed his legacy. I operate two farming estates about half an hour from here. Now that you are with me you will adopt all the customs, mannerisms, and language that is requisite with becoming a member of the monarchy.

WINSTON
Like sayin' 'cuse me when you pass wind and bless you when somebody sneezes?

ARCHIBALD
(with slight dismay)
We start tonight.

MONTAGE - WINSTON AND ARCHIBALD

Archibald shows Winston how to properly use eating utensils, as Winston proceeds to drop a fork.

Archibald shows a shaving cream-clad Winston proper grooming, as he shows Winston how to use a razor.

Winston is headed to the bathroom to wash, as Archibald hands him a bar of soap. Archibald hesitates, and decides to give Winston another bar.

Archibald recites some literary passages, as Winston attentively listens.

END MONTAGE

INT. ARCHIBALD'S PLACE - GUEST BEDROOM - NIGHT

WINSTON

Lies sound asleep in his new bed.

ARCHIBALD

Quietly stands in the doorway of the guest room, as he silently watches Winston.

ARCHIBALD

(sotto voce)

A new member of the monarchy will
come tomorrow.

Archibald takes a lit candle from the nearby dresser and blows it out.

FADE OUT.

SCENE II

FADE IN:

EXT. ROYAL MANOR - ESTABLISHING SHOT - WIDE ANGLE - MORNING

The manor basks in the glow of the bright morning sun, as gardeners diligently tend to the hedges and plants in and around the manor.

CUT TO:

INT. ROYAL MANOR - ARCHIBALD'S OFFICE - MORNING

WINSTON

Sits uncomfortably in a chair across from Archibald's desk.

ARCHIBALD

Sits at his desk, diligently tending to some paperwork. Archibald glances up from his desk, as he notices Winston staring at him.

ARCHIBALD
(inquisitive)
Are you well, Winston?

WINSTON
Why yes, Archie. Why do you ask?

ARCHIBALD
(cross)
Because you are staring at me rather rudely. Remember what I taught you. Be as subtle and inconspicuous as possible.

WINSTON
Is there anything I can do to pass the time?

ARCHIBALD
Well, if you'd like, you could prepare some envelopes for the Spring Formal.
(indicates envelopes' location)
They're over on that shelf there.

Winston rises from his seat, as he goes over to the shelf and starts the task. Winston licks the first envelope and is about to fill it, when he hesitates. He inadvertently smells the scent of the fancy envelopes. Winston quickly looks over at Archibald.

WINSTON'S POV

ARCHIBALD

Remains at his desk, continuing to fill out paperwork and completely impervious to anyone/anything.

BACK TO SCENE

Winston begins to quietly sniff the envelopes, which greatly intoxicate him.

OFFICE DOOR

Opens, as VICTORIA BUNSON, a secretary/assistant of the monarchy, knocks and enters.

ARCHIBALD

Hearing the knock and seeing Victoria, stops his work.

ARCHIBALD
(rises from his desk)
Good day, Victoria.

VICTORIA
Good morning, Archibald. My dearest pardons, but I am here to inform you that your presence is requested in the main hall. They will be naming a new member of the monarchy and...

Victoria stops as she hears a sniffing like noise.

WINSTON

Continues to inhale the enchanting redolence of the envelopes. He soon realizes he is being watched, as he stops and looks.

ARCHIBALD

Gives Winston an admonishing glare.

ARCHIBALD
(polite)
Victoria, I would like to introduce you to the newest member of the monarchy, Winston Maxson.

VICTORIA
(warmly extends her hand)
It's a pleasure to meet you, Mr. Maxson.

WINSTON
(extends his hand)
The pleasure is all mine, me lady.
(sniffs her hand)
(MORE)

WINSTON (cont'd)
 My you smell wonderful If you all
 smell as good as these envelopes, I
 can get used to this.

Victoria looks incredulously at Winston. She then looks at Archibald, who poses an abashed but composed mien.

INT. ROYAL MANOR - MAIN HALL - AFTERNOON

Several prominent members of the monarchy are gathered in attendance in the main hall, as they stand, talk amongst each other, enjoy some hors' d' oeuvre, and await to induct the newest member of the monarchy.

INT. ROYAL MANOR - ARCHIBALD'S OFFICE - AFTERNOON

WINSTON AND ARCHIBALD

Both reside in the office, as they go over Winston's speech.

ARCHIBALD
 (recites speech)
 Now, what is it that you wish to
 accomplish during your time in the
 monarchy?

WINSTON
 (tries to recite speech)
 I hope to accomplish equal
 sovereignty, to uphold the dignity
 of the people of Britain, and to...

ARCHIBALD
 (testily finishes)
 Expand the British Empire to new
 and unprecedented horizons. Please
 try and remember.

WINSTON
 Alright. No need to get your
 knickers in a twist! By the way,
 what are we doing after this?

ARCHIBALD
 We will be attending a small gala,
 which will be held outside on the
 atrium of the manor.
 (tightens Winston's tie)
 This is where a portion of our
 agreement will begin.

WINSTON
 (winces uncomfortably)
 Must you tie it so tight? I feel
 like a robber at the pillory!

ARCHIBALD
 (stern)
 You must look, speak, and conduct
 yourself accordingly as a member of
 the monarchy. It's only temporary.
 (looks at his
 watch; motions to Winston)
 Come, it's time.

INT. ROYAL MANOR - MAIN HALL ENTRANCE - LATE AFTERNOON

Winston and Archibald stand behind the door, as they have a
 brief discussion.

ARCHIBALD
 (sotto voce)
 Do you feel you're ready? Just
 listen to what I told you and stay
 calm.
 (hands Winston a piece of
 paper; sotto voce)
 Here, I have written down the
 speech on paper for you, lest you
 forget.
 (heads for the
 entrance; sotto voce)
 Wait here until I call you up.

WINSTON

Nods silently.

INT. ROYAL MANOR - MAIN HALL - LATE AFTERNOON

ARCHIBALD

Enters through the front doors of the main hall, as the
 bantering crowd comes to a collective hush. Archibald slowly
 approaches the dais, as he composes himself and begins his
 introductory speech.

ARCHIBALD
 (speaks to crowd)
 Good afternoon, ladies, gentlemen,
 and esteemed members of the
 monarchy.
 (MORE)

ARCHIBALD (cont'd)

For centuries we have seen some of the greatest political and social leaders of our time lead this great nation to utmost omnipotence and prestige. I am here today to introduce to you the newest member of our institution.

(beat)

He was born to wealth and promise in Lower Shire County. However, he chose to forgo the route to immediate high ranking and has worked diligently and privately in our department of trade and commerce and the treasury. Ladies and gentlemen, would you please give a kind round of applause for Mr. Winston Maxson.

INT. ROYAL MANOR - MAIN HALL ENTRANCE - LATE AFTERNOON

Winston stands nervously behind the door, as he hears his name and enters.

INT. ROYAL MANOR - MAIN HALL - LATE AFTERNOON

Winston is now in the main hall, as he is met with thunderous APPLAUSE from the audience, as he approaches the dais. Archibald kindly steps aside, as Winston is now at the dais, as he composes himself and begins his speech.

WINSTON

(calmly speaks to crowd)

Hello, all. If I may introduce myself, my name is Winston Maxson. I come from a long line of distinguished and reputable family members who have graced this fine hierarchy. My father, God rest his soul, owned a livery that served as a main source of conveyance for citizens in Britain. My mother passed on during my younger years, and I never really knew her.

(beat)

I would just like to say what an honour it is to be amongst you all, the elite and upstanding figures of our fine country.

(MORE)

WINSTON (cont'd)
 I will do my very best to help take
 Britain to new and unprecedented
 horizons.

AUDIENCE

APPLAUDS and gives Winston a standing ovation. Winston
 decides to add one more thing to his speech.

WINSTON
 And may I say that you all smell so
 wonderful!

AUDIENCE

Falls silent.

CLOSEUP - ARCHIBALD'S ASTOUNDED FACE

CLOSEUP - WINSTON'S BEAMING FACE

FADE OUT.

SCENE III

FADE IN:

EXT. ROYAL MANOR - ATRIUM - MAGIC HOUR

The banquet following the inauguration is now underway.
 Members of the monarchy sit and stand, idly conversing,
 enjoying fine food and drink, relaxing with a smoke, and
 basking in the crisp, evening air.

WINSTON AND ARCHIBALD

Stand by the atrium steps, as they each enjoy a drink.

WINSTON
 So, what did you think of my
 speech?

ARCHIBALD
 (sarcastic;sips his drink)
 Well, it had a stellar beginning,
 solid body, and rather crass
 conclusion.

WINSTON
 (jokingly)
 Oh, come now, Archie. Live a
 little. If you were any tighter
 your knickers would be up your bum!

ARCHIBALD

(stern; sotto voce)

May I remind you that you are in the presence of dignified and high-ranking figures! That form of speech is to be avoided at all times.

Winston recoils and composes himself. He and Archibald continue to stand, when Archibald spots someone.

ARCHIBALD

(grabs Winston)

There she is.

MENS' POV

EMMA WINTHROP

Stands gracefully against a wall in the dining hall.

BACK TO SCENE

Winston and Archibald subtly but admiringly look on.

WINSTON

(awestruck)

Who is she?

ARCHIBALD

(looks on admiringly)

Ms. Emma Winthrop. Isn't she the most beautiful creature you've ever beheld?

(gently nudges Winston)

Go on. Introduce yourself. I'm going to talk to someone.

Archibald departs, as Winston is left by himself. Winston slowly ambles over to the dining hall, when he gets an idea.

INT. ROYAL MANOR - DINING HALL - NIGHT

Winston grabs a plate and stands in line at the buffet table, where neatly-dressed butlers serve food to the party-goers. Winston has some food on his plate, as he warmly thanks the butler and begins to eat. He takes some crackers, dips them in a delectable-looking spread, and eats. A VOICE suddenly interjects.

EMMA (O.S.)

I see you really enjoy the pate.

Winston proceeds to quickly swallow his cracker and looks up from his plate.

WINSTON'S POV

EMMA

Stands majestically, as she looks warmly at Winston

BACK TO SCENE

Winston looks coyly at Emma, as the two start to converse

WINSTON
(polite)
I beg your pardon.

EMMA
The pate. It seems you really
enjoy the pate.

WINSTON
(eats cracker; mouth half
full)
Yes, it's quite tasty. If I only
knew what it was.

EMMA
It's goose liver.

Winston, upon hearing Emma, spits out the cracker, and quickly grabs a glass of water from a nearby table. Some of the guests in the dining hall look on in astonishment.

EMMA

Covers her mouth, trying to hide her laughter.

WINSTON

Cleans and composes himself.

EMMA
(greatly amused)
My. It seems the monarchy has its
own court jester.

WINSTON
(politely apologizes)
Please excuse me, Miss..Miss...

EMMA

(extends her hand)

Allow me to introduce myself. Emma
Winthrop.

WINSTON

Miss Winthrop, Winston Maxson.

(politely kisses her hand)

The honour is all mine.

EMMA

Slightly blushes and smiles at Winston.

EXT. ROYAL MANOR - ATRIUM STAIRCASE - DAY

EMMA AND WINSTON

Sit quietly in the same spot where Winston and Archibald
stood moments earlier. The two begin to talk.

EMMA

So, your father was in the livery
business? May I presume that your
childhood was a favourable and
privileged one?

WINSTON

(explanatory)

Well, it's had its bright and darks
sides. I loved both my parents
very much. There was just a bit of
tension, as there are with all
families. However, there is one
benefit of being part of this
contingent.

EMMA

(inquisitive)

Really. And what would that be?

WINSTON

(charming)

That I get to meet wonderful people
such as yourself.

EMMA AND WINSTON

Smile coyly at each other.

EMMA

(curious)

I've never even seen you. How long have you known Archibald?

WINSTON

Oh, well, it's been some time now. I basically helped him with small, remedial work. I guess you can call me his man behind the curtain.

EMMA

With Archibald, you're often relegated to life behind the curtains.

WINSTON

(slightly confounded)

I don't comprehend.

EMMA

(dismissive)

Nevermind.

WINSTON

Speaking of Archibald, where in the devil can he be?

INT. ROYAL MANOR - DINING HALL - CORNER TABLE - NIGHT

ARCHIBALD AND FEMALE PARTY GOER

Sit comfortably at their table, as they start to converse.

ARCHIBALD

Lovely evening, isn't it.

FEMALE PARTY GOER

(looks around in awe)

Yes. We couldn't have asked for a better night.

ARCHIBALD

I've always loved these get-togethers. Friends, the monarchy, the remembrance of times past, and getting to meet lovely young women such as yourself.

FEMALE PARTY GOER

(coy)

Oh, please.

A Waiter comes INTO VIEW, as he arrives at their table, with a bottle of fine wine.

ARCHIBALD

Oh, how lovely. The spirits are here.

(takes the bottle from waiter)

Thank you, George.

The Waiter exits OUT OF VIEW, as Archibald goes to open the bottle.

ARCHIBALD

(looks admiringly at bottle)

A berry Merlot, aged ten years. Imported exclusively from the vineyards of France. This is quite difficult to come by.

(looks ardently at Female Party Goer)

And I can think of no finer creature who is more deserving of such a beverage. What do you say we uncork the magic?

Archibald starts to open the wine bottle, as the Female Party Goer looks on enchanted. Archibald uncorks the bottle.

ARCHIBALD

(intuitive)

What makes this evening complete are the smooth and melodious sounds of Mr. Leach's orchestra.

(closes his eyes and deeply listens to music)

Listen to the sound. Like the cherubs and seraphim of God's heavenly realm.

(opens his eyes; motions to girl)

Look at how his hands move along the strings. Skill and artistry at its most proficient.

FEMALE PARTY GOER

Turns her head to watch and listen to the small orchestra.

ARCHIBALD

Seeing his chance, begins to pour the wine into two goblets.

CLOSEUP - ARCHIBALD'S HAND

Swiftly and furtively places a sedative into the wine glass of the Female Party Goer.

ARCHIBALD

Finishes pouring, as he redirects the young girl's attention.

ARCHIBALD

Yes, my dear. The simple pleasures are the ones we do indeed take for granted.

(hands wine goblet to her)

Here you are, my love.

(raises his glass)

A toast. To a lovely and special evening, and many more to come.

The Female Party Goer and Archibald CLICK their GLASSES, as they each take a sip.

FEMALE PARTY GOER

(inquisitive)

So, I hear you are a member of the monarchy?

ARCHIBALD

(proudly)

Why, yes, yes I am. I'm hoping to join the elite.

FEMALE PARTY GOER

Do you know Sir William Nagy?

ARCHIBALD

(tries to remember)

Well, the name sounds quite familiar, but I've never met the gentleman.

FEMALE PARTY GOER

Yes. Sir William Nagy is my uncle. He is one of the wealthiest men in all of Britain.

ARCHIBALD

(memory refreshed)

Oh, yes! Now I remember. Sir William Nagy. A fine gentleman in every sense of the word.

FEMALE PARTY GOER

(charming)

I'm sure he would love to meet you.

ARCHIBALD

I would be greatly honoured to make his acquaintance.

FEMALE PARTY GOER

(seductive)

Maybe it's the wine talking, but from this angle you are looking more and more attractive.

ARCHIBALD

(witty)

Oh, it must be the wine, love.

(concerned)

Are you okay, dear?

FEMALE PARTY GOER

(holds her head)

Yes. All of a sudden I feel very tired.

ARCHIBALD

(apologetic)

Oh, I felt this wine would be a tad too potent for you.

FEMALE PARTY GOER

(dismissive)

Oh, not at all. It has a lovely flavor.

(hands her glass to Archibald)

Please pour me another glass.

ARCHIBALD

(takes glass)

Of course.

(hesitates)

Wait. Listen. This is one of Mr. Leach's masterpieces. A continuous melody that climaxes with a violin solo.

(motions to young girl)

Take in the melodious lilts, my dear.

FEMALE PARTY GOER

Heeds Archibald, and turns around to face the orchestra.

ARCHIBALD

Seeing another chance, pours the wine and slips another sedative into the young girl's wine glass.

ARCHIBALD
 (beckons young girl; hands
 her wine glass)
 Here we are, dear.

They both drink some more.

FEMALE PARTY GOER
 (dizzily looks at her
 glass)
 My dear. This is more potent than
 I thought.

ARCHIBALD
 (concerned)
 Are you sure you are well, love?

FEMALE PARTY GOER
 (drunkenly)
 Yes, I should be fine. I just need
 to rest my head.

ARCHIBALD
 (gets up from his chair
 and attends to young
 girl)
 Oh yes, my dear. Come with me. I
 know of a spare room where I can
 take you.

The Female Party Goer, with Archibald's help, slowly rises from her chair, as they both depart from their table.

EXT. ROYAL MANOR - ATRIUM STEPS - NIGHT

EMMA AND WINSTON

Remain on the steps, as they continue to converse.

EMMA
 My, you've led quite an interesting
 life, Winston.

WINSTON
 (modest)
 Yes, but don't we all? In the big
 picture, we're all people.
 (MORE)

WINSTON (cont'd)
 People created in God's image.
 That is what makes us special.

EMMA
 Yes.

The two stare at each other, when a SERVANT comes INTO VIEW, as he approaches them.

