

**THE PRINCESS & THE POET**

Written by

Jonathan Turner Smith

Tsjonny1@gmail.com  
213.713.0267  
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**EPISODE 1**

**EXT. DOWNTOWN LOS ANGELES - MORNING**

The streets are bustling with people going to who knows where. HOMELESS PEOPLE begging, casually-dressed PEOPLE shopping, and BICYCLISTS weaving. A Beautiful Young woman, MARGARET (25), effortless elegance beneath oversized sunglasses and an expensive hooded jacket, crosses the street and walks to an outdoor cafe.

**EXT. OUTDOOR CAFE - MORNING**

As she sits she looks around as if to check if anyone is following her.

She pulls a book from her bag, takes a deep breath, and relaxes. She opens her book and begins to read.

ERIC THOMPSON (31), tall, well-built, and good-looking, approaches her table.

ERIC

Hi...

Margaret is startled and gasps.

ERIC (CONT'D)

I'm so sorry. I didn't mean to scare you... Must be really good.

PRINCESS MARGARET

Excuse me?

ERIC

Your book... it must be really good for you not to have heard me approach.

PRINCESS MARGARET

Yes... it's one of my favorites.

**INT. OUTDOOR CAFE - DAY**

SUSAN MCCOY (20's), a bit overweight and a waitress, stands at the entrance to the cafe watching in stunned silence as Eric talks with Margaret.

SUSAN

O-M-G!

TERI BLACKLOCK (20's), also a waitress with pink hair, a nose ring, and wearing too much make-up, stops busing a table.

TERI  
What? What are looking at?

SUSAN  
Look who Eric's talking to.

Teri looks at Eric and Margaret. Her mouth drops open.

TERI  
O-M-G

## EPISODE 2

### INT. OUTDOOR CAFE - DAY

Eric sees the cover of the book and his eyes light up.

ERIC  
Oh man, I love Emily Dickinson.  
She's one of my favorite poets. "I  
heard a Fly buzz - when I died -  
The Stillness in the Room  
Was like the Stillness in the Air -  
Between the Heaves of Storm."

PRINCESS MARGARET  
I'm impressed. That's one of her  
more obscure poems. Are you a poet  
as well.

ERIC  
Are you kidding? My poetry has been  
rejected by every literary agent in  
town?

Margaret smiles.

ERIC (CONT'D)  
Poetry is so subjective. I try not  
to let the rejection bother me too  
much.

PRINCESS MARGARET  
"Rejection, thief of joy, with  
subtle grace, stripped vibrant  
tones, replaced with muted shades.  
Yet still within, a flicker dares  
to chase, a glimmer's light, in  
darkness it parades."

ERIC  
That's beautiful. Who's the poet?

PRINCESS MARGARET  
No one knows. It's anonymous.

ERIC  
Listen, I'm reading some of my poetry at a bar tonight. You should come. The place is called "Pete's A' Poppin." It's two blocks from here. Maybe we could..

Margaret, suddenly startled, sees TWO MEN in black suits across the street. She immediately puts her book back in her bag, puts on her sunglasses, and pulls her hoodie on. She stands up to go.

### EPISODE 3

ERIC (CONT'D)  
You're leaving? I'm sorry, I didn't mean to offend you...

PRINCESS MARGARET  
(obviously in a hurry and flustered)  
Yes... I mean no, you didn't offend me... I just remembered an appointment.

Margaret starts walking quickly in the opposite direction from where she saw the two men.

ERIC  
(calling after her)  
I didn't even catch your name.

### EXT. OUTDOOR CAFE - MORNING

Susan and Teri dash to where Eric is standing.

SUSAN  
Oh my god. Eric! You do know who that was, right?

ERIC  
No. She ran off so quickly. I didn't even get to ask.

SUSAN  
And...

ERIC

And what?

SUSAN

How can men be so stupid?

ERIC

What are you talking about?

SUSAN

That was Princess Margaret of Valdavia. She and her Father, King Richard, are here for some big-ass world summit.

ERIC

What? No way.

SUSAN

Uh. Yes, way. How could you not know that? She was just on the cover of Vogue. She's like one of the most famous royals ever.

TERI

And you were talking to her!

SUSAN

Wha'd she say. Wha'd she talk about?

TERI

(suggestively)

Who'd she talk about?

#### **EPISODE 4**

#### **INT: PRINCESS MARGARET'S SUITE LUXURY HOTEL - AFTERNOON**

LADY MARY HARRINGTON (late 40's), attractive, sharp-eyed assistant, hands the Princess a glass of water.

LADY MARY

I can't believe you went out alone. What if something had happened?

PRINCESS MARGARET

But it didn't, did it?

LADY MARY

You must promise me you will never do that again.

(MORE)

LADY MARY (CONT'D)

It amazes me you managed to allude your bodyguards. Where did you go?

PRINCESS MARGARET

Do you really want to know?

LADY MARY

No doubt some dusty old book shop.

PRINCESS MARGARET

No such luck. I did find a very cute cafe, though, right across the street. And before you say anything, I had my sunglasses on and I was wearing a hoodie. No one noticed me.

LADY MARY

You wore a hoodie? Good god, Margaret, Princesses do not wear hoodies in public.

PRINCESS MARGARET

Would you rather I had been recognized?

LADY MARY

Good point. I suppose they do have their uses. Are you sure no one recognized you?

PRINCESS MARGARET

Quite sure. Even the waiter didn't know who I was  
(nearly to herself)  
He's a poet.

LADY MARY

What did you say?

PRINCESS MARGARET

Oh nothing.

Lady Mary opens a briefcase and hands a folder to Princess Margaret.

LADY MARY

Your speech for the Children's Hospital for tomorrow.

**EPISODE 5**

**INT: PRINCESS MARGARET'S SUITE LUXURY HOTEL - AFTERNOON**

KING RICHARD (70's), frail, walks with a cane, but regal and proud in a tailored suit, enters the suite. He is followed by four ROYAL GUARDS, including CAPTAIN CASWELL, (38) muscled and intelligent.

KING RICHARD  
(to Captain Caswell)  
Double the detail for the next 24 hours, Captain. Every delegate has a target on their back. Especially ours.

CAPTAIN CASWELL  
Understood, Your Majesty.

Princess Margaret rises and goes to her Father. She kisses him on the cheek.

KING RICHARD  
Margaret. Your absence at the security briefing was noted.

PRINCESS MARGARET  
I needed air.

KING RICHARD  
Air is a luxury we cannot afford. Not here. Not with Konstantin Volkov in attendance. That man would trade his own mother for a gram of Valdavian plutonium.

Before The Princess can answer...

KING RICHARD (CONT'D)  
His Russian consortium has been trying to get their hands on our Plutonium exports for years. Now that we are about to vote for a moratorium on all plutonian mining, they'll exploit any opening.

MARGARET  
Let them try.

KING RICHARD  
Their conglomerate funds half the opposition to the moratorium. If he learns you're vulnerable-

MARGARET  
I'm never vulnerable.

Lady Mary looks at the Princess with concern.

KING RICHARD

Our schedule's airtight. Security sweep at the hotel before the reception. No gaps.

MARGARET

(sighs softly)

"Gaps" imply there was ever room to breathe.

KING RICHARD

You're my daughter first. Princess and future Queen second. Tonight—stay visible. Stay guarded.

## EPISODE 6

### INT: PRINCESS MARGARET'S SUITE LUXURY HOTEL - EVENING

As Lady Margaret works at a large ornate desk, Princess Margaret moves to the huge floor length window and withdraws the curtains. Sunset bleeds over the city. Down below, street lamps flicker on. The tiny café where Princess Margaret visited glows across the boulevard.

PRINCESS MARGARET

(without turning)

Mary... get you coat. We're going out.

Lady Mary stiffens.

LADY MARY

What? Absolutely not. Your father...

MARGARET

... Will be surrounded by fifty diplomats and a small army. We'll be back before he even notices that I'm missing.

LADY MARY

Margaret, it's too dangerous. His Majesty would be furious if he found out.

PRINCESS MARGARET

He won't find out. Who's going to tell him? I certainly won't. Will you?

LADY MARY  
Of Course not. But...

The Princess looks at Lady Mary with determination.

PRINCESS MARGARET  
I spend most of my life abiding by protocol and over-bearing rules. I will be Queen one day and I understand I will not have the luxury of breaking those rules. But while I am still a Princess, I have a chance to ever so rarely stray from the narrow path. Besides I am your boss and you have to do as I say.

The Princess smiles and after a beat... Lady Mary exhales slowly.

LADY MARY  
The east service elevator. Ten minutes after the King's departure.

Margaret smiles faintly.

PRINCESS MARGARET  
Poetry night at Pete's a Poppin'.

LADY MARY  
(writing it down)  
Pizza what?

PRINCESS MARGARET  
(laughing)  
Not Pizza. Pete's. Like Pete is Popping. Pete's a Poppin'.

LADY MARY  
What an absurd name. I'll arrange discreet transport.

MARGARET  
No. We're walking.

Lady Mary stares. Margaret pulls her sunglasses back on.

LADY MARY  
I know I'm going to regret this.

**EPISODE 7**

**EXT. DOWNTOWN LOS ANGELES STREET - EVENING**

Margaret, in dark jeans, leather jacket, and sunglasses, walks casually beside Lady Mary, who wears a pants suit and an overcoat with a hoodie. They blend in with the evening crowd; tourists, street performers, the occasional suit rushing home.

Sound of distant SIRENS mingles with JAZZ spilling from a club doorway.

LADY MARY

(through gritted teeth)

Please let's go back, Margaret. I don't know what got into me. This is insane. Your father would—

MARGARET

(cutting her off)

—be discussing how close the moratorium vote will be with diplomats who smile while calculating how much Valdavian plutonium fits in their pockets for voting with Father... Relax, Mary. We're invisible here. Love the hoodie, by the way.

LADY MARY

Very funny.

Margaret pauses at a street vendor selling churros. The sweet, greasy scent hangs thick. She buys two, handing one to Lady Mary.

LADY MARY (CONT'D)

(staring at the fried dough)

Your security detail would have a collective aneurysm if they saw this.

MARGARET

(taking a bite)

Exactly why it's perfect. Now... where is this Pete's a Poppin'?

They turn a corner. The noise shifts — muted poetry verses drift from a basement entrance marked by a flickering neon "Pete's A Poppin'." sign. Several people stand in line, waiting to get inside.

PRINCESS MARGARET

Wow! Pete really is a poppin'.

**EPISODE 8****INT. PETE'S A' POPPIN BAR - EVENING**

The bar is nearly filled to capacity. Exposed brick walls are plastered with flyers. Small round tables crowd the floor facing a tiny stage with a single spotlight.

Princess Margaret and Lady Mary sit at a vacant table in the back. The Waiter, BRETT(20's), scruffy and goofy, approaches.

BRETT

What can I do you for?

PRINCESS MARGARET

Excuse me?

BRETT

Sorry. Being silly. What can I get you.

PRINCESS MARGARET

Oh, Two glasses of Dom Perignon, please.

BRETT

Now it's my turn. Excuse me?

Eric rushes up to Princess Margaret's table.

ERIC

Hi. I can't believe you came.

PRINCESS MARGARET

Hello, Eric. This is La... my friend, Mary.

ERIC

Nice to meet you, Mary. I'm Eric.

LADY MARY

Yes, I heard.

ERIC

What are you ladies having? What are they having Brett?

BRETT

Not sure yet.

PRINCESS MARGARET

Apparently, they do not have Dom Perignon?

Eric chuckles.

ERIC  
Uh, no... Not that kind of place.

PRINCESS MARGARET  
Just bottled water then.

LADY MARY  
And two clean glasses, please.

BRETT  
That we have. I'll be right back.

Brett leaves.

## EPISODE 9

### INT. PETE'S A' POPPIN BAR - EVENING

ERIC  
It's so good to see you again.

There is a brief moment of silence.

ERIC (CONT'D)  
(quietly)  
By the way, I know who you are. A couple of waitresses told me. I thought they were going to have a heart attack when they saw you.

Lady Mary gets up to leave.

LADY MARY  
That does it, Margaret. We really must leave.

PRINCESS MARGARET  
Sit down, Mary. No one has recognized us here. Besides, I can barely see anyone's face, it's so dark.

(to Eric)  
I apologize for leaving so suddenly. I'm not suppose to go out without body guards, especially in a city like Los Angeles.

ERIC  
It can be pretty daunting. Where are your body guards now?

PRINCESS MARGARET  
Looking for me, no doubt.

ERIC  
You're a naughty princess.

LADY MARY  
(serious)  
Excuse me?

ERIC  
Oh... I'm sorry. It's just an  
expression.

LADY MARY  
"You're a naughty princess" is an  
American expression?

ERIC  
(embarrassed)  
No, I mean... I was just joking...

Princess Margaret smiles.

PRINCESS MARGARET  
Please, Mary, You make us sound so  
provincial.  
(to Eric)  
I may be a princess from a small  
European country, but I have not  
been raised under a rose colored  
glass.

Brett brings two bottled waters and two glasses and places  
them on the table.

BRETT  
Here you go, Ladies.

Princess Margaret immediately takes a napkin from her purse  
and wipes the glasses thoroughly.

ERIC  
Thanks, Brett.

PRINCESS MARGARET  
Thank you.

BRETT  
Let me know if you need anything  
else.

Brett leaves.

ERIC

I'm on next. I'll hope you'll stay.

MARGARET

That's why I'm here. To see if you truly are worthy of the title of Poet.

ERIC

Oh gee. No pressure.

Eric leaves

LADY MARY

I thought you said you didn't talk with anyone this morning at the cafe.

PRINCESS MARGARET

No, I said the waiter didn't recognize me. I never said we didn't talk.

## EPISODE 10

### INT. PETE'S A' POPPIN BAR - EVENING

A MAN, tall, age indeterminate with a long grey ponytail and dressed in all black, enters the bar and scans the room. When he sees the Princess and Lady Mary, he pushes through the crowd and sits at a small table alone in a corner. He pulls out his cell phone and dials

### INT. PETE'S A' POPPIN BAR - EVENING

The Jam Emcee, FELONIOUS GRACE, A young black woman with a terrific afro, bounds to the stage.

FELONIOUS

Our next Poet is a familiar face at A' Poppin. Come on up, Eric.

Eric jumps on the stage to a smattering of finger clickings.

ERIC

Hey Everyone. Welcome to Pete's A Poppin' where words cut deeper than knives... and hopefully don't get us sued.

(light laughter)

Always glad to see a good turnout...

(MORE)

ERIC (CONT'D)

This is a poem I scribbled waiting  
tables today, called "Hope."

Eric lowers his head and pauses and then slowly lifts his  
head and stares directly at Princess Margaret.

**INT. PETE'S A' POPPIN BAR - EVENING**

LADY MARY

(moves in close to  
Princess Margaret)

Did you see the man who just  
entered?

PRINCESS MARGARET

I did.

LADY MARY

He's calling someone. We need to  
leave.

PRINCESS MARGARET

Because a man dressed in all black  
with a long ponytail is on his cell  
phone? Look around the room, Mary.  
It's called a poetry jam.

