

SCRIPT TITLE

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INT. WEIMAR JAIL - DAY

Sebastian is marking an X on his calendar on the wall--now three rows, three weeks.

JAILER
That's a bit dramatic.

Sebastian turns.

JAILER (CONT'D)
You will clean that wall before you leave.

SEBASTIAN
We will see. If and when that day comes. But for now...?

The Jailer doesn't understand: now what?

And then he gets it, pours two cups of coffee from the pot on the stove, and hands one, through the bars, to Sebastian. Sebastian sips and, to the Jailer's surreptitious gratification, gives a small nod of approval.

Sebastian sits at his desk in front of a stack of pages and takes his quill.

Enter ELENORE WILHELMINE, recent bride of Duke Ernst August, in all her baroque splendor.

JAILER
Madam, perhaps you are in the wrong place.

ELENORE
I am not. I intend to speak with him.

JAILER
Yes. Well. A visit might be arranged, depending on its purpose. But you must contact the Duke.

ELENORE
The Duke is my husband and I your sovereign. Please step aside.

A flustered Jailer backs off, bent in half.

Sebastian comes to the bars.

SEBASTIAN
Your most serene--

Elenore interrupts, impatient with obsequiousness.

ELENORE

Herr Bach, please. First, and above all, I have to thank you. The music at the wedding. I will never forget.

SEBASTIAN

It is kind of you to make note at all of any small talent heaven has seen fit to have given--

ELENORE

Yes yes. Herr...Sebastian, if I may. My husband and I have spoken. And this. This has gone on long enough.

SEBASTIAN

It is not my doing.

ELENORE

Perhaps if you promise to return to your duties? The music, in court and chapel, has been lacking.

SEBASTIAN

I will not.

ELENORE

Then we will continue to intercede on your behalf.

She turns. Gives the Jailer a severe stare.

ELENORE (CONT'D)

This is intolerable.

INT. WEIMAR, DUCAL PALACE, WILHELM ERNST'S STUDY - DAY

Wilhelm Ernst at his study desk. In front, Duke Ernst August and Dutchess Elenore are taking a stand: he, determined; she, defiant.

WILHELM

Will he return to his work?

ELENORE

He will not.

Wilhelm is visibly frustrated, transparently annoyed.

AUGUST
(gently)
Wilhelm...

And the Duke decides:

WILHELM
Fine. But he may not resign. He is
sacked. Dismissed with prejudice,
and with a full accounting of his
disgraceful and disobedient
service. Good luck to him finding
employment elsewhere.

He takes a page and quill and begins to scribble.

INT. WEIMAR JAIL - DAY

Within the cell the Jailer, with cloth and bucket, scrubs the wall as Sebastian carefully packs his manuscripts in a satchel and as August packs another with clothes, the writing tools, Sebastian's mug, etc.

And as they exit the cell, the Jailer speaks:

JAILER
Gentlemen...

He moves to the stove and picks up Maria Barbara's ornate coffee urn. Sebastian holds up his hand and with a little smile and nod--a small farewell--turns and exits.

The Jailer admires his new coffee pot.

EXT. OUTSIDE BACH HOME - DAY

A convoy of coaches--two packed with household things, furniture, etc.; another with the four Bach children; a fourth waits, empty. Sebastian stands by with Maria Barbara and her elder sister, FRIEDELINA.

MARIA BARBARA
(to Friedelena)
Are you sure, Sister?

FRIEDELINA
I will try to earn my keep.

Friedelena, then, brisk and stern, corrects the two boys wrestling over a preferred seat. Sebastian and Maria Barbara exchange amused looks.

SEBASTIAN

Dearest Friedelena. You are family.
It is we who must earn you. If you
choose to stay with us your keep
is, and has been, well paid for.

He holds her hands, and then kisses Maria Barbara.

SEBASTIAN

And I will meet you in Kothen.

MARIA BARBARA

Must you to Leipzeg? What's another
organ to inspect? Stay and rest.

SEBASTIAN

Dear, I have had well enough rest.
The appointment was made months ago
and I will keep it. I want to see,
I want to play, the new Schiebe.
And I'm sure we can use the income.

MARIA BARBARA

We are fine. A surprise. Just
arrived this morning, to help with
the moving. Your back pay.

SEBASTIAN

(astonished)

Back pay from the Duke?

MARIA BARBARA

Not the Duke. The Prince.

Sebastian enters the fourth smaller coach, and they all set
off.