SERVANT
 Pardon me, Mister Maxson, but a toast in your honour will commence in ten minutes. We ask for your presence in the dining hall.

WINSTON
 Of course. Thank you.
 (warmly extends his hand)
 Miss Winthrop, would you do the honour of accompanying me?

EMMA
 (happily takes his hand)
 I would be honoured.

They both depart from the atrium steps, as they, along with everyone from outside, make their way into the dining hall.

INT. ROYAL MANOR - SPARE BEDROOM - NIGHT

YOUNG GIRL AND ARCHIBALD

Lay idly in bed, as they have just completed their evening together.

FEMALE PARTY GOER
 (tiredly; cheerfully)
 My goodness, you were incredible.

ARCHIBALD
 Thank you. You were very...
 (hesitates)
 Respectable.

FEMALE PARTY GOER
 I can't wait to introduce you to my uncle William. In fact, I'll even put in a good word for you.

ARCHIBALD
 That would be very nice of you.
 But please don't tell him of our meeting together.

FEMALE PARTY GOER
 (tiredly)
 You have my word.

ARCHIBALD
 (turns to young girl)
 And you know, what else...

Before Archibald can continue, a SNORING NOISE proceeds. Archibald looks to see the young girl is fast asleep, as she SNORES loudly.

ARCHIBALD
 (looks at his
 watch;exclaims)
 Oh, dear. It's time for the toast
 for Winston.
 (gently caresses young
 girl)
 Good night, fair maiden.

Archibald dresses and departs from the spare bedroom to join everyone in the dining hall.

INT. ROYAL MANOR - DINING HALL - NIGHT

All of the members of the monarchy are gathered around a table, as Winston sits at the head, ready for his honorary toast.

ARCHIBALD

Arrives just in time, as he adjusts his tie and joins everyone.

He picks up a glass and blends in with the crowd. One of the heads of the monarchy, LORD ANGUS MCCAIN, rises from his seat, as he is met with esteemed applause.

LORD ANGUS MCCAIN
 (kindly waves to everyone)
 Thank you, ladies and gentlemen.
 We are here tonight to inaugurate a
 new member of our esteemed
 monarchy. I am sure you will
 become familiar with him, as he
 will be serving alongside Archibald
 Caulfield. Ladies and gentlemen,
 if we may raise a glass to the
 newest member of our family, Mister
 Winston Maxson.

WIDE ANGLE - EVERYONE

Raises their glasses in a toast to Winston.

EVERYONE
(aloud)
Skoal!

Everyone sips their champagne.

WINSTON

Finishes sipping his champagne.

He then lets out an enormous BELCH. Everyone at the table falls silent, as all eyes are on Winston.

CLOSEUP - ARCHIBALD'S STUNNED FACE

WINSTON

Remains seated, as he looks around.

WINSTON
(witty)
Whew! I'm glad that didn't come
out the other end!

Everyone at the table remain silent, as they suddenly burst into LAUGHTER.

CLOSEUP - WINSTON'S BEAMING FACE

FADE OUT.

SCENE IV

FADE IN:

INT. ARCHIBALD'S PLACE - WASHROOM - MORNING

Archibald is busily washing up, ready for another day at the monarchy.

WINSTON

Remains sound asleep in bed.

ARCHIBALD

Finishes washing up, as he enters the guest bedroom to wake up Winston. Archibald stops in his tracks, as he gets an idea.

EXT. ARCHIBALD'S PLACE - WELL - MORNING

Archibald fills a basin with cold water from the well.

INT. ARCHIBALD'S PLACE - GUEST BEDROOM - MORNING

CLOSEUP - WINSTON'S SLEEPING FACE

As WATER suddenly SPLASHES onto it.

WINSTON

Quickly leaps out of bed, as he looks around and sees Archibald.

WINSTON

(cross)

My goodness, Archie. Are you trying to give me a bloody cold?

ARCHIBALD

(explanatory)

Forgive me, Winston. We need to be up early. Today is your first day of spying on Ms. Winthrop. I want you to give me complete details on everything you see.

(throws Winston a dry towel)

I will be at the manor attending to some official business. I have already informed them that you will be away. Be back at my place at about two sharp.

WINSTON

(dries himself)

Well, Archie, what is it that you want to know about the beautiful and lovely Ms. Winthrop?

ARCHIBALD

I want you to tell me everything you see. What she is doing, her external emotional state, and most importantly, if she is with a male counterpart.

WINSTON

(sarcastic)

Goodness, would you also like to know what she's wearing?

ARCHIBALD

(stern)

The thought hadn't occurred to me,
but since you brought it up...

WINSTON

(slightly daunted)

I really have some work to do.

ARCHIBALD

I should say you do. We will be
departing for the Town Square. She
likes to eat a light breakfast at
the local eatery on the East End.
You will be dropped off and picked
up by way of the carriage. Do have
any questions?

WINSTON

None.

EXT. TOWN SQUARE - WIDE ANGLE - DAY

HORSE-DRAWN CARRIAGE

Pulls up to the Town Square. Winston exits the carriage, as
he prepares to do his bidding.

ARCHIBALD

Prepares to shut the carriage door, when he sees Winston.

ARCHIBALD

Yes?

WINSTON

Could you spare some change for a
small bite of food?

ARCHIBALD

(hands Winston some pence
pieces; sarcastic)

Once a bum, always a beggar.

Archibald closes the carriage door, as the carriage departs.

WINSTON

Slowly begins to walk along the streets and looks around. He
soon spots something.

WINSTON'S POV

GROUP OF MENDICANTS

As they lie helplessly on the street corners, most of them sleeping.

BACK TO SCENE

Winston looks somberly at the mendicants, and decides to do something.

WINSTON

Stands in front of a fruit cart, as he purchases some apples from a vendor. Winston pays the woman, thanks her and departs.

EXT. TOWN SQUARE - STREET CORNER - DAY

Winston walks quietly along the street corners, as he places an apple in each of the sleeping mendicants' coat pockets.

INT. LOCAL EATERY - DAY

A waiter leads Winston to his table, as Winston sits down, places his order, and politely thanks the waitress. Winston casually relaxes at his table, when he quickly notices someone.

WINSTON'S POV

EMMA

Sits at a table across the room from Winston. She is casually enjoying a light breakfast of tea and toast, and is deeply immersed in a novel.

BACK TO SCENE

The waitress brings Winston a cup of tea. Winston thanks her, as she departs OUT OF VIEW. Winston, trying not to be recognized, subtly maneuvers himself at his table, all the while carefully watching. He takes a sip of tea, as he squints his eyes, as he tries to see what Emma is reading.

WINSTON'S POV

CLOSEUP - TATTERED BOOK COVER

Reads "Tolstoy".

BACK TO SCENE

Winston finishes his cup of tea, as he throws a few pence pieces on the table, and swiftly departs.

EMMA

Continues to read. She intuits something and quickly lifts her head.

EMMA'S POV

WINSTON'S TABLE

Is empty.

EXT. TOWN SQUARE - SIDEWALK - DAY

Winston dashes along the streets of the Town Square, as he crosses the street.

Winston waits patiently for the carriage, when he suddenly encounters a fellow STREET MENDICANT.

STREET MENDICANT

(pleadingly grabs
Winston's leg)

Kind Sir. Could you spare some
alms for a poor man? Please, help
me.

The Horse-Drawn Carriage arrives, as Winston is confused at to what he should do. The CARRIAGE DRIVER beckons Winston.

CARRIAGE DRIVER

We must be departing, Sir Maxson.

WINSTON

Stares down at the groveling mendicant, as he walks right past her and enters the carriage.

MENDICANT

Remains despondently on the ground.

CARRIAGE DOOR

Opens, as Winston flips a small pence piece to the mendicant.

CLOSEUP - WINSTON'S SOBER FACE

INT. ROYAL MANOR - ARCHIBALD'S OFFICE - DAY

ARCHIBALD

Sits at his desk, busily attending to some documents. He suddenly hears the OFFICE DOOR OPEN, as he gets up.

WINSTON

Walks through the door.

ARCHIBALD

So, any news to impart?

WINSTON

Well, I happened onto the eatery as you said. She was there, enjoying a meal and a novel.

ARCHIBALD

(curious)

Really. Which one?

WINSTON

Tolstoy. She seemed quite enthralled with it.

ARCHIBALD

(nods his head)

Yes, well Leo always has a way with the maidens. Did you happen upon anything else?

WINSTON

(explanatory)

No. I was trying to see what book it was when I thought she would see me. That's when I left the eatery and went down the end of the street, where she wouldn't catch up to me.

ARCHIBALD

(takes cigarette from case and lights it)

Very well done, Winston. Emma has always been the scholarly one in her family. She also has a sister but let us not get into her. Though I know many who have.

WINSTON

Who is this Tolstoy? Are his books
any good?

ARCHIBALD

(exhales smoke;kiddingly)
My, aren't we suddenly intrigued
about classic literature?

WINSTON

Well, his name sounds so familiar
that I thought I might try to read
some of his work.

ARCHIBALD

(takes another puff of his
cigarette)
Well, if you are interested, we
have some of his books in the manor
library. It's the largest in the
country.

WINSTON

Maybe I'll peruse it at my leisure.

INT. ROYAL MANOR - MANOR LIBRARY - DAY

Winston quietly peruses through some classic literature
tomes. He squints unknowingly at some words in the book. He
quickly grabs a nearby dictionary, as he looks up some words.

FADE OUT.

SCENE V

FADE IN:

INT. ROYAL MANOR - DINING HALL- EVENING

WINSTON AND ARCHIBALD

Sit at their respective table, as they enjoy their meal and
have a discussion.

WINSTON

(mouth half
full;inquisitive)
Archie, if you don't mind my
interrogation, why don't you speak
to Emma?

ARCHIBALD

(sober)

Well, Winston, it's quite a long story. Are you prepared to listen to a lengthy and drawn-out personal narrative?

WINSTON

Well, we are at lunch, aren't we?

ARCHIBALD

(explanatory)

Emma and I had been together for nearly six years. We were once betrothed. It was around the time we were about to wed, when I discovered Emma was seeing someone else. I decided to call off our wedding, citing "unfortunate circumstances". I never told anyone in the monarchy then nor now.

WINSTON

(astounded)

I can't believe it.

ARCHIBALD

(sober)

It was then I told myself that I would not be affiliated with someone who lacked the fidelity and honesty that I saw fit to raise children, advance within the monarchy, or to share my life with.

WINSTON

Did you ever discover whom she was with?

ARCHIBALD

(slightly uncomfortable)

If you'll excuse me, I feel uncomfortable continuing with this story.

WINSTON

Of course.

ARCHIBALD

(looks intently at Winston)

(MORE)

ARCHIBALD (cont'd)

This is the reason I presented to you our proposition. I have a serious problem, Winston. My mind says no, yet my heart persists in saying yes. Passion is the one disease for which there is no cure.

WINSTON

Archie, until now I have seen a side of the monarchy I never knew existed. One of a compassionate, loyal, and justifiable body which will continue to rule and reinvent itself. And I'm honoured to be a part of it.

ARCHIBALD

And we couldn't be happier to have you.

(looks surprised at Winston)

My goodness. Quite the proper use of words, no?

WINSTON

(modest)

Well, you know, the manor library.

Both men raise their glasses and toast each other.

EXT. TOWN SQUARE - DAY

Winston walks along the sidewalks of Town Square, when he suddenly spots someone.

WINSTON'S POV

EMMA

Stands and browses at some works from a local art stand from across the street.

BACK TO SCENE

Winston, afraid Emma will see him, quickly departs into a back alley

EXT. TOWN SQUARE - BACK ALLEYWAY - WIDE ANGLE -DAY

Winston slowly walks through the back alley, when he hears someone coming. Winston quickly hides behind an empty wooden crate nearby. A local merchant comes INTO VIEW, whistling while carrying a small crate while he walks out of the back alleyway.

The merchant departs OUT OF VIEW, as Winston emerges from out behind the wooden crate and quickly makes his way from out of the back alleyway.

EXT. TOWN SQUARE - SIDEWALK - DAY

Winston is about to flee, when he sees Emma, who is right next to him. However, Emma is completely oblivious to him, as she peruses through a book from a local merchant. Winston quickly flees into a nearby tent.

SIGN ON TENT

Reads "FORTUNE TELLER".

INT. FORTUNE TELLER'S TENT - DAY

Winston is now inside, as he frantically looks for a place to hide. Finding nothing, he opens a small closet, which is filled with Gypsy clothes. Winston looks curiously at the clothes, but decides to put them on. Just as Winston finishes dressing, a VOICE intervenes.

FORTUNE TELLER (O.S.)
(angrily)
Where have you been?

WINSTON

Turns around, as his face is fully shrouded in a kerchief.

FORTUNE TELLER

Stands and stares angrily at Winston.

FORTUNE TELLER
(pushes Winston out of
tent)
Go on now.

Winston heads out to the customer. It is Emma.

WINSTON
(sotto voce; takes Emma's
hand)
Hello, my child. Please come with
me.

EMMA
(follows Winston)
Thank you.

INT. FORTUNE TELLER'S TENT - DAY

CLOSEUP - CRYSTAL BALL

EMMA AND WINSTON

Sit on soft throw pillows around the crystal ball, as Winston tries his best to impersonate a fortune teller.

WINSTON

(peers into crystal
ball;sotto voce)

I am looking into the crystal ball,
and I am seeing something. You will
have considerable fortune ahead of
you. Your health will remain in
its same, solid state. But most
importantly, I see love on the
horizon.

(beat)

A tall, dark, handsome man will
enter your life soon. He is a kind
and noble man. However, you must
approach him with your feelings,
not let him approach you. Be
subtle yet firm in your convictions
and he will come to you.

EMMA

Yes, there is someone. His name is
Winston. I have just become
acquainted with him. He is
charming, witty, and the warmest
man.

WINSTON

(witty;sotto voce)

Oh, you don't have to tell me.

EMMA

(looks curiously at
Winston)

I beg your pardon.

WINSTON

(hesitates;sotto voce)

Oh, what I meant to say is that I
am not surprised to see someone
like yourself having love in her
future.

EMMA

(understanding)

Oh, thank you very much. You have
more than brightened up my day.

(MORE)

EMMA (cont'd)
 Before I depart, I must know your
 name.

WINSTON
 (hesitates; sotto voce)
 My name? It's...Gypsy. Gypsy
 Gypsy.

EMMA
 (takes two pence pieces
 and places them in a
 nearby cup)
 Well, Miss Gypsy, your auguries
 will make my future all the more
 pleasant. Again, thank you so
 much.

Emma departs from the tent.

WINSTON

Takes the handkerchief off of his face and lets out a sigh of
 relief.

WINSTON
 (exasperated; rubs his
 brow)
 My goodness, the future isn't what
 it was.

FADE OUT.

SCENE VI

FADE IN:

EXT. ROYAL MANOR - ESTABLISHING SHOT - WIDE ANGLE - AFTERNOON

The manor lies still in the afternoon sun.

CUT TO:

INT. ROYAL MANOR - ARCHIBALD'S OFFICE - AFTERNOON

WINSTON

Happily licks some more envelopes, when he hears the OFFICE
 DOOR open.

Archibald enters, as he greets Winston.

ARCHIBALD

So Winston, have we any news on the lovely Miss Emma?

WINSTON

Why, yes. She was having her fortune told to her by a gypsy on the West End.

ARCHIBALD

Really. Did you see any of it?

WINSTON

(witty)

Well, I guess you could say I had an up-close view.

ARCHIBALD

You did?

WINSTON

(hesitates)

Well... Yes, I had a good view from afar as the gypsy made her forecasts.

ARCHIBALD

(a little surprised)

My goodness, I never thought Emma would take such an interest in alternate beliefs. Did you see anything else?

WINSTON

Well, she also made a stop at the local fruit stand. She purchased some berries and apples.

ARCHIBALD

Yes, I do love apples myself.

WINSTON

I am more of a melon man myself.

ARCHIBALD

(intrigued)

Really. What kind?

WINSTON

(confounded; makes a motion with his hands)

You know, the big ones.

ARCHIBALD

Looks curiously at Winston, but soon shakes his head in disregard and returns to his paperwork.

ARCHIBALD

(looks down at his papers)
By the way, I noticed that you took out some books from the manor's library. Attempting to exercise our intellectual capacity, eh?

WINSTON

Well, if my memory serves me correctly, I read something by him when I was a tad. I thought it would be nice to become reacquainted.

ARCHIBALD

Are you really familiar with his works?

WINSTON

Oh, yes. I was quite fond of the one about the girl. She was in the book.

(tries to remember)
What was her name?

ARCHIBALD

(looks up from his paperwork)
Anna Kareina?

WINSTON

(correctly points and exclaims)
Oh yes, that's the one!

ARCHIBALD

(looks at his watch)
Heavens, look at the time. I have a meeting with the Chancellor of Hilshire.
(rises from his desk)
If you'll excuse me Winston, I must be leaving.

Archibald departs from his office, as Winston waves goodbye. Winston is now alone in Archibald's office. He slowly ambles around the office, carefully looking at its surroundings. Winston arrives at Archibald's desk. He looks to see if anyone is around.

Seeing no one, Winston slowly plops down into Archibald's chair, making himself comfortable and kicking up his feet on Archibald's desk. However, he leans back a bit too much, and proceeds to fall on the floor with a resounding THUD.