LADY MARY

Maybe so, but I insist we leave.  
(pleading)  
Please Margaret.

PRINCESS MARGARET

Fine. But only after Eric performs  
his poem.

**EPISODE 11**

**INT. PETE'S A' POPPIN BAR - EVENING**

ERIC

Sometimes I catch  
Myself  
Holding my breath  
As my world collides  
With my destiny  
Turning it on its proverbial head,  
Smashing preconceived ideas  
Of what I thought I knew  
Thoughts dance in my heart  
As I start to wake

(MORE)

ERIC (CONT'D)

To the breath of possibilities  
 Denied before  
 Opening my soul  
 To a whole new realm of...  
 Distraction, attraction,  
 Satisfaction I thought lost  
 Now found  
 Just as I began  
 To shut  
 The window in limbo  
 Of knowing what to say or do...  
 You appear  
 And I hear  
 My heart leap  
 And even though oceans  
 Drown the reality  
 That glimmer of hope  
 That lights the darkness  
 Of what can never be  
 I see... You

There is a brief moment of silence and then the audience starts to snap their fingers of approval.

ERIC (CONT'D)

Thanks. Our next poet - give it up  
 for Zara?

As Zara takes the stage, Eric hops down and goes to Princess Margaret's table.

The Man in Black watches Eric as he approaches Margaret.

ERIC (CONT'D)

(gestures to an empty  
 chair)  
 May I?

PRINCESS MARGARET

Of course.

LADY MARY

Margaret...

Lady Mary takes out her cellphone and "dials."

PRINCESS MARGARET

(to Lady Mary)  
 Just a minute.  
 (to Eric)  
 You wrote that today at the Coffee  
 Shop?

ERIC  
 Yep. Right after I met you.

LADY MARY  
 Margaret. I insist.

ERIC  
 Is everything okay?

PRINCESS MARGARET  
 Yes. Lady Mary is just  
 overprotective. You titled you  
 poem, "Hope," yet it seemed to end  
 on a rather hopeless note.

## EPISODE 12

### INT. PETE'S A' POPPIN BAR - EVENING

Lady Mary watches as the Man in Black gets up and leaves through the front entrance. She stands up, grabbing Princess Margaret's arm.

LADY MARY  
 We have to leave now!

Princess Margaret stands as does Eric.

ERIC  
 What's wrong?

MARGARET  
 (forcing calm)  
 We have to go. It was lovely seeing  
 you again, Eric.

She turns toward the main entrance. Lady Mary blocks her path.

LADY MARY  
 Not the front.  
 (to Eric)  
 Is there a back exit?

ERIC  
 Yes, but I'll have to show you.  
 This place is a maze.

Eric, bewildered, leads Princess Margaret and Lady Mary as they weave past tables.

### INT. PETE'S A' POPPIN BAR - EVENING

Eric leads them behind the stage curtain, through a narrow long corridor reeking of stale beer and fryer grease. Fluorescent lights flicker overhead. They come to a door marked "EXIT."

LADY MARY  
Where does this lead?

ERIC  
Alley. Same as the kitchen.

Lady Mary unlocks the door, barely opens it, and peeks out.

LADY MARY  
Clear. Let's go.

Lady Mary pushes the door open. Cold, damp alley air hits them. Dumpsters line the left wall. To the right is a dead end stacked with crates.

ERIC  
Please. Tell me what's going on!

### **EPISODE 13**

#### **EXT. ALLEY - EVENING**

Sound of TIRES SCREECHING around the corner. Headlights slice through the alley's gloom.

A black van skids to a halt, blocking the alley mouth. The side door slides open. TWO MEN in ski masks leap out, guns drawn.

MAN 1  
(raspy voice)  
Princess. Nice and easy.

Eric shoves Lady Mary and Princess Margaret back inside, slamming the door and locking it.

LADY MARY  
(breathless)  
Now where?

Eric stares, stunned.

ERIC  
Follow me... Why are these men  
after you?

They run back the way they came. Once they pass the stage, they turn left and barge through swinging doors.

**INT. BAR KITCHEN - EVENING**

Steam clouds the air. A tattooed COOK curses in Spanish, slamming pans. Eric guides them past overflowing trash bins toward a steel door marked "DELIVERIES."

Just as Eric, Princess Margaret, and Lady Mary reach the Delivery door, it bursts inward. The two masked men stand framed in the doorway, their guns aimed at Lady Mary and Eric. Their cold eyes lock on Princess Margaret. Eric immediately moves in front of Princess Margaret.

A third MAN, DIMITRI CHEKHOVA (40's), Russian, tall, wearing a black balaclava, and extremely imposing, enters the kitchen. The Cook is too stunned to move.

DIMITRI

Princess, come with us and no one gets hurt.

ERIC

She's not going anywhere with you.

DIMITRI

You have two choices. Be a live poet or a dead hero.

Eric doesn't move.

DIMITRI (CONT'D)

I'll count to two. One...

Margaret grabs a cast-iron skillet from a stove and swings hard. The pan connects with Dimitri's wrist. The gun clatters across greasy floor tiles.

Eric tackles Dimitri and shoves him into the other two masked men. They crash into a rack of pots.

Lady Mary yanks Princess Margaret toward the front of the kitchen.

LADY MARY

Go!

Princess Margaret looks back but Lady Mary grabs her arm and pushes her through the swinging doors.

PRINCESS MARGARET

Eric!

**EPISODE 14**

**INT. PETE'S A' POPPIN BAR - EVENING**

Princess Margaret and Lady Mary burst through swinging doors into the main bar. Poetry forgotten, the crowd gasps as Lady Mary shoves Princess Margaret toward the front entrance. Princess Margaret looks over her shoulder, hoping to see Eric.

Just as Lady Mary and Princess Margaret reach the front door SIX ROYAL GUARDS and Captain Caswell enter the bar. Four guards immediately surround Princess Margaret and two guards shield Lady Mary and escort them out of the bar.

**EXT. PETE'S A' POPPIN BAR - EVENING**

LAPD Squad cars with blinking blue and red lights are parked in the street in front of the bar. POLICE OFFICERS as well as a SWAT TEAM and more ROYAL GUARDS are on alert. NEWSPAPER REPORTERS and BYSTANDERS are also in the mix and cordoned off with Yellow Police Tape to the side of the Bar.

Princess Margaret and Lady Mary are swiftly ushered into a black SUV. Before Captain Caswell shuts the door, Princess Margaret grabs his arm and stops him.

PRINCESS MARGARET

Captain, you must go back and find Eric, the man, who saved our lives. I must know that he is alright.

CAPTAIN CASWELL

Of course, Your Highness. But I must see to your safety first.

Princess Margaret nods and allows Captain Caswell to shut the SUV's door.

CAPTAIN CASWELL (CONT'D)

Bravo 1, Take a detail and search for Eric Thompson, a waiter in this dive. Report findings. Over

BRAVO 1 (OC)

Copy that, Alpha. Over

**INT. PETE'S A' POPPIN BAR KITCHEN - EVENING**

Eric, unconscious, lays on the floor of the kitchen.

**EPISODE 15**

**INT: PRINCESS MARGARET'S SUITE LUXURY HOTEL - EVENING**

King Richard paces. Princess Margaret sits in a beautiful antique chair as Lady Margaret stands to her right.

PRINCESS MARGARET  
Please sit, Father. You'll wear yourself out.

KING RICHARD  
(ignoring her)  
What part of "Every delegate has a target on their back. Especially ours" and "stay guarded" did you not understand.

LADY MARY  
It is my fault, Your Majesty...

PRINCESS MARGARET  
No. I...

KING RICHARD  
I hold you both responsible. I cannot understand how you could be so reckless. You know what is at stake here. You know that Konstatin Volkov will do anything, including kidnapping, in order to sway my vote on the Moratorium. And yet, you still defy my warnings and proceed to roam the back alleys of a city known for its crime rate.

PRINCESS MARGARET  
We weren't roaming any back alleys, Father. We went to a Poetry bar.

KING RICHARD  
Ah yes, the "Pete's A' Poppin'" Bar. And what were you doing there?

PRINCESS MARGARET  
It was a Poetry Jam. Poets perform original poems.

KING RICHARD  
And who is Eric Thompson?

Princess Margaret is obviously surprised by the question.

PRINCESS MARGARET  
I... He is someone I met at a coffee shop...

Princess Margaret realizes her mistake.

King Richard stops pacing and stares at his daughter.

KING RICHARD

You met this man at a coffee shop?  
When?

PRINCESS MARGARET

(hesitantly)  
This morning.

KING RICHARD

What? You went out this morning  
without my knowledge. Please tell  
me you had security.

PRINCESS MARGARET

Father...

KING RICHARD

Did you know about this, Mary?

LADY MARY

I did not, Your Majesty.

## **EPISODE 16**

### **INT: PRINCESS MARGARET'S SUITE LUXURY HOTEL - EVENING**

There is silence as King Richard sits on a sofa across from Princess Margaret.

KING RICHARD

Are you deliberately trying to  
sabotage our mission here?

PRINCESS MARGARET

Don't be ridiculous, Father. Of  
course not.

KING RICHARD

Then why are you being so reckless?

Silence.

KING RICHARD (CONT'D)

(softening)

I know, Margaret, that you are a free spirit and I truly love and admire you for that, but this careless behavior cannot, must not continue. Do I need to confine you to your suite until this Summit is concluded?

PRINCESS MARGARET

You wouldn't.

KING RICHARD

I would if it means keeping you safe.

PRINCESS MARGARET

You do realize I grabbed a pan and hit one of the kidnappers with it, knocking a gun out of his hand.

Princess Margaret goes to the sofa and sits by her Father. She holds both his hands.

PRINCESS MARGARET (CONT'D)

(softly)

I am not some weak, defenseless woman, Father. I am very capable of taking care of myself.

KING RICHARD

I don't doubt it, Maggie. But you are the future Queen and you must be kept safe and protected at all times.

There is a KNOCK on the door. SIR WILLIAM BELLINGHAM, (50's) King Richard's fastidious secretary and impeccably dressed, enters.

SIR WILLIAM

Excuse me your Highness, Princess Margaret, Senator Larson is waiting to see you.

KING RICHARD

Thank you, William. Please send him in.

**EPISODE 17**

**INT: PRINCESS MARGARET'S SUITE LUXURY HOTEL - EVENING**

SENATOR BRADLEY LARSON, 45, strikingly handsome and polished, enters the Suite and bows to the King. He walks to the Princess, bows, and kisses her hand.

SENATOR LARSON

I came as soon as I heard.  
(to Princess Margaret)  
Are you alright, Your Majesty?

PRINCESS MARGARET

I'm fine. Thank you, Senator.

KING RICHARD

Please, Senator, have a seat.

Senator Larson sits on the sofa facing both the King and Princess.

SENATOR LARSON

Thank you. We've kept it out of the newspapers so far. But in this digital age, I'm afraid it won't be for long.

PRINCESS MARGARET

Quite a coup to catch a Princess being chased by masked men.

SENATOR LARSON

Do you have any idea who they were?

KING RICHARD

Of course we do. Konstantin Volkov. It's not his first attempt to thwart the continued Moratorium on the manufacturing of nuclear weapons nor will it be his last.

SENATOR LARSON

But our intelligence reports that no one was captured and that the assailants wore masks. How can you be sure?

KING RICHARD

Who else can it be? Who else would be so bold as to kidnap a visiting princess on American soil.

SENATOR LARSON

I can assure you that the United States Government will do everything it its power to find these men and bring them to justice. In the meantime, with your permission, Your Highness, we will compliment your security with specially trained secret service agents to help protect both you and Princess Margaret for as long as you remain here.

PRINCESS MARGARET

That is very kind of you, Senator, but I am sure...

KING RICHARD

Thank you, Senator. We graciously accept your offer... Now if you will excuse me, I must continue preparations for the Summit meeting.

Senator Larson stands and bows.

SENATOR LARSON

Of course, You Highness.

## **EPISODE 18**

### **INT: PRINCESS MARGARET'S SUITE LUXURY HOTEL - EVENING**

Princess Margaret goes to her Father and kisses him on the cheek.

PRINCESS MARGARET

Please rest, Father. You look so tired.

KING RICHARD

Perhaps I wouldn't if my daughter would obey her Father. I am posting extra guards outside your door and the balcony.

PRINCESS MARGARET

Father, that's not necessary. I won't go out again, I promise.

KING RICHARD  
Volkov failed tonight. I will not  
give him another chance.

SENATOR LARSON  
Surely even he would not try to  
breach the hotel.

KING RICHARD  
You don't know Konstantin Volkov  
then.

PRINCESS MARGARET  
And what about Eric. Surely you  
want to thank him for saving Lady  
Mary and myself.

KING RICHARD  
If that is indeed what he did. How  
do we know he isn't working for  
Volkov?

PRINCESS MARGARET  
Father!...

KING RICHARD  
We will discuss it further tomorrow  
morning.

PRINCESS MARGARET  
But...

KING RICHARD  
(sternly)  
Goodnight. Maggie.

King Richard kisses Princess Margaret on the forehead.

KING RICHARD (CONT'D)  
Lady Mary, if I could speak with  
you for a moment?...

LADY MARY  
Of course, Your Highness.  
Goodnight, Your Majesty.... Senator

SENATOR LARSON  
Goodnight, Lady Mary.

King Richard and Lady Mary exit.

**INT: PRINCESS MARGARET'S SUITE LUXURY HOTEL - EVENING**

PRINCESS MARGARET  
Senator, I...

SENATOR LARSON  
It's just us. Brad, please.

**EPISODE 19**

Senator Larson moves toward the Princess who counters his move by standing behind the sofa.

PRINCESS MARGARET  
It's late and I am very tired.

SENATOR LARSON  
I was hoping we might have a minute alone.

PRINCESS MARGARET  
I don't think that's a good idea.

SENATOR LARSON  
You didn't think it was a bad idea at the State dinner last February.

PRINCESS MARGARET  
That was... a mistake.

SENATOR LARSON  
A mistake?

PRINCESS MARGARET  
Sen... Brad, your wife had just passed and I was merely trying to offer you comfort.

SENATOR LARSON  
Maggie...

PRINCESS MARGARET  
Please, do not call me that.

SENATOR LARSON  
Okay... Margaret, I thought it was more than just comfort you were offering.

PRINCESS MARGARET

How could you? I haven't responded to your emails, phone calls, nor letters except to tell you that I could not possibly consider forming any kind of relationship with you other than friendship.

SENATOR LARSON

Friends have been known to fall in love with one another.

PRINCESS MARGARET

Not us. Not me. I'm sorry. I can offer you friendship, but nothing more.

SENATOR LARSON

Can you not see what an alliance with me through marriage would mean to both our countries? With your countries wealth in Plutonium, Valdavia coupled with the Unites States would have the largest reserve in the world. We could control the nuclear arms race.

## EPISODE 20

### INT: PRINCESS MARGARET'S SUITE LUXURY HOTEL - EVENING

PRINCESS MARGARET

And as the largest production facility for plutonium in the world, Larson's Enterprise would make a huge fortune on such a partnership.

