

(She enters. She stops at the sight of DMITRY.)

DMITRY. *(Despite himself.)* Your Royal Majesty.

THE DOWAGER EMPRESS. How dare you address me!

DMITRY. Anya doesn't want your money. I take full responsibility for bringing her to Paris.

THE DOWAGER EMPRESS. *Gendarmes!*

DMITRY. But I believe with all my heart that she is the Grand Duchess Anastasia.

THE DOWAGER EMPRESS. I will not stay for this.

(She turns to leave, but DMITRY boldly steps on the train of her gown and stops her.)

DMITRY. She only wants what is rightfully hers: your recognition and your loving embrace. Try to imagine her life since her parents, sisters, little brother were murdered.

THE DOWAGER EMPRESS. I do not need reminding of what happened to my family. I lost everything I loved that day.

DMITRY. So did she. Anya survived for a reason: to heal what happened or Russia will be a wound that never heals.

(THE DOWAGER EMPRESS slaps his face.)

THE DOWAGER EMPRESS. That is no longer a concern of mine. Russia has damned itself to eternity for what it has done.

LILY. *(Concerned.)* You're tiring her.

DMITRY. God will judge you harshly, old woman. History already has.

(He goes. LILY starts to protest his turning his back on the THE DOWAGER EMPRESS but she waves this breach of etiquette away.)

LILY. He turned his back to you!

THE DOWAGER EMPRESS. Take me home, Lily.