Winston quickly makes it to his feet, as he looks for anyone while brushing himself off. Winston quickly comes across something on Archibald's desk.

WINSTON'S POV

CLOSEUP - NEWSPAPER ARTICLE

Lays under glass on Archibald's desk. The headline reads, "CAULFIELD AND WIFE FOUND MURDERED".

BACK TO SCENE

Winston quietly reads the article to himself, when a VOICE suddenly intervenes.

VICTORIA (O.S.)

Not exactly happily ever after, is it?

Winston, startled, quickly looks up.

VICTORIA

Stands sternly in the doorway, as she watches Winston.

WINSTON

Good day, Miss Bunson.

VICTORIA

Mister Maxson.

WINSTON

(a little embarrassed)
Please do not receive the wrong impression.

VICTORIA

(serious)
Not at all. I'm surprised someone as close to Archibald as you are doesn't know. Has he ever told you what happened to his parents?

WINSTON

He's never said anything about it to me. I would think that would be a sensitive issue for him.

VICTORIA

It is. Well, if you promise not to tell anyone, I will give you a brief summation.

WINSTON

(serious)

You have my word.

VICTORIA

(explanatory)

Archibald was born into dire but bearable circumstances. His parents were very well-respected and esteemed citizens about town. His father worked as a blacksmith. His mother was a maid for the Monarchy. They were celebrating their wedding anniversary at home. The next morning they were both found dead.

(beat)

The apothecary said it was poisoning. Archibald was left an orphan and went to several foster homes. When he was legally of age, he applied to college and was accepted to some of the finest educational institutes in all of Britain.

(beat)

He graduated at the top of his class with honours. He then decided that he wanted to become part of the monarchy. He started out as a messenger boy and has since ascended to the upper echelon.

WINSTON

(astounded)

My goodness, he has led quite a life.

VICTORIA

Without question. He is one of the smartest and most well-respected people in all of Britain. You are very fortunate to be of his acquaintance.

WINSTON

How long have you known him?

VICTORIA

Seven years. I received a position here due in part to my pedigree. My uncle was a baron of the Hampshire estate. I look forward to become more fully involved in government.

WINSTON

Yes, well good luck with that.
 (looks at his watch)
 Well, time has seemed to accelerate and I must be off. Good day, Miss Bunson, and I enjoyed our conversation.

VICTORIA

The pleasure has been mine, Mister Maxson.

Winston departs from Archibald's office.

CLOSEUP - VICTORIA'S FACE

As she smiles cryptically.

EXT. TOWN SQUARE - WEST END - DAY

Winston is enjoying a beautiful day on the West End of Town Square, as he ambles along the sidewalks and into the local tavern.

INT. LOCAL TAVERN - DAY

Winston pulls up a stool, as the BARTENDER warmly greets him.

BARTENDER

(friendly)
 Hello, mate. What can I get for you?

WINSTON

A mug of ale, please.

BARTENDER

(gets Winston's drink)
 One mug of ale, coming right up.

The Bartender serves Winston his drink, as Winston thanks him, and takes a sip. Winston relaxes, as he looks casually around the bar. He swiftly notices something.

WINSTON'S POV

CLOSEUP - NEWSPAPER ARTICLE

Posted on the tavern's bulletin board. It is the same one from Archibald's office.

BACK TO SCENE

Winston, carefully looks at the article, when the VOICE of the Bartender interjects.

BARTENDER (O.S.)

See you're reading up on old man
Caulfield, eh?

WINSTON

(turns to Bartender; coy)
Yes, it seemed a bit interesting.
Did you know him?

BARTENDER

(waxes nostalgic)
I sure did. Boy, what a gentleman.
I remember him well. Every
Wednesday he used to come in here.
Treated everybody to drinks, a hard
worker, treated everyone with
respect. I only wish his son were
of the same mold.

WINSTON

(curious)
What do you mean?

BARTENDER

(explanatory)
Well, his son was said to be the
unruly type. A tough one, brat, as
they say. I never knew what
happened to him, though. His
father used to always tell me what
a hard time his son gave him and
his wife. Just a man of the
highest quality.

WINSTON

(inquisitive)
If you don't mind me asking, do you
know where this gentleman used to
live?

BARTENDER

Oh, yes. He lived about a mile off from here, in a small house in the woods. I think the home is abandoned.

WINSTON

Would you happen to know if it still stands?

BARTENDER

To the best of my knowledge, yes.

WINSTON

(takes a sip of ale)
Quite intriguing.

BARTENDER

(turns around and dries some glasses)
That's the sad thing about good people. Just as you say hello, they say goodbye.
(turns around to Winston)
Say, can I get you...

Before the Bartender can finish, he is met with a surprising sight.

BARTENDER'S POV

EMPTY MUG OF ALE AND PENCE PIECES

Lie idly on the bar, as Winston's stool is empty.

EXT. DEEP WOODS - WIDE ANGLE - DAY

WINSTON

Dashes through the woods, in search of the old Caulfield home. Winston continues, when he suddenly comes to a halt.

WIDE ANGLE - OLD CAULFIELD HOUSE

Rests abandoned in the middle of the woods.

WINSTON

Tentatively approaches the house, looks to see if anyone is around. Seeing no one, he slowly enters inside.

INT. OLD CAULFIELD HOME - DAY

Winston carefully walks through the abandoned home, as he looks around. The house is dilapidated, dusty, and dingy, with barely a sign that someone once lived there.

Winston enters what appears to be the former kitchen

INT. OLD CAULFIELD HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Winston carefully walks around the kitchen. There is an old, rusty stove in the corner, as a table with three legs rests in the center. Dust covered cabinets reside on the wall.

Winston decides to open up one of the cabinets, when he is met with a startling sight.

WINSTON'S POV

MOLDY PIECE OF CHEESE AND CRUST OF BREAD

As two rats gently gnaw at them.

BACK TO SCENE

Winston, startled by the sight, quickly slams the cabinet door shut and exits.

INT. OLD CAULFIELD HOME - BEDROOM - DAY

Winston slowly makes his way into what appears to be the main bedroom. A medium-sized, mold filled bed lies in the middle of the room, as a small night table rests in the right corner.

Winston goes over to the night table, as he sees something and picks it up from off of the night table. He takes a handkerchief from his shirt pocket and cleans off the dust. Winston looks at.

WINSTON'S POV

CLOSEUP - SMALL PICTURE FRAME

Shows a family portrait of the Caulfields.

BACK TO SCENE

Winston looks closely at the picture.

EXTREME CLOSEUP - MEDAL

Pinned to the lapel of Archibald's coat in the portrait.

WINSTON

Looks to see if anyone is around, as he carefully slips the picture frame in his inner coat pocket and departs.

INT. OLD CAULFIELD HOUSE - BEDROOM - DAY

Winston has now entered what appears to be Archibald's old bedroom. He carefully observes the surroundings. A small, mold-filled bed rests in the left corner of the room, but very little else.

WINSTON'S FOOT

Steps carefully along the creaky wooden floor, when it accidentally steps on a loose floorboard and BREAKS through.

WINSTON

Tries to maneuver his foot from out of the floorboard, as he carefully pulls his foot out. Winston dusts his pants leg off, as he suddenly notices something hidden underneath the floorboard. He delves inside, as he unearths a SMALL, DUST-COVERED BOOKLET.

Winston blows off the dust, as he begins to peruse it. He looks to see if anyone is around. Seeing no one, he quickly slips the booklet into his inner coat pocket and departs.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT I

ACT II

SCENE VII

FADE IN:

EXT. MONARCHY MANOR - ESTABLISHING SHOT - WIDE ANGLE - DAY

Myriad carriages are parked outside the manor.

CUT TO:

INT. MONARCHY MANOR - AUDITORIUM - DAY

Members of the monarchy are seated at a round table for a very important meeting, discussing the primary issues for the monarchy and the nation of Great Britain.

WINSTON AND ARCHIBALD

Sit quietly. Winston watches everyone at the meeting, while Archibald attentively listens and records notes. One of the members of the monarchy, SAMUEL NORTHAM, currently has the floor.

SAMUEL

(aloud)

And I hope we can see it through in the future. Thank you.

Samuel is met with APPLAUSE from everyone at the table, when he has something to add.

SAMUEL

Well, it seems that the newest member of our monarchy is also the shyest.

(looks at Winston)

Winston, is there anything that you wish to contribute?

ARCHIBALD

(kindly intervenes)

Samuel, it is with utmost earnesty that I feel Winston should really not - -

SAMUEL

(interrupts)

Nonsense, Archibald. Please, Winston, your input will be acknowledged and appreciated.

WINSTON

(hesitates;sober)

Well, one of the issues that is very close to my heart is that of poverty within our fine country. As I head into town everyday, there are beggars lined throughout the streets and alleyways.

(beat)

They are cold, starving, lonely, and without a home. Yet they are as much a part of the fabric of Britain as anyone seated here.

(MORE)

WINSTON (cont'd)

I feel it should be part of the monarchy's responsibility to not only reach out to the poor, but to provide for them the same opportunities and resources as possible.

Everyone at the table is silent, as they momentarily consider Winston's words. Finally, Samuel responds.

SAMUEL

(speaks aloud)

Yes. The less fortunate. Providing them with opportunities could not only increase employment, but could also attract potential voters when the election season arrives. Winston, how brilliant. Does everyone here concur with this proposal?

EVERYONE AT ROUND TABLE

Applauds Winston.

ARCHIBALD

Applauds, but looks discontent.

INT. MONARCY MANOR - CORRIDOR - DAY

WINSTON

Walks proudly down the corridor, when he encounters an unhappy Archibald.

ARCHIBALD

(livid;sotto voce)

Just what in the hell was that?

WINSTON

What are you talking about?

ARCHIBALD

(stern;sotto voce)

The pennies for the poor speech you just gave. I have entered you into a life of privilege and prestige. Your personal and sociopolitical views were not part of our agreement.

WINSTON

(impudent)

Don't you dare take your anger out on me because I spoke the truth to the highest powers in the country. Just think of it as something you should have considered doing but never had the decency to.

(beat)

Just because I am now a prince doesn't mean I have forgotten what it was like to be a pauper.

Winston walks away, as Archibald is left alone in the corridor.

INT. ARCHIBALD'S PLACE - BEDROOM - NIGHT

Archibald is fast asleep in bed. He slowly wakes up, as he takes a sip of water from a glass on his night stand. Archibald decides to check on Winston, as he rises from his bed.

INT. ARCHIBALD'S PLACE - GUEST BEDROOM - NIGHT

Archibald slowly enters into Winston's room, as he stands by and speaks to a sleeping Winston.

ARCHIBALD

(contrite; sotto voce)

You know, I think you were right, Winston. I think it's time we consider the less fortunate in our endeavours. Listen, I'm sorry if I came off hot today. I want you to be just as part of the monarchy as anyone.

(gently pats Winston on back)

I'm sorry.

As he pats Winston, Archibald feels barely anything. He quickly pulls off the blankets.

LARGE PILE OF CLOTHES

Rest idly in the bed, in lieu of Winston.

EXT. TOWN SQUARE - EMPTY STREET - WIDE ANGLE - LATE NIGHT

ARCHIBALD

Roves the streets of the Town Square in search of Winston.
Archibald quickly turns his head.

ARCHIBALD'S POV

LOCAL TAVERN

As MUSIC RESONATES from inside, voices of people can be heard. There are also some sots, who lay prostrate on the sidewalk.

BACK TO SCENE

Archibald furls his brow and heads towards the tavern.

INT. LOCAL TAVERN - NIGHT

Archibald tentatively enters and starts to walk around the bar in search of Winston. He immediately spots something.

ARCHIBALD'S POV

WINSTON AND SOME BAR PATRONS

SING uproariously at the bar and enjoy a frosty brew.

EVERYONE AT BAR

(sings aloud)

Loving arms and loving hearts, hope
we never stay apart!

BACK TO SCENE

Archibald watches disapprovingly as he approaches Winston.

ARCHIBALD

(stern; tries to pull
Winston)

Winston, we must be going now!

WINSTON

(loquacious)

Lighten up, Archie. Enjoy a frosty
ale on me and sing along with these
fine blokes.

ARCHIBALD

(stern)

We must get rest for the Queen's
Jubilee. It's tomorrow.

WINSTON
 (mock-pleading)
 Archie, please. Can't we do that
 royal manner mumbo-jumbo some other
 time? It's such a brisk evening
 and the party's just begun!

ARCHIBALD
 (stern)
 Consider this your last call!

Archibald throws a few pence pieces on the bar, picks up
 Winston and carries him out of the bar. Winston continues to
 sing and dance, even while Archibald carries him out.

EXT. TOWN SQUARE - SIDEWALK - NIGHT

Archibald is still carrying Winston, when he gently places
 him down and decides to lay down the law.

ARCHIBALD
 (indignant)
 Are you mad, Winston?

WINSTON
 (drunk)
 No, but I am a tad tipsy.

ARCHIBALD
 (sternly)
 This kind of behavior will not be
 tolerated by the monarchy nor by
 me.

WINSTON
 (drunk)
 Archie, please. I knew everyone in
 the bar. Believe me, I managed to
 talk a little politics in between
 songs. I convinced them to vote
 for you and the board for the
 election this fall. Their votes
 are all but certain.

ARCHIBALD
 (calms down)
 Very well done, Winston. I must
 say did you have to get up on the
 bar?

WINSTON
 (witty)
 All in a day's work, my fine man.

Winston's smile soon disappears, as he soon looks sickly.

ARCHIBALD
(looks concerned at
Winston)
Are you well, Winston? Winston?

Winston proceeds to vomit on Archibald. Archibald hangs his head in embarrassment.

FADE OUT.

SCENE VIII

FADE IN:

INT. ROYAL MANOR - ESTABLISHING SHOT - WIDE ANGLE - DAY

Horse-drawn carriages pull up to the manor, as members of the monarchy are escorted into the manor by servants for the Queen's Jubilee.

INT. ROYAL MANOR - CONFERENCE HALL - DAY

Everyone in attendance is seated and silent, as the Queen gives her speech on the economical, political, and social status of Great Britain.

WINSTON AND ARCHIBALD

Sit in their seats, as they listen to the Queen. Archibald is alert and perceptive, hinging on the Queen's every word.

Winston, on the other hand, is still feeling the effects from last night and is having trouble focusing and staying awake.

Winston falls asleep, as he tiredly places his head on the shoulder of an impervious Winston.

Archibald directs his attention to Winston. Appalled by the sight, Archibald subtly but angrily jostles Winston in the ribs, quickly rousing him.

QUEEN

Continues giving her speech from the dais.

QUEEN

(speaks aloud to audience)
 Before I conclude my oration, I
 must pay my acknowledgement and
 respect to two very special
 gentlemen for their noble and
 generous contributions to the
 monarchy and the people of Britain.
 (looks at them)
 Mister Archibald Caulfield and
 Mister Winston Maxson.

WINSTON AND ARCHIBALD

Arise from their seats, as they are met with esteemed
 APPLAUSE. Both men approach the stage, as Archibald tries to
 help prop up an unstable Winston.

INT. ROYAL MANOR - CONFERENCE ROOM - STAGE - DAY

Archibald and Winston are now on stage, as an alert and
 focused Archibald prepares to give a small speech, while a
 drowsy and groggy Winston stands unsteadily beside him.

ARCHIBALD

(speaks aloud to audience)
 Thank you, ladies and gentlemen.
 When Mister Maxson and I first
 developed these ideas, we had to
 strongly consider the - -

Before Archibald can continue, Winston proceeds to fall off
 the stage. An astounded audience gives a collective gasp, as
 Archibald composes himself and goes to help his fallen
 friend.

INT. ROYAL MANOR - DINING HALL - WIDE ANGLE - DAY

Everyone is enjoying themselves at the Queen's Jubilee, as
 they sip cocktails, enjoy the fine cuisine, engage in
 conversation, and take in the melodies of a mini orchestra.

ARCHIBALD

Stands by a wall in the dining hall, as he tries to explain
 what transpired on stage to a ROYAL DELEGATE.

ARCHIBALD

(explanatory; apologetic)
 As you can see, Winston has had a
 terrible ear infection for the past
 couple of days. Thus explains his
 loss of equilibrium.
 (MORE)

ARCHIBALD (cont'd)
 Winston and I would like to offer
 our dearest and heartfelt apologies
 for the actions that transpired
 today.

ROYAL DELEGATE
 (understanding)
 All though the fall of your friend
 was quite embarrassing, I am sure
 her highness should understand.
 She holds you in very high regard,
 Archie.
 (extends his hand)
 Everything should be fine.

ARCHIBALD
 (shakes his hand)
 Thank you, Richard.
 (puts his arm around Royal
 Delegate; starts to walk)
 Please, let me get you a drink.

INT. ROYAL MANOR - DINING HALL - CORNER TABLE - DAY

WINSTON

Sits quietly and embarrassed at a table. He is applying ice
 to his swollen temple. Emma soon comes INTO VIEW.

EMMA
 (jokingly)
 So, did you have a pleasant trip?

WINSTON
 (painfully rubs his head)
 Besides the fall, everything was
 gravy.

EMMA
 (concerned)
 All kidding aside, how are you
 feeling?

WINSTON
 Well, for what I can say.