SENATOR LARSON

Yes, We would make a fortune. And think of what good we could do with it.

PRINCESS MARGARET

Yes, well... I really must retire. Thank you, Senator, for stopping by.

Senator Larson takes Princess Margaret's hand and kisses it.

SENATOR LARSON

Think about what I've said. Please.

Princess Margaret just smiles.

SENATOR LARSON (CONT'D)  
Goodnight. My Princess

Senator Larson exits. Princess Margaret wipes here hand on her pants.

PRINCESS MARGARET  
(to herself)  
I am not your Princess.

**INT: PRINCESS MARGARET'S SUITE LUXURY HOTEL - EVENING**

Lady Mary rushes in.

PRINCESS MARGARET  
Mary, what is it?

LADY MARY  
Caswell just called. The Poet is in the hospital. He was beaten pretty badly but he will recover.

Princess Margaret sits down, obviously relieved. Lady Mary joins her.

PRINCESS MARGARET  
He saved our lives.

LADY MARY  
Yes he did.

PRINCESS MARGARET  
I need to see him.

LADY MARY  
You know that's not possible... but I did have Caswell give him a burner phone.

Lady Mary hands a phone to Princess Margaret.

LADY MARY (CONT'D)  
This one is yours.

Princess Margaret hugs Lady Mary.

PRINCESS MARGARET  
What would I do without you? Thank you.

**EPISODE 21**

**INT. SMALL ABANDONED WAREHOUSE OFFICE - LATE EVENING**

A small office in a small warehouse. There is only one window at the back of the office caked with dirt and grime. It is covered with a large rudely-cut cardboard square. A large metal desk, rolling office chair, and several old folding metal chairs are the only pieces of furniture in the office.

KONSTANTIN VOLKOV, (50's) Russian, hard looking, and extremely imposing, speaks to Dimitri as if he is scolding a child. Dimitri without a mask, has a cruel face, with a long scar that cuts diagonally from the top of his nose to the end of his left cheek. Konstantin sits in the rolling chair behind the desk. Dimitri stands in front of him. The other two men involved in the attempted kidnapping are standing on either side of the Dimitri. BORIS ROMANOV, (40's) Russian, cruel and intimidating, stands directly behind Dimitri.

DIMITRI

That bitch must have called her security right before I left.

KONSTANTIN

How did she recognize you?

DIMITRI

She didn't, Boss. I wore a mask as I always do. My masks are undetectable.

KONSTANTIN

Something caused her to be suspicious.

DIMITRI

I did nothing.

KONSTANTIN

And the man that aided her escape?

DIMITRI

We took care of him before we left.

KONSTANTIN

Really?

DIMITRI

Yes, I swear.

KONSTANTIN

Then why is he at St. Mary's Hospital resting comfortably as we speak.

DIMITRI  
That's impossible.

Dimitri looks at the Man on his right.

DIMITRI (CONT'D)  
You told me he was dead... that you  
killed him.

MAN 1  
We thought we had.

DIMITRI  
Didn't you check?

MAN 1  
We didn't have time. The police and  
secret service were on our tail.

DIMITRI  
You imbeciles!

There are two GUN SHOTS.

## **EPISODE 22**

### **INT. SMALL ABANDONED WAREHOUSE OFFICE - LATE EVENING**

Both men beside Dimitri fall to the ground, blood spilling from head wounds. Dimitri stands perfectly still, holding his breath. Boris, expressionless, holsters his gun and walks and stands beside the still-seated Konstantin.

KONSTANTIN  
Did you remove your latex mask once  
you left the Bar?

DIMITRI  
(shaken)  
Yes, as I always do.

KONSTANTIN  
And were you wearing the black  
balaclava when you entered the  
kitchen of the bar.

DIMITRI  
Yes, Boss. I Swear.

KONSTANTIN  
And where is that balaclava now?

Dimitri immediately checks his coat pockets. He hesitates before answering.

DIMITRI

Uh... I... It must be in the van.

KONSTANTIN

No, Dimitri, it was picked up by the police where the waiter pulled it off your face and threw it.

Pause

KONSTANTIN (CONT'D)

Meaning, the waiter saw you and he is now able to identify you, thus putting myself and our mission at great risk.

DIMITRI

I...

KONSTANTIN

(gravely)

Do not speak. You will only listen.

**EPISODE 23**

**SPLIT SCREEN:**

**LEFT - INT. PRINCESS MARGARET'S SUITE - LATE EVENING, RIGHT - INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - LATE EVENING**

Princess Margaret is sitting on her bed. She is wearing a silk nightgown and robe. She holds the burner phone to her ear.

Eric, with several stitched cuts, including a large gash on his forehead, a black eye, and several fingers on his left hand in splints, sits up in his hospital bed and answers the burner phone.

There is a brief silence.

PRINCESS MARGARET

Eric?

ERIC

(weakly)

Princess.

PRINCESS MARGARET

I know I shouldn't be calling this late...

ERIC

No. Im so glad you did. Are you and Lady Mary alright?

PRINCESS MARGARET

I should be asking you that? I will never be able to repay you for saving us both.

ERIC

You were the one who knocked the gun out of that bastard's hand.

PRINCESS MARGARET

But you fought all three of them so we could get away.

ERIC

If it hadn't been for your guards and the police, I'm not sure I would've.

PRINCESS MARGARET

I think we both owe Mary a debt of gratitude for calling the King's Guard when she did. I usually chide her for being overly cautious, but this time she was absolutely right.

There is another brief moment of silence.

PRINCESS MARGARET (CONT'D)

I am so sorry for dragging you into all this.

ERIC

And here I thought Princesses lived charmed lives...

PRINCESS MARGARET

Sometimes.

ERIC

And you didn't drag me anywhere. I came willingly... and would do so again.

PRINCESS MARGARET

I... must let you rest.

ERIC

Will I see you again? Before you go back to Valdavia?

PRINCESS MARGARET  
I... I don't think that would be a  
good idea.

ERIC  
(jokingly)  
I knew you didn't like me poetry.

PRINCESS MARGARET  
Don't be silly. Of course I did.

ERIC  
Then why not meet again. I'll be  
discharged tomorrow morning. I  
could meet you at the cafe or even  
come to your hotel.

PRINCESS MARGARET  
Eric...

ERIC  
Even if it's just to say goodbye...  
Please.

Princess Margaret hesitates.

PRINCESS MARGARET  
I'll call you tomorrow. I can't  
promise anything, but at least we  
can talk.

ERIC  
I'll be waiting.

PRINCESS MARGARET  
I will give thanks to you in my  
prayers tonight, Eric.

ERIC  
You believe in God? I'm not much of  
a believer, myself.

PRINCESS MARGARET  
Yes. And only strengthened by the  
fact that you're alive, I'm safe,  
and we are talking.

ERIC  
Gotta admit... pretty extraordinary  
concerning the circumstances.

PRINCESS MARGARET  
Goodnight, Eric.

ERIC  
Goodnight, Princess.

**EPISODE 24**

**INT. LADY MARY'S SUITE LUXURY HOTEL - MORNING.**

There is a small KNOCK on the door. Lady Mary, smartly dressed in a blue tailored business suit, answers the door.

THE HOTEL MANAGER, (30's) good-looking, stands along side a HOTEL EMPLOYEE, (20's) with a service cart.

LADY MARY  
Yes?

HOTEL MANAGER  
I am Gerard Fontaine, the Hotel Manager. We are honored to have you and King Richard as our guests. Please accept our complimentary breakfast as a very small token for choosing The Beverly Hotel. We have also provided several periodicals for your perusing.

The Hotel Manager hands her several newspapers, including the LA Times with the headline... "PRINCESS MARGARET OF VALDAVIA INVOLVED IN ATTEMPTED KIDNAPPING."

LADY MARY  
(forgetting the men at the door)  
Oh no. I thought they were able to keep this quiet.

Lady Mary continues to read.

HOTEL MANAGER  
I am so sorry, My Lady. If there is anything we can do...

Lady Mary realizes that both men are still at her door.

LADY MARY  
Oh, yes... please.

Lady Mary gestures for the hotel employee to come in with the breakfast cart. The Hotel Manager follows and closes the door.

Lady Mary walks slowly to the large floor length window and continues reading.

HOTEL MANAGER  
You made this far to easy.

Lady Mary turns.

LADY MARY  
Excuse me?

## **EPISODE 25**

### **INT. LADY MARY'S SUITE LUXURY HOTEL - MORNING.**

The Hotel Manager is holding a tranquilizer dart gun. Lady Mary starts to run toward the bedroom of her suite, but the Hotel Manager fires the gun. There is no sound.

A small dart protrudes from Lady Mary's arm. She stumbles several steps and collapses into the arms of the Hotel Employee.

The Hotel Manager opens the Suite's door and places a "MAID SERVICE PLEASE" sign on the handle.

### **INT. LUXURY HOTEL: HALLWAY - MORNING**

A MAID (20's) pretty and smiling, pushes a laundry cart down the hallway. She passes several HOTEL GUESTS.

MAID  
Good morning.

She stops in front of Suite 3C, inserts a key card, enters, and shuts the door behind her.

### **INT. LUXURY HOTEL HALLWAY - MORNING**

The door to Lady Mary's suite opens and the Maid pushes the laundry cart into the hallway and turns the Room Service sign over to read "PLEASE DO NOT DISTURB." She is followed by the Hotel Manager and Hotel Employee who walk in the opposite direction as the Maid.

The hotel Manager and Employee quickly turn a corner as two ROYAL GUARDS, SERGEANT JONAS WILLIAMS (30's) and CORPORAL LYNDON TRAVARRIO, (late 20's), pass the Maid.

SERGEANT JONAS  
Excuse me.

The Maid stops and turns around to look at the guards.

MAID

Yes, Sir?

SERGEANT JONAS

Were you cleaning Lady Mary's Suite.

MAID

Is she in Suite 3C?

SERGEANT JONAS

Yes.

MAID

I was going to but the "Please Do Not Disturb" sign was on the door. Please tell her that I will be more than happy to come back at anytime.

SERGEANT JONAS

Thank you. I will.

The Maid continues to the elevator as the two Guards walk to Suite 3C.

SERGEANT JONAS (CONT'D)

That's surprising. Lady Mary's always up at the crack of dawn.

CORPORAL LYNDON

After last night, who can blame her for sleeping in.

## **EPISODE 26**

### **INT: PRINCESS MARGARET'S SUITE LUXURY HOTEL - EVENING**

The Princess sits at a large ornate desk, sipping tea. She gets up and goes to the large floor-length windows and opens the glass doors leading to the patio. It is a beautiful Southern California day. TWO ROYAL GUARDS are standing on either side of the glass doors. They bow as they see the Princess.

GUARD 1

Your Majesty.

PRINCESS MARGARET

How are you, gentlemen?

GUARD 1

Very well, Your Majesty.

GUARD 2  
Beautiful day, Ma'am.

PRINCESS MARGARET  
Yes, it is.

Princess Margaret lingers for a moment, then turns and walks to the desk, picks up the hotel phone, and dials. After a few moments, she hangs up and, from her pants pocket, takes out her cell phone and dials.

PRINCESS MARGARET (CONT'D)  
(to herself)  
That's strange.

She dials two numbers. She places her cell on the desktop. There is a soft knock on the door. Captain Caswell enters.

CAPTAIN CASWELL  
Yes, your Majesty?

PRINCESS MARGARET  
Good Morning, Captain. I can't reach Lady Mary. And I don't recall her having an early meeting.

CAPTAIN CASWELL  
I believe she is sleeping in according to her Guard Detail.

PRINCESS MARGARET  
I have known Lady Mary for over twenty years and never once has she ever, "slept in." Escort me to her Suite.

CAPTAIN CASWELL  
Of course.

They both exit the Princess's suite.

## **EPISODE 27**

### **INT. SMALL ABANDONED WAREHOUSE OFFICE - MORNING**

Lady Mary is zip-tied to one of the metal chairs facing a desk where Konstantin Volkov sits. Standing on either side of him are two imposing HENCHMEN, NIKOLI and GRIGORI, big brutes who are both Russian and in their late 20's. Dimitri, unmasked, stands to the side of Lady Mary.

Lady Mary, eyes closed, slowly comes to. She looks around the large room and finally focuses on Volkov. She slightly smiles and shakes her head.

LADY MARY

Of course. I wondered when you would grace us with your presence.

KONSTANTIN

Dimitri, give our guest water, please.

Dimitri holds a cup to Lady Mary's mouth. Lady Mary drinks eagerly.

LADY MARY

Thank you.  
(sarcastically)  
Tranquilizers always make my mouth so dry.

KONSTANTIN

How else were we suppose to get you to cooperate with us?

LADY MARY

You will never win, Konstantin.

KONSTANTIN

We'll settle with the King denouncing his moratorium stance.

LADY MARY

As usual you are delusional. If you think for one minute that King Richard will denounce the moratorium in exchange for my life you could not be more misinformed.

KONSTANTIN

Oh, I think you are the one who is misinformed.

LADY MARY

I don't understand.

KONSTANTIN

No you don't. But you will. Soon.

**EPISODE 28**

**INT. PRINCESS MARGARET'S SUITE LUXURY HOTEL - MORNING**

King Richard, Princess Margaret, Captain Caswell, Senator Larson, Sir William, and GENERAL MARCUS CARLSON, (50's) Chairman of the Valdavia's Armed Services, as well as Sergeant Williams and Corporal Travarrio crowd the large living room.

KING RICHARD

Have we heard anything?

PRINCESS MARGARET

Mary would never go anywhere with out informing me. For nearly 20 years she has reported to me first thing in the morning without exception.

CAPTAIN CASWELL

Her phone, iPad, and royal datebook were all found in her suite.

GENERAL CARLSON

After the events last night, we can only assume foul play.

KING RICHARD

Yes, General, I agree.

SENATOR LARSON

Any witnesses?

CAPTAIN CASWELL

None. No one reported any suspicious activity.

PRINCESS MARGARET

What about the maid the Guards spoke to? Has she been questioned further?

Captain Caswell turns to face Sergeant Williams and Corporal Travarrio

CAPTAIN CASWELL

Did either of you question the maid further after your initial conversation?

SERGEANT WILLIAMS/CORPORAL TRAVAIRRO

No Sir.

PRINCESS MARGARET

Why not?

CAPTAIN CASWELL

I take full responsibility, Your Majesty. We will do so immediately. Sergeant, Corporal with me.

SENATOR LARSON

I'll go with you and speak with the manager and owner of the Hotel. Being a U.S. Senator gets me into doors that otherwise might be closed.

KING RICHARD

Thank you, Senator. We greatly appreciate it. And Senator... No matter what has occurred, nothing can be made public. Not until after the Summit.

SENATOR LARSON

Of course, Your Highness. I completely agree.

Senator Larson bows, smiles at Princess Margaret, then exits the suite, followed by Captain Caswell and both Guards.

PRINCESS MARGARET

Sir William, please cancel my speech this morning with the Children's Hospital. Reschedule if possible.

SIR WILLIAM

Of course, Your Majesty.

