

# HENRY VIII



# HENRY VIII

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE



B L O O M S B U R Y 

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# CONTENTS

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## An Outline of Shakespeare's Life.....1

Our Knowledge of Shakespeare .....	1
Stratford .....	2
Birth and Parentage .....	4
Education .....	5
Marriage.....	6
The Tradition concerning Deer Stealing.....	7
Early Life in London.....	8
Later Allusions .....	10
Shakespeare as an Actor .....	12
Shakespeare's Income and Business Transactions .....	13
Shakespeare's Life in London.....	15
Shakespeare's Portraits, Tomb, and Descendants.....	15
Footnotes .....	18

## Henry VIII .....21

### Dramatis Personae .....23

### The Prologue.....25

### Act I.....27

Scene 1 .....	27
Scene 2.....	41
Scene 3.....	53
Scene 4.....	58

### Act II.....67

Scene 1.....	67
Scene 2.....	77
Scene 3.....	87
Scene 4.....	94

Act III.....	107
Scene 1.....	107
Scene 2.....	117
Act IV.....	145
Scene 1.....	145
Scene 2.....	156
Act V.....	167
Scene 1.....	167
Scene 2.....	179
Scene 3.....	182
Scene 4.....	194
Scene 5.....	199
The Epilogue.....	205







# AN OUTLINE OF SHAKESPEARE'S LIFE

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## Our Knowledge of Shakespeare

**N**o one in Shakespeare's day seems to have been interested in learning about the private lives of the dramatists.

The profession of play writing had scarcely begun to be distinguished from that of play acting, and the times were not wholly gone by when all actors had been classed in public estima-



*Portrait of William Shakespeare*

tion as vagabonds. While the London citizens were constant theatergoers, and immensely proud of their fine plays, they were content to learn of the writers of plays merely from town gossip, which passed from lip to lip and found no resting place in memoirs.

There were other lives which made far more exciting reading. English sea-men were penetrating every ocean, and bringing back wonderful tales. English soldiers were aiding the Dutch nation towards

freedom, and coming back full of stories of heroic deeds. At home great political, religious, and scientific movements engaged

the attention of the more serious readers and thinkers. It is not strange, therefore, that the writers of plays, whose most exciting incidents were tavern brawls or imprisonment for rash satire of the government, found no biographer. After Shakespeare's death, moreover, the theater rapidly fell into disrepute, and many a good story of the playhouse fell under the ban of polite conversation, and was lost.

Under such conditions we cannot wonder that we know so little of Shakespeare, and that we must go to town records, cases at law, and book registers for our knowledge. Thanks to the diligence of modern scholars, however, we know much more of Shakespeare than of most of his fellow-actors and playwrights. The life of Christopher Marlowe, Shakespeare's great predecessor, is almost unknown; and of John Fletcher, Shakespeare's great contemporary and successor, it is not even known whether he was married, or when he began to write plays. Yet his father was Bishop of London, and in high favor with Queen Elizabeth. We ought rather to wonder at the good fortune which has preserved for us, however scanty in details or lacking in the authority of its traditions, a continuous record of the life of William Shakespeare from birth to death.

## **Stratford**

The notice of baptism on April 26, 1564, of William, son of John Shakespeare, appears in the church records of Stratford-on-Avon in Warwickshire. Stratford was then a market town of about fifteen hundred souls. Under Stratford Market Cross the farmers of northern Warwickshire and of the near-lying portions of Worcestershire, Gloucestershire, and Oxfordshire carried



*Shakespeare's birthplace in Stratford-upon-Avon*

---

on a brisk trade with the thrifty townspeople. The citizens were accustomed to boast of their beautiful church by the river, and of the fine Guildhall, where sometimes plays were given by traveling companies. Many of their gable-roofed houses of timber, or timber and plaster, are still to be found on the pleasant old streets. The river Avon winds round the town in a broad reach under the many-arched bridge to the ancient church. Beyond it the rich pasture land rises up to green wooded hills. Not far away is the famous Warwick Castle, and a little beyond it Kenilworth, where Queen Elizabeth was entertained by the Earl of Leicester with great festivities in 1575. Coventry and Rugby are the nearest towns.