EMMA
 I heard about the plan you and
 Archie are developing. That's
 really noble of you to care for the
 less fortunate.

WINSTON

Let's just say I can relate to them.

EMMA

(curious)

Really, how?

WINSTON

(hesitates; explains)

Well, the way I look at it, all of your life you are in actuality a poor person. It is only when you are able to live a life that is full of happiness, compassion, and most importantly, love, that you can truly consider yourself wealthy.

(beat)

For the moment I have two.

EMMA

(coquettish)

Why not make it three?

WINSTON

Well, I have currently been reading Tolstoy and I must - -

EMMA

(excitedly intervenes)

You are fooling. So am I. I consider him the most insightful, influential, and intelligent writer of his time.

Winston and Emma both echo the same words, as they look amorously at one another.

EMMA

Come with me.

WINSTON

Where?

EMMA

(grabs Winston's hand)

Come.

WINSTON

Have you seen Archie anywhere?

INT. ROYAL MANOR - UPSTAIRS CORRIDOR - WIDE ANGLE - LATE
AFTERNOON

Archibald walks alone in the upstairs corridor. He immediately comes to the front door of a room. Archibald looks to see if anyone is around. Seeing no one, he slowly opens up the door to a most pleasant sight.

ARCHIBALD'S POV

SIX YOUNG GIRLS

Lie in bed, giggling and looking flirtatiously at Archibald.

BACK TO SCENE

Archibald looks in awe/pleasure.

ARCHIBALD
(smiles happily)
God, I love my life.

Archibald slowly walks into room, closing the door behind him.

EXT. ROYAL MANOR - OPEN MEADOW - WIDE ANGLE - MAGIC HOUR

EMMA AND WINSTON

Walk slowly along the grass of the meadow, holding hands, as Winston has his eyes closed.

WINSTON
Can I open my eyes now?

EMMA
(cross)
You didn't have to close them to begin with.
(excited)
Okay, you can open.

Winston opens his eyes, as he looks around the meadow.

WINSTON
(awed)
Why, I've never.

EMMA
(motions to Winston)
Come, let me show you around.

Winston heeds Emma, as the two amble around the meadow.

SAME - MOMENTS LATER

EMMA AND WINSTON

Perch peacefully on two sitting stones, as they have small but serious talk.

EMMA

(intuitive)

You know, there is something about you Winston Maxson that intrigues me tremendously.

(looks curiously at him)

I get this feeling that I have seen you somewhere before.

WINSTON

(dismissive)

Oh, don't be daft, Emma.

EMMA

You're actually the first person of the monarchy whom I've met who actually seems to be a real person. Some of the people in the manor tonight aren't all they appear to be. I can't say that about you.

WINSTON

(shy)

Thank you. I don't know what to say.

EMMA

Winston, I've brought you out here tonight to ask you something. Winston, I visited a fortune teller a few days ago.

WINSTON

Oh, I know dear.

EMMA

(suspicious)

You did?

WINSTON

(hesitates; continues)

Well... I found out from someone tonight when your name came up in conversation.

EMMA
 (curious)
 Really? Who told you?

WINSTON
 (hesitates; continues)
 It was... A charming young dear
 with red hair and a lace dress.

EMMA
 Miss Charlotte Grange?

WINSTON
 (exclaims and points)
 Yes, that is her! A lovely, lovely
 young lady.

EMMA
 Yes, she is. Well, I visited a
 fortune teller and had my fortune
 forecasted. She told me that there
 is love in my future. I would meet
 him and that I should be open and
 upright with my feelings for him.
 (beat)
 And I think it would be prudent of
 me to take action on that advice.
 So, what I would like to say is,
 "Winston, would you honour me by
 becoming that person?"

Winston stares speechless and astonished, as he hesitates
 with his answer. Before he can reply, a VOICE from afar
 interrupts.

ARCHIBALD (O.S.)
 (aloud)
 Winston, are you there? Winston?

WINSTON
 (sotto voce; motions to
 Emma)
 It's Archie. Quick, go hide!

Emma heeds Winston, as she gets up and departs. Archibald
 arrives and comes INTO VIEW, as interrogates Winston.

ARCHIBALD
 (interrogative)
 Winston, what are you doing out
 here?

WINSTON

(looks admiringly at
meadow)

I figured it was such a lovely evening, why not look up at the stars. Speaking of whereabouts, where were you?

ARCHIBALD

Oh, I just finished meeting up with some of the royals' scions.

WINSTON

Really? How are they?

ARCHIBALD

Spectacular! Well, I was hoping we could depart for home now. I hope you have no objection to that.

WINSTON

(arises from stone)

Very well then.

Archibald turns and starts to walk back to the manor. Winston stays behind, as he takes some small pebbles off the ground and randomly places them on one of the sitting stones.

ARCHIBALD

(turns around; calls to
Winston from a distance)

Winston, come now.

WINSTON

(still places pebbles;
yells to Archibald)

In a minute, Arch.

ARCHIBALD

(impatiently yells)

Winston, now!

Winston finally departs, as he dashes off to catch up to Archibald.

EMMA

Slowly emerges from out behind a tree. Emma approaches the two sitting stones and is met with a surprise.

EMMA'S POV

SITTING STONE

Has "YES" spelled out in small pebbles.

BACK TO SCENE

Emma smiles warmly, as she heads back to the manor.

FADE OUT.

SCENE IX

FADE IN:

INT. ARCHIBALD'S PLACE - GUEST BEDROOM - MORNING

Winston is preparing for another day of spying on Emma. He combs his hair, as he looks at himself in the mirror. Winston, unable to find a necktie goes to Archibald's bedroom.

INT. ARCHIBALD'S PLACE - ARCHIBALD'S BEDROOM - MORNING

Winston quietly enters Archibald's bedroom, as he goes into his closet to find a necktie. Winston is about to open the closet, when Archibald appears and SLAMS the closet door shut.

ARCHIBALD

(stern)

Never enter this closet. Is that understood?

WINSTON

(mock-indignation)

My goodness, you're acting like I was going to steal from the bloody treasury!

ARCHIBALD

(calms down)

My apologies, Winston. It's just that there are certain valuables in my closet which I hold very dear. Once our relationship advances, I may even show you what's inside.

WINSTON

(sarcastic)

Goodness. Maybe after that you'll pop the question.

Archibald looks with semi-disdain. Winston is about to exit the room, when Archibald calls him.

ARCHIBALD (O.S.)
 (interjects)
 Winston, wait.

Winston stops in his tracks and turns around.

ARCHIBALD
 (throws him a necktie)
 You forgot your tie.

WINSTON
 (catches tie)
 Thank You.

EXT. TOWN SQUARE - WIDE ANGLE - DAY

Winston slowly promenades along the streets. He turns the corner into a nearby alleyway, where he knows a shortcut.

EXT. TOWN SQUARE - BACK ALLEY - DAY

Winston tentatively walks through the alley, when he encounters an ALLEY MENDICANT, who is looking for some spare change.

ALLEY MENDICANT
 (pleads on his knees)
 Sir, could you please spare some
 change for a poor man?
 (looks closely at and
 recognizes Winston)
 Winston, is that you? What are you
 doing in those nice clothes?
 (screams pleadingly)
 Please, Winston, take me with you.
 Take me with you, Winston!

WINSTON

Quickly pulls some pence pieces from his coat pocket, hands them to the mendicant, and quickly departs from the alleyway.

EXT. TOWN SQUARE - WEST END SIDEWALK - DAY

Winston is now on the sidewalk, when he quickly runs into Emma.

EMMA

(pleasantly surprised)

Winston, my goodness, what are you doing on the West End of town?

WINSTON

(composed)

Well, I figured to myself that it was such a nice day out, why not got for a nice promenade along the streets of Town Square?

Suddenly, the Alley Mendicant appears from out of nowhere, as he loudly thanks Winston.

ALLEY MENDICANT

(exclaims loudly)

Winston, thank you ever so much.
May God Bless you!

WINSTON

(a little embarrassed but composed)

You're welcome, sir.
(gently pats him on shoulder)
My pleasure, yes.

The Alley Mendicant departs, as Emma looks on in curiosity.

EMMA

(interrogative)

Do you know that man?

WINSTON

(modest)

Oh, not at all. He was just looking for some pence pieces and I had some on me.

EMMA

(curious)

How did he know your name?

WINSTON

(modest)

Well, you know with all the newsies and town talk, who doesn't know who these days?

(hungrily rubs his stomach)

Whew, I'm famished. Would you care to join me for lunch? My treat.

EMMA
(happily)
I'd like that.

INT. LOCAL EATERY - DAY

EMMA AND WINSTON

Sit in a corner table, as they enjoy a quiet meal and talk with each other.

EMMA
(forks some food in her
mouth)
So, I heard some of your life story
before. Would you please continue
with it?

WINSTON
(eats; mouth slightly
full)
About what?

EMMA
(takes a sip of tea)
Well, I know a bit about your
family background. Could you tell
me about your childhood?

WINSTON
(breaks crackers into his
soup)
Well, there's really not that much
to tell, dear. I grew up a young
boy, slightly mischievous, clever,
and quick on my feet. I was an
only child.

EMMA
Please continue.

WINSTON
(ambivalent)
If you don't object, I feel rather
uncomfortable discussing personal
matters such as this. If we could
please continue on another topic of
discussion.

EMMA
Very well. But just one more
question. Have you ever been in a
relationship with someone else?

WINSTON

(sober)

Yes. I was once married. We were together for five years and we informally separated due to personal differences. She died three years later of a fever. There is not a day that goes by when she is not in my thoughts and prayers.

EMMA

(sympathetic)

I'm sorry.

WINSTON

Thank you. Losing a loved one is not very easy to go through. That's why we ought to cherish the special moments while we can.

Winston gently places his hand on Emma's. Emma looks lovingly but coyly at Winston.

EMMA

You seem like the kind of person who could provide a good living for a woman. I still can't believe your appeal with people.

(beat)

I mean, that beggar who knew your name. That is just incredible. You seem to be able to relate to all people, from the nobility to the common class.

WINSTON

(modestly takes a sip of tea)

Yes, among other things.

EMMA

(suspicious)

Are you okay? You're unusually quiet. Is there something you want to tell me?

WINSTON

(serious)

I have a question for you. Would you still love me if I wasn't in the monarchy?

EMMA

Of course. And you are part of the monarchy, which makes our relationship all the more meaningful.

(beat)

For a person who is in the monarchy, you are not cold and distant like many of the people I know. You have this sociable yet refined quality. That is what makes you special. Why do you ask?

WINSTON

(shy)

Just a curious whim.

EMMA

Why? Is there something you want to tell me? If so, please Winston, speak to me.

WINSTON

(slightly cross)

Emma, if you don't mind, I'd like to finish my soup.

Emma becomes silent, as Winston quietly eats his soup.

EXT. TOWN SQUARE - WEST END STREET - AFTERNOON

Emma and Winston calmly amble along the West End streets, when Emma sees her carriage waiting.

EMMA

Winston, if I may start to say - -

WINSTON

(politely intervenes)

Emma, I would like to apologize for that unpleasant outburst. I have no problem sharing myself with you.

(beat)

I just feel we are moving rather quickly in our relationship. There should be an establishment of trust between the two of us.

EMMA

I completely agree. However, we are not in a relationship.

WINSTON
 (confounded)
 We aren't?

EMMA
 In order to be in relationship, a
 couple must first share a kiss.

WINSTON
 Really? Well, I don't know much
 about...

Before Winston can finish, Emma promptly grabs him and kisses
 him on the lips.

EMMA
 (looks lovingly at
 Winston)
 No we're a couple!

Emma walks jauntily to her carriage, as Winston stands
 dumbfounded.

INT. ROYAL MANOR - ARCHIBALD'S OFFICE - LATE AFTERNOON

Archibald is in his office doing some "paperwork".

ARCHIBALD AND YOUNG WOMAN

Have sex underneath Archibald's desk. They stop to catch
 their breath. The young woman is an heiress in waiting,
 MONICA LOWRY.

MONICA
 (out of breath)
 My, you are good!

ARCHIBALD
 (self-complimentary; in a
 whisper)
 I could have told you that.

MONICA
 (inquisitive)
 I beg your pardon?

ARCHIBALD
 (hesitates)
 Oh, I said I really love cats.

MONICA
 Oh, yes, I'm quite fond of pussies
 myself.

ARCHIBALD
 (derogatory; in a whisper)
 I wish I was fond of yours.

MONICA
 (inquisitive)
 I beg your pardon?

ARCHIBALD
 I said I love sailing on the
 shores.

MONICA
 Oh, how wonderful. My father takes
 us out to the coast of Devon every
 Spring.

While Monica continues to talk Archie, pulls up his pants,
 goes to his desk, gets a cigarette, from his case, and lights
 up.

ARCHIBALD
 (takes a puff on his
 cigarette)
 So, I hear your father is a member
 of the monarchy.

MONICA
 (plops down in Archibald's
 chair)
 Assistant to the Governor. He is a
 man of very high stature.
 (looks seductively at
 Archibald)
 I can certainly say the same for
 you.

ARCHIBALD
 (exhales smoke)
 Quite interesting. If you'll excuse
 my imposition, are there any
 positions currently available?

MONICA
 None that I know of. You know, I
 really enjoy your company.

ARCHIBALD
 (dismissively turns his
 head)
 Yes, same here.

MONICA

(suggestive)

Maybe we could get together some time. A nice dinner, maybe even an evening at your home?

ARCHIBALD

(dismissive)

Please, we barely know each other and I'm a little old for you.

MONICA

My father would love you. In fact, he has never approved of the past men in my life. I'm sure if he saw you, he would even offer you a position.

ARCHIBALD

(interested)

Go on, I'm listening.

There is a sudden KNOCK on the DOOR.

WINSTON (O.S.)

(aloud; from behind door)

Archie, it's Winston. Are you there?

Archibald, startled, puts out his cigarette, while he frantically gets dressed.

MONICA

(sotto voce)

Who is it?

ARCHIBALD

(gets dressed; sotto voce)

A friend of mine.

(takes her hand; sotto voce)

Come with me.

WINSTON (O.S.)

(louder; knocks harder on door)

Archie, are you there?

Archibald takes Monica to his office window, which leads to the manor's atrium.

ARCHIBALD
 (boosts Monica up to
 window; sotto voce)
 Now, on the count of three, I want
 you to jump.

MONICA
 (objective; sotto voce)
 Are you daft? I can't jump from
 here!

ARCHIBALD
 (impudent; sotto voce)
 Well, now is the time to try,
 dear!

Archibald lightly pushes Monica from the window ledge, as she
 SHRIEKS while falling out. Archibald looks out the window.

ARCHIBALD'S WINDOW POV

DOWNWARD SHOT - MONICA

On the manor grass unscathed, as she departs, but not before
 giving Archibald a frigid glare.

BACK TO SCENE

Archibald breathes a sigh of relief, as the BANGING on the
 DOOR perpetuates. Archibald quickly neatens and composes
 himself before opening up the door.

ARCHIBALD
 (acts surprised)
 Winston, my friend. What brings
 you here?

WINSTON
 (suspicious)
 I came to tell you about Emma.

ARCHIBALD
 Emma, yes, Dearest Emma.
 (invites Winston in)
 Please come in.

Winston and Archibald slowly amble around the office.
 Winston curiously looks around. Archibald sees Monica's bra
 on his desk and quickly slips it into his pants pockets,
 seconds before Winston turns to him.

WINSTON
(concerned)
Are you all well, Archie?

ARCHIBALD
(slightly composed)
Oh yes, I'm fine. Couldn't be better.

WINSTON
(interrogative)
Why did it take you so long to answer the door? I was knocking rather long.

ARCHIBALD
(plays dumb)
You were knocking on the door?

WINSTON
(confounded)
Yes, Winston. I knocked close to ten times.

ARCHIBALD
My dearest pardon, Winston. I was busy doing someone, I mean, something.

WINSTON
(inquisitive)
What?

ARCHIBALD
(hesitates)
Well, there was this mouse, you see.

WINSTON
(slightly surprised)
A mouse?

ARCHIBALD
Yes, a mouse. He was here in the office and I was busy chasing him around.

WINSTON
(curious)
Did you get him?

ARCHIBALD

(mock-hits with his hands)
Oh, I got a poker from the
fireplace, and I whacked the little
bastard!

WINSTON

(deadpan)
Oh. No wonder I heard screaming in
here.

ARCHIBALD

(shakes his head in mock-
sympathy)
Yes, nature, she is quite unkind.
(shifts subjects)
So, any news on Emma?

WINSTON

Well, I didn't see her in town
today. I presume she decided to
have a quiet day in.

ARCHIBALD

Yes, very well done, Winston.
(puts his arm around
Winston and leads him to
door)
Say, how about we have a nice cold
ale in the dining room?

WINSTON

That sounds wonderful.

ARCHIBALD

(heads to his desk and
sloppily shuffles papers)
Splendid. I just have to finish
some of this paperwork and I'll be
right down.

WINSTON

Stares uncomfortably at Archibald, and departs from the
office, closing the door behind him.

ARCHIBALD

Breathes a heavy sigh of relief, and plops down in his chair.
He promptly FALLS along with his chair.

FADE OUT.

SCENE X

FADE IN:

EXT. WILSHIRE MANOR - ESTABLISHING SHOT - WIDE ANGLE - NIGHT

The manor shines under the moon-lit sky.

