

PHILLIP 2

From Love, Liz by Lauren Grove

Cold and austere Phillip II, the king of Spain, 30s, writes yet another letter to Queen Elizabeth I after not receiving an answer to his marriage proposal.

PHILLIP: Several letters have I now sent you, and have I received even a single reply? No. No, I have not. I find myself perplexed... And so, I have questions for you, Elizabeth. An *inquisition* if you will... Do you think it is wise to stay single in the face of Catholic Europe? You hold your throne by tenuous strings, my dear. There are enemies all around you, hungry for your crown and your lands. Your sister saw the sense in taking a strong husband as quickly as possible. Rumors said that you were smarter than Mary, but that does not seem to be the case.

Do you think it is safe to reject me? Perhaps you didn't know; I have been working on something new here in Spain. My armada. The most spectacular naval fleet the world has ever seen. King Phillip II and his Spanish Armada will be remembered for all of history! My new ships are glorious, as glorious as Almighty God Himself. And I am sorely tempted to turn my ships in the direction of England if you do not agree to be mine.

Do you think yourself such a prize that you can afford to turn down my offer? You are not, my lady. Believe me, if it was not to serve God, I would have not gotten into this mess with you. Nothing would make me propose to an illegitimate English heretic except the clear knowledge that it would gain England for God's service and faith.

Your time grows short, Elizabeth. I gave you your crown and I can take it away again. You WILL respond to me with all due haste, and you WILL agree to be my wife. England and Spain will be aligned once more, and England will return to the true faith. Mark. My. Words. Signed, Phillip.