KING RICHARD

I think that's wise.

PRINCESS MARGARET

Excuse me, Father. I need to make a phone call.

Princess Margaret goes to her bedroom. She shuts the door.

## **EPISODE 29**

### **INT. PRINCESS MARGARET'S BEDROOM LUXURY HOTEL - MORNING**

Princess Margaret removes the burner phone from her skirt pocket and dials.

PRINCESS MARGARET

Hello, Eric. How are you feeling?  
Are you still in the hospital?

(listening)

You're what? In the lobby?

(listening)

I'm in Suite 1B but they will never  
let you in. There are guards  
everywhere... Lady Mary is missing.

(listening)

**INT. PRINCESS MARGARET'S SUITE LUXURY HOTEL- LATE MORNING**

King Richard sits on a large sofa. Also in the suite are Sir William, Senator Larson, and Captain Caswell.

CAPTAIN CASWELL

The maid never saw who drugged her.  
She was attacked from behind. Both  
Royal Guards description of the  
Maid they met in the hallway was  
identical to the real maid. Both  
the Hotel Manager and Waiter were  
imposters as well, although neither  
have been found.

KING RICHARD

Which tells me this was no spur of  
the moment plan. This had to have  
been planned for months.

SIR WILLIAM

But Your Highness, we never  
revealed where you would be staying  
until the day of your arrival. And  
only those at the highest level of  
command were privy to that  
information.

KING RICHARD

Then we have a leak.

SENATOR LARSON

In America, Your Majesty, we call  
that a spy.

**INT. SMALL ABANDONED WAREHOUSE OFFICE - AFTERNOON**

LADY MARY

You will never be able to get to  
the Princess. She is heavily  
guarded 24 hours every day.

(MORE)

LADY MARY (CONT'D)

And her guard has been doubled since your failed attempt last night.

KONSTANTIN

You are absolutely correct, Lady Mary. We won't.

LADY MARY

Then what could you possibly hope to achieve by kidnapping me? As I said, the King will never change his stance on the moratorium no matter what you do to me.

KONSTANTIN

Oh, he will Lady Mary. I would bet your life on it.

Konstantin gets up from the desk and exits the warehouse

### **EPISODE 30**

### **SPLIT SCREEN**

### **INT. LUXURY HOTEL: PRINCESS MARGARET SUITE - MORNING - HOTEL LOBBY - MORNING**

Princess Margaret is still talking with Eric on their burner phones.

PRINCESS MARGARET

It's impossible, Eric. There are Royal Guards, Secret Service, and Police Officers everywhere. There is no where to meet. The truth is, Eric, I can't risk anything else happening that would jeopardize my father's vote. It's too important.

ERIC

I know. I just can't bare not seeing you before you leave. I know that must sound stupid. I mean we hardly know each other.

PRINCESS MARGARET

Although nearly being kidnapped, chased through a bar, and being beaten does tend to bond people more quickly than say going on a first date.

ERIC  
(chuckling)  
Definitely.

Brief silence.

ERIC (CONT'D)  
I'm going to find the men who did this, Princess. I can at least promise you that. I'll never forget the guy's face who's hand you hit with that pan.

PRINCESS MARGARET  
(stunned)  
What!?! You saw his face? How? He was wearing a mask.

ERIC  
I pulled it off when we were fighting.

PRINCESS MARGARET  
Oh, Eric. This changes everything. Can you describe him to a forensics sketch artist?

ERIC  
Oh yeah. Not a face I'll soon forget.

PRINCESS MARGARET  
I think we just discovered a way to see one another.

## **EPISODE 31**

### **INT. KING RICHARD'S SUITE LUXURY HOTEL - AFTERNOON**

Princess Margaret, Captain Caswell, Senator Larson, Sir William, and General Carlson are seated in various chairs/sofas. Captain Caswell stands behind King Richard who sits in an ornate chair. The Forensics Sketch Artist, DAVID PRINE (40's), thin and timid, sits uncomfortably at a small desk.

There is a knock on the door to the suite. Captain Caswell answers it. He turns toward the King.

CAPTAIN CASWELL  
Your Highness, Princess... Mr. Eric Thompson.

Eric enters the room, obviously very nervous. Princess Margaret stands as does General Carlson and Sir William.

CAPTAIN CASWELL (CONT'D)

May I present His Royal Highness,  
King Richard.

Eric bows politely to the King.

CAPTAIN CASWELL (CONT'D)

Sir William, the King's Secretary,  
General Carlson, Chief of the  
Valdavia's Armed Forces, Senator  
Larson, The sketch artist, Mr.  
Prine, and I believe you already  
know Her Majesty, Princess  
Margaret.

Eric shakes everyone's hand, but when he comes to Princess Margaret, he bows, takes her hand, and gently kisses it. Senator Larson is not pleased.

CAPTAIN CASWELL (CONT'D)

Your Majesty.

PRINCESS MARGARET

Oh I think we are way beyond "your  
majesty." Margaret will do. Are you  
sure you are alright?

ERIC

It looks worse than it is. I'm  
fine.

KING RICHARD

We cannot thank you enough for what  
you did for the Princess. Your  
bravery is to be commended.

ERIC

Thank you, Your Highness, but I  
didn't do anything that any man  
wouldn't have done in in my  
position.

SENATOR LARSEN

(slightly condescending)  
Brave and modest. Rare qualities in  
young men these days.

ERIC

It was really Princess...  
er...Margaret that actually saved  
the day.

(MORE)

ERIC (CONT'D)

Her quick thinking and a very large frying pan gave them the time to escape.

KING RICHARD

(disapprovingly)

My daughter is full of surprises. The princess tells me that you saw the face of one of the assailants.

ERIC

Yes, Your Highness, I did. I'll never forget it.

KING RICHARD

Captain Caswell, Please find a place where Mr. Prine and Mr. Thompson may work without interruption. The sooner we can identify this man, the sooner we will be able to take action and find Lady Mary.

CAPTAIN CASWELL

Yes, Your Highness. This way, Gentlemen.

Both Mr. Prine and Eric follow Captain Caswell into another room. After a brief moment, Captain Caswell exits the room and shuts the door.

## **EPISODE 32**

### **INT. KING RICHARD'S SUITE LUXURY HOTEL - AFTERNOON**

SENATOR LARSON

Your Highness, I would be very careful before trusting this... waiter... if that is what he really is.

PRINCESS MARGARET

He is and a poet as well.

SENATOR LARSON

What do we really now about him?

PRINCESS MARGARET

He saved my life and Lady Mary's.

SENATOR LARSON

For all we know, he could just as well have been part of the plot to kidnap you.

PRINCESS MARGARET

Since when do kidnapers foil their own kidnappings.

KING RICHARD

Enough!. Senator Larson is right. We must be careful. But I also agree with Margaret... I doubt he had any hand in the kidnapping other than preventing it from happening.

PRINCESS MARGARET

I wish he would have been here this morning. Maybe Mary would be here with us.

GENERAL CARLSON

We will find her, Your Majesty.

SENATOR LARSON

You have the full backing of the President of the United States. I have no doubt she will be here safe and sound very, very soon.

**INT. KING RICHARD'S SUITE LUXURY HOTEL - AFTERNOON**

The door to the ancillary room opens and Mr. Prine and Eric walk out. Captain Caswell takes the sketch to the King. The King studies it for a moment and then passes the sketch to General Carlson who gives it to Princess Margaret.

KING RICHARD

Just as we suspected. We now have concrete proof who was behind the attempted kidnapping of the Princess and now has Lady Mary.

ERIC

Excuse me, Your Highness...

King Richard holds up his hand to stop Eric from speaking.

KING RICHARD

Captain Caswell, please show Mr. Prine out.

(to Mr. Prine)

(MORE)

KING RICHARD (CONT'D)

Mr. Prine, Thank you for your time  
and superior sketch.

Mr. Prine nervously bows to the King.

MR. PRINE

It was an honor, Your Highness.

Captain Caswell escorts Mr. Prine to the door, opens it, and  
addresses Lyndon as Mr. Prine exits. Captain Caswell closes  
the door and stands guard.

**INT. KING RICHARD'S SUITE LUXURY HOTEL - AFTERNOON**

KING RICHARD

Continue Mr. Thompson.

ERIC

You recognize this man?

**EPISODE 33**

KING RICHARD

He is Dimitri Chekhova, one of the  
most feared lieutenants of the  
Russian Mob headed by Konstantin  
Volkov.

PRINCESS MARGARET

On Volkov's orders He has murdered  
hundreds of innocent men, women  
and, children all in the name of  
Volkov.

ERIC

Children?

PRINCESS MARGARET

Konstantin Volkov and Dimitri  
Chekhova are incarnate.

GENERAL CARLSON

And the sworn enemy of Valdavia.  
Volkov will do anything to stop the  
vote on the Plutonium Moratorium  
tomorrow.

KING RICHARD

And he will not stop until he has  
control of Valdavia's plutonium  
mines.

(MORE)

KING RICHARD (CONT'D)

In order to do that he has vowed to completely eradicate the monarchy as the Bolsheviks did to the Tsar's royal family at the beginning of the 20th century.

SENATOR LARSEN

We will put out an APB immediately on this Chekhova criminal.

KING RICHARD

I'm afraid we will never find him.

ERIC

Why, Your Highness. He is obviously identifiable. Not many men have a scar that dissects their face.

GENERAL CARLSON

The King is correct. If Volkov has not already killed him for being discovered, he will force Chekhova to wear one of his famous latex masks which are completely unidentifiable at all times. No more Balaclavas for Dimitri Chekhova. The man in the sketch will disappear from the face of the earth.

ERIC

He didn't have a mask on when he left the bar, or got into the van. And unless he had a mask in the van, he didn't have one when he got out of the van to meet this Volkov guy.

PRINCESS MARGARET

And Perhaps they stopped somewhere before meeting Volkov.

ERIC

Very true. Someone may have seen him.

PRINCESS MARGARET

We must do everything we can to find Lady Mary. After the Summit may be too late.

KING RICHARD

I agree. Senator, have your people put out the APB.

## EPISODE 34

## INT. SMALL ABANDONED WAREHOUSE OFFICE - AFTERNOON

LADY MARY

How long is Volkov going to keep me here?

DIMITRI

You think I'm stupid enough to answer questions for you.

LADY MARY

Well, now that you mention it...

Dimitri jumps up from his chair and goes to Lady Mary. He bends down in front of her. Lady Mary doesn't flinch.

DIMITRI

I could snap neck just like that.

LADY MARY

But we both know you will not. So go back and sit down like the sad little lap dog you are.

Dimitri slaps Lady Mary. Blood trickles down her lip.

LADY MARY (CONT'D)

Such a big man hitting a defenseless woman tied to a chair. You are pathetic, Dimitri.

Dimitri grabs Lady Mary's hair and yanks her head back. He again bends down, their noses practically touching.

DIMITRI

You're not bad looking for old **ВЕДЬМА** (hag). I could take you right here. I bet you like it rough.

LADY MARY

(without a beat)

You have got to be the most unattractive man I have ever laid my eyes on. It's no wonder you wear masks.

Dimitri growls and stands straight up, his face growing red. He hits Mary as hard as he can and knocks her unconscious. Dimitri just looks at her,

DIMITRI

It will be a great pleasure to  
watch you beg for your life.

**EPISODE 35**

**INT. KING RICHARD'S SUITE LUXURY HOTEL - AFTERNOON**

PRINCESS MARGARET

If Volkov attends the Summit, which  
he no doubt will, we will have to  
sit across from him as if  
everything is fine... knowing that  
he has Lady Mary. I don't think I  
can do that.

KING RICHARD

You must, Maggie.

ERIC

Why can't he just be arrested now?  
You've identified his right hand  
man.

GENERAL CARLSON

We would have your government  
arrest Chechova if we knew where he  
was. But his arrest doesn't prove  
that Volkov is involved.

KING RICHARD

If we were in Valdavia, he would be  
in incarcerated as we speak.

ERIC

We'll find this Volkov guy before  
tomorrow, Princess.

SENATOR LARSON

We? There is no "we" here, Mr.  
Thompson. This is way out of your  
league. We have professionals who  
are equipped for what needs to be  
done.

ERIC

Your "professionals" didn't seem to  
do a very good job last night.

Princess Margaret smiles.

KING RICHARD

Truly, Mr. Thompson. You have done enough. I'm afraid you have already placed yourself in considerable danger, especially if Volkov finds out that you identified Dimitri.

SENATOR LARSON

Yes, I agree. Your services are no longer needed.

ERIC

(ignoring Senator Larson)  
Your Highness, I can't just walk away. I could have been killed and I would do it all over again to save the Princess, but I have a stake in this.

SENATOR LARSON

Captain, please see Mr. Thompson out.

KING RICHARD

This is so much larger than you, Mr. Thompson. I... no Valdavia will forever be in your debt for protecting and saving the Princess, but we cannot ask you to risk your life again.

PRINCESS MARGARET

Father, He has a right to be involved.

SENATOR LARSON

This is ridiculous, Your Highness. We have far more important issues to discuss. Captain?

ERIC

I have lived here all my life. As a matter of fact, my great grandfather founded one of the largest real estate companies in Los Angeles. The company represented clients that included hotels, luxury homes, commercial real estate and even abandoned properties such as old theme parks and warehouses.

SENATOR LARSON

Please, Your Highness...

King Richard holds up his hand.

KING RICHARD

No. Please continue, Mr. Thompson.

**EPISODE 36**

ERIC

I know this city like the back of my hand. I use to go with my Granddad and my Father to inspect properties. My favorites were the abandoned theme parks and warehouses.

SENATOR LARSON

And this has to do with what?

ERIC

There is no way this Volkov dude is keeping Lady Mary in a 5-star hotel or anywhere there is a constant flow of traffic.

PRINCESS MARGARET

That makes a great deal of sense.

GENERAL CARLSON

I agree, Your Majesty.

KING RICHARD

Is there a list or a map of these abandoned properties.

ERIC

Absolutely. My Dad made both. He has always been an amateur cartographer and because I loved all the abandoned places we visited, he decided to create a map with just the abandoned properties listed. I mean anyone can find a map of Los Angeles anywhere. But "The Ghost" map - that's what we named it - is one of its kind. When the real estate market crashed my Granddad lost the company, but his maps were the one thing he insisted on keeping.

GENERAL CARLSON

And how many of these abandoned warehouses are there in Los Angeles?

ERIC

There use to be over 100...

KING RICHARD

Over one hundred? How can we possibly search them all before tomorrow?

ERIC

That's the thing, Your Highness. Many abandoned warehouse were sold at a penny on the dollar and either torn down to build mini malls or apartment buildings. Quite a few were refurbished as upscale lofts. There are only 39 left and of those around 20 are uninhabitable.

PRINCESS MARGARET

Wouldn't one of those be the most likely place Volkov would use?

ERIC

When I say uninhabitable, I mean partial or no roof, walls caved in... No Volkov would need an intact functioning space where there is still electricity, running water... and Wifi.

KING RICHARD

And how many would fit that description?

ERIC

There are definitely seven warehouses that I would look at first.