## **Birth and Parentage**

The record of baptism of April 26, 1564, is the only evidence we possess of the date of Shakespeare's birth. It is probable that the child was baptized when only two or three days old. The poet's tomb states that Shakespeare was in his fifty-second year when he died, April 23, 1616. Accepting this as strictly true, we cannot place the poet's birthday earlier than April 23, 1564. There is a tradition, with no authority, that the poet died upon his birthday.

John Shakespeare, the poet's father, sold the products of near-by farms to his fellow-townsmen. He is sometimes described as a glover, sometimes as a butcher; very likely he was both. A single reference, half a century later than his day, preserves for us a picture of John Shakespeare. The note reads: "He [William Shakespeare] was a glover's son. Sir John Mennes saw once his old father in his shop, a merry-cheekt old man, that said, 'Will was a good honest fellow, but he durst have crackt a jesst with him att any time.'"[1]

John Shakespeare's father, Richard Shakespeare, was a tenant farmer, who was in 1550 renting his little farm at Snitterfield, four miles north of Stratford, from another farmer, Robert Arden of Wilmcote. John Shakespeare married Mary Arden, the daughter of his father's rich landlord, probably in 1557. He had for over five years been a middleman at Stratford, dealing in the produce of his father's farm and other farms in the neighborhood. In April, 1552, we first hear of him in Stratford records, though only as being fined a shilling for not keeping his yard clean. Between 1557 and 1561 he rose to be ale tester (inspector of bread and malt), burgess (petty constable), affeeror (adjuster of fines), and finally city chamberlain (treasurer).

Eight children were born to him, the two eldest, both

daughters, dying in infancy. William Shakespeare was the third child, and eldest of those who reached maturity. During his childhood his father was probably in comfortable circumstances, but not long before the son left Stratford for London, John Shakespeare was practically a bankrupt, and had lost by mortgage farms in Snitterfield and Ashbies, near by, inherited in 1556 by his wife.

## **Education**

William Shakespeare probably went to the Stratford Grammar School, where he and his brothers as the sons of a town councilor were entitled to free tuition. His masters, no doubt, taught him Lilly's Latin Grammar and the Latin classics,--Virgil, Horace, Ovid, Cicero, Seneca, and the rest,--and very little else. If Shakespeare ever knew French or Italian, he picked it up in London life, where he picked up most of his amazing stock of information on all subjects. Besides Latin, he must have read and memorized a good deal of the English Bible.

## **Marriage**

In the autumn of 1582 the eighteen-year-old Shakespeare married a young woman of twenty-six. On November 28, of that year two farmers of Shottery, near Stratford, signed what we should call a guarantee bond, agreeing to pay to the Bishop's Court  $\neg$ £40, in case the marriage proposed between William Shakespeare and Anne Hathaway should turn out to be contrary to the canon--or Church--law, and so invalid. This guarantee bond, no doubt, was issued to facilitate and hasten the wedding.

On May 26, 1583, Shakespeare's first child, Susanna, was baptized. His only other children, his son Hamnet and a twin daughter Judith, were baptized February 2, 1584-5[2]. It is probable that soon after this date Shakespeare went to London and began his career as actor, and afterwards as writer of plays and owner of theaters.

Anne Hathaway, as we have said, was eight years older than her husband. She was the daughter of a small farmer at Shottery, a little out of Stratford, whose house is still an object of pilgrimage for Shakespeare lovers. We have really no just ground for inferring, from the poet's early departure for London, that his married life was unhappy. The Duke in *Twelfth Night* (IV, iii) advises Viola against women's marrying men younger than themselves, it is true; but such advice is conventional. No one can tell how much the dramatist really felt of the thoughts which his characters utter. Who would guess from any words in *I Henry IV*, for instance, a play containing some of his richest humor and freest joy in life, that, in the very year of its composition, Shakespeare was mourning the death of his little son Hamnet, and that his hopes of founding a family were at an end? Another piece of evidence, far more important, is the fact that Shakespeare does not mention his wife at all in his will, except by an interlined bequest of his "second-best bedroom set." But here, again, it is easy to misread the motives of the man who makes a will. Such omissions have been made when no slight was intended, sometimes because of previous private settlements, sometimes because a wife is always entitled to her dower rights. The evidence is thus too slight to be of value.