CUT TO:

INT. WILSHIRE MANOR - BANQUET ROOM - NIGHT

Members of the monarchy are gathered in attendance to celebrate the inheritance of Monica Lowry to her father's chair and vast fortune.

WINSTON AND ARCHIBALD

Sit quietly listening to the LORD OF WILSHIRE speak.

WINSTON

(bored; sotto voce)

When is this over?

ARCHIBALD

(sternly; sotto voce)

It will be soon. Just bare with him. He is a top-ranking official in the monarchy. Put it this way: when he says, "Jump", we say, "How high?"

WINSTON

(sotto voce)

Oh, I better listen in then.

The LORD OF WILSHIRE remains at the dais, as he is about to conclude his oration.

LORD OF WILSHIRE

(speaks aloud to audience)

And it is with earnest gratitude and satisfaction that I bid all of you, the wonderful citizens of Britain, a heartfelt and bittersweet farewell. Upon my death, I will proudly abdicate my seat and vast fortune to my beloved daughter, Monica.

The audience applauds, as Monica approaches the dais, as she kisses and warmly embraces her father.

INT. WILSHIRE MANOR - BANQUET HALL - MOMENTS LATER

The banquet hall is astir, as party-goers talk, hobnob, line up for food and drinks, and dance to the tunes of a small band.

INT. WILSHIRE MANOR - CORRIDOR - WIDE ANGLE - NIGHT

EMMA

Walks gracefully through the corridor, when she is met by Archibald.

ARCHIBALD
(smiles warmly)
Emma, how nice to see you.

EMMA
(coy)
Hello, Archibald.

ARCHIBALD
(looks around the
corridor)
Lovely evening, isn't it?

EMMA
(coy)
If you say so.

ARCHIBALD
It's such a surprise to see you
here. A pleasant one at that.

EMMA
(coy)
Well, I've known Monica since we
were in school together. I am quite
happy for her and just came by to
congratulate her.

ARCHIBALD
Beautiful and loyal. Who could ask
for anything more? Do you know
that every time I see you, you get
more and more lovely?

Archibald moves forward to kiss Emma, who quickly and coyly moves her head.

EMMA
 (sarcastic)
 I'm sure I'm one of the countless
 women you've said that to.

ARCHIBALD
 (intense)
 Can you actually look me in the eye
 and tell me that you have no
 feelings whatsoever for me?

EMMA
 (impudent)
 I can look at you anywhere and tell
 you that!

ARCHIBALD
 (firmly grabs her wrist)
 You know you still love me. You
 just can't bring yourself to admit
 it. Even though we are no longer
 together, my passion for you has
 never nor will it ever cease to
 exist.

EMMA
 (angrily pushes him away)
 There's someone else, Archie. I am
 currently seeing someone else and I
 am quite enamoured with his
 company.

ARCHIBALD
 (demanding)
 Who is he?

INT. WILSHIRE MANOR - FAR END CORRIDOR - NIGHT

WINSTON

Walks happily down the corridor back towards the banquet
 hall, when he begins to hear Emma and Archibald's heated
 conversation. Winston hides behind a stone pillar and
 eavesdrops.

EMMA (O.S.)
 (impudent)
 Wouldn't you like to know!

ARCHIBALD (O.S.)

(intense)

If I discover who he is I can assure you he will suffer the unkindest of fate.

Winston hurries back to the banquet hall. As he suddenly arrives, he encounters Archibald.

ARCHIBALD

(sternly)

We must leave now, Winston

WINSTON

(pleads)

But Archie, the party's just started.

ARCHIBALD

(stern)

Come now. This is very important.

INT. ARCHIBALD'S PLACE - ARCHIBALD'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

WINSTON AND ARCHIBALD

Reside in the bedroom. Winston calmly sits on Archibald's bed, as Archibald paces about the bedroom.

ARCHIBALD

(stands and paces around room)

I had to hear it from the woman herself to believe it. Another man. How unfathomable is that?

WINSTON

No one stays alone forever, Archie.

ARCHIBALD

(continues to pace)

Very true. We must find out at once who this is. I will double your pay. I want you to leave no stone unturned in searching for this rogue.

WINSTON

(suggestive)

Archie, don't you think you are overreacting just a bit? You know women. She's probably just playing with your head.

ARCHIBALD

(stops pacing; turns to
Winston)

Winston, my fine man, I only wish
it were that simple. Women are a
labyrinth wrapped in an enigma.
For all we know her lover could be
right in front of us.

Archibald looks suspiciously at Winston.

CLOSEUP - WINSTON'S NERVOUS BUT COMPOSED FACE

EXT. TOWN SQUARE - WIDE ANGLE - DAY

The whole Town Square is astir, as it prepares for the
Festival of the Monarchy.

INT. LOCAL EATERY - DAY

Winston sits patiently at a table, waiting for his meal to
arrive. Emma unexpectedly comes INTO VIEW, as she approaches
his table.

EMMA

Hello, handsome.

WINSTON

(confounded)
Who me?

EMMA

Yes, you. May I join you?

WINSTON

(coy)
Please forgive my curtness, but I'd
rather you not.

EMMA

Are you well, Winston?

WINSTON

Yes. Why do you ask?

EMMA

(slightly insulted)
Maybe it's the fact that I've never
been declined to join you for a
meal. What is this about?

WINSTON
Nothing. I haven't the slightest
inkling of what you're upset about.

EMMA
Is this about Archie?

WINSTON
What if it is?

EMMA
(yells loudly)
Forget Archie!

Everyone in the eatery falls silent, as they look at Emma.
Emma decides to take initiative

EMMA
(takes Winston by his arm)
Come now. We'll have lunch at my
manor.

Emma places some pence pieces on the table and pulls Winston
out of the eatery.

EXT. WINTHROP MANOR - BALCONY - DAY

EMMA AND WINSTON

Sit and enjoy lunch, as they converse with each other.

EMMA
So what do you think?

WINSTON
(looks in awe around
manor)
I feel it has a lot in common with
its owner.
(turns to Emma)
It's classy, elegant, and most
importantly, beautiful beyond all
measure.

EMMA
You have such a way with words,
Winston. I bet that must be an
asset when with the monarchy.

WINSTON
(modest)
Well, yes, among other things. Is
this house yours?

EMMA

Yes. My parents live in London. I've never been to fond of urban life myself, so they were nice enough to let me stay at this estate.

WINSTON

Incredible. I would sure love to meet them one day.

EMMA

And they would be greatly honoured to meet you. You're certainly not like Archibald.

WINSTON

Yes, from what I've heard, you're not too enamoured with his company.

(curious)

Is there a reason why? If you don't mind me asking of course.

EMMA

(serious)

Winston, if you only knew what Archibald is really like. Behind those handsome looks, regal manner, and measured speech lies an animal that is intolerable and incomprehensible beyond all human understanding. I want to show you something.

Emma pulls up her stocking.

CLOSEUP - OLD BRUISE ON EMMA'S CALF

Slightly red in color.

WINSTON

Looks on soberly but disturbed.

EMMA

(serious)

This is from three years ago. Yet it seems like only yesterday to me. I made a comment regarding Archie's manners and this is what I received.

(beat)

(MORE)

EMMA (cont'd)

You can never be yourself around Archie. Remember that. Archie has passion. But with that passion comes ambition. Never become entangled in between the two.

WINSTON

I never knew.

EMMA

(serious)

Archibald view people in one manner: as a means of advancement. And once you are of no purpose to him, you no longer matter to him.

(beat)

Sadly, I have become an object of his undying but unyielding affection. There is no escape from that. Winston, get away from him as soon as possible. You will soon realize what a precious few are aware of.

WINSTON

Have you ever tried to tell anyone?

EMMA

Never. No one would believe me, and if Archie ever found out, I would be subject to more physical abuse. You are the only one who knows of this.

WINSTON

It will never leave my lips.

EMMA

(looks suspiciously at him)

Who are you, Winston Maxson?

WINSTON

I beg your pardon?

EMMA

(intuitive)

You always have this look on your face as if you're concealing something. Some deep dark secret that only you have knowledge of. Have you any?

WINSTON

Yes, I do.

EMMA

Well, if we are to go further in our relationship, we have to establish a sense of trust and honesty. So, what is your secret?

WINSTON

(stares staid at Emma)

Very well then. Did I ever tell you that you are the most beautiful woman that I have ever seen?

Winston beams a smile, as Emma looks coy but lovingly at him.

EMMA

(witty)

Well, so much for secrets.

Emma leans over from her seat and kisses Winston.

EMMA AND WINSTON

Kiss each other passionately.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT II

ACT III

SCENE XI

FADE IN:

INT. MONARCHY MANOR - DINING HALL - EVENING

WINSTON AND ARCHIBALD

Quietly eat supper at a table together. Archibald stares subtly but intently at Winston, who is imperviously eating his bowl of soup. Winston feels his eyes upon him and lifts his head.

WINSTON

(looks up)

Yes?

ARCHIBALD

So, were you active today?

WINSTON

Not much. I went to Town Square.
I hear they're having a monarchy
festival. It should be enjoyable.

ARCHIBALD

Yes.

Winston goes back to eating his soup, as a curious Archibald starts to again stare intently at him. Winston looks up again.

ARCHIBALD

So?

WINSTON

Yes?

ARCHIBALD

Did you see her?

WINSTON

No. I checked the markets, supper
houses, and merchants, and nothing.

ARCHIBALD

(angrily throws down his
spoon)

Bloody hell. This woman's playing
lover's chess, and I'm her bloody
pawn!

WINSTON

(suggestive)

Why don't you relax? Maybe she
just wanted to have a day in her
manor.

ARCHIBALD

(snappish)

And as the person I'm paying to spy
on her, why don't you start earning
your end of our agreement and get
me some information!

WINSTON

(sarcastic)

What do you want me to do, spy on
her at her manor?

ARCHIBALD

(hesitates;exclaims)

Yes. Brilliant, Winston, bloody brilliant! For all we know her lover could be at the manor this very minute, performing acts unmentionable to the taint the chaste and delicate flower that is Emma. Go at once, Winston.

WINSTON

(objective)

But Archie, it's getting late and I haven't a ride.

ARCHIBALD

(stubborn)

I will not hear of it. I will summon the driver to get the carriage ready.

WINSTON

But Archie, the manor is gated off. How will I enter?

ARCHIBALD

Yes, I know it is...

(looks suspiciously at
Winston)

Wait. How did you know the manor is gated?

WINSTON

(hesitates;explains)

Well, most of the manors here are gated off, Arch.

ARCHIBALD

(nods understandably)

Yes, keen observation. Not to worry. I know a secret backway that I used when we were together. I know the Winthrop manor inside and out.

(pushes Winston towards
the door)

Time is of the essence, Winston. Go at once, and make me proud.

EXT. OPEN ROAD - WIDE ANGLE - NIGHT

HORSE-DRAWN CARRIAGE

Moves briskly down the cobblestone road.

INT. HORSE-DRAWN CARRIAGE - BACKSEAT - NIGHT

WINSTON

Sits uncomfortably, worried about what's soon to follow.

EXT. FRONT WINTHROP MANOR - NIGHT

HORSE-DRAWN CARRIAGE

Pulls up to the manor. Winston gets out, as the carriage pulls OUT OF VIEW. Winston heads off in the directions given to him by Archibald.

EXT. WINTHROP MANOR - BACK PATH - NIGHT

WINSTON

Quietly walks down the path behind Winthrop manor. He comes to a halt, as he looks directly up.

WINSTON'S UP ANGLE POV

BALCONY

Lies empty in the moon-lit sky.

BACK TO SCENE

Winston continues to look for any sign of Emma.

BACK OF WINSTON

As someone appears to be sneaking up on him.

WINSTON

Continues to look up, when a hand touches his back.

A startled Winston slightly leaps up and turns around. It is Emma's maid and confidant, MISS ELIZA NATHAN, who stands with laundry basket in her arms, glaring suspiciously at Winston.

ELIZA

(suspicious)

Who are you, and what is your
business here?

WINSTON

Good evening, ma'am. My name is
Winston Maxson, and I was wonder - -

ELIZA

(excitedly interrupts)

Winston Maxson? What a pleasure to
meet you! Miss Winthrop's told me
all about you.

WINSTON

Yes, thank you. Please do not
receive the incorrect impression.
I was on my way to the manor, when
I lost my way. I was wondering if
Emma was home.

ELIZA

(kindly)

Oh, yes. I was out taking the
laundry off the line when I decided
to take a nice stroll myself. Miss
Winthrop is home. Would you like
to see her?

WINSTON

Yes, please.

Eliza and Winston depart, as they head inside.

INT. WINTHROP MANOR - FOYER - NIGHT

ELIZA AND WINSTON

Walk slowly into the foyer. Eliza, laundry basket in arms,
ascends the staircase.

INT. WINTHROP MANOR - STAIRCASE

ELIZA

Halfway up the staircase, beckons Emma.

ELIZA

(calls up to Emma)

Miss Winthrop, you have a visitor.

EMMA

Clad in her nightgown, majestically descends the staircase.

EMMA
 Winston, how lovely to see you!
 (turns to Eliza)
 Thank you, Eliza.

ELIZA

Departs, but not before giving Emma a wink of encouragement.

EMMA

Now at the bottom of the staircase, as she and Winston are face-to-face.

EMMA
 (gazes at Winston)
 It's quite late.

WINSTON
 (stares intently at her)
 Well, I thought it was such a lovely evening that we could go for a brief promenade.

EMMA
 Sounds wonderful.
 (wipes her nose with a handkerchief)
 But I have a terrible cold. Would you like to stay in for the night?

WINSTON
 (witty)
 Well, there's no place like home.

Emma and Winston ascend the staircase together.

INT. WINTHROP MANOR - BEDROOM - EARLY DAWN

EMMA AND WINSTON

Lie idly in bed together after spending the night. Emma looks attentively at Winston, who stares up pensively at the ceiling.

EMMA
 (inquisitive)
 A penny for your thoughts?

WINSTON

(witty)

I usually take pence pieces, but alright. I was thinking, it's been such a memorable evening, and that I will not have anything to remember it by.

EMMA

Hold on.

Emma starts to wriggle around under the sheets, as Winston looks curiously at her. Emma stops wriggling.

EMMA

(hands Winston her underwear)

Is this what you had in mind?

Winston stares flabbergasted at the underwear.

WINSTON

(checks his watch)

Oh, my. I didn't know it was this late.

(hops out of bed)

Emma, I must be going.

EMMA

(playful)

Please stay, Winston. We can send Archie a telegram.

Emma laughs heartily, as Winston gets ready to leave.

WINSTON

(dresses frantically)

Heavens no, I'm late, I'm late!

EMMA

(jokingly waves in bed)

Good bye, white rabbit!

EXT. OPEN ROAD - DAWN

WINSTON

Dashes down the cobblestone road, as he heads back home.

INT. ARCHIBALD'S PLACE - EARLY MORNING

FRONT DOOR

Slowly opens, as Winston enters, locks it behind him, and quietly tries to head back to his room.

Winston arrives at his bedroom door, as he quietly goes to enter when a VOICE intervenes.

ARCHIBALD (O.S.)
Back already?

Winston quickly turns around.

ARCHIBALD

Stands firmly, holding a glass of tea.

WINSTON
(composed)
Yes.

ARCHIBALD
You certainly seemed busy. You were away all night.

WINSTON
Thought I'd hold up my end of our agreement. Have you been up this whole time?

ARCHIBALD
Yes. I did some paperwork, read a little, I even did some cleaning. You'd be surprised how much dust accumulates on the bookshelf.
(beat)
So, did you see anything?

WINSTON
Yes, Archie, I did. Emma is seeing someone. He is tall, dark, handsome, and is very debonair. I'd say someone like yourself.

ARCHIBALD
(self-complimentary)
Well, that wouldn't surprise me. I should have known. I thought once we were out of each other's lives we would never pine for one another.
(takes a sip of tea)
I was sadly mistaken.
(beat)
What were they doing?

WINSTON

Well, from what I could see, there was some cuddling, kissing, and what seemed to be intimate conversation.

ARCHIBALD

(looks worried at Winston)
But nothing else, right?

WINSTON

(firmly denies)
Oh, heavens no.

ARCHIBALD

(intense)
Whoever this vile being is, I want to meet him face-to-face, to see if he is worthy of Emma's affections. I will stop at nothing to find him.

WINSTON

(suggestive)
Archie, don't you think you should give Emma her space? I mean, the more she sees your obsession with her, the less of the chance you'll have with her.

ARCHIBALD

(takes a sip of tea)
Touche, Winston. But one must remember that love is akin to a fox hunt. Once the sense of pursuit has been experienced, it is impossible to vanquish. You must look at love as that of a conquest. A conquest you must always win.

WINSTON

(concerned)
But at what cost, Archie?

Winston slowly heads into his room, leaving Archibald alone.

INT. ARCHIBALD'S PLACE - GUEST BEDROOM - MORNING

Winston, finally having a moment to himself, sits on his bed, reading a letter from Emma. He takes a break from reading and delves into his coat, where he pulls out Emma's underwear, and places them beside him.

Winston then takes out the family portrait and small book from the old Caulfield home. Winston gently opens the small book and begins to read it. Suddenly there is a KNOCK at the DOOR.

