

Extract from *The Queen*: <http://tinyurl.com/2loagf> INT.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE - CORRIDOR/STAIRCASE - DAY

5 A uniformed EQUERRY leads TONY and CHERIE through corridor, and up a grand staircase..

EQUERRY

When we reach the audience room, I will knock. We will not wait to be called, we will go straight inside. Standing by the door, we bow. From the neck. I will introduce you. The Queen

10 will extend her hand, you go to her, bow again, then shake her hand.

TONY shoots his cuffs, 'Right', clears his throat.

EQUERRY (cont'd)

Couple of other things. It's 'Ma'am' as in ham, not Ma'am as

15 in farm.

TONY

Yes..

EQUERRY

And when you're in the Presence, at no point must you show

20 your back.

TONY

The 'Presence'?

EQUERRY

Yes, Sir. That's what it's called, when you're in her

25 Majesty's company.

TONY turns, shoots a look at CHERIE, who sticks her fingers down her throat. TONY smiles back..

The EQUERRY reaches a grand door, and knocks gently.

Without waiting for a reply, he enters..

30 CHERIE is left in the corridor. Alone. She stares at a liveried FOOTMAN.

He stares back. No life behind his eyes. CHERIE takes a seat on a chair. Eyes widen to herself.

INT. BUCKINGHAM PALACE - AUDIENCE ROOM -

35 DAY

TONY and the EQUERRY enter, and gently bow their heads.

The EQUERRY then straightens, and announces..

EQUERRY

Mr Blair, your Majesty.

40 The QUEEN extends her hand. TONY walks forward, and shakes it. The EQUERRY leaves. The door is then closed.

ELIZABETH

Congratulations.

TONY

45 Thank you, Ma'am.

ELIZABETH

Your children must be very proud.

TONY

I hope so.

50 ELIZABETH

You've three, haven't you?

TONY

That's right.

ELIZABETH

55 How lovely. Such a blessing. Children.

The QUEEN and TONY take their seats..

ELIZABETH

So..Have we shown you how to start a nuclear war yet?

TONY (thrown)

60 No.

ELIZABETH

First thing we do, I believe.

(a beat)

Then we take your passport and spend the rest of the time

65 sending you around the world.

TONY

You obviously know my job better than I do.

ELIZABETH

Well, you are my tenth Prime Minister, Mr Blair. I'd like to think there weren't too many surprises left. My first was Winston Churchill. He sat in your chair, in frock coat and top hat, and was kind enough to give a shy young girl like me quite an education.

TONY

75 I can imagine.

ELIZABETH

With time, one has hopefully added experience to that education, and a little wisdom - better enabling us to execute our constitutional responsibility.

80 (a pointed addition)

To advise, guide and warn the government of the day.

TONY

Advice which I look forward to receiving.

ELIZABETH

85 Well, we will save that for our weekly meetings.

(a beat)

Now, if there's nothing else, I believe we have some business to attend to..

TONY stares, then clicks..

90 TONY

Of course..

He falls, rather extravagantly, on bended knee. The supplicant position of deference...

TONY

95 Your Majesty, the country has spoken...and I come now to ask your permiss..

ELIZABETH

(interjecting)

No, no, no. It's usual for ME to ask the questions.

100 TONY winces. Wishes the ground would swallow him up.

ELIZABETH

Mr Blair, the people have elected you to be their leader. And so the duty falls on me, as your Sovereign, to ask you to become Prime Minister, and form a government in my name.

105 TONY stares. Lost for words. Then..

ELIZABETH

Generally, this is where you say 'yes.'

TONY

'Yes'.

110 The QUEEN extends her hand, which TONY kisses. She

withdraws it again - quite sharply, then DISCREETLY PRESSES A BUZZER by her chair indicating the ceremony is over. The EQUERRY opens a door, and CHERIE is invited inside.

115 ELIZABETH (cont'd)

How nice to see you again, Mrs Blair.

CHERIE curtsies awkwardly, reluctantly, shallowly..

ELIZABETH (cont'd)

You must be very proud.

120 CHERIE

Yes.

ELIZABETH

And exhausted, I imagine. Where will you be spending the summer?

125 CHERIE

France.

ELIZABETH

How lovely.

TONY

130 You'll be in Balmoral, I expect.

ELIZABETH

Yes, I can hardly wait. Wonderful place.

The QUEEN indicates a portrait of QUEEN VICTORIA..

ELIZABETH

135 My great, great grandmother said of it - "In Balmoral all seems to breathe freedom and peace and to make one forget the world and its sad turmoils."