

CALL BACK SIDES – *BECAUSE I AM YOUR QUEEN*

**SIDE 1 : Mary and Elizabeth show down**

Note: italics = the actual text from their original play

ELIZABETH

Twenty years and you were still proud and upright. As I would have been. Though you did kneel. You said, *do not leave me lying dishonored in the dust, reach down your royal right hand to raise me.*

MARY

*Stay down there, Lady Mary, it is your place.* That's what you said.

ELIZABETH

I wanted you to beg for my mercy. You had tried to murder me. I was in constant danger.

MARY

I begged.

ELIZABETH

*God make my speech a storm but take the sting out of it.* You call that begging?

MARY

The attempts on your life were not within my control. Those men were acting of their own accord, out of loyalty to me, yes, but they were using us for their own ends. Catholic vs Protestant.

ELIZABETH

You may have been a pawn of men, but I, at least, was more powerful than that.

MARY

Oh come on. Leicester was looking my way and it drove you crazy. You envied me. I was more beautiful.

ELIZABETH

There wasn't much beauty left when I saw you. And every man around you wanted me dead.

MARY

But you cut my head off, not theirs and that was jealousy. You were scared to name me your heir.

ELIZABETH

*Name you as my heir! A royal trap! And see you, in my*

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*lifetime, stealing my people with your glittering eyes, seducing the nobility, while I, forgotten.*

MARY

*I renounced all claims to England. Broken-winged, all my ambitions creep along the ground ... Say what you came to say then, say to me, 'you are free Mary, you have felt my heel hard on your head, now learn to love my hand when it gives freedom.'*

ELIZABETH

*No more fools will stumble into your clutches, now the world's eyes are elsewhere ... Is this the beauty, Leicester, dangerous for a man to glimpse, disaster for any woman to be near? Why is it so talked about? I think I see the reason: to be the darling of the world is easy if you are in the arms of everybody!*

MARY

*My sins were human failings, and I was young and power had confused me. But I have not denied them, I refused to hide the truth, I let the worst be known, so I can say that what is said of me is worse than what I am. But history will not be kind to you when it tears down the finely decorated drapery that veils your passions. You did not inherit much virtue from your mother. We all know for what crime Anne Boleyn was killed.*

ELIZABETH

*(Silence as she recalls her mother)*

*She was my mother.*

MARY

*Human beings can only take so much. Restraint! Submission! Now I dispatch the lamb and let the lion out of its cage! Faint patience, like an angel, float back to heaven! You who gave Medusa her murdering eyes, now soak my words in poison! The throne of England is desecrated by a bastard, and the noble people of the British Isles robbed by a simple trick. If right was honored you would be sprawling in the dust before me, because I am your Queen.*

ELIZABETH

*Stay the execution. No more. No more.*