

*“Please listen to what I say,” I responded. “My name is Catherine Bannister. My father is a baron, Robert Kensington. He owns land in Sheffield. My husband is Lord Edward Bannister. He is Lieutenant-Governor over the North-Western Provinces in India.”*

*A flicker of recognition appeared briefly on the Judge's face at the mention of my name, as though it had some special meaning for him. His demeanor changed, darkening by the moment as he listened to me. He pursed his lips and stared hard at me for a few moments.*

*“Yes,” he said. “I have heard our great country has dealings with India, but you are making ridiculous and absurd claims. What noblewoman would be found in that part of town? Be done with this foolishness.” As the judge growled out these words, his features turned bestial.*

*The judge whispered to the constable, but Betsy could hear what was said and she repeated his words to me.*

*“These two women are to be put away on one of the Hulks, but they are to go to Newgate prison first just like the rest of them. You are to ensure it is done in strict secrecy. There are NO excuses. They are not to speak to anyone. Her husband is the one who ruined us several years ago. Do you understand? If you need money to secure this quietly, see me. No one is to know they even exist. If you need to spread lies about them, then do so.”*