ARCHIBALD (O.S.)
 (from behind door)
 Winston, it's Archie. May I come in?

Winston leaps up from his bed, as he grabs all of the items, and dashes over to the closet.

ARCHIBALD (O.S.)
 (from behind door)
 Winston, it's Archie. May I please come in?

WINSTON
 (yells out)
 In a minute, Arch!

Winston quickly opens the closet door, as a mountain of clothes falls out of the closet onto the floor and Winston.

ARCHIBALD
 (testily; from behind door)
 Winston, may I please come in?

WINSTON
 (frantically stuffs items in closet)
 Just a moment, Arch. I'm in the nude!

Winston crams all of the clothes and miscellaneous items in the closet, and hardly closes the door, as he heads over to the bedroom door.

WINSTON
 (opens bedroom door; smiles warmly at Archibald)
 Good morning, Archie.

ARCHIBALD
 (stares curiously)
 Good morning, Winston. Is everything well?

WINSTON

(smiles assuredly)

Of course.

(happily tugs on clothes)

Just had to get some clothes on.

ARCHIBALD

(observant)

That's rather odd. Those look like the clothes you wore last night.

WINSTON

Oh, heavens no.

(smells shirt; tries not to make a face)

These are April fresh.

ARCHIBALD

(looks curiously at Winston)

Very well. I was wondering if you would like to join me for breakfast at the manor.

WINSTON

Sounds lovely. Can I just fix myself up first?

ARCHIBALD

Of course.

(exits the room but soon turns around)

Winston, I've been thinking about what you said earlier and I think you are right. I think we should give Emma her space. However, I was wondering if we could continue our agreement.

(beat)

Tonight is the celebration of the monarchy in Town Square. The theme will be masquerade. I have already taken the liberty of purchasing you a costume.

(beat)

Emma will most likely be in attendance. However, I will not be able to attend. I'm meeting an old friend of mine. What do you say?

WINSTON
 (hesitates; answers
 solidly)
 Very well then.

INT. MONARCHY MANOR - DINING ROOM - MORNING

WINSTON AND ARCHIBALD

Sit at table eating breakfast. Servant pours tea in both of their cups and soon departs OUT OF VIEW. The two start to converse.

ARCHIBALD
 (looks at his watch)
 Oh dear, look at the time. I'm meeting Miss Bunson to discuss tomorrow's itinerary.
 (turns to Winston)
 Winston, before I depart, I would just like to tell how proud you've made both the monarchy and myself. I've been talking to some of the hierarchy and they tell me that they want to make you an honorary chair on the King's committee.

WINSTON
 (humbled)
 I don't know what to say, Archie.

ARCHIBALD
 You don't have to say anything. You are my best friend and confidant and I hope we can both rise to the top of the monarchy someday.
 (takes something from his coat pocket and hands it to Winston)
 Here.

Winston takes the object from Archibald and looks closely at it.

INSERT - SMALL MEDAL

Rests in the palm of Winston's hand.

WINSTON
 (looks at medal in awe)
 This is beautiful, Archie.
 (looks up at Archibald)
 (MORE)

WINSTON (cont'd)

I am so sorry, but I have no idea what it is.

ARCHIBALD

(waxes nostalgic)

It's a regalia medal. The highest standing gentlemen of the monarchy wear it. I got it when I was a boy. My father and I went to see the King, who was in Town Square.

(beat)

He tossed into the crowd and I caught it. Legend has it that the person who has it will someday wear the crown.

(looks admiringly at Winston)

And I can think of no one else whom I'd rather give it to.

WINSTON

(tries to hand it back to Archibald)

Archie, I can't accept this.

ARCHIBALD

(softly objects)

Please, Winston. I know I can be an ogre at times, but if you only understood, Winston. My passion for the monarchy is only eclipsed by my passion for Emma. The greater the distance, the deeper the obsession.

WINSTON

Archie - -

ARCHIBALD

(interjects)

Have you ever been in love, Winston?

WINSTON

Yes, Archie, and I think I should tell you - -

ARCHIBALD

(interjects)

Then you know, Winston.

(MORE)

ARCHIBALD (cont'd)
 You know of all the feelings: the
 intimacy, the ardor, the
 heartbreak, the loneliness, and
 most of all, the yearning. To
 yearn is to not love at all,
 Winston.

ARCHIBALD
 (looks at his watch)
 Heaven's look at the time. My
 apologies, Winston.

Archibald gets up from the table and is about to leave.

ARCHIBALD
 (turns to Winston)
 Was there something you wanted to
 tell me, Winston?

WINSTON
 Yes.
 (hesitates)
 What time is the fair?

ARCHIBALD
 Eight sharp.

Archibald turns and leaves.

FADE OUT.

SCENE XII

FADE IN:

EXT. ROYAL MANOR - ATRIUM - LATE AFTERNOON

Winston is having lunch at the atrium, when he receives an
 unexpected visitor.

EMMA (O.S.)
 How does it taste?

Winston looks up from his plate.

EMMA

Stands atop the atrium steps in front of Winston.

WINSTON
 (astounded; sotto voce)
 Emma, what in heavens!

EMMA

My, aren't we nervous today?

WINSTON

(worried; sotto voce)

You must leave here at once.
Archie is right above us.

EMMA

(daring)

Let the old crank see what a real
man is!

WINSTON

(sotto voce)

Emma, I know we are currently
seeing each other, but I think it's
in our best interest to be
immensely discreet about our
relationship. Can we talk
somewhere else?

EXT. ROYAL MANOR - OPEN TRAIL - LATE AFTERNOON

EMMA AND WINSTON

Walk along the path of the trail that leads to the West End
of the manor, and come to a stop.

EMMA

Winston, I would like for you to
accompany me to the celebration of
the monarchy in Town Square
tonight.

WINSTON

A celebration? I had no idea it
was happening.

EMMA

(explanatory)

Yes. Every one hundred years the
monarchy is honoured by all
citizens and members of royalty for
its contributions, accomplishments,
and illustrious history.

WINSTON

(skeptical)

You know, maybe we shouldn't.
There will be numerous people there
and it might be a little dangerous.

EMMA

(stubborn)

Nonsense. There will be various authorities guarding the streets, and everyone is usually civil. It will be great fun.

WINSTON

(rescinded)

Oh, all right.

EMMA

(kisses Winston on cheek)

Splendid. Meet you at eight sharp.

Emma dashes off, as Winston stands idly behind, slightly worried.

INT. ARCHIBALD'S PLACE - GUEST BEDROOM - NIGHT

Winston is getting ready for the festival, as he preens himself in the mirror. A VOICE suddenly interjects.

ARCHIBALD (O.S.)

(witty)

Careful. You don't want to give yourself seven years bad luck.

Winston smiles faintly, as he directs he turns away from the mirror.

ARCHIBALD

Stands stolidly in the doorway.

ARCHIBALD

So, how are you tonight?

WINSTON

(slightly worried)

To be quite earnest, a little nervous.

ARCHIBALD

(reassuring)

Don't be, Winston. Trust me, these events are ballyhooed. Just shaking hands and hobnobbing with the sycophants and upper crust.

(sternly)

Just remember our agreement.

WINSTON

Of course.

(inquisitive)

I just have to know. Where do you think Emma will be if she's in attendance?

ARCHIBALD

Knowing Emma like I do, she'll probably be at the flower station. She is quite fond of flowers.

WINSTON

Splendid.

(puts on his mask)

So, how do I look?

ARCHIBALD

Neat as a pin.

(motions to Winston)

Come now, Winston. Your chariot awaits.

WINSTON

The night is young, Archie.

EXT. FRONT ARCHIBALD'S PLACE - NIGHT

HORSE-DRAWN CARRIAGE

Sits patiently outside.

Winston comes INTO VIEW, as the driver of the carriage holds the door open for him. Winston enters, as the driver heads back to the carriage. The carriage takes off down the cobblestone road.

EXT. OPEN ROAD - WIDE ANGLE - NIGHT

HORSE-DRAWN CARRIAGE

Travels down the empty dirt road.

It soon comes to a stop, as the passenger door opens. Winston gets out of the carriage, and goes to the side of the road.

WINSTON

(picks flowers from roadside)

We must never go empty-handed.

Winston returns to the carriage, as the door closes behind him. The carriage continues on its way.

EXT. TOWN SQUAE - WIDE ANGLE - NIGHT

HORSE-DRAWN CARRIAGE

Pulls up to Town Square.

INT. HORSE-DRAWN CARRIAGE - BACKSEAT - NIGHT

Winston remains in the backseat of the carriage, as he looks awestruck out the window at the night's festivities. Winston makes his way out of the carriage.

EXT. TOWN SQUARE ENTRANCE -WIDE ANGLE - NIGHT

WINSTON

Steps out of the carriage, as it subsequently pulls away. He stands at the entrance.

WINSTON

Looks in awe at the ongoing festivities.

WINSTON
 (puts on his mask)
 Alright. Time to celebrate.

EXT. TOWN SQUARE - NIGHT

WINSTON

Walks through the streets of Town Square, closely observing and taking in all the surrounding festivities. He makes his way to a nearby sidewalk, as he pauses to compose himself.

WINSTON
 (talks to himself; sotto
 voce)
 Alright. You have to stay calm.
 Don't let anything fluster you.

Just as Winston says this, a CLOUD of FIRE BLOWS near him. A startled Winston moves out of the way.

FIRE EATER

Entertains a group of spectators, who ooh and aah at his every exhalation.

WINSTON

Looks on in astonishment.

He continues along the sidewalk, taking in all the sights and attractions. He stops at a jewelry stand, where a MERCHANT is selling pretty pieces.

Winston quickly spots something.

WINSTON'S POV

CLOSEUP - SAPPHIRE-COLORED RING

Luminesces in the display case.

BACK TO SCENE

Winston quickly goes to pick the ring, but not before a small girl comes INTO VIEW, cutting in front of him and grabs up the ring. Winston attempts to talk to the small girl.

WINSTON
 (kneels down to girl;
 sweetly)
 Hello there, lovely lady. Could I
 possibly have a look at the ring
 you have there?

LITTLE GIRL

Looks kindly but suspiciously at Winston.

She proceeds to give Winston the raspberries, pays the vendor for the ring, and runs off.

WINSTON

Stands, eyes squinted and face covered in spit, slightly stirred but composed.

WINSTON
 (calm)
 The innocence of youth.

Winston looks again at the jewelry booth, and searches for a another piece. He quickly spots one and motions to the merchant.

JEWELRY MERCHANT
 Would you like to buy some jewelry?
 (witty)
 Or a handkerchief?

WINSTON

Yes.

(points to piece of
jewelry)

I was wondering if I could purchase
that fine-looking ring, please.

JEWELRY MERCHANT

Of course.

(picks ring from display
and looks admiringly at
it)

Ah, a fine piece you have selected.
(explains)

This is an eternity ring. They say
the person you give this to will be
the one love of your life forever.
That will be three pounds, please.

WINSTON

(hands Merchant pence
pieces)

Here you are, love. Thank you.

JEWELRY MERCHANT

(suggestive)

Make sure you give it to the right
person.

WINSTON

(turns to Merchant)

She's already here.

Winston continues to amble along, when he quickly notices
someone.

WINSTON'S POV

EMMA

Stands idly near a flower booth, clad in her costume.

BACK TO SCENE

Winston slightly trembles, but composes himself and heads
over to her.

WINSTON

(soft)

There you are. I've been looking
all over for you. I really have to
tell you something.

(emotional)

(MORE)

WINSTON (cont'd)

I love you. Always have. Ever since the first time I placed my eyes upon you. I want to live with you, be with you, and love you, now and forever. And I don't care if Archie or anyone else knows. Please, will you be with me?

EMMA

Slowly takes off her mask.

Only it is not Emma, but a HOMELY-LOOKING WOMAN, who is taken with Winston's remarks.

HOMELY WOMAN

(witty)

I don't know what to say.

(gently caresses Winston's cheek)

I barely know you, but you sure are handsome!

Winston, taken aback by the woman, subtly but quickly runs away from the Homely Woman. He continues to run, when a VOICE intervenes.

EMMA (O.S.)

(aloud)

Winston, I'm over here!

Winston stops in his tracks, as he turns around.

EMMA

Stands gracefully in her costume.

WINSTON

Taken by her beauty, goes to Emma.

WINSTON

(a little embarrassed)

Emma, I'm sorry. I thought that was you.

(regretfully shakes his head)

Albeit I found that out the hard way.

(anticipatory)

So, will you?

EMMA

(witty)

Well, I didn't know you had another woman in your life, but yes, I accept.

WINSTON

(gives her the flowers)

I've always believed that someone beautiful deserves the most beautiful things this life can offer.

Winston then takes the eternity ring from its box and places it on Emma's finger.

ETERNITY RING

Luminesces on Emma's finger.

EMMA

(looks closely at the ring and then passionately at Winston)

Winston, I am not deserving of someone such as yourself.

WINSTON

Dear, I should be saying that to you.

(hesitates)

Emma, there's something I've been meaning to tell you. I'm - -

EMMA

(interrupts)

Hold on, Winston. The King is about to speak.

(pulls Winston by the arm)

Come.

EXT. TOWN SQUARE - PODIUM - NIGHT

The KING is at the podium, flanked by two beefy sentries, as he speaks to the assembled masses.

KING

(speaks to crowd)

My fellow citizens, it is with great honour and privilege that I stand before you here tonight to proudly celebrate another century of the monarchy.

CROWD

APPLAUDS accordingly, as the King continues.

KING

(speaks to crowd)

Earnestly, I hope I, and countless members of the monarchy, can not only make the monarchy the omnipotent and fair-ruling government that you see today, but an institution that will succeed and prosper for the people of Britain now and forever.

CROWD

APPLAUDS even LOUDER, as the King has more to add.

KING

(speaks to crowd)

Before I conclude my speech, I must regretfully inform you that one of my primary assistants, Mister Logan Landingham, will be stepping down. We have searched long and arduously for his replacement. Well, tonight I would like to announce the new primary assistant to my cabinet, Mister Winston Maxson.

(looks around for Winston)

Dearest Winston, are you here?

EXT. BEHIND PODIUM - NIGHT

EMMA AND WINSTON

Hold hands with their masks off, as they listen to the King speak. Winston faces goes cold when he hears his name, as Emma smiles and encouragingly pushes Winston up to the podium.

WINSTON

Gracefully heads to the King on the podium. The King warmly shakes his hand, as Winston slowly approaches the podium.

WINSTON

(composes himself; turns to King)

Thank you, your Highness.

(turns to crowd and speaks)

(MORE)

WINSTON (cont'd)

Great citizens of Britain, I am both esteemed and honoured by this distinct designation. I hope I will satisfy the position to the utmost capacity to serve both Britain and its people with fairness, honesty, and dignity. I thank you and may we all enjoy the festival.

The CROWD APPLAUDS uproariously, as Winston gently descends the podium and heads to a nearby alleyway, where he is met by a beaming Emma.

EMMA

(embraces Winston)

I'm so proud of you, Winston.

(inquisitive)

Oh, what is it you wanted to tell me?

WINSTON

(dismissive)

Oh, I can't remember.

EMMA

May I see your mask?

WINSTON

(hands her his mask)

Sure.

EMMA

(looks closely at mask)

You know, they say masks are the definition of who we are. We all wear masks to disguise the true being of who we really are.

(looks suspiciously at Winston)

I still have this feeling that you're not telling me something.

WINSTON

(hesitates)

All I can say is that I am someone who is madly in love with you and I want you to know that is no secret.

Emma and Winston kiss. They soon take each other's hands and depart to enjoy the night's festivities.

MYSTERY POV

Watches Emma and Winston the whole time from inside the dark alley, as they are now OUT OF VIEW.

BACK TO SCENE

A masked person steps out of the dark alley and takes off his mask. It is Archibald, who now knows the secret.

ARCHIBALD

Shines in the bright lights of the festival.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT III

ACT IV

SCENE XIII

FADE IN:

INT. ROYAL MANOR - WASHROOM - DAY

WINSTON

Sits comfortably in a chair, his face covered in lather and a hot towel over his eyes, as he waits to be shaved.

WASHROOM DOOR

Slowly opens, as Archibald quietly walks in and locks the door behind him.

WINSTON

(aloud; from his chair)

Gerald, is that you? I just want a quick shave today, please.

(giddy)

I have a meeting with the King himself and then I'm off to see my woman.

ARCHIBALD

Ardently sharpens the razor on the strop.

RAZOR

Moves to and fro on the strop.

ARCHIBALD

With razor in hand, glares intensely at Winston, as he goes over to shave him.

WINSTON

(talks from chair)

I had such a smashing evening last night. Can you believe it? Not only do I have a new position, but I've also met the love of my life.

(ardent)

Her lips, Gerald, are like the morning dew on flowers. Not to worry, I have my eyes closed like you ask. And her kiss is like the touch of silk.

At that comment, Archibald hardly shaves Winston's cheek.

WINSTON

(cross)

Take it easy, Gerald! You almost got my head there!

(observant)

You are awfully quiet today, Gerald.

ARCHIBALD

(feigning Gerald's voice)

I have a slight cold, Mister Maxson.

WINSTON

(quickly corrects him)

Please, Gerald. It's Winston. I try to keep everything as informal as possible.

