

Scene 2:

Spotlight on Gracia's home - stage. June 1537

(Gracia is sitting on the bench with a sleeping Reyna laying next to her, while Brianda is cooking, and Giomar is working on her needle point. There's a knock at the door. Gracia carefully, checking to make sure Reyna is sleeping, gets up and walks over to the door. Gonçalo, is standing there looking extremely worried. He carries a letter with the royal seal of the king. Gracia panics and freezes as she takes the letter from Gonçalo and starts to read She gets a few lines down the page.)

GRACIA

I can't read this.

(Brianda stops stirring the pot and walks over to Gracia and Gonçalo, Giomar looks up from her needlepoint. Gracia hands the letter to Gonçalo. Gonçalo scans over the letter)

GONÇALO

I never knew my brother Francisco was so friendly with the king.

BRIANDA

What does the letter say?

GONÇALO

(Reading)

Dear Doña Beatriz de Luna, his majesty King John III has requested that your daughter be brought to live in her majesty Queen Catherine's home as a reward to honor your late husband Francisco's dear friendship.

Gracia

Ab-solute-ly not! Reyna stays with me. It's been two years now since Francisco passed. It's bad enough that they're always after more money, and now they've request my daughter should be raised by the Queen?

(Voice raised)

Is his majesty insane?

(Reyna wakes up and looks startled. Gracia comforts her back to sleep.)

First the inquisition and now my daughter?! Hashem kel Rachum, how much more of this Galus can we take?

(Brianda and Gonçalo both don't know what to say to an upset Gracia. Finally after a few moments Brianda speaks up)

BRIANDA

Gracia, what do you want to do?

GRACIA

I don't know. We can't stay here, not anymore. It's not just about the Inquisition. They're after me and my family.

(Gracia thinks and after a moment has her bright idea. She turns to Gonçalo)

Gonçalo, I'll write to your brother Diogo in Antwerp. We'll be safer there.

BRIANDA

We'd actually leave Portugal and our whole family behind? We can't possibly travel alone.

GRACIA

Gonçalo, you'd come with us right? And of course Giomar, and my nephews Yosef and Shmuel, perhaps a few servants, plus you, me, and Reyna.

Giomar

Aries can't leave Gracia! He's apprenticeship has another three years.

BRIANDA

I'm sure Aries will be fine, he's a de Luna after all.

Gonçalo

Gracia, how are you going to get out of Portugal. You'll need permission from the king to leave.

(Brianda walks back over to the stove and checks on the soup, and Giomar to her needlepoint.)

GRACIA

I'll persuade King John myself.

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