Some other motive, then, than unhappiness in married life ought to be assigned for Shakespeare's departure to London. No doubt, the fact that his father was now a discredited bankrupt,

against whom suits were pending, had something to do with his decision to better his family fortunes in another town. Traveling companies of players may have told him of London life. Possibly some scrape, like that preserved in the deer-stealing tradition and the resultant persecution, made the young man, now only twenty-one, restive and eager to be gone.

### **The Tradition concerning Deer Stealing**

Nicholas Howe, in 1709, in his edition of Shakespeare says: "He had by a misfortune common enough to young fellows fallen into bad company, and among them, some that made a frequent practice of deer stealing, engaged him with them more than once in robbing a park that belonged to Sir Thomas Lucy of Charlecote near Stratford. For this he was persecuted by that gentleman, as he thought, somewhat too severely; and, in order to revenge that ill-usage, he made a parody upon him; and though this, probably the first essay of his poetry, be lost, yet it is said to have been so very bitter that he was obliged to leave his business and family in Warwickshire and shelter himself in London." Archdeacon Davies of Saperton, Gloucestershire, in the late seventeenth century testifies independently to the same tradition. Justice Shallow in the *Merry Wives of Windsor* is on this latter authority to be identified with Sir Thomas Lucy. He is represented in the play as having come from Gloucester to Windsor. He "will make a Star Chamber matter of it" that Sir John Falstaff has "defied my men, killed my deer, and broke open my lodge." He bears on his "old coat" (of arms) a "dozen white luces" (small fishes), and there is a lot of chatter about "quartering" this coat, which is without point unless a pun is intended. Now "three

lucis Hauriant argent” were the arms of the Charlecote Lucys, it is certain. There is some reason then, for connecting Shallow with Sir Thomas Lucy, and an apparent basis for the deer-stealing tradition, although the incident in the play may, of course, have suggested the myth. Davies goes on to say that Shakespeare was whipped and imprisoned; for this there is no other evidence.

### **Early Life in London**

The earliest known reference to Shakespeare in the world of London is contained in a sarcastic allusion from the pen of Robert Greene, the poet and play writer, who died in 1592. Greene was furiously jealous of the rapidly increasing fame of the newcomer. In a most extravagant style he warns his contemporaries (Marlowe, Nash, and Peele, probably) to beware of young men that seek fame by thieving from their masters. They, too, like himself, will suffer from such thieves. “Yes, trust them not; for there is an upstart crow beautified with our feathers that, with his Tygers heart wrapt in a Players hide, supposes he is as well able to bumbast out a blank verse as the best of you; and being an absolute Johannes Factotum, is in his owne conceit the onely Shakescene in a countrie ... but it is pittie men of such rare wit should be subject to the pleasures of such rude grooms.” The reference to “Shakescene” and the “Tygers heart,” which is a quotation from *\_III Henry VI\_, [3]* makes it almost certain that Shakespeare and his play are referred to. Greene’s attack was, however, an instance of what Shakespeare would have called “spleen,” and not to be taken as a general opinion. His hint of “Johannes Factotum” (Jack-of-all-Trades) probably means that Shakespeare was willing to undertake any sort of dramatic work.



Later on in the same letter (\_A Groatsworth of Witte Bought with a Million of Repentance\_) [4] he calls the “upstart crow” and his like “Buckram gentlemen,” and “peasants.”