ARCHIBALD

(feigning Gerald's voice)

Very well, Winston.

Archibald continues to shave Winston, all the while remaining silent. As soon as Archibald is done shaving Winston, he quietly unlocks the door and departs.

WINSTON
(arises from his
chair,takes off towel,
and looks around)
Gerald?

INT. ROYAL MANOR - MAIN OFFICE - DAY

Archibald is alone in the office, as he carefully unlocks the treasury's safe. The safe opens, as Archibald takes a wad of pound notes and some rolls of pence pieces.

INT. ARCHIBALD'S PLACE - GUEST BEDROOM - DAY

WINSTON

Carefully grooms himself in the mirror.

He swiftly turns around to see Archibald standing in back of him.

ARCHIBALD
So, how was the festival?

WINSTON
Well, I didn't see Emma, Arch.

ARCHIBALD
(extends his hand)
Congratulations. I heard you were
appointed to the King's cabinet.

WINSTON
(warmly shakes his hand)
Yes, thank you. I don't know why
you were not appointed.

ARCHIBALD
I'm sure they had their reasons.
Listen, we are having a round table
meeting today at the monarchy
manor. All are expected to attend.
(shows Winston a suit
jacket)
I thought it would be nice if you
wore this suit jacket. It is much
too small for me and I think it
would look rather good on you.
It's made from the finest fabric.

WINSTON
(looks admiringly at suit jacket)
Yes, it is quite a piece.

ARCHIBALD
(hands him suit jacket)
Here, try it on.

WINSTON
(tries on suit jacket)
Oh, she fits like a glove.
(asks politely)
Archie, it's bloody warm outside.
May I wear it when we get to the manor?

ARCHIBALD
Of course. We leave in ten minutes.

INT. MONARCHY MANOR - CONFERENCE ROOM - WIDE ANGLE -
AFTERNOON

Members of the monarchy are seated at a round table, bantering amongst each other and awaiting the start of the meeting.

WINSTON

Sits quietly at the table, next to a random member of the monarchy.

ARCHIBALD

Sits at the opposite end of the table across from Winston, diligently tending to paperwork, completely oblivious to anyone/anything.

KING

Slowly enters the conference room, as everyone seated at the round table respectfully rise and stay silent. The King approaches the head seat at the round table, as he starts to speak.

KING
(speaks aloud)
Thank you. You may be seated.

Everyone at the round table sits, as the King starts to speak.

KING
 (speaks aloud)
 Good afternoon, everyone. Before we start our meeting, I must regretfully inform you that someone has taken a considerable sum of money from the treasury's strong box.

Everyone at the round table gives an astounded and collective GASP.

KING
 May I ask all of you to please stand and to place your hand in the pocket of the person seated next to you.

Everyone at the round table heeds the King's decree.

ARCHIBALD

Looks sternly at everything/everyone around him, while placing his hand in pocket of fellow monarchy member.

WINSTON

Looks worried but composed, while having his hand in the pocket of a fellow monarchy member.

KING
 (aloud; sternly)
 Now release.

Everyone at the round table release their hands. The man seated next to Winston pulls out a wad of pounds and some rolls of pence pieces. Everyone at the table gasps, as Winston looks at the money incredulously.

KING
 (looks sternly at Winston)
 Well, it seems that sadly one of our own is a pilferer.
 (motions to Guards)
 Guards, please escort Mister Maxson out.

Two huge and beefy guards grab Winston and escort him out of the conference room, as everyone standing looks on in disappointment/shock.

ARCHIBALD

Looks stolidly and aimlessly, completely oblivious to Winston or anyone else.

INT. LOCAL PRISON - PRISON CELL - LATE AFTERNOON

WINSTON

Sits pensively in his jail cell, when he gets company.

EMMA

Enters, as she pays Winston a visit.

WINSTON
 (rises and runs up to
 prison bars)
 Emma, what are you doing here?

EMMA
 I came as soon as I heard. It can
 not be so, Winston.

WINSTON
 (firm)
 I did not steal the money, Emma.
 On my word.

EMMA
 Archibald must be behind this. Has
 he visited you?

WINSTON
 No. I am not allowed to associate
 with any members of the monarchy
 for a specified number of days and
 I am banished forever from the
 royal and monarchy manors.

EMMA
 Is there a sum of money that will
 release you from here?

WINSTON
 I am not sure.
 (looks firmly at Emma)
 Emma, I want you to listen to me.
 (MORE)

WINSTON (cont'd)
 Avoid Archie as much as possible.
 I don't want you to get hurt.

EMMA
 (confident)
 There is no need to worry about me.

WINSTON
 (beseeches)
 Emma, please. If you thought those
 bruises you have now are bad, just
 think of what Archie will do - -

EMMA
 (angrily interjects)
 That is enough, Winston! I will be
 just fine. He knows where I live,
 but he'll never figure out how to
 get in. I will see to that.

WINSTON
 (concerned)
 Just please be careful. I
 shouldn't be in here much longer.
 In that time, I want you to lay low
 and avoid the monarchy as much as
 possible.

EMMA
 (puts her hand through
 prison bars)
 I just want to see you again.

WINSTON
 (grips her hand behind
 bars)
 In due time, my love. Emma, there's
 something I have to tell you. I'm --

Before Winston can finish, the VOICE of the PRISON GUARD
 interrupts.

PRISON GUARD (O.S.)
 I'm sorry, Miss Winthrop, but your
 time is up. Please come by
 tomorrow.

EMMA
 (looks ardently at
 Winston)
 I'll be waiting.

CLOSEUP - EMMA AND WINSTON'S HANDS

Slowly release from through the prison bars.

The Prison Guard escorts Emma out of the cell.

SAME - HOURS LATER

Winston lays on his cell bed, staring contemplatively up at the ceiling.

INT. ROYAL MANOR - ARCHIBALD'S OFFICE - NIGHT

ARCHIBALD

Sits behind his desk, preparing and sealing invitations for the fall gala.

He soon hesitates, as he looks at one of the envelopes.

INSERT SHOT - INVITATION

As it is addressed to Winston.

BACK TO SCENE

Archibald looks closely at the invitation for Winston. He looks to see if anyone is present. Seeing no one, he swiftly places it in his coat pocket and continues his work.

FADE OUT.

SCENE XIV

FADE IN:

INT. LOCAL PRISON - PRISON CELL - LATE AFTERNOON

WINSTON

Lies asleep in his cell, when the Prison Guard beckons him.

PRISON GUARD (O.S.)

(aloud)

Mister Maxson, you are free to go.

Winston is swiftly awakened by the Prison Guard's voice, as he slowly gets up.

WINSTON

(tired)

I beg your pardon, Officer?

PRISON GUARD
You are a free man, Mister Maxson.

WINSTON
(incredulous)
What? By whom?

PRISON GUARD
(unlocks prison cell)
An anonymous individual. The money
was given to a messenger, who
delivered it here this morning.
(opens cell door)
You are a free man, Mister Maxson.

Winston slowly walks out of his cell.

WINSTON
(turns to Prison Guard)
Thank you, Officer.

EXT. FRONT LOCAL PRISON - LATE AFTERNOON

WINSTON

Walks tentatively outside, vigilantly looking around for anyone/anything. He soon encounters a short but dignified man, NOEL DAWSON.

NOEL
(civil)
Good morning. Are you Winston
Maxson?

WINSTON
(suspicious)
Yes. May I ask who you are?

NOEL
(warmly extends his hand)
Of course. Noel Dawson.

Winston firmly but leeringly shakes Noel's hand, as Noel continues.

NOEL
(explanatory)
I am here to inform you that all of
your personal belongings are in my
possession since your brief stay in
the local jail. You have a room
waiting for you at the Shady Elms
Hotel.

(MORE)

NOEL (cont'd)

I have taken the liberty of placing
all of your belongings in your
room.

WINSTON

(inquisitive)

How much do I owe you?

NOEL

(kindly)

Not a pence. The room, as well as
the transfer of your belongings,
has all been accounted for.

WINSTON

(suspicious)

Who is behind all this? I was just
released from jail by someone who
posted my bail. Who are you, and
who are you working for? Are you
one of Archie's men?

NOEL

(stern)

I am not at liberty to discuss the
individual who has rendered these
services for you.

(looks cross at Winston)

If I were you, I would be rather
grateful. Out of jail and in a
nice hotel room. Someone is quite
fond of you.

WINSTON

(rescinded)

Well, the Shady Elms is about five
miles from here. I better get
started if I'm to reach it before
dark.

Winston starts to walk, when Noel intervenes.

NOEL (O.S.)

(halts Winston)

Mister Maxson, wait.

Winston turns around, as Noel continues.

NOEL

That will not be necessary. You
have also been provided with a
carriage for transportation.

Noel smiles warmly.

WINSTON

Looks suspiciously at Noel.

EXT. FRONT SHADY ELMS HOTEL - EVENING

HORSE-DRAWN CARRIAGE

Pulls up to the front of the hotel.

NOEL AND WINSTON

Both exit the carriage, as they walk to the front of the hotel, about to wish each other farewell.

WINSTON

(polite)

I would like to thank you for all
of your assistance.

NOEL

Think nothing of it.

(extends his hand)

It was truly an honor to make your
acquaintance, Mister Maxson.

Winston firmly shakes Noel's hand, as Noel continues.

NOEL

(witty)

From what I've heard, you are quite
the one with the ladies. Maybe
your luck will increase here
tonight, eh?

WINSTON

(witty)

Luck, she is a lady.

Winston heads into the hotel, as he enters the front door.

WINSTON

(whispers under his
breath)

Wanker.

INT. SHADY ELMS HOTEL - HOTEL ROOM - EVENING

WINSTON

Lies pensively on his hotel bed, when he hears a RUFFLING
NOISE.

Winston quickly rises from his bed, and tentatively heads towards the door.

Winston slowly unlocks the door, and hesitates before swiftly opening it. Winston looks around outside his door for anyone/anything. He sees no one, but soon looks down and sees something.

WINSTON'S DOWN ANGLE POV

CLOSEUP - ENVELOPE

Lies idly on the ground in front of Winston's door.

BACK TO SCENE

Winston looks curiously at the envelope, as he picks it up and closes the door.

INT. SHADY ELMS HOTEL - HOTEL ROOM - EVENING

WINSTON

Lays prostrate on his bed, as he quietly reads the letter to himself. It is from Archibald.

ARCHIBALD (V.O.)

(from letter)

Dear Winston, I am writing you this letter to inform you that I have taken the liberty of accounting for all of your personal belongings, bail, and lodging. I hope you enjoyed the company of Noel. He is an old friend. I have also left for an envelope full of pounds and pence pieces in the upper draw of your night stand. I hope it will be sufficient.

I would also like to warn you to stay away from Emma. There are certain things that we must allow to take their natural course. If you fail to obey I will be forced to take matters into my own hands. I wish you well and hope to see you again. Sincerely, Archibald.

Winston puts down the letter and opens the draw of the night stand, and proceeds to pull out some pounds and pence pieces. Winston promptly counts it, as he picks up the letter and looks pensively at it.

EXT. MONARCY MANOR - ESTABLISHING SHOT - WIDE ANGLE - NIGHT

The manor is aglow with lights, as horse-drawn carriages wait patiently out front.

CUT TO:

INT. MONARCHY MANOR - BANQUET HALL - WIDE ANGLE - NIGHT

The fall gala is afoot, as people dance, converse with one another, enjoy fine cuisine and spirits, and take in music from a mini orchestra.

ARCHIBALD

Stands and talks with a friend. He excuses himself, as he goes to the table for some hors' de oeuvres.

EMMA

Stands idly against a wall, casually watching the night's festivities.

ARCHIBALD

Swiftly spots Emma, puts down his plate, and heads toward her.

ARCHIBALD

(warmly approaches Emma)

Good evening, Emma.

EMMA

(coy)

Archibald.

ARCHIBALD

(looks admiringly at
festivities)

Such a lovely evening.

(turns to Emma)

Would you care to dance?

EMMA

No, thank you. I was wondering where Winston is. I heard he was released from prison this morning.

ARCHIBALD

(uppity)

Oh, how lovely. I sent him his invitation.

EMMA

(looks suspiciously at Archibald)
 Something tells me it got lost in the post.

ARCHIBALD

(gently)
 Emma, I know we have had our share of difficult times. But if we are ever to reunite, I promise you will see a new man. A better man. There's something about Winston that you do not know.

EMMA

(raises her voice)
 But there is plenty I know about you!

ARCHIBALD

(ardent)
 Emma, please. I want you to see, that I have made it my life's effort to reach the highest pinnacle in the monarchy. And I want you with me when that day arrives.

EMMA

(strong)
 And it is an invitation I will never accept.

ARCHIBALD

(grabs Emma hardly)
 Why do you do this to me? Always tantalizing me and then when I seem to develop an intimacy with you, you push me away.

(looks intensely at Emma)
 I know about you and Winston. And God help him, if he continues to see you, he will be faced with a grim and uncertain future. I will see to that.

EMMA

(strong)
 Don't you dare threaten Winston. If you have anyone to take umbrage at, look no further than myself.

ARCHIBALD

I will never bring any harm to you.
But warn Winston that I am watching
him. And I am the one person he
can't evade.

Archibald departs, as he heads back to the food table.

EMMA

Remains behind, slightly shaken but composed.

FADE OUT.

SCENE XV

FADE IN:

EXT. WINTHROP MANOR - ATRIUM - DAY

EMMA

Sits at a small table in the atrium, enjoying a light meal.

ATRIUM BUSHES

Ruffle, as Emma becomes frightened. Winston emerges.

WINSTON

(gently emerges from
bushes)

Pardon my entrance.

EMMA

(looks astounded at him)
You sure know how to make an
entrance. I did not see you at the
fall gala last night.

WINSTON

(confounded)
There was one?

EMMA

I knew it.

WINSTON

(confounded)
Knew what?

EMMA
 Nevermind.
 (concerned)
 How are you?

WINSTON
 I'm well, thank you. Emma, I've
 come to talk to you.

EMMA
 In regards to what?

WINSTON
 About us.

EMMA
 (slightly confused)
 What about us?

WINSTON
 (sober)
 After I was released from prison,
 I've arrived at a major decision.
 I'm leaving town for personal
 reasons.

EMMA
 (curious)
 Why the sudden change of heart?

WINSTON
 I have my reasons.
 (hands envelope to Emma)
 But this one in particular.

Emma takes the envelope from Winston, opens it, reads the
 letter from Archibald and stares sternly at Winston.

EMMA
 (angrily throws down
 letter)
 And you're going to let this come
 between us?

WINSTON
 (worried)
 Emma, I'm sorry. I just don't want
 you to get involved with me. I'm
 starting a new life and where that
 will take me involves tremendous
 risk.

EMMA

(strong)

And it is a risk I am willing to take. Where are you staying?

WINSTON

At the Shady Elm Hotel.

EMMA

(sarcastic)

You'd be better off in a pig's sty. Come stay with me. You'll be given full service and protection of your privacy.

WINSTON

(pleads)

But Emma...

EMMA

(angrily intervenes)

Do not argue with me, Winston!

(takes him by his arm)

Come with me.

Emma and Winston depart from the atrium into the manor. Little do they know they are not alone.

MYSTERY POV

Watching from off in the woods, Archibald emerges from behind a tree, as he has been watching the two the whole time.

INT. WINTHROP MANOR - EMMA'S BEDROOM - EVENING

EMMA AND WINSTON

Sit Indian-style on bed, as they eat supper on trays that have been brought up to Emma's bedroom.

WINSTON

Eats, catches Emma off guard, and furtively takes a lamb chop from off his platter.

CLOSEUP - LAMB CHOP

As Winston's hand furtively places in his coat pocket.

WINSTON

Continues to quietly eat, when a concerned Emma starts to speak.

EMMA

(concerned)

Are you well, Winston? You look like something is on your mind.

WINSTON

(coyly eats)

Well, it's just that I feel quite uncomfortable here, Emma.

EMMA

(strong)

Why, Winston? At the fall gala, Archibald told me that there are some things about you that I should know.

(beat)

I usually don't take Archie for his word, but in this case I must make an exception. Is there something you're not telling me, Winston?

WINSTON

(sober)

Yes, Emma. I am not who you think I am.

EMMA

(confounded)

What do you mean by that?

WINSTON

(soberly explains)

I'm not a member of the monarchy, Emma. I'm your common street urchin. I met Archie a few months ago. He offered me a life of prestige and opulence, in exchange that I spy on you.

(beat)

At first I thought nothing of it. But when I saw you I knew that there was something else. Something better.

EMMA

(incredulous)

How could you, Winston? How could you deceive me into feeling something for you? Into loving you. I told you all my most profound secrets and inner emotions.

(MORE)

EMMA (cont'd)

And now you finally present this to me?

(angrily points to door)

Get out, now.

Winston rises from the bed and heads towards the bedroom door. Winston, with his back turned, says his last words to Emma.

WINSTON

(somber)

I thought that if you saw that I wasn't a part of the monarchy, you would never love me in the same fashion. I know that my background may be artificial, but my love for you has and will always remain genuine. And that is why I had something else I wanted to tell you. If you need me, I'll be near the Thames, reflecting on what might have been.

Winston slowly turns around and stares somberly at Emma. He reaches into his pocket and pulls out a small box. Winston hands it to Emma, as he departs from the bedroom.

