BUCKINGHAM

My God. You are more beautiful than ever.

ANNE

Why have you returned to France? Why??

BUCKINGHAM

I had no choice. I had to see you again.

ANNE

I am not worth risking your life.

BUCKINGHAM

On the contrary. You are worth risking everything.

ANNE

This madness can go on no longer. We must never see each other again.

BUCKINGHAM

Anne...

ANNE

I am a married woman. I refuse to break the sanctity of those vows. It would be sacrilege.

BUCKINGHAM

Sacrilege lies in separating hearts that God made for each other. You love me.

ANNE

I have never said so.

BUCKINGHAM

Well, you don't love Louis. You couldn't possibly.

(Beat. She remains silent.)

Three years ago, I saw you for the first time, and I have loved you ever since.

ANNE

Stop it!

BUCKINGHAM

You were wearing that green satin dress...
ANNE
What madness, to feed a hopeless passion with memories!

BUCKINGHAM
Memories are all I have. How you looked. The sound of your voice. The words we spoke when last we met.

ANNE
Do not talk about that night. I was lonely—and foolish—and you were a kind listener. That is all.

That was not all!

BUCKINGHAM

ANNE
Cardinal Richelieu saw us together that night. He told the King—and now I am watched incessantly. Richelieu has spies everywhere. There is no hope for us—no hope... no hope...

Then you do love me!

BUCKINGHAM

ANNE
God help me, I do. But I will never break my vows. And now, if you really love me, you will leave and go back to England.

My darling...

Please.

(Long beat.)

BUCKINGHAM

ANNE

I do your bidding.

(He turns to leave.)

ANNE

Wait!

(He turns back. She gestures to someone off. CONSTANCE enters from the shadows carrying a rosewood box. She gives it to ANNE. ANNE in turn gives it to BUCKINGHAM.)