Henry Chettle, a friend of Greene's, either in December, 1592, or early in 1593, [5] published an address as a preface to his \_Kind-Harts Dreame\_, making a public apology to Shakespeare for allowing Greene's letter to come out with this insulting attack. He says: “With neither of them that take offence was I acquainted, and with one of them I care not if I never be. The other [generally taken to be Shakespeare] whome at one time I did not so much spare as since I wish I had, for that, as I have moderated the heate of living writers, and might have usde my owne discretion--especially in such a case, the author beeing dead,--that I did not I am as sory as if the originall fault had beene my fault, because myself have seene his demeanor no lesse civill, than he exelent in the qualitie he professes;--besides divers of worship have reported his uprightness of dealing, which argues his honesty, and his facetious grace in writing, that aprooves his art....”

There is, then, testimony from two sources that by 1592 Shakespeare was an excellent actor, a graceful poet, and a writer of plays that aroused the envy of {10} one of the best dramatists of his day. Obviously, all this could not have happened in a few months, and we are therefore justified in believing that Shakespeare came to London soon after 1585, very likely in 1586.

## **Later Allusions**

In 1593 the title-page of \_Venus and Adonis\_ shows that a great English earl and patron of the arts was willing to be godfather “to the first heyre” of Shakespeare's “invention,” his

first published poem. In 1594 Shakespeare also dedicated to Southampton his *Lucrece*, in terms of greater intimacy, though no less respect. On December 27, 1595, Edmund Spenser's *Colin Clout's Come Home Againe* contained a reference which is now generally believed to allude to Shakespeare.

"And there, though last not least, is Aetion; A gentler shepherd may nowhere be found; Whose Muse, full of high thoughts' invention, Doth like himselfe heroically sound."

The next important reference is from *Palladis Tamia*, by Francis Meres (1598):--

"As the soule of Euphorbus was thought to live in Pythagoras, so the sweete wittie soule of Ovid lives in mellifluous and hony-tongued Shakespeare; witness his Venus and Adonis, his Lucrece, his sugred Sonnets among his private friends &c. As Plautus and Seneca are accounted the best for comedy and Tragedy among the Latines, so Shakespeare among the English is the most excellent in both kinds for the stage; for comedy, witnes his Gentlemen of Verona, his Errors, his Loves Labors Lost, his Love Labours Wonne, his Midsummer Night Dreame, and his Merchant of Venice; for tragedy his Richard the 2., Richard the 3., Henry the 4., {11} King John, Titus Andronicus, and his Romeo and Juliet. As Epius Stolo said that the Muses would speake with Plautus tongue, if they would speak Latin, so I say that the Muses would speak with Shakespeare's fine filed phrase, if they would speak English. And as Horace saith of his; Exegi monumentu\_m\_ aere perennius, Regaliq\_ue\_ situ pyramidum altius.

"Quod non imber edax: Non Aquilo impotius possit diruere: aut innumerabilis annorum series et fuga temporum: so say I severally of Sir Philip Sidneys Spencers Daniels Draytons Shakespeares and Warners workes."

This is the earliest claim for the supremacy of Shakespeare in the English theater, a claim never seriously disputed from that day to this. The numerous other contemporary allusions to Shakespeare's fame, which fill the *\_Shakespeare Allusion Book\_*, [6] add nothing to our purpose; but merely confirm the statement that throughout his life his readers knew and admitted his worth. The chorus of praise continued from people of all classes. John Weever, the epigrammatist, and Richard Camden, the antiquarian, praised Shakespeare highly, and Michael Drayton, the poet, called him "perfection in a man." Finally, Ben Jonson, his most famous competitor for public applause, crowned our poet's fame with his poem, prefixed to the first collected edition of Shakespeare's famous First Folio of 1623: "To the Memory of my beloved, the author, Mr. William Shakespeare, and what he hath left us.

"He was not of an age, but for all time!"