SENATOR LARSON

This is ridiculous. I've heard enough. If you will excuse me, Your Highness, Princess, I have a meeting I need to attend. Please contact me, if you have any further developments.

**INT. LUXURY HOTEL: HALLWAY**

Senator pauses by the elevator, takes out his cell phone, and makes a call.

**EPISODE 37****INT. SMALL ABANDONED WAREHOUSE OFFICE - AFTERNOON**

Lady Mary comes to. She is bruised and her lips are caked with blood. Dimitri sits at the desk reading a magazine.

LADY MARY  
(struggling to speak)  
Water, please.

DIMITRI  
What did you say?

LADY MARY  
Glass of water, please.

Dimitri gets up, picks up a glass carafe of water and an old glass, and walks to Lady Mary.

DIMITRI  
(smirking)  
Say you're sorry for insulting me  
and maybe I give you some water.

Lady Mary stares at Dimitri. She is furious but her fury soon turns to resignation.

LADY MARY  
(softly)  
I'm sorry.

DIMITRI  
I not hear you.

LADY MARY  
(louder)  
I'm sorry.

DIMITRI  
Dimitri, I am sorry for insulting  
you. Please forgive me.

Lady Mary bows her head as if praying. As she slowly lifts her head...

LADY MARY  
Dimitri, I am sorry for insulting  
you. Please forgive me.

DIMITRI  
 (smiling wolfishly)  
 See? Not so bad? I wonder what else  
 I make you do for glass of water.

INT. SMALL WAREHOUSE OFFICE - AFTERNOON

There is a LOUD, "CODED" KNOCK on the office door. Dimitri places the pitcher of water as well as the glass on the table next to Lady Mary's chair and goes to the door and opens it. Boris enters. Boris and Dimitri talk privately for a moment. Dimitri turns to Lady Mary.

DIMITRI  
 I will be back soon, Lady Mary. And  
 we'll continue our conversation.

Dimitri exits, followed by Boris who locks the door.

**EPISODE 38**

**INT. APARTMENT BUILDING - AFTERNOON**

Dimitri (disguised with a latex mask) and Nikoli and Grigori step out of an elevator and walk down a hall. They stop at Apartment 217. Dimitri knocks on the door. No answer. He knock a second time... louder.

(OS)  
 Just a second. I'm coming.

Eric's Father, GERALD THOMPSON, (70's), opens the door.

GERALD  
 (friendly)  
 Yes? How can I help you.

DIMITRI  
 Are you Gerald Thompson?

GERALD  
 Well, now that depends. Did I win  
 the lottery or do I owe the IRS?

Gerald chuckles, but Dimitri and his Henchmen just look at him with completely straight faces.

GERALD (CONT'D)  
 Hey, just joking with you. By the  
 looks on your faces, I'm guessin' I  
 owe the IRS.

Dimitri shoves Dimitri back into his apartment and he and the Henchmen follow, closing and locking the door behind them.

GERALD (CONT'D)  
Hey, What the...

**INT. GERALD'S APARTMENT - AFTERNOON**

Gerald's apartment is small, but well furnished and comfortable. Various framed pictures of Gerald, his wife, and Eric line one wall. There is a large beautifully framed map of Los Angeles occupying an adjacent wall.

Dimitri slugs Gerald and knocks him to the ground.

Gerald struggles to get up. Nikoli and Grigori grab both of his arms. Dimitri grabs a kitchen chair and signals the two henchmen to sit him in it. Gerald's eye is already swelling and a small gash bleeds down his face.

DIMITRI  
Where is your son?

GERALD  
I have no idea what you're talking about but in this country you can't just barge...

Dimitri slaps Gerald hard across the face.

DIMITRI  
I will ask one more time. Where is your son.

GERALD  
(Wiping blood from his lip)  
Look, you've got the wrong person. My son doesn't do drugs or gamble. He's a really good kid.

DIMITRI  
Why people always think Russians sell drugs or are loan sharks?

NIKOLI  
Because it's true?

DIMITRI  
Shut up Nikoli. That was a... what is word you Americans say...

GERALD  
A rhetorical question?

DIMITRI  
Yes, Rhetorical question.

GERALD  
Then if it's not drugs or gambling  
what could you possibly want with  
my son?

DIMITRI  
He was at wrong place at wrong  
time.

GERALD  
Look, I don't know who you are or  
what your deal is, but if you leave  
now, we'll just forget the whole  
unfortunate incident. I'll tell  
people I tripped and hit my head.

Before Dimitri can answer he gets a call. He takes his cell  
phone from a pocket and answers it.

After a brief moment...

DIMITRI  
(to the person on the  
phone)  
Да, начальник (Yes Boss/Chief)

He puts the phone back in his pocket and stares at Gerald.

### EPISODE 39

DIMITRI (CONT'D)  
Forget son, where are maps?

GERALD  
(caught completely off  
guard))  
Maps? What maps?

Dimitri notices the map on the wall. He goes to it.

DIMITRI  
How could I not notice before.  
Beautiful frame.

Dimitri takes the framed map off the wall and slams it on the  
wood floor.

GERALD

What the hell are you doing? That frame cost me a small fortune.

DIMITRI

At least you won't have to reframe it.

He picks up the map, folds it, and places it in a coat pocket.

DIMITRI (CONT'D)

And the other maps? Where are they?

GERALD

First my son, now my maps. What game are you bozos playing?

Nikoli slaps Gerald hard across the face.

DIMITRI

Be careful who you call names. Nikoli and Grigori are very sensitive. Right boys?

NIKOLI/GRIGORI

Da.

DIMITRI

Now where are the rest of maps - of Los Angeles.

Gerald doesn't answer.

DIMITRI (CONT'D)

I guess we can find your son and ask him.

GERALD

No.

(hesitantly)

There in a large brown portfolio in the bedroom under the bed.

Dimitri nods to Grigori who goes into the bedroom.

After a brief moment, Grigori re-enters the living room.

GRIGORI

Uh... what is portfolio?

Dimitri rolls his eyes and as he passes Grigori, slaps him on the back of the head.

DIMITRI

ИДИОТ! (Idiot!)

He then enters the bedroom. He quickly returns to the living room with a large portfolio under his arm.

DIMITRI (CONT'D)

We take little ride. Do not do anything stupid or you will regret it. As you said you fell and we are old friends taking you to hospital. Understand?

GERALD

Yes, But please I...

DIMITRI

No more talking.

Dimitri nods to Nikoli and Grigori who lift Gerald out of his chair and start walking toward the door.

#### EPISODE 40

#### EXT. APARTMENT BUILDING HALLWAY - AFTERNOON

Dimitri and Nikoli and Grigori, on both sides of Gerald, walk toward the elevator. As the doors of the elevator open, REBECCA POPE, (60's), a large African American woman, starts to walk out. She is obviously startled by the four men.

REBECCA

Gerald, Oh my gosh? What happened?

All four men walk into the elevator.

GERALD

I'm fine, Rebecca. Tripped over my ottoman. My friends here are taking me to the hospital. I'm sure I'll be back later tonight.

REBECCA

Not like you to be clumsy.

GERALD

First time for everything. Right?

REBECCA

(suspiciously)

Friends, you say. I've never seen them before.

DIMITRI

We are new friends. We meet at bingo.

REBECCA

I didn't know you played bingo, Gerald.

GERALD

New hobby.

REBECCA

(looking at each of the  
three men escorting  
Gerald)

You boys don't look like the Bingo type.

GERALD

What? Russians can't bingo. We are only drug dealers and gangsters?

REBECCA

I didn't mean...

DIMITRI

Good-bye Mrs. Rebecca

Before the door closes, Rebecca steps forward and places her foot in the path of the elevator door. She stares directly at Gerald.

REBECCA

You sure you're okay?

There is very brief moment of silence.

GERALD

I'll be good as new ... really, Rebecca. I'll knock on your door when I get home.

Rebecca removes her foot and the elevator continues to close.

## **EPISODE 41**

### **INT. LUXURY HOTEL HALLWAY - AFTERNOON**

Eric walks down the hallway and sees Senator Larson on his phone.

**INT. LUXURY HOTEL: HALLWAY - AFTERNOON**

Senator Larson sees Eric walking towards him. He puts his cell phone in his coat pocket.

ERIC

Senator.

SENATOR LARSON

Looks like you're in a hurry.

ERIC

Going to get the maps from my Dad.

SENATOR LARSON

Ah yes, the maps. Sure this isn't just a pretense to be near the Princess?

ERIC

Excuse me?

SENATOR LARSON

I see the way you look at her. And who could blame you. She is a beautiful young woman.

The elevator rings and the doors open. Both Men step in.

**INT. LUXURY HOTEL ELEVATOR - AFTERNOON**

Eric pushes the "L" button. Senator Larson presses the "EMERGENCY STOP" button.

ERIC

What the hell are you doing?

SENATOR LARSON

You need to stay away from the Princess. She is way out of your league.

ERIC

In all due respect, Senator... go to hell.

SENATOR LARSON

(ignoring his remark)

Don't get me wrong, we all appreciate what you did for the Princess and Lady Mary, but your fifteen minutes of fame have passed.

(MORE)

SENATOR LARSON (CONT'D)

You need to go back and wait tables or whatever it is you do and forget Princess Margaret as I am sure she has already forgotten you.

ERIC

If I didn't know better, Senator, I'd say you were jealous.

SENATOR LARSON

(angrily)

I'm warning you, Mr. Thompson, stay away from the Princess.

ERIC

Warning me? Where do you get off warning me about anything. I don't care who you are, you need to mind your own damn business.

Eric pushes the "L" button again and the elevator begins it's decent.

SENATOR LARSON

You have no idea who you're dealing with.

ERIC

Oh I think I do... An over pompous irritatingly shallow narcissistic entitled bureaucrat who feels the need to bully others to make himself feel better? That about cover it?

The elevator door opens and Eric steps out.

ERIC (CONT'D)

By the way, I never voted for you and believe me, never will... Good talk, Senator.

## **EPISODE 42**

### **INT. DOWNTOWN PENTHOUSE LOFT HALLWAY - EARLY EVENING**

Senator Larson opens the door to his loft and walks in.

SENATOR LARSON

(softly)

Lights.

Ambient lights come on in his spacious, beautifully and expensively furnished Loft. Senator Larson drops his coat on a circular leather sofa, walks to a fully stocked bar, and pours himself a drink. Out of the corner of his eye he detects movement. He slowly picks up a small handgun from behind the bar and as he does, turns toward the movement. A dark figure is sitting in chair across the room.

SENATOR LARSON (CONT'D)  
 (loudly)  
 Lights!

All the lights come on and light up the loft.

SENATOR LARSON (CONT'D)  
 What the hell are you doing here?  
 And how did you get in?

### EPISODE 43

#### INT. DOWNTOWN PENTHOUSE LOFT HALLWAY - EARLY EVENING

Konstantin walks to the Bar and pours a drink.

SENATOR LARSON  
 Do you know how dangerous it is for you to be here?

KONSTANTIN  
 (sarcastically)  
 So many questions, Senator? No "How are you, Konstantin?" or "So Good to see you, Konstantin?"

SENATOR LARSON  
 You need to leave. Now! We can communicate via the burners.

Konstantin goes and sits in a large plush chair.

KONSTANTIN  
 Why are you so nervous, Senator? Everything is going as planned, no?

SENATOR LARSON  
 You tell me. Seems your man was identified by that idiot poet, waiter whatever he is. Who, by the way, is determined to find Lady Mary.

KONSTANTIN  
 He is of no consequence.

SENATOR LARSON

Weren't you the one who said no loose ends?

KONSTANTIN

Mistakes happen. Checkova will never be caught.

SENATOR LARSON

That scar running a marathon down his face is pretty identifiable.

KONSTANTIN

He will never be without one of his masks as long as he continues to live.

SENATOR LARSON

And the poet?

KONSTANTIN

Now that we have his father, he will no longer be a threat. Besides his bar is in a not so reputable area in Downtown LA. Easy to have an unfortunate accident as he is leaving.

SENATOR LARSON

And when will you speak to the King?

KONSTANTIN

Tonight.

SENATOR LARSON

This better work.

KONSTANTIN

Or what, Senator? What will you do if it doesn't?

SENATOR LARSON

Just make sure it does.

KONSTANTIN

You would be wise not to threaten me, Senator. Remember, I know where you and your family live. Even better I know where all your dirty little secrets are buried.

SENATOR LARSON

Get out.

Konstantin gets up and walks to the door. He turns around and looks at the Senator.

KONSTANTIN

One of the many reasons I have never had a family and avoided serious relationships as well as working most of my adult life outside of the law is that no one will ever be able to say to me what I just said to you. And you Americans think you have such freedom... Have a good evening, Senator.

**EPISODE 44**

**INT. APARTMENT BUILDING HALLWAY - EARLY EVENING**

The elevator door rings and Eric steps out and walks down the hallway to his father's apartment. Rebecca's door opens and she steps out of her apartment.

REBECCA

Eric. Oh boy, am I glad to see you.

ERIC

Were you standing there looking out your peep hole again, Rebecca.

REBECCA

No... uh... yes, but for good reason.

ERIC

(half jokingly)

There is no good reason to be spying on your neighbors.

REBECCA

I do not spy. I... investigate

ERIC

One day you're gonna see something you wish you hadn't investigated.

REBECCA

I think that day is today.

ERIC

What do you mean?

REBECCA  
I've been worried sick about your  
Father. How is he?

ERIC  
He's fine. Why?

REBECCA  
You don't know?

ERIC  
Know what?

REBECCA  
Oh I knew something was wrong the  
second I laid eyes on those goons.

ERIC  
Rebecca, calm down and tell me what  
you're talking about.

REBECCA  
Earlier this afternoon, I was  
coming out of the elevator and ran  
into your Dad and three thugs.  
Russian, the big one said. Told me  
they met playing Bingo...

ERIC  
Bingo? Wait. Did you say Russians?

REBECCA  
Yes. Three of them. Big brutes.

Eric starts to run to his Father's apartment.

REBECCA (CONT'D)  
(shouting)  
Wait. He's not there.

Eric fumbles with his key to open the door. He opens it.

## **EPISODE 45**

### **INT. GERALD'S APARTMENT. - EARLY EVENING**

Eric enters his Father's apartment and stands there in shock.  
Rebecca runs after him, enters the apartment, and stands next  
to him.

The apartment is in disarray. The large frame that held the  
map is in pieces and there is broken glass everywhere.

Several chairs are broken and there are spots of blood on the wood floor. Eric sees the blood and panics.

REBECCA  
(in shock)  
Oh my god.

Eric suddenly runs into the bedroom, then the kitchen, and bathroom. He finally comes back to the living room.

REBECCA (CONT'D)  
He said they were taking him to the hospital because he tripped over the ottoman. I didn't believe him.

ERIC  
How badly was he hurt? Was he conscious?

REBECCA  
Yes, yes. He was conscious... had a cut above his eye, busted lip

Eric turns toward Rebecca and grabs her by the shoulders. He is furious.

ERIC  
Why didn't you call the police? Why didn't you call me?

