

thoroughly broken. If she can show that side of herself it will be to LILY and no one else.)

LILY. Your Imperial Majesty.

THE DOWAGER EMPRESS. He's like a dog with a bone, that one.

LILY. Only four letters today.

THE DOWAGER EMPRESS. If only I could lose hope entirely. I used to open each one with a beating heart. Could this be my precious Anastasia? But after so many disappointments, I've come to dread the daily post. Another day, another impostor.

LILY. I won't let you give up.

THE DOWAGER EMPRESS. Dearest Lily. I know I am a proud and difficult woman. You are the only one I've allowed to see what's become of me. I was Maria Fyodorovna Romanov, Empress of All Russia. You can't possibly know what that means, Lily. No one can.

LILY. *(Reads, to cover her embarrassment.)* "Your Majesty, remember our happy summers by the sea in Livadia..."

THE DOWAGER EMPRESS. Livadia! They all do their homework.

LILY. "Strange and bizarre events have brought me to Buenos Aires. Bring me to Paris and I will convince you I am Anastasia."

THE DOWAGER EMPRESS. *(Dismissive.)* She wants me to pay her passage. At least that little impostor from Cleveland paid her own way. What is Cleveland? I never heard of such a place. It sounds dreadful. Cleveland!

LILY. *(A new letter.)* "Dearest Grandmama, if I may call you that, Your Majesty -"

THE DOWAGER EMPRESS. I was never "Grandmama." I was "Nana." I was only "Nana."

"Grandmama"! They play me for a fool. Give me those.

(She takes the letters and tries to destroy them. She is too weak. She lets them fall.)

No more letters, no more interviews.

LILY. There will be other young women. What shall I tell them?

THE DOWAGER EMPRESS. Tell them they're too late. The Grand Duchess Anastasia Romanov is dead and the Dowager Empress is dead with her. Leave me.

END HERE

LILY. I'll light the lamps. Will you be all right this evening?

[MUSIC NO. 17 "CLOSE THE DOOR"]

THE DOWAGER EMPRESS. My precious Anastasia.

LILY. She doesn't hear me.

(She leaves THE DOWAGER EMPRESS alone.)

THE DOWAGER EMPRESS.

THESE STRANGERS
COME CALLING.
SOON ENOUGH THEY'RE GONE.
THE TWILIGHT
IS FALLING.
LAMPS WILL SOON GO ON.
AND WHERE DOES SUMMER GO?
I WILL NEVER KNOW.
SUMMER USED TO LAST ENDLESSLY.
CHILDREN ALL IN WHITE,
RUNNING DOWN THE SAND
TO ME...
TO ME...

I'VE BELIEVED SO LONG,
I HAVE DARED TO HOPE
THAT THE DOOR MIGHT OPEN
AND THAT YOU MIGHT ENTER.

(She looks at photographs and envisions Anastasia.)

PLAYING HIDE AND SEEK.
KISSES ON MY CHEEK.
THE LAMPS BEGIN TO GLOW.
IN MY HEART, I KNOW
YOU'RE A LIE THAT I'VE WAITED FOR.