### **Shakespeare as an Actor**

The allusion quoted above of Henry Chettle praises Shakespeare's excellence "in the qualitie he professes." Stronger evidence is afforded by some of the title-pages of plays printed during the poet's life. Thus Ben Jonson's *\_Every Man in his Humour\_* says on its title-page: "*\_Every One in his Umor\_*. This comedie was first Acted in the yeere 1598 by the then L. Chamberleyne his servants. The principal comedians were Will. Shakespeare, Aug. Philips, Hen. Condell, Will. Slye, Will. Kempe, Ric. Burbadge, Joh. Hemings, Tho. Pope, Chr. Beeston, Joh. Dyke, withe the allowance of the Master of Reuells."

Before this his name had appeared between those of Kemp

and Burbage (named in the above list), the one the chief comedian, the other the chief tragedian of the time, in comedies which were acted before the Queen on December 27 and 28, 1594, at Greenwich Palace. The titles of these comedies are not given in the Treasurer's Accounts of the Chamber, from which we take the list of players.

In 1603, Shakespeare shared with Burbage the headline of the list of actors in Ben Jonson's tragedy *\_Sejanus\_*. That he thoroughly understood the technique of his art and was interested in it, is evident from Hamlet's advice to the players. Throughout his life in London, Shakespeare was a member of the company usually known as the Lord Chamberlain's Company.[7]

### **Shakespeare's Income and Business Transactions**

Shakespeare was a shrewd and sensible man of business. He amassed during his career in London a property nearly, if not quite, as great as any made by his profession at the time. In addition to profits from the sale of his plays to managers (he probably derived no income from their publication), and his salary as an actor, Shakespeare enjoyed an ample income from his shares in the Blackfriars and Globe theaters, of which he became joint owner with the Burbage brothers and other fellow-actors in 1597 and 1599. Professor Wallace has discovered a document which helps, though very slightly, to enable us to judge what his income {15} from these sources may have been.[8] In 1615-1616 the widow of one of the proprietors of the two theaters, whose share, like Shakespeare's, was one-seventh of the Blackfriars, one-fourteenth of the Globe, brought suit against her father. She asked for ~£600 damages for her father's wrongful detention of her year's income,

amounting to  $\neg$ £300 from each theater.

But damages asked in court are always high, and include fees of lawyers and other items. The probability is that Shakespeare's yearly income from these sources was never over  $\neg$ £500. To this, though the figures cannot be ascertained with any degree of certainty, we might add  $\neg$ £100 for salary and  $\neg$ £25 for plays yearly. The total would amount to fully  $\neg$ £600 a year from 1599 on till 1611, about which date Shakespeare probably retired to Stratford. If we reckon by what money will buy in our days, we may say that Shakespeare's yearly income at the height of success was \$25,000, in round numbers. This is certainly a low estimate, and does not include extra court performances and the like, from which he must certainly have profited.

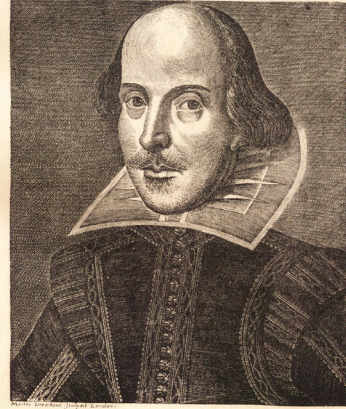
### **Shakespeare's Life in London**

What with the composition of two plays a year, continual rehearsals, and performances of his own and other plays, Shakespeare's life must have been a busy one. Tradition, however, accords him an easy enjoyment of the pleasures of the time; and his own sarcastic remarks against Puritans in his plays may indicate a hatred of puritanical restraint. He must have joined in many a merry feast with the other actors and writers of the day, and with court gallants. The inventory of property left by him {16} at his death indicates that while he had accumulated a good estate, he had also lived generously.

MR. WILLIAM  
**SHAKESPEARES**

COMEDIES,  
HISTORIES, &  
TRAGEDIES.

Published according to the True Originall Copies.



L O N D O N  
Printed by Iaac Iaggard, and Ed. Blount. 1623.

To the Reader.

