

## Scene 1 Introduction

**Characters:** Narrator 1, Narrator 2

**Props:**

**Narrator 1:** The year is 1604, King James of England has recently come to the throne and with his advent came the inspiration for a new translation of the Bible- a better translation, a translation that could be understood by the common people.

**Narrator 2:** Although such news would make many rejoice, there were those in England who opposed the idea, as much as they opposed their new Protestant king. Many Catholics and Jesuits Priests would stop at nothing to remove King James from the throne, and with his removal, the end of a Bible for the common people.

**Narrator 1:** And thus a plan was hatched...

*Narrators walk off stage*

## Scene 2 The Lion's Inn

**Characters:** Thomas Percy, Jack Wright, Robert Catesby, Guy Fawkes, Thomas Wintour

**Props:** table, tablecloth, 5 chairs

*Thomas Percy and Jack Wright are sitting at the table already looking around nervously.*

**Thomas Percy:** Are you sure Jack that we were to meet here at the Lion's Inn?

**Jack Wright:** I'm sure Thomas, Noon today at the Lion's Inn, the message from Robert Catesby was clear enough.

**Thomas Percy:** *(with relief)* Ah look, here comes Robert now, and who does he have with him? Oh my-look Jack-I believe that is Guy Fawkes he has with him!

**Robert Catesby:** *(Shaking hands with men)* Jack, Thomas, glad to see you both were able to make it. So we're just waiting for Thomas Wintour then....

**Thomas Wintour:** *(Walking up behind him)* And here he is, glad you remembered me, dear cousin of mine.

*Men all shake hands and sit down*

**Robert Catesby:** Well, thank-you all for coming to meet today. I think you would agree with me that our hope that King James taking the throne would lead to some relief from the present persecutions we Catholics face here in England has not come to pass.

**Thomas Percy:** Indeed not! King James has just declared in March that all Jesuit priests must leave the country immediately or face arrest.

**Robert Catesby:** And that is why I have brought you all here today-I have an idea, one that if planned well, will not fail! *(Men all lean forward to listen carefully)* At the opening of parliament, when the King, his Lords, Bishops, Members of Parliament and high officials are all gathered in one place we will use a large quantity of gunpowder that we will store under the Hall and blow them all up.

**Jack Wright:** It's a master plan Robert! It will change the whole political system of England in a moment!

**Thomas Wintour:** Yes, I agree it is a fine plan, one of action, which I like. I'm sure you have already thought of this-but what will we do once the king and his officials are removed from the throne?

**Robert Catesby:** As I know you are all aware, the King's two young sons will be present with him at the hall, and will in no doubt also be disposed of, but his young daughter Elizabeth is currently staying at Coombe Abbey. Once the king is removed, we will kidnap Elizabeth and declare her queen of England and then place her in a safe Catholic home to be raised up as a good Catholic queen.

*Men all nod heads in approval of plan while looking around suspiciously*

**Thomas Percy:** Ah, Robert, now I see why you have brought Guy here into this plot of yours- only because of his experience in the Spanish army as an explosive expert, we will be able to pull this off.

**Guy Fawkes:** *(clears throat as if taking control of situation)* Well it's May now, Parliament opens early on November the 5<sup>th</sup>, so we have a lot to accomplish if we are going to be able to pull this one off.

**Thomas Wintour:** We'll need to get organized; we'll need to be able to find a location as close to the house of Parliament as possible, we'll need more supporters, preferably nice and rich ones if we are going to be able to purchase enough gunpowder to accomplish the task.

*Men all continue to talk silently as if making more plans while Narrators step onto stage.*

**Narrator 1:** And so with the new plan hatched the men starting planning their jobs.

*(Men at table all shake hands; get up from table and leave)*

**Narrator 2:** After swearing an oath of secrecy the men rose up and attended Catholic mass where they received the Blessed Sacrament.

## **Scene 2 Meeting with Jesuit Priest Father Garnet**

**Characters:** Robert Catesby, Father Garnet

**Props:** -

*Robert Catesby and Father Garnet slowly walk across the stage together talking*

**Robert Catesby:** Father Garnet, thank-you for walking with me today.

**Father Garnet:** I always have time to walk with a faithful and devout child of God.

**Robert Catesby:** As you are aware of our plans Father, concerning King James, his sons and his advisors, there is just one aspect of the plot that troubles me continually. There will be Catholic believers in attendance at the house of Parliament, and they are innocent victims of the circumstance-I seek your guidance on what the right thing for us to do is.

**Father Garnet:** *(tapping fingers together as if thinking)* Ah yes, I too had the same thought a while ago, and after much consideration I believe that the plot should still go ahead, as long as the gain of the victory outweighs the number of innocent Catholics killed. I dare say we both know that we will do much good for the Catholic cause if we can successfully put a Catholic puppet queen on the throne.

**Robert Catesby:** *(With great relief)* Thank-you Father Garnet, I am glad we have your blessing on our plans, we will continue as before.

