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From Love, Liz by Lauren Grove

Cold and austere Phillip II, the king of Spain, 30s, writes a letter to Queen Elizabeth I asking for her hand in marriage.

PHILLIP: Elizabeth, I hope this letter finds you well. I congratulate you on your ascension to the throne. Truly it is God's work that put you there, but never forget you also owe your crown to me. When your sister wanted to put you to death for your religious beliefs, it was I who stayed Mary's hand and bid her to let you live.

However, I now hear troubling reports coming from England. I thought you would surely come to your senses about religion once you became queen, but it seems you are letting your country slide back into the very heresy that your late sister and I fought so hard against. It is imperative that you understand the Protestant religion is an abomination to God, and you are putting your soul and the souls of your subjects at risk of eternal damnation! (*He calms himself and forces a smile.*) But fear not, Elizabeth, for I have a solution. You can save England and repay my many kindnesses towards you by marrying me.

It is against the laws of God and nature for a woman to hold dominion over men. But with me by your side, as the true and rightful king, we will rule England and Spain together. I will bring your nation back into the fold of the faithful just as a shepherd brings his lost flock back to the safety of the pasture. I understand you may have fears over the close affinity we share due to my marriage to your sister, but I am sure our most high and holy Pope would be only too happy to issue a papal bull allowing us to marry.

Think carefully on my offer. It is most generous. And you do not want to be all alone in Europe, Elizabeth. That's not a safe position to be in... Send me a swift answer, as this is not a hard question. I bid you happiness and good health, and may God bless you and England. From his most high Majesty, King Phillip II of Espana.