REBECCA  
I don't know. You're right. I should have. I'm so sorry, Eric.

Rebecca starts to cry.

ERIC  
Did one of the men have a large scar running down his face?

Eric demonstrates the location of the scar on his on face.

REBECCA  
No. I would have definitely remembered that.

ERIC  
They weren't going to a hospital, that's for sure.

REBECCA  
I am so so sorry, Eric. I will never forgive myself.

Rebecca begin crying again. Eric hugs her.

ERIC

It's okay, Rebecca. I'll find him.  
I'm sorry I yelled at you.

Eric turns Rebecca around and leads her out into the hall. He locks the door behind him.

**INT. APARTMENT BUILDING: HALLWAY - EARLY EVENING**

Eric walks Rebecca to her apartment.

ERIC

Stay here and call if Pops turns up  
or you see anything suspicious.  
Anything. Your spying days aren't  
over.

**EPISODE 46**

**INT. ABANDONED WAREHOUSE OFFICE - EVENING**

Gerald is zip-tied to a chair similar to Lady Mary's. They are the only two people in the office. Gerald jerks awake as if from a bad dream. He winces at the gash on his forehead. After a moment, he starts to look around.

LADY MARY

Oh. You're Alive. Thank goodness. I thought you might be...

GERALD

Dead? Take a lot more to get rid of me than what those bozos did. I'm Gerald by the way. I'd shake you're hand...

LADY MARY

But we're all tied up.

They both manage a smile.

LADY MARY (CONT'D)

I'm Lady Mary Harrington.

GERALD

Obviously not from around these parts.

LADY MARY

Correct. I'm the personal secretary to Princess Margaret of Valdavia.

GERALD

What the hell... excuse my French... are you doing here?

LADY MARY

I was going to ask you the same thing.

GERALD

I have no idea. These three Russian goons show up at my door asking for Eric - that's my son...

LADY MARY

Eric Thompson is your son?

GERALD

You know Eric? How?

LADY MARY

Your son is a hero. He saved Princess Margaret and myself from being kidnapped last night.

GERALD

Looks like they made a second attempt.

LADY MARY

Indeed. But at least the Princess is safe.

GERALD

And Eric? He's okay, right?

LADY MARY

Well... The last I heard he was in the hospital.

GERALD

Hospital? How badly was he hurt? Is he going to be okay?

LADY MARY

Yes. Yes. He was being released this morning.

GERALD

Oh thank the good Lord. You had me worried.

(MORE)

GERALD (CONT'D)

I don't know what I would do without that boy. After my wife died, he's all I have.

LADY MARY

I'm so sorry. I should have eased in to the whole hospital scenario instead of just blurting it out... Your son's a hero.

GERALD

No need to tell me that. He's been my hero forever... I've got to get outta here and see him.

There is a moment of silence.

GERALD (CONT'D)

I don't understand any of this. First they break into my apartment, and ask about Eric. Then the main goon gets a call and all of a sudden they're asking me about maps. Now you tell me Eric saved you and the Princess. What the hell is going on?

LADY MARY

I can only imagine how frightening and... strange this all must be.

GERALD

Oh, I'm not afraid... okay, maybe just a little. But this? It's like were in some Liam Neeson or Bruce Willis action movie.

LADY MARY

I promise you, Gerald, I will explain everything once we get out of here. But right now we need to concentrate on finding a way to do just that.

GERALD

I'll hold ya to it, My Lady...  
(Unsure)  
Isn't that how they say it in the movies?

LADY MARY

I think we can forego the formalities considering the circumstances. Mary will do.

GERALD

Okay, Mary. Any ideas?

LADY MARY

I've been thinking... If I could break the bottle or glass on the table, I could use a shard to cut my ties.

GERALD

I get you knocking over the glass off the table, but how are you going to pickup a shard? with your feet?

LADY MARY

I'll have to fall on my side, hopefully within in distance of a piece of the glass.

GERALD

And break your arm and or shoulder in the process, not to mention cutting yourself to ribbons if you fall on the broken glass.

LADY MARY

Any better ideas?

#### **EPISODE 47**

#### **INT. PRINCESS MARGARET'S SUITE LUXURY HOTEL - EVENING**

Princess Margaret is pacing. She is stunning in an evening gown, her hair in an updo, and a diamond studded tiara on her head. There is a KNOCK at the door and Princess Margaret opens it. Captain Caswell bows to the Princess.

PRINCESS MARGARET

Please Captain, come in.

Captain Caswell enters the suite as Princess Margaret closes the door.

CAPTAIN CASWELL

Your car is waiting, Your Majesty.

PRINCESS MARGARET

Captain, I'm not going to the dinner.

CAPTAIN CASWELL

Your Majesty?

PRINCESS MARGARET

I need you to escort Mr. Thompson to my suite. He is waiting in the lobby.

CAPTAIN CASWELL

Your Majesty...

Princess Margaret holds up a gloved hand

PRINCESS MARGARET

Just listen. As soon as Eric... Mr. Thompson is here, I want you to ask the King to join us. And I also want you to stay. This is of the upmost importance, Captain. I am sure you understand.

Captain Caswell looks intensely at Princess Margaret.

CAPTAIN CASWELL

Of course, Your Majesty.

Captain Caswell bows and exits.

**INT. ABANDONED WAREHOUSE OFFICE - EVENING**

GERALD

Good grief! I just remembered I have a pocket knife in my pants pocket. I always carry it to clean my nails.

LADY MARY

(incredulously)

You clean your nails with a pocket knife?

GERALD

Not very gentlemanly, I guess, but it comes in handy for other things too.

LADY MARY

And how are you going to get the knife out of your pocket?

GERALD

I can't, but there might be a way for you to.

LADY MARY

How?

GERALD

If you can get your chair perpendicular to mine where your hands are at my pants pocket. Maybe you could reach in and get it.

LADY MARY

You've lost me.

GERALD

Can you move your chair closer to mine. I'll try too... to where we're touching.

Lady Mary abruptly stiffens.

GERALD (CONT'D)

What?

LADY MARY

Ssssh.

(whispering)

I thought I heard something.

They both listen for a brief moment.

#### **EPISODE 48**

GERALD

(also whispering)

I don't hear anything.

There is a moment of silence.

LADY MARY

False alarm. But we better hurry. No telling when they may return.

GERALD

Okay. Now scoot your chair closer to me. I'll meet you half way.

Both Gerald and Lady Mary scoot their chairs together.

GERALD (CONT'D)

Now, scoot your chair perpendicular to mine where your hands'll be next to my pants pocket. In other words, your back is to me.

LADY MARY

I understand.

Lady Mary scoots her chair where her hands are near Gerald's pocket.

LADY MARY (CONT'D)  
You'll have to guide me.

Gerald moves his body close to Lady Mary's zip-tied hands as possible.

GERALD  
That's as close as I can get. My pocket is right next to your right hand. Do you feel it?

Lady Mary starts feeling around and touches the cloth of Gerald's trousers and grabs on to the opening of the trouser pocket.

LADY MARY  
Yes. I got it. But I don't think I can go any further. Can you get closer?

GERALD  
No. Our chairs are touching as it is. Lower your hand and see if you can feel the knife. Maybe you can push it up closer to the opening of the pocket.

LADY MARY  
There it is. Let me see if I can move it up.

GERALD  
You're doing it. You're doing it. I'll see if I can slump down more so it won't slip back.

LADY MARY  
Good idea.

GERALD  
You nearly got it...  
(excitedly)  
I can see the top of the knife.

LADY MARY  
If I can only...

Lady Mary strains as her fingers feel the top of the knife and struggle to take hold of it. Gerald tries to move even closer to help her.

LADY MARY (CONT'D)

Got it.

GERALD

Slowly... slowly ...there You go.

LADY MARY

I got it. I got it. Thank you,  
thank you, thank you.

They both take a deep breath.

LOUD VOICES are heard just outside the office door.

#### **EPISODE 49**

Gerald starts scooting away from Lady Mary.

GERALD

Move back. Move, move, move, move.

Lady Mary, knife cupped in her hands, scoots as fast as she can to where she was. Both Gerald and Lady Mary breath heavily.

#### **EXT. ABANDONED WAREHOUSE OFFICE - EVENING**

Volkov and Boris walk to the door of the office. Volkov unlocks it and they both enter.

#### **INT. PRINCESS MARGARET'S SUITE LUXURY HOTEL - EVENING**

Princess Margaret opens the door to her suite. King Richard and Captain Caswell enter. Eric walks to the King and bows.

ERIC

Your Highness

KING RICHARD

Mr. Thompson, I didn't expect to see you so soon. Were you able to retrieve your father's maps?

PRINCESS MARGARET

Father, let's sit down.

#### **EPISODE 50**

Princess Margaret leads the King to a sofa. She sits next to him. Eric sits in a chair directly across from the King, while Captain Caswell remains standing.

PRINCESS MARGARET (CONT'D)

Father, Eric's father has been taken by Volkov and his men. His apartment was ransacked and the maps Eric spoke of were stolen.

KING RICHARD

First, I am so sorry, Mr. Thompson, that your father has been compromised in this sordid affair. But how did this happen? No one knew that we were looking for the maps. I didn't even know they existed until this morning. Who would have told Volkov?

ERIC

If I may...

KING RICHARD

Please.

ERIC

As I told the Princess, I believe it was Senator Larson.

PRINCESS MARGARET

The only other people in the suite this morning were General Carlson, Sir William, and the Senator. I am pretty sure we can rule out the General and Sir William.

KING RICHARD

Of course. But the Senator? He has been one of our staunchest ally's in passing the Moratorium.

PRINCESS MARGARET

The Senator has everything to gain by a no vote on the moratorium and everything to lose if it passes.

ERIC

I didn't realize that Larson Industries also owns the largest Plutonium refineries in the US if not the world. He stands to loose billions if the moratorium succeeds. But if the moratorium fails he'll become one, if not the the richest man in the world.

(MORE)

ERIC (CONT'D)

It is no secret he has his eye on the presidency and I'd bet my love for poetry that he'd do anything to see that happen.

KING RICHARD

Even betray his own country?

ERIC

Yes, Your Highness. Men like Larson will do anything to get what they want. They only think of money and power.

KING RICHARD

This is all well and good but supposition is not fact. How do we prove his involvement?

ERIC

Surely there is a paper trail or some kind of tangible communication between Volkov and the Senator.

CAPTAIN CASWELL

If I may...

King Richard nods to Captain Caswell

## EPISODE 51

CAPTAIN CASWELL (CONT'D)

Volkov and Senator Larson are both too smart to leave a paper trail. If it was revealed that the Senator conducts business with one of the world's most notorious criminals, he would be ruined. It seems the only way to verify Volkov is involved is by finding Lady Mary and Mr. Thompson's Father and have them identify Volkov. Since we are in America and not Valdavia, even if Volkov is caught he, would expect the Senator to pull strings to make sure he is not charged with any crimes. To make that happen, the Senator would have to reveal his relationship with Volkov to at least a few people in high government positions via bribes no doubt.

KING RICHARD

Yes, And it would mean more loose ends for Larson as the more people who know his secret, more chances of being betrayed. And if he refuses to help Volkov...

ERIC

He takes the Senator down with him.

PRINCESS MARGARET

This means Senator Larson knows where Lady Mary and your Father are. What a despicable man.

ERIC

We need to find Lady Mary and my Father now.

KING RICHARD

Captain, please ask General Carlson to join us.

CAPTAIN CASWELL

Yes, Your Highness.

**INT. PRINCESS MARGARET SUITE LUXURY HOTEL - EVENING**

There is a KNOCK on the door. The door opens and General Carlson and Captain Caswell enter. Both bow to King Richard and Princess Margaret.

KING RICHARD

General, What information do you have on the kidnapping.

General Carlson looks warily at Eric.

KING RICHARD (CONT'D)

Mr. Thompson is fine, General. His fathered was kidnapped earlier this morning.

GENERAL CARLSON

I'm sorry to hear that, Mr. Thompson. And you believe, that the kidnapping is related to Lady Mary's?

KING RICHARD

Absolutely. Mr. Thompson's neighbor identified Nikoli and Grigori, two of Chechova's chief subordinates.

There is a another KNOCK on the door. Captain Caswell opens it. Sergeant Jonas whispers something in his ear then shuts the door.

CAPTAIN CASWELL  
Senator Larson is in the lobby.

KING RICHARD  
Thank you, Captain. It is imperative that we in no way give him any indication that we suspect his allegiance.

GENERAL CARLSON  
I don't understand.

KING RICHARD  
I know, General. I will explain later.

ERIC  
I have an idea, Your Majesty, if you will allow me. I believe there's a way to know for sure.

KING RICHARD  
We will follow your lead. Captain have Senator Larson brought up.

## **EPISODE 52**

### **INT. PRINCESS MARGARET'S SUITE LUXURY HOTEL - EVENING**

Captain Caswell enters the suite with Senator Larson.

CAPTAIN CASWELL  
Senator Larson, Your Majesties.

KING RICHARD  
Senator Larson. You are just in time. I am afraid Mr. Thompson's Father has been kidnapped by Volkov and the maps stolen that would have aided us in finding Lady Mary.

SENATOR LARSON  
I am sorry to hear that. Although I hardly see what value your father would be to Volkov.

ERIC  
My Father has a great deal of value.

(MORE)

ERIC (CONT'D)

And if Volkov or his henchmen or anyone hurts him any way, believe me, they will pay.

PRINCESS MARGARET

I'm sure both Lady Mary and Mr. Thompson will be found alive and unharmed.

KING RICHARD

And Volkov and anyone associated with his treachery will face the full force of the law both here and in Valdavia.

SENATOR LARSON

But how are we going to find them without the maps.

ERIC

That's the thing. Right before the Senator showed up, I was going to tell you that I have another map marking the seven abandoned warehouses that were our favorites to hang out. These warehouses are all out in the boonies and without the map, you would really have to do some research to find them.

KING RICHARD

What are "boonies?"

ERIC

Just an expression meaning really hard to find.

Princess Margaret picks up on where Eric is going with this.

PRINCESS MARGARET

This is great news.

SENATOR LARSON

Indeed it is. And where is the map? We need to retrieve it before Volkov gets wind of it.

KING RICHARD

How could he. Only the people in this room knows it exists.

SENATOR LARSON

Very true, Your Highness, but from what our intelligence has gathered, it is common knowledge that Konstantin Volkov is quite persuasive in exacting information from his prisoners.

Eric seethes.

GENERAL CARLSON

I think it would be, as you Americans say, "better to be safe than sorry," and have a detail retrieve the map and brought here.

SENATOR LARSON

Agreed. I can have secret service find it in minutes. Just tell us where it is.

There is a brief moment of silence as Eric thinks.

### **EPISODE 53**

### **INT. PRINCESS MARGARET'S SUITE LUXURY HOTEL - EVENING**

ERIC

Alright. But no secret service. I'll get it. After all it's my apartment.

KING RICHARD

Captain, you will go with Mr. Thompson and take several Guards as well. We can't be too careful.

SENATOR LARSON

I'll alert the Secret Service just in case there are any complications.

Senator Larson gets up to leave.