This Figure, that thou here seest put,  
It was for gentle Shakespeare cut:  
Wherein the Grauer had a strife  
with Nature, to out-doo the life:  
O, could he but haue dravne his wit  
As well in brasse, as he hath hit  
His face, the Print woud then surpasse  
All, that vvas euer vvrit in brasse.  
But, since he cannot, Reader, looke  
Not on his Picture, but his Booke.

B. I.

*William Shakespeare's first folio page*

### Shakespeare's Portraits, Tomb, and Descendants

Two portraits, the "Ely Palace" and the "Flower" portraits, so called from former possessors, are thought to have better claims to authenticity than others. New discoveries are announced, periodically, of Shakespeare's portrait; but these turn out usually to be forgeries. The engraving by Martin Droeshout prefixed to the First and later Folios, though to us it seems unanimated and unnatural, is still the only likeness vouched for by contemporaries. It is thought by many to be a copy of the "Flower" portrait,

which bears the date 1609, and which it certainly very closely resembles. If the Stratford bust which was placed in a niche above Shakespeare's tomb in Stratford church before 1623 was accurately reproduced in Dugdale's *Warwickshire*, then the present bust is a later substitution, since it shows differences in detail from that sketch. It is coming to be believed that the eighteenth-century restoration so altered the bust as to make it quite unlike its former appearance.

Shakespeare's grave is in the chancel of Stratford church. A dark, flat tombstone bears the inscription, which early tradition ascribes to the poet:--

"Good frend, for Iesvs sake forbear To digg the dvst enclosed heare: Bleste be y<sup>e</sup> man y<sup>t</sup> spares thes stones, And curst be he y<sup>t</sup> moves my bones."

The monument to Shakespeare, with the bust on the north wall, is facing the tomb.

In his will, Shakespeare provided that much the larger portion of his estate should go to his eldest daughter, Susanna Hall and John Hall, Gent., her husband, including New Place, Henley Street and Blackfriars houses, and his tithes in Stratford and near-by villages. This was in accordance with custom. To Judith, his younger daughter, the wife of Thomas Quiney, he left three hundred pounds, one hundred as a marriage portion, fifty more on her release of her right in a Stratford tenement, and the rest to be paid in three years, the principal to be invested, the interest paid to her, and the principal to be divided at her death.

Shakespeare left his sister, Joan Hart,  $\neg$ £20 and his wearing apparel, and her house in Stratford rent-free till her death, at a shilling a year. His plate he divided between his daughters. The minor bequests, which include  $\neg$ £10 to the Stratford poor, are

chiefly notable for the bequest of money (26s. 8d.) for rings to “my fellowes, John Hemynges, Richard Burbage, and Henry Cundell.” These were fellow-actors in the Lord Chamberlain’s Company.

Within half a century Shakespeare’s line was extinct. His wife died August 6, 1623. His daughter Susanna left one daughter, Elizabeth, who married, April 22, 1626, Thomas Nashe, who died April 4, 1647. On June 5, 1649, she married John Barnard of Abington, Northamptonshire, afterwards knighted. She left no children by either marriage. Her burial was recorded February 17, 1669-70. Shakespeare’s daughter Judith had three sons,—Shakespeare, baptized November 23, 1616, buried May 8, 1617; Richard, baptized February 9, 1617-8, buried February 16, 1638-9; Thomas, baptized January 23, 1619-20, buried January 1638-9. Judith Shakespeare survived them all, and was buried February 9, 1661-2. Shakespeare’s sister, Joan Hart, left descendants who owned the Henley Street House up to the time of its purchase, in 1847, by the nation.

The best books on the life of Shakespeare: J. O. Halliwell-Phillipps, *Outlines of the Life of Shakespeare*, tenth edition, London, 1898 (the greatest collection of sources and documents); Sidney Lee, *A Life of William Shakespeare* (New York, Macmillan, 1909), (the best extended life, especially valuable for its study of the biographical value of the sonnets); Professor Wallace’s articles referred to in the text.