EMMA

Slowly opens the box.

INSERT SHOT - SMALL DIAMOND ENGAGEMENT RING

Luminesces brightly in the light.

BACK TO SCENE

Emma looks dumbfounded and speechless at the ring, as she takes it out of the box and places it on her finger.

INT. LOCAL TAVERN - HOURS LATER

The BARTENDER is cleaning up and ready to close, as a drunk Winston sleeps soundly on the bar.

BARTENDER #2

(shakes Winston's arm)

Come now, mate. We're closing.

Winston wakes up, as he looks groggily around, and then looks closely at his watch. He then tries to get up from his stool, but stands unsteadily.

BARTENDER
(concerned)
Are you sure you can get home?

WINSTON
(drunk)
Oh, yes.
(hiccup)
I should be fine, thank you.

Winston drudgingly exits the bar.

EXT. TOWN SQUARE - BACK ALLEY - WIDE ANGLE - NIGHT

WINSTON

Stumbles along the back alley, trying to head home safe.

Suddenly, out of nowhere, a DARK FIGURE emerges and throws Winston to the ground.

WINSTON

Lies drunk and in slight pain on the asphalt, as he looks up at his assailant.

WINSTON'S UP ANGLE POV

ARCHIBALD

Looms angrily over Winston, with a gun in his hand aimed at Winston's face.

ARCHIBALD
(angrily points gun)
You ungrateful bastard. I gave you
a life of prestige and privilege
and this is how you repay me? By
taking the one thing which is
rightfully mine?

WINSTON
(yells loudly)
She was never yours, Archie!

ARCHIBALD

Enraged by Winston's comments, punches Winston in the bread basket.

WINSTON

In pain, manages to push off Archibald, and swiftly rises to his feet.

WINSTON
 (stares intensely at
 Archibald)
 How could you poison your own
 parents, you son of a bitch?

ARCHIBALD
 (astounded)
 How did you know that?

WINSTON
 (pulls out portrait and
 booklet from coat pocket;
 shows them to Archibald)
 I found these at your old home. I
 visited it.

ARCHIBALD
 (enraged)
 You bastard.

WINSTON
 (looks intensely at
 Archibald)
 Emma was right about you. You
 don't care about anything or
 anyone. As long as they help you
 move up the monarchy ladder.

A furious Archibald points his gun at Winston, who stands stock still.

WINSTON
 (daring)
 Go ahead and pull the trigger. If
 it makes you that much more of a
 man to take the life of another.

ARCHIBALD
 (slowly puts gun down)
 You're right. I've got something
 fairer.

Archibald hands Winston the gun. Winston stands puzzled.

WINSTON
 (stares puzzled at
 Archibald)
 You're not going to shoot me?

ARCHIBALD

(crossly)

No.

(sternly explains)

I challenge you to a duel. Near
the Thames at sunrise. May the
victor possess the heart of Emma.
Don't be late. I don't tolerate
tardiness.

Archibald departs from the back alley. Winston stands
speechless in the alleyway, with gun in hand.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT III

ACT IV

SCENE XVI

FADE IN:

SERIES OF SHOTS

Archibald sits in his bedroom, loading his gun, as he
prepares for the duel at dawn.

Winston remains in back alley, as he eats an apple, and
closely looks at the gun Archibald gave to him.

Archibald practices his paces, as he also practices pointing
his gun.

Winston sits pensively on a bench on a sidewalk in Town
Square, as he mentally prepares for the duel.

INT. UNKNOWN PLACE - BEDROOM - LATE NIGHT

ARCHIBALD AND PROSTITUTE

Have sex under the covers. Archibald soon decides to end it.

PROSTITUTE

(out of breath)

I must say, Arch, you still haven't
lost your touch.

ARCHIBALD
 (out of breath)
 Well, I do pride myself on
 performance.

Archibald arises from the bed, and gets dressed.

PROSTITUTE
 (looks curiously at
 Archibald)
 Where are you going? You just got
 here.

ARCHIBALD
 (gets dressed)
 I have someone, I mean, something
 to take care of. I'll be back
 soon.

PROSTITUTE
 (shakes her head in
 disappointment)
 That's always been the story with
 you, Arch. Here tonight, gone
 tomorrow morning. I wonder how
 many have heard that one from you?

ARCHIBALD
 (impudent)
 Well, now you can proudly include
 yourself in that pantheon.

PROSTITUTE
 Now I can see why Emma left you.
 You seem to care about one person,
 and all you have to do is look in
 the mirror to see who that is.

ARCHIBALD
 (sarcastic)
 I'd love to stay here and take in
 your sweet nothings, but I have
 some important business to attend
 to. I'll be seeing you.

PROSTITUTE
 Hopefully soon.

Archibald, now dressed, heads towards the bedroom door.

PROSTITUTE

Remains in bed, as she looks seductive but disappointed.

INT. WINTHROP MANOR - EMMA'S BEDROOM - LATE NIGHT

EMMA

Sits pensively in her bed, looking at the engagement ring Winston gave to her.

Emma then looks at the eternity ring on her finger. She soon decides to follow her heart.

INT. WINTHROP MANOR - STAIRCASE - LATE NIGHT

Emma, fully dressed, is about to head out the door, when a VOICE intervenes.

ELIZA (O.S.)
Kind of late to be going out, is it not?

Emma turns around.

ELIZA

Stands in the middle of the foyer.

EMMA
Aren't you supposed to be in bed?

ELIZA
Aren't you?

EMMA
I couldn't sleep.

ELIZA
Neither could I.

EMMA
I'm heading out.

ELIZA
(incredulous)
Are you daft? It's almost five in the morning.

EMMA
(sober)
I have to do something.

ELIZA
What?

EMMA

(sober)

Do you remember when we spoke? You told me that if I never followed my heart, I would regret it for the rest of my life. Well, this is one of those moments.

Emma heads towards the door, when she suddenly turns to Eliza.

EMMA

Aren't you going to wish me luck?

Eliza stands silent, as Emma departs.

ELIZA

(watches Emma leave; sotto voce)

Good luck.

EXT. TOWN SQUARE - OPEN STREET - WIDE ANGLE - LATE NIGHT

ARCHIBALD

Walks alone and fleet down the open street, as he heads for the Tames.

EXT. THAMES RIVERSIDE - SHORE - MAGIC HOUR

WINSTON

Slowly along the riverside, as he watches the sun and the raging waters. A VOICE soon emerges.

ARCHIBALD (O.S.)

The mighty Tames.

Winston quickly turns around.

ARCHIBALD

Stands gracefully near the river.

ARCHIBALD

(looks admiringly at Tames River)

Always a pleasant sight. It will flow eternal.

(turns to Winston)

Unlike one of our lives. So, are you ready?

WINSTON
 (strong)
 Whenever you are.

ARCHIBALD
 (explanatory)
 Very well, then. We will each take
 ten paces forward, and then fire.
 Any questions?

WINSTON
 (confident)
 Just one. Where do you like your
 bullets?

Archibald does not reply, as both men take their places.

EXT. TAMES RIVER - WOODS - WIDE ANGLE - SUNRISE

EMMA

Runs frantically through the woods that lead up to the Tames.

INT. THAMES RIVERSIDE - SUNRISE

WINSTON AND ARCHIBALD

Begin their paces.

EMMA

Continues to run through the woods.

WINSTON

Takes another step, as he readies his gun.

ARCHIBALD

Takes another step, as he readies his gun.

EMMA

Now out of the woods, quickly runs to the shore, as she spots
 both men.

WINSTON

Takes another step, as he looks prepares to turn.

ARCHIBALD

Takes another step, as he prepares to turn.

EMMA

Has now reached the men, as she gets in between them.

ARCHIBALD

Turns and FIRES his GUN.

WINSTON

Turns and FIRES his GUN.

EMMA

Gets SHOT by the BULLETS.

ARCHIBALD

Looks in shock and heads to Emma.

WINSTON

Looks in shock and heads to Emma.

WINSTON AND ARCHIBALD

Carefully tend to Emma.

ARCHIBALD
 (checks Emma's pulse)
 She's not breathing.
 (looks at Winston)
 Help me take her.

Winston and Archibald lift up Emma's body and carry it.

EXT. THAMES RIVER - FOREST - EARLY MORNING

WINSTON AND ARCHIBALD

Carefully lie Emma's body down and tend to her.

ARCHIBALD
 (looks firmly at Winston)
 We have to leave her body here. We
 can't risk the authorities. Not a
 word of this to anyone.
 (beat)
 (MORE)

ARCHIBALD (cont'd)
 Winston, it is with both relief and
 sorrow, that I bid you a terse and
 bittersweet farewell. You are of
 no avail to me anymore.

WINSTON

Looks intently at Archibald.

ARCHIBALD
 What's the matter?

WINSTON
 (intense)
 The only thing worse than hearing
 your voice is being in your
 presence.

ARCHIBALD
 (sarcastic)
 I'm deeply flattered, but I must be
 leaving.

Archibald gaits across the forest into an open area and
 disappears OUT OF VIEW.

WINSTON

Watches Archibald depart, as his attention swiftly shifts to
 Emma, as he tends to her.

SAME - HOURS LATER

EMMA AND WINSTON

Both lie idly on the ground. Winston is soon awakened by a
 RUFFLING NOISE, as he gets up and runs for cover behind a
 nearby tree. He hears the voices of two POLICE OFFICERS.

POLICE OFFICER #1 (O.S.)
 The woman said she heard gunfire go
 off near here.

POLICE OFFICER #2 (O.S.)
 Well, we'll soon see. Old Pip here
 can help us collar the perp.

TWO POLICE OFFICERS

Accompanied by a bloodhound, are ambling around the forest,
 after receiving a notice from a resident regarding gunfire.
 They soon enter the forest when the Pip quickly discovers the
 body.

POLICE OFFICER #1
 (looks in shock at body)
 My heavens! It is Miss Winthrop!

POLICE OFFICER #2
 (inquisitive)
 You know her?

POLICE OFFICER
 (looks despondently at
 body)
 Never a kinder woman ever graced
 this earth.

BLOODHOUND

Quickly detects something else, as he BARKS.

POLICE OFFICER #2
 (talks to bloodhound)
 You smell something, Pip?

WINSTON

Remains standing stock-still behind the tree. He hears the authorities approaching, when he frantically digs into his pocket, and pulls out the lamb chop from last night's supper with Emma. Winston quickly throws it to the ground.

POLICE OFFICERS

Stand right in front of the tree, where Winston is hiding, awaiting for Pip to detect anyone/anything.

BLOODHOUND

Discovers the lamb chop and quickly chomps it off the ground, as it turns to the Officers.

POLICE OFFICER #1
 (shakes his head in
 disappointment)
 Bloody brilliant. He found his
 breakfast.
 (looks at his partner)
 Come now. We must bring the body
 to the apothecary.

POLICE OFFICER #2
 (interrogative)
 Where is the apothecary?

WINSTON

Still hiding behind the tree, listens carefully as the Police Officers.

POLICE OFFICER #1 (O.S.)
He is located on the lower East End
of town. Come now.

POLICE OFFICER #2 (O.S.)
(calls to bloodhound)
Come now, Pip.

POLICE OFFICERS

Gently lift Emma's body and begin to carry it back to their wagon.

WINSTON

Calmly waits for the Officers to depart, as he goes to follow them to the apothecary.

EXT. LOCAL APOTHECARY - MORNING

WINSTON

Arrives first to the apothecary, as he waits for the Officers' wagon to arrive.

Winston discovers a nearby barrel on the side of the entrance. He quickly goes and hides behind it.

POLICE WAGON

Arrives minutes later, as it comes to a stop in front of the apothecary. Both Police Officers exit the wagon, as they go to the backseat to bring out the body. They carefully bring out the body, as they carry it inside. Winston stealthily follows them in.

INT. LOCAL APOTHECARY - HALLWAY - MORNING

POLICE OFFICERS

Gently carry the body through the corridor.

Winston walks quietly behind them, as he quickly slips into a nearby room.

One of the Officers, intuiting someone, quickly turns his head, but sees nothing. He shrugs, as both Officers continue to carry the body.

INT. LOCAL APOTHECARY - LABORATORY - MORNING

Winston enters the dimly-lit laboratory, as he frantically looks for a place to hide. He discovers a nearby supply closet. Seconds later, the two Officers, carrying Emma's corpse, and the APOTHECARY, enter the laboratory.

The Officers gently lay the corpse down on a nearby table, as they step aside to let the Apothecary do his work.

POLICE OFFICER #1
We found the body deep in the
forest near the Thames.

APOTHECARY
(carefully inspects the
corpse)
I'm going to need a couple of hours
to examine and process the body.
From what I can observe, a bullet
took her life. Lower lumbar
region.

POLICE OFFICERS

Are about to depart the laboratory, when the Apothecary makes a shocking discovery.

APOTHECARY
(inspects the corpse; has
his hand on Emma's
stomach)
Gentlemen. It seems that this
woman wasn't the only one whose
life was taken.

POLICE OFFICER #2
(confounded)
What do you mean?

APOTHECARY
(looks soberly at
Officers)
She was with child.

POLICE OFFICERS

Stare somberly but composed at the Apothecary.

APOTHECARY

If you'll excuse me, Officers, I
have to start embalming the body.
Thank you and good day.

Both the Police Officers and the Apothecary exit the
laboratory.

LAB CLOSET DOOR

Slowly begins to open, as Winston tentatively exits, and
heads over to the corpse of Emma. Winston looks shaken but
composed at the corpse, as he gently takes her hand.

CLOSEUP - EMMA'S COLD AND LIFELESS HAND

Hold both the rings Winston gave her.

WINSTON

Gently takes both rings off Emma's finger and departs.

FADE OUT.

SCENE XVII

FADE IN:

EXT. LOCAL CHURCH - CHURCH STEPS - A FEW DAYS LATER

The funeral service for Emma has just ended, as mourners
crowd the church steps and streets to pay their respects.

EMMA'S CASKET

Is wheeled slowly through the streets, as a ALARUM PLAYS, and
members of the monarchy walk somberly behind, while somber-
filled onlookers watch.

MEMBERS OF MONARCHY

Stand soberly on the church steps, among them, Samuel
Northam, as they talk amongst each other.

MONARCHY MEMBER

(sober)

I can't believe Emma is gone. I am
sure her murderer will be caught
and justly served.

SAMUEL

(looks curiously around)
Where's Archibald? I know he
certainly would have been here.

INT. ARCHIBALD'S PLACE - ARCHIBALD'S BEDROOM - DAY

CLOSEUP - ARCHIBALD'S FACE

Looks in the mirror. It is hideously discolored and is rife
with lesions.

ARCHIBALD

Turns away from mirror, when he feels a sharp and sudden pain
in his private area.

Archibald grabs his private area in pain, as he writhes on
the floor in pain. He heads over to his closet, as he opens
the door and gets on his knees.

SMALL SHRINE OF EMMA

Hides in the closet. It contains some personal mementos of
hers, pictures of Emma and Archibald, and a self-portrait of
Emma, painted by Archibald.

CLOSEUP - GUN

As it is pointed to Archibald's head. It is the same gun from
the duel.

ARCHIBALD

(sheds tears; sotto voce)
The throes of passion kill us all,
my love.

FLOCK OF BIRDS

Fly off rooftop into the sky, as the sound of the GUN FIRING
goes off.

EXT. TOWN SQUARE - BUSY STREET CORNER - HOURS LATER

A young NEWSIE is busy peddling papers.

NEWSIE

(shouts out the day's
headlines)
News today! Member of monarchy
found dead!

The Newsie becomes surrounded by curious citizens, each looking to purchase a print.

INT. TOWN SQUARE - BACK ALLEY - DAY

HEAP OF GARBAGE

Rests idly in a alley corner. It starts to move, as Winston emerges from underneath. He rises, as he staggers around the alley. He quickly spots something.

WINSTON'S POV

FAMILIAR SET OF HAIR

Looks to belong to that of Emma.

BACK TO SCENE

Winston, taken by the sight, quickly moves forward.

WINSTON

(yells out and runs)

Emma! Emma! It's Winston!

Winston runs across the street and proceeds to stumble and fall over the cobblestones. Winston remains disoriented and immobile on the ground, as he looks to his right.

WINSTON'S POV

HORSE-DRAWN CARRIAGE

Claps right towards him. The carriage proceeds to TRAMPLE Winston, as it continues along the road.

WINSTON

Lies motionless in the street, as a throng of people engulf him.

CLOSEUP - WINSTON'S BLOODY AND LIFELESS HAND

Slowly unfurls, as the regalia medal and two rings fall gently on the cobblestone.

EXT. LOCAL CEMETERY - MAGIC HOUR

Members of the monarchy, along with a few random citizens, surround, the casket of Winston, as he is about to be laid to rest. Fellow mourners listen to the PRIEST give the closing rites.

PRIEST

(reads hymnal and speaks
aloud)

And we will not venture lightly
into the dark valley of death, but
rather mightily, where we will
eventually sit in the heavenly
realm of Our Holy Father. Forever
and ever.

Everyone starts to depart, as the casket of Winston is gently
interred.

GRAVES OF EMMA, WINSTON, AND ARCHIBALD

Lie peacefully next to one another in the cemetery, as the
sun starts to set over the horizon.

FADE OUT.

THE END