KING RICHARD

You are leaving so soon Senator? Did you have a reason for coming by? Not that you need one, of course.

SENATOR LARSON

Ah, yes. The meeting for the vote is set at 2pm, Your Majesty.

(MORE)

SENATOR LARSON (CONT'D)

We finally heard from North Korea... and they are sending a representative.

KING RICHARD

Not good news. I was hoping they would boycott the conference as it makes the vote very, very close.

SENATOR LARSON

I am doing everything in my power on behalf of the United States government to make sure the vote is in favor of the moratorium.

KING RICHARD

And we are most indebted to your service, Senator.

Senator Larson bows to both King Richard and Princess Margaret.

SENATOR LARSON

Now if you will excuse me...

Senator Larson exits.

KING RICHARD

Captain Caswell, take a contingent of Guards as well as Los Angeles Police Officers and wait for whoever Konstantin or Senator Larson sends to Mr. Thomson's apartment.

ERIC

No!

Everyone looks at Eric surprised.

#### **EPISODE 54**

ERIC (CONT'D)

Excuse me, Your Highness, but Senator Larson no doubt has members of the LAPD on his payroll and we don't know how high up that goes. I'll go with the Captain as planned. We'll hide out and I'll call the LAPD telling them that my house is being broken into.

PRINCESS MARGARET

But if the Senator has people on the payroll how is that different?

ERIC

I won't be calling LAPD. I'll be calling 911. They'll send a dispatch to whatever squad cars are nearest to my location. No pre-selected officers by the Senator.

KING RICHARD

Very smart. Thank you, Mr. Thompson.

ERIC

We need to go. Let's just hope the Senator took the bait.

PRINCESS MARGARET

Please be careful, Eric.

Eric stops and smiles at Princess Margaret.

ERIC

Always, Your Majesty.

Eric and Captain Caswell bow to the King and exit.

**INT. KING RICHARD'S SUITE LUXURY HOTEL - EVENING**

King Richard is in a large chair. He is dictating to Sir William who sits at a large desk writing. The cell phone on the desk beside Sir William rings.

SIR WILLIAM

Yes?

Sir William listens for a brief moment. He gets up and leaves the phone on the desk. He approaches the King.

KING RICHARD

Who is it, William?

SIR WILLIAM

It's Volkov, Sir.

Silence

KING RICHARD

Hand me the phone.

Sir William hands the phone to King Richard and then exits the suite.

KING RICHARD (CONT'D)  
I'm listening.

**INT. KING RICHARD'S SUITE LUXURY HOTEL - EVENING**

King Richard lays the phone on the arm of the chair.

KING RICHARD (CONT'D)  
(to himself)  
What have I wrought?

**EPISODE 55**

**INT. ABANDONED WAREHOUSE OFFICE - EVENING**

VOLKOV  
Ah, Mr. Thompson. Thank you for joining us.

GERALD  
Didn't have much choice.

VOLKOV  
I assume we found all the maps.

GERALD  
You have my portfolio, so yeah. I guess ya did. Why all this trouble for some maps of LA?

VOLKOV  
We were looking for something. Really not that important now that I am sure the Moratorium will be defeated.

LADY MARY  
You think your untouchable?

VOLKOV  
I don't think. I know. As soon as the Moratorium is defeated, I will be on a private plane to Russia. And once we are in Russia, you can testify all you want about the kidnapping, but there is nothing your government can do about it. And my government?

(MORE)

VOLKOV (CONT'D)

Most likely will offer me a prominent role in the President's cabinet, which of course I will turn down as I always do.

GERALD

Anything can happen in the next 18 hours.

LADY MARY

You sound so sure and yet you know that not even God could change the King's mind.

Volkov evilly smiles at Lady Mary.

LADY MARY (CONT'D)

(frightened)

Volkov, what have you done?

VOLKOV

Just made sure your King makes the right choice tomorrow.

LADY MARY

And how did you do that?

VOLKOV

You really don't know, do you?

LADY MARY

Know what?

VOLKOV

Oh, this will be fun.

**INT. KING RICHARD'S SUITE LUXURY HOTEL - EVENING**

King Richard sits on a sofa, slightly slumped as if the burdens of the world are on his shoulders.

KING RICHARD

William, Tell the Princess that I need to speak with her immediately.

SIR WILLIAM

Yes, Sire.

Sir Williams exits. King Richard places his head in his hands.

**EPISODE 56**

**INT. ABANDONED WAREHOUSE OFFICE - EVENING**

Volkov's cell phone buzzes. He answers it. After a brief moment, his face contorts in anger and he throws his phone against a wall.

GERALD

I take it that wasn't good news.

Volkov rushes to Gerald and strikes him hard.

VOLKOV

Ты наглый дурак (You insolent fool)

It takes a moment for Gerald to recover from the slap.

GERALD

I don't know what that means, but I can guess it isn't a compliment.

VOLKOV

You and your son have caused me enough pain. But compared to the victory of tomorrow's vote, this is a minor setback.

Volkov walks back to Boris.

VOLKOV (CONT'D)

Мы уезжаем сегодня ночью. Убедись, что мы готовы. (We are leaving tonight. Make sure we are ready.)

BORIS

Да, босс (yes, Boss.)

LADY MARY

Volkov...

Volkov turns toward Lady Mary.

LADY MARY (CONT'D)

What is going to happen to us?

VOLKOV

Hopefully you will stay here and rot.

GERALD

You're just going to leave us here?

VOLKOV

Not "us," Lady Mary. You, Mr. Thompson, we have no further use for. Dimitri will deal with you once he returns. And Although I will not be able to see it myself, I will fantasize about your reaction, Lady Mary, when you find out that Sir and Lady Harrington are not your biological parents.

LADY MARY

What scheme have you come up with now, Volkov?

VOLKOV

No schemes. Only the truth.

Volkov smiles his sheepishly evil smile and exits.

LADY MARY

(shouting)

Volkov! Wait! What are you talking about?

GERALD

He's just trying to get your goat, Lady Mary.

LADY MARY

I have no idea what that means.

GERALD

He's just trying to get you all worked up. Don't believe a word he says.

LADY MARY

Volkov rarely says anything that he doesn't mean. But what a preposterous thing to say.

ROMANOV

Заткнись! (Shut up!) No Talk.

A brief moment of silence.

LADY MARY

(whispering)

Look. I'm nearly through.

Gerald turns his head to see Lady Mary cutting through her zip-ties.

**EPISODE 57****INT. KING RICHARD'S SUITE LUXURY HOTEL - EVENING**

King Richard's head is in his hands. Princess Margaret sits beside him, stunned. She turns toward her father and puts her arm around him.

PRINCESS MARGARET

We will get through this, Father.  
The people will understand.

KING RICHARD

No, Maggie. They will not. We are the last true governing royal family in the world. Those who oppose our monarchy, no matter how well we have governed, will circle like vultures and do everything in their power to see our reign and the Valdavian Monarchy abolished.

Silence

KING RICHARD (CONT'D)

I have no other choice than to abandon our stance for the moratorium and vote against its passing.

PRINCESS MARGARET

And you think this will be the last time Volkov uses this information against us? If you allow him to dictate how you vote tomorrow, you will be no more than his puppet which is exactly what he wants.

The king gets up angrily and turns to his daughter.

KING RICHARD

You don't understand. My reign will be reduced to lies and cover-ups. Everything I've... we've done will be forgotten only to be overshadowed by scandal.

Princess Margaret stands.

PRINCESS MARGARET

So you just give up? Allow Volkov to win? That would be the greater scandal. Father, you have never backed down from a fight before.

(MORE)

PRINCESS MARGARET (CONT'D)

And no one knows more than you the importance of the moratorium. Think of what will happen if men like Volkov and Senator Larson have unlimited access to plutonium.

KING RICHARD

I have made my decision, Margaret. I need to prepare for the repercussions.

King Richard hugs his daughter and then walks toward the door of the suite.

PRINCESS MARGARET

Father...

There is a KNOCK at the door.

KING RICHARD

Yes?

## EPISODE 58

### INT. KING RICHARD'S SUITE LUXURY HOTEL - EVENING

The door opens and Captain Caswell steps in and bows. He is followed by Eric who also bows. Captain Caswell closes the door.

CAPTAIN CASWELL

Your Highness, Great news. We've captured Chekhova and his two henchmen breaking into Mr. Thompson's apartment. They were arrested and are being held without bail at Police headquarters here in Downtown.

KING RICHARD

That is certainly good news. But you were sure it was Dimitri Chekhova?

CAPTAIN CASWELL

Yes, Your Highness. As you said, he was wearing a latex mask but after a brief struggle we were able to remove it.

ERIC

Definitely Chekhova. That scar is forever burned into my memory.

CAPTAIN CASWELL

They will be moved to a Maximum security prison since Chekhova is on the International Most Wanted List.

KING RICHARD

If we know then Volkov knows and he will waste no time in leaving the country.

**EXT. ABANDONED WAREHOUSE - LATE EVENING**

A lone unremarkable late model Kia sits in the parking lot. It is totally dark - no street lamps or light emanating from the warehouse itself.

**INT. ABANDONED WAREHOUSE OFFICE - LATE EVENING**

Boris, Sitting at the desk, is watching a soccer game on an iPad. Lady Mary has cut through her ties but keeps her hands behind her as if still cuffed.

LADY MARY

(whispering)

I'm through. Get him to come over here and I will grab the bottle and hit him with it.

GERALD

(whispering)

I sure hope this works.

(to Romanov)

Hey, Ruskie, I need a glass of water.

Boris ignores him.

GERALD (CONT'D)

Hey, are you stupid or just deaf. I need some water.

Boris looks up from his iPad.

BORIS

What you call me?

GERALD

Stupid. Isn't that your first name?

Boris's eyes get big as he gets up from the desk. He is furious. He stomps toward Gerald.

GERALD (CONT'D)  
(more to himself)  
Oh shit...

**EPISODE 59**

**INT. ABANDONED WAREHOUSE OFFICE - LATE EVENING**

Boris gets in Gerald's face.

BORIS  
I will...

Gerald kicks Boris with all his strength in the groin. Boris yells in pain as he backs away and bends over. Lady Mary simultaneously stands up, grabs the water bottle, and smashes it over Boris's head. He falls to the floor unconscious.

Lady Mary goes to Gerald and cuts his ties. She helps him to stand up and for a brief moment they just stand there. Then, as if on cue, embrace.

GERALD  
We've gotta get out of here. No  
telling when one of the other goons  
might come back.

LADY MARY  
We need to tie him up and gag him  
first. And find his cell phone.

Lady Mary goes to the desk and searches for zip ties. She finds them and helps Gerald bind Boris's hands. Gerald takes an old handkerchief from his left pants pocket and stuffs it in Boris's mouth.

GERALD  
I kinda feel sorry for the guy.  
That handkerchief has been used  
quiet a few times in the past  
couple of days.

LADY MARY  
Good! Disgusting, but good. He  
deserves it.

Gerald checks Boris's pant pockets for his cell. He finds it.

GERALD  
Jackpot.

LADY MARY  
Let me see.

Gerald hands the phone to Lady Mary.

LADY MARY (CONT'D)

It's a burner and doesn't need a password.

Gerald checks Boris's other pants pocket. He pulls out a set of car keys.

GERALD

It's our lucky day. Now Let's get out of here.

LADY MARY

Let's hope there is a car to go with that set of keys.

Gerald goes to the large window in the back of the office and removes the cardboard covering it. He then breaks the glass with his elbow. Lady Mary goes to the window and helps him clear the jagged edges from the window frame.

GERALD

I'll go first and then help you down.

## **EPISODE 60**

### **EXT. ABANDONED WAREHOUSE - LATE EVENING**

Gerald and Lady Mary peak around the corner of the warehouse and spot the car.

GERALD

Looks like our friend, Boris, is the only one babysitting us.

LADY MARY

There may be guards outside the office. We can't tell since everything is boarded up.

GERALD

More reason to get to the car and get out of here.

They quietly run/walk to the car. Gerald inserts the key in the passenger side of the door and opens it. As Lady Mary gets in, he shuts it as quietly as possible, then opens the driver's side door and gets in. He immediately starts the car.

**EXT. QUIET TREE-LINED MIDDLE CLASS NEIGHBORHOOD - LATE EVENING**

A black SUV sits in the quiet dark of night. The windows are glazed. A nondescript car pulls up behind the SUV. The driver's side door opens and Senator Larson steps out and goes to the SUV.

**EPISODE 61****INT. SUV FRONT SEAT - LATE EVENING**

Volkov sits in the driver's seat. VICTOR ANDREEV (30's), a Russian body-builder and one of Volkov's henchmen, sits in the back seat behind Senator Larson.

SENATOR LARSON

How? How could they have possibly known that we knew about the maps. You must have a mole in your organization, Volkov.

VOLKOV

Besides myself, Chechova, and his two subordinates, you, Senator, are the only person who knew that the poet had maps in his apartment.

SENATOR LARSON

What are you suggesting, Volkov?

VOLKOV

That you are compromised.

SENATOR LARSON

That's impossible.

VOLKOV

You were the only one of us in the room when the Poet revealed he had copies of the maps. How else could they have known we were going to be there? They played you, Senator. I suggest you find a safe place to hide for a while. I am leaving for Russia tonight.

SENATOR LARSON

You're not staying for the vote?

VOLKOV

No Need. It will fail. I am assured of that.

SENATOR LARSON

No, there is no way they suspect me. You're wrong, Volkov.

VOLKOV

Perhaps. It makes no difference to me. I will be home by the time the vote is taken and Lady Mary and the Poet's Father are found.

SENATOR LARSON

You think you're immune to any repercussions if I am arrested? Think again.

VOLKOV

Always with the threats, Senator.

SENATOR LARSON

It's not a threat, Volkov. It's a fact. If I'm caught, I will make a very lucrative deal with my government by providing information concerning you and your organization. You told me where you knew were my secrets were buried... did you think I would come into any kind of association with one of the worlds's most wanted criminals like yourself without due diligence?

VOLKOV

How unfortunate.

SENATOR LARSON

For you. Yes. You're not leaving tonight, Volkov. I'll make sure every airport in the US...

Suddenly Victor places a garrote around Senator Larsen's neck and begins to choke him. The Senator claws at the garrote with all his strength but is unable to free himself. He quickly loses consciousness until he is no longer moving.

Volkov looks in the rearview mirror at Victor.

VOLKOV

Stage the body as a suicide as we discussed.

VICTOR

Yes, Boss.

**EPISODE 62**

**INT. KING RICHARD'S SUITE LUXURY HOTEL - LATE EVENING**

Princess Margaret cellphones rings. She extracts it from her pocket and looks at the caller ID.

PRINCESS MARGARET  
There's no caller ID. Should I  
answer it.

CAPTAIN CASWELL  
If I may, Princess...

Princess Margaret hands the phone to the Captain.

CAPTAIN CASWELL (CONT'D)  
Yes?  
(listening)  
Yes. Of course. I got it. We will  
meet you there.

Captain Caswell hands the phone back to Princess Margaret.

