

INT. TOWER DUNGEON - DAY

Beatrice and Lola are in opposite cells.

BEATRICE

I still don't understand why you did it.

LOLA

I told you: A man at the Jubilee dared me to hide those pearls in your bag, as a prank. I had no idea they were real, let alone the Queen's.

BEATRICE

You're sure Elizabeth didn't put you up to it, for revenge?

LOLA

For the hundredth time, no. I'm a Scot. My mistress despises Elizabeth. Why would I help her?

BEATRICE

Well, if she did put you up to it, this is a strange way of thanking you.

LOLA

I couldn't have said it better.

A moment.

BEATRICE

You don't know how often I've wished I could speak with the Queen, to explain about Anne...

LOLA

Explain what?

BEATRICE

I am Lady Beatrice Somerset. You must have heard all the stories: The lady who

sold out her dearest friend. And her infant daughter...

LOLA

Yes. You told those outlandish tales - Anne was guilty of witchcraft... of incest?

BEATRICE

Well, adultery and treason weren't enough, since half the nobles in Court were guilty of those... She was so out of favor, Anne. Everyone knew he wanted her gone. That to speak ill of her was to curry favor with the king.

LOLA

Is that what you did?

BEATRICE

It wasn't my idea. A chambermaid of Anne's claimed to have seen Anne and her brother George...together. It was nonsense, outlandish - and just the sort of thing needed for others to look upon her with horror and disdain. Henry didn't believe it, of course, and knew no one else would either... unless it came from someone like me. A close friend to Anne.

After her trial, Henry awarded me the Boley family lands. But the lie cost me my soul.

LOLA

Henry knew the incest story was a lie?

BEATRICE

Of course he did. Anne loved Henry, he knew that. The only thing Anne was ever guilty of was not having a son.