*Both exit together*

### **Scene 3 Finding/Setting up coal cellar under house of Parliament, Francis Tresham's doubts and idea of sending warning**

**Characters:** Jack Wright, Guy Fawkes, Francis Tresham

**Props:** Barrels stacked together with wood on top, chair

*Guy Fawkes standing beside barrels counting them*

**Guy Fawkes:** *(speaking to himself)* So we have 20 barrels already here, we need to bring in another 16.

*Jack Wright and Francis Tresham walk in together*

**Jack Wright:** Good thing we still have another month before the big blow, and another set of hands here to help out.

**Guy Fawkes:** Jack, *(shaking hands)* glad to have you here, and who is this that you have brought with you?

**Jack Wright:** Guy, this is Francis Tresham, he recently joined the plot as one of our financiers, I thought I would bring him down here tonight to show him our set-up, he had his doubts whether the plot was planned as well as we said it is.

*Guy Fawkes and Francis Tresham shake hands and nod*

**Francis Tresham:** Now, Jack, you are exaggerating a little bit, I just could not believe it when he said you managed to find a coal celler for rent directly below the house of Parliament.

**Guy Fawkes:** Yes, it was a very good find, it saved us a lot of tunneling through the rock, now all we have to do is keep up the pretense that we are here as a simple firewood store.

**Jack Wright:** As well as move in the remaining 16 barrels of gunpowder!

**Guy Fawkes:** *(Nodding)* Well, I best be going, Jack are you coming to the meeting now at the Lions Inn? Robert wants to meet to go over the final plans of the capture of Elizabeth.

**Jack Wright:** Ah, yes I'll come with you now if you don't mind Guy, *(turning to Francis)* Satisfied that your money is going to a plan well thought out?

**Francis Tresham:** Ah yes,

*Jack Wright & Guy Fawkes shake hands and nod to Francis Tresham before leaving.*

**Francis Tresham:** *(speaking to himself as he reaches out to touch the barrels)* Gunpowder, it's a brilliant plan really. If only there was a way to save the those innocent Catholics who will be present. My own brother-in-law! My poor wife! I can't imagine how she'll react if she ever was to find out that I was involved in the murder of Lord Monteagle –her own brother! *(sitting down and thinking)* Perhaps there is a way!! Maybe, just maybe....*(walks out of the cellar)*

### **Scene 4 Lord Monteagle's Home, Throne Room**

**Characters:** Lord Monteagle's servant (Ward), Lord Monteagle,

**Props:** Chair, Letter, tea cups

*Lord Monteagle is sitting in a chair enjoying a cup of tea. Ward enters and bows*

**Ward:** Lord Monteagle, dinner will be served in 15 minutes in the dining room.

**Lord Monteagle:** Thank-you Ward, but how can I think about dinner with so much excitement! It is only one more week until Parliament opens! We have much to be thankful for, as the king has invited me personally to attend. After being part of two Catholic rebellions in recent years, I am very relieved that King James does not view me as a threat.

**Ward:** Yes my Lord, much to be thankful for. *(Bows and leaves)*

*Ward returns in haste*

**Ward:** I apologize for interrupting you again my Lord, but an urgent letter has just arrived for you. *(handing letter to Lord Monteagle)*

**Lord Monteagle:** *(opens letter and begins to read, becomes more frazzled and distraught as he reads)* Ward, Ward, this is unbelievable- simply unbelievable. Here listen to this:

My Lord Monteagle, out of the love I bear to some of your friends, I care for your safety. Therefore I would advise you, if you care for your life, to devise some escape, to shift your attendance at this parliament. For God and man have concurred to punish the wickedness of this time. Stay in the country and watch the event in safety. For though there is no appearance of any danger, yet I say they shall receive a terrible blow this parliament and yet they shall not see them that hurts them. Do not ignore this counsel because it is for your safety. As soon as you can burn this letter and I hope God will give you the grace to make good use of this protection.

**Ward:** *(in disbelief)* My Lord, what do you recommend, what will you do?

**Lord Monteagle:** *(Looking up from the letter)* Do? But there is only one thing we must do. We must warn the king. Quick Ward, saddle my horse, we will leave for London at once.

*Ward and Lord Monteagle exit.*

## **Scene 5 Conclusion**

**Characters:** Narrator 3, Narrator 4

**Props:**

**Narrator 3:** With the King safely warned, a thorough search was made of the area around the Hall of Parliament the night before Parliament opened. Guy Fawkes was found entering into the coal cellar to wait for the morning to light the fuse.

**Narrator 4:** Upon being seized by the soldiers he was found with matches and kindle, which led to a thorough search of the cellar, and the finding of the gunpowder.

**Narrator 3:** Fawkes eventually confessed and the names of the conspirators were all revealed. One by one all of the conspirators were rounded up and sentenced to death.

**Narrator 4:** It is amazing what power the addition of one match and a fuse could have unleashed but it was not in God's purpose. With James still safe on the throne that great work of producing a new translation could proceed, and the great light of the Reformation could continue.