CAPTAIN CASWELL (CONT'D)  
Lady Mary and your Father, Mr.  
Thompson, managed to escape and are  
on their way to the "best little  
restaurant in the world." Lady Mary  
said your father told her to tell  
you, Mr. Thompson, and you would  
know where that is.

Princess Margaret begins to cry. She hugs King Richard.

ERIC  
You bet I do. A Denny's in Norwalk.  
My favorite restaurant when I was  
kid.

PRINCESS MARGARET  
How? How did they escape?

CAPTAIN CASWELL  
She did not elaborate, Your  
Highness.

KING RICHARD  
And how do we know this isn't  
another one of Volkov's traps.

PRINCESS MARGARET  
Father, he doesn't need anymore  
traps.

ERIC

Why do you say that?

KING RICHARD

We will tell you, Mr. Thompson as you have certainly earned our trust, but now is not the time... Just to be on the safe side, Captain, take as many men as you feel necessary and meet them.

PRINCESS MARGARET

If they are in a car, why don't they just come here?

ERIC

I imagine the car they are in belongs to Volkov or one of his goons and they need to ditch it as soon as possible.

CAPTAIN CASWELL

I will report in as soon as we have them, Your Highness.

ERIC

I'm going with you.

Captain Caswell looks at King Richard who nods in the affirmative.

ERIC (CONT'D)

(to Princess Margaret)

I'll be back soon with both Lady Mary and my Dad.

Eric kisses her hand and bows to the King.

### **EPISODE 63**

#### **INT. KING RICHARD'S SUITE LUXURY HOTEL - LATE EVENING**

Captain Caswell enters the King's suite. He is followed by Lady Mary, Gerald and Eric. Princess Margaret and King Richard are shocked at the cuts and bruises on their faces. Princess Margaret runs to Lady Mary and hugs her, tears streaming down her face. King Richard also embraces Lady Mary.

ERIC

Your Highness, may I present my Father, Gerald Thompson.

Gerald doesn't know quite what to do. He bows awkwardly.

KING RICHARD

We are indebted to both you and your son, Mr. Thompson.

GERALD

You can call me Gerald, Your...

Gerald starts to fall, but catches himself. Eric grabs hold of him.

ERIC

Pop! Are you okay?

GERALD

Whoa... I just need to sit down for a minute.

KING RICHARD

Captain, call Dr. Bradbury and Dr. Radcliffe and have them come to my suite. Mr. Thom... Gerald, both you and Lady Mary will receive full medical care here. Anything you need will be provided.

GERALD

Thanks, Your Highness, but I have Medicare. I can go to urgent care.

KING RICHARD

Nonsense. I insist.

ERIC

Dad, they can't afford to have your's and especially Lady Mary's kidnapping leaked to the press.

KING RICHARD

You may both stay here for the evening. There are several bedrooms and if you are feeling well enough, I hope you will accompany us to the Summit tomorrow to hear my speech.

GERALD

It would be an honor, Your Majesty. Thank you.

KING RICHARD

Has anyone heard from Senator Larson?

**EPISODE 64****INT. LADY MARY'S SUITE LUXURY HOTEL - LATE EVENING**

Lady Mary is sitting up in bed and Princess Margaret sits beside her, holding her hand.

LADY MARY

This is all so surreal. I can hardly even process it.

PRINCESS MARGARET

I know. Father is bereft. He feels he has betrayed us both and even worse, he thinks he has to denounce the Moratorium to protect us and the crown.

LADY MARY

He must not, Maggie. We cannot allow him to change his vote. We are insignificant in comparison to the importance of the moratorium and the millions of lives it could potentially save.

PRINCESS MARGARET

I know.

LADY MARY

Valdavia loves the King and you. One indiscretion will not alter that love nor allegiance.

PRINCESS MARGARET

You're not angry or hurt that he lied all these years? That your mother had an affair with the King and kept it from you for over 40 years. Not to mention that you are the true and rightful heir to the throne, Mary, not me.

LADY MARY

Move.

Lady Margaret suddenly pushes Princess Margaret aside, gets up, and puts on a robe.

PRINCESS MARGARET

What are you doing.

LADY MARY

Come with me.

Lady Mary goes to the door and opens it, and exits. After a brief moment, Princess Margaret follows.

**EPISODE 65**

**INT. KING RICHARD'S SUITE LUXURY HOTEL - LATE EVENING**

LADY MARY

Your Majesty... Father... no, too early. I will stick with "Your Majesty" for now.

KING RICHARD

Mary, I know this is an enormous shock to you, but you should be in bed resting...

LADY MARY

No. I need to speak to you. And it needs to be before the vote tomorrow.

KING RICHARD

Mary...

LADY MARY

Please, your Majesty. Let me speak or I will burst.

The King nods his head.

LADY MARY (CONT'D)

First of all, I forgive you for keeping this a secret all these years. I certainly haven't processed it all fully, but I do forgive you. And if I am to be completely truthful, I always felt there was... something more to our relationship as you have always treated me more as a daughter rather than a Lady-in-Waiting to Margaret. I understand why you kept it a secret all these years, especially when my parents were alive. Did my Father know?

KING RICHARD

Yes. Yes he did. He was a royalists to his last breath and said he would do anything to protect the crown from any disgrace... He put me to shame. He was far more honorable than I.

Lady Mary goes and sits beside the King.

LADY MARY

No, Your Majesty. Valdavia has never had such an honorable, kind, Ruler as yourself. We all make mistakes for whatever reasons. There are a number of ways you could have extricated us from the country, or disparaged our family but instead you continued to honor my Father and the Harrington name.

PRINCESS MARGARET

Did you love her?

KING RICHARD

Maggie...

PRINCESS MARGARET

I need to know. Please.

There is a brief silence.

KING RICHARD

No.... It happened only once and we both regretted it deeply. Your Mother, Maggie, was the one whom suggested Mary be your Lady-in-Waiting. It took a while but she finally forgave me... both of us actually. She was a remarkable woman... as was your Mother, Mary.

LADY MARY

We must get ahead of this before Volkov has a chance to use it against you.

KING RICHARD

Yes. I have decided to address the nation when we return.

PRINCESS MARGARET

Father, why wait? Address the world... tomorrow at the Summit.

(MORE)

## PRINCESS MARGARET (CONT'D)

Show the world a King who is honorable and truthful and not afraid to admit when wrong. Tell the truth and dispel any lies or gossip that Volkov may spread.

## KING RICHARD

Margaret, I...

## LADY MARY

She's right, Your Majesty. The people of Valdavia may be shocked at first, but they love you and will respect you for your honesty. And you need not worry... I have no desire to be Queen. I will abdicate immediately.

## PRINCESS MARGARET

Mary, you can't. You are the rightful heir to the throne.

## KING RICHARD

Maggie is right, Mary.

## PRINCESS MARGARET

And you will make a wonderful Queen.

## LADY MARY

I have no doubt the people will forgive you, Your Majesty, but I don't believe they are ready to accept a bastard queen.

**EPISODE 66****INT. KING RICHARD'S SUITE LUXURY HOTEL - LATE EVENING**

## PRINCESS MARGARET

Mary...

## LADY MARY

No. You don't understand. Even if the people did accept me, I have no desire to be Queen. I have and will always be perfectly happy serving the Monarchy. Being your Lady-in-Waiting, Maggie, has been an honor and a privilege. I have no further ambitions. Truly. I will abdicate and nothing will change my mind.

There is a knock on the door.

KING RICHARD

Enter

General Carlson and Captains Caswell enter and bow.

KING RICHARD (CONT'D)

Yes?

GENERAL CARLSON

I have grave news, Your Majesty. Senator Larson is dead. His body was found hanging in his residence downtown. It was apparently a suicide.

KING RICHARD

Hardly, Senator Larson was a classic narcissist and narcissist do not commit suicide. This is Volkov. General, We must make sure Volkov does not leave the country.

PRINCESS MARGARET

I certainly did not like the man, but I didn't wish him dead.

KING RICHARD

Knowing the senator as I do, when he found out we had Dimitri, he must have panicked and threatened Volkov.

LADY MARY

I wouldn't even think Volkov would be so brazen as to assassinate a United State Senator.

KING RICHARD

Captain, arouse Sir William. I need to speak with the President immediately... We cannot allow Volkov to win.

**EPISODE 67**

**INT. LARGE CONFERENCE ROOM - EARLY AFTERNOON**

A huge round table is in the center of the room. there are fourteen seats around the table, each with a Name Plaque of the following countries: Brazil, Canada, China, France, India, Iran, Israel, North Korea, Pakistan, Russia, Saudi Arabia, United Kingdom, United States, and Valdavia. A Representative from each country, including King Richard, sits at the Table.

REPORTERS and NEWSCASTERS continually take photos and other dignitaries, including Lady Mary Princess Margaret, Eric, and Gerald, PERSONAL ASSISTANTS, SECRETARIES and the GENERAL PUBLIC sit in chairs or stand throughout the hall. A very large Monitor is displayed on the wall to the right of King Richard's seat. It reads: The World Plutonium Summit 2026. The title is encircled by Flags representing each of the countries at the table.

King Richard rises from his seat.

**KING RICHARD**

Distinguished Colleagues, Honored Guests, and the millions of viewers watching our live telecast from home, I welcome you to the 2026 World Plutonium Summit. Today we will vote on one of the most important issues of our times - Enacting a Moratorium on all future plutonium production and banning the manufacturing of nuclear weapons. Each country represented here has enough plutonium in reserve to continue further use for cancer research, diagnostic testing, and radioisotope thermoelectric generators in spacecraft. What we decide today will impact generations for many years. However, before we vote, as Chairman of the this year's Summit, I would like to address several very important issues. Two nights ago, there was a failed attempt to kidnap my daughter, Princess Margaret, the future Queen of Valdavia, by one of the world's most notorious criminals, Konstantin Volkov...

**INT. LARGE CONFERENCE ROOM - EARLY AFTERNOON**

KING RICHARD

After speaking with the President of the United States this morning, all airports in the United States as well as both borders are on high alert. We have already captured Volkov's main Lieutenant in his crime organization and will no doubt find, detain, and prosecute Volkov for the crimes he has committed. I am sure the Russian government, represented here by Ambassador Belinsky would agree and will aid us in our search and capture of Konstantin Volkov.

**INT. LARGE CONFERENCE ROOM - EARLY AFTERNOON**

King Richard nods to the Ambassador. The Ambassador (60's) a large and stoic man, simply stares at the King. After a brief moment, he glances at the men and women around the table and then looks at the King and nods.

KING RICHARD

Thank you, Ambassador Belinsky for acknowledging before all those present and the world that Russia will indeed aid and support our capture and arrest of Konstantin Volkov.

Ambassador Belinsky is furious.

KING RICHARD (CONT'D)

Which leads me to why Volkov felt it necessary to kidnap the Princess and Lady Mary.

**EPISODE 68****INT. LARGE CONFERENCE ROOM - EARLY AFTERNOON**

Eric leans over and whispers to Princess Margaret.

ERIC

You have one brave Father.

PRINCESS MARGARET

That makes two of us.

Eric gently grabs the Princess's hand.

**INT. LARGE CONFERENCE ROOM - EARLY AFTERNOON**

KING RICHARD

... Finally, I truly hope the people of the Valdavia and the world will forgive me for my transgression, but rejoice in the lives of now two Princesses: Princess Margaret and Princess Mary.

There is silence. Then an abrupt cacophony of applause and a standing ovation.

**INT. LARGE CONFERENCE ROOM - AFTERNOON**

KING RICHARD

It is now time to vote on the Moratorium. A "yes" vote will signify a vote for the Moratorium, a "no" vote will signify no Moratorium. As stated in the Practice and procedures of the Summit's body, we will cast our vote one at a time and the vote will be displayed on the screen. Also stipulated in our practice and procedures, a majority vote determines the outcome. Madame Secretary, you may begin.

Madame Secretary (50's) Begins calling for the vote.

MADAME SECRETARY

Brazil. What is your vote?

The Ambassador from Brazil, Federico de Sousa (60's) stands.

FEDERICO DE SOUSA

Brazil votes "Yes."

De Sousa sits and presses a button by the small screen in front of him. On the large Display a check mark appears in the "YES" column.

MADAME SECRETARY

Canada. What is your vote?

**EPISODE 69**

**EXT. PETE'S A' POPPIN BAR - EVENING**

There is a huge line outside. Young, hip, men and women as well as older couples and groups mingle as they wait to get inside.

**INT. PETE'S A' POPPIN BAR - EVENING**

Eric and Princess Margaret are sitting at a table right in front of the stage. On the table sits a bottle of Dom Perignon and two glasses. Eric pours some champagne in Princess Margaret's glass then his own.

ERIC

To your Father for buying this extremely expensive bottle of champagne.

PRINCESS MARGARET

And to the Moratorium and Banning of nuclear weapons.

ERIC

A little more important than mine. And... to finally being alone with you.

PRINCESS MARGARET

You consider this being alone?

Eric laughs.

ERIC

Point taken. Let me rephrase that. Here's to being with you without the fear of being kidnapped or beaten up.

PRINCESS MARGARET

I'll definitely drink to that.

They clink their glasses and drink.

ERIC

Should we offer some champagne to Captain Caswell and his men?

**INT. PETE'S A' POPPIN BAR - EVENING**

Captain Caswell sits two tables behind Eric and the Princess. Four other men, including Sergeant Jonas and Corporal Lyndon all dressed in black stand at different places throughout the bar.

PRINCESS MARGARET

A very nice offer, but I'm afraid they aren't allowed to drink while on duty.

Felonious, the Poetry Emcee, walks through the crowd to get to their table.

FELONIOUS

You're next Princess. You're going to be great. We've never had a Princess read before.

Before the Princess can respond, Felonious jumps on the stage.

PRINCESS MARGARET

I can't do this, Eric.

ERIC

Of course you can. The crowd will love you. They already do. Have you seen the line outside?

PRINCESS MARGARET

I'm a novelty. That's all. Really Eric, I'm too nervous.

ERIC

I'm right here. Just look at me.

**EPISODE 70****INT. PETE'S A' POPPIN BAR STAGE - EVENING**

FELONIOUS

Well, unless you've been living under a rock, and by the look of some of you... you have!...

(some laughter)

You are aware of the extraordinary ventures the last few days of Princess Margaret of Valdavia and our very own national hero, Eric Thompson.

There is a huge round of applause and shouts of "Way to go Eric," "You're our hero, Eric," and "We love you, Princess"

FELONIOUS (CONT'D)

Tonight we are honored to have them both with us and Princess Margaret has agreed to read one of her original poems. So let's give it up for Princess Margaret!

Another huge round of applause.

ERIC

Remember. I'm right here.

Eric pulls Princess Margaret to him and kisses her passionately, not forced, but with a gentle urgency. When they finally pull back, it's only slightly, foreheads still close, as if the kiss hasn't quite ended—just paused. Princess Margaret, catching her breath, stands, smiles at Eric and walks up the several steps to the microphone. There is complete silence. Blushing, Princess Margaret takes a moment and looks at Eric.

PRINCESS MARGARET

The title of my poem is "The Princess and the Poet."

THE END