## **Footnotes**

[1] This reference was discovered among the Plume Mss. (1657-1663) of Maldon, Essex, by Dr. Andrew Clark, in October, 1904. Sir John Mennes was, however, not a contemporary of John



Shakespeare, but doubtless merely passed on the description from some eyewitness.

[2] The dates between January 1 and March 25, previous to 1752, are always thus written. In 1752 England and its colonies decided to begin the year with January 1 instead of March 25, as formerly. Thus for periods before that date between January 1 and March 25, we give two figures to indicate that the people of that time called it one year and we call it a year later. Thus, Judith Shakespeare would have said she was baptized in 1584, while by our reckoning her baptism came in 1585.

[3] "O tiger's heart wrapped in a woman's hide." This line is also in the source of Shakespeare's play.

[4] Printed first in 1596, but written shortly before Greene's death in 1592.

[5] Registered Dec., 1592, but printed without date.

[6] These may be seen, as well as all others up to 1700, in the re-edited *\_Shakespeare Allusion Book\_*, ed. J. Munro, London, 1909.

[7] See the *\_New York Times\_* for October 3, 1909.







# HENRY VIII

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE



## DRAMATIS PERSONAE

**King Henry The Eighth**

**Cardinal Wolsey**

**Cardinal Campeius**

**Capucius, Ambassador from the Emperor Charles V**

**Cranmer, Archbishop Of Canterbury**

**Duke of Norfolk**

**Duke of Buckingham**

**Duke of Suffolk**

**Earl of Surrey**

**Lord Chamberlain**

**Lord Chancellor**

**Gardiner, Bishop Of Winchester**

**Bishop Of Lincoln**

**Lord Abergavenny**

**Lord Sandys**

**Sir Henry Guildford**

**Sir Thomas Lovell**

**Sir Anthony Denny**

**Sir Nicholas Vaux**

**Secretaries to Wolsey**

**Cromwell, servant to Wolsey**

**Griffith, Gentleman-usher to Queen Katharine**

**Three Gentlemen**

**Doctor Butts, physician to the King**

**Garter King-At-Arms**

**Surveyor to the Duke of Buckingham**

**Brandon, and a Sergeant-At-Arms**

**Doorkeeper of the Council chamber**

*Henry VIII*

**Porter**, and his Man

**Page** to Gardiner

**A Crier**

**Queen Katharine**, wife to King Henry, afterwards divorced

**Anne Bullen**, her Maid of Honour, afterwards Queen

**An Old Lady**, friend to Anne Bullen

**Patience**, woman to Queen Katharine

**Lord Mayor, Aldermen, Lords and Ladies in the Dumb**

**Shows; Women attending upon the Queen; Scribes, Officers,**

**Guards, and other Attendants; Spirits**

*Scene: London; Westminster; Kimbolton*



## *The Prologue.*

I come no more to make you laugh; things now  
That bear a weighty and a serious brow,  
Sad, high, and working, full of state and woe,  
Such noble scenes as draw the eye to flow,  
We now present. Those that can pity here  
May, if they think it well, let fall a tear:  
The subject will deserve it. Such as give  
Their money out of hope they may believe  
May here find truth too. Those that come to see  
Only a show or two, and so agree  
The play may pass, if they be still and willing,  
I'll undertake may see away their shilling  
Richly in two short hours. Only they  
That come to hear a merry bawdy play,  
A noise of targets, or to see a fellow  
In a long motley coat guarded with yellow,  
Will be deceiv'd; for, gentle hearers, know,  
To rank our chosen truth with such a show  
As fool and fight is, beside forfeiting  
Our own brains, and the opinion that we bring  
To make that only true we now intend,  
Will leave us never an understanding friend.  
Therefore, for goodness sake, and as you are known  
The first and happiest hearers of the town,  
Be sad, as we would make ye. Think ye see  
The very persons of our noble story  
As they were living; think you see them great,  
And follow'd with the general throng and sweat

*Henry VIII*

Of thousand friends; then, in a moment, see  
How soon this mightiness meets misery.  
And if you can be merry then, I'll say  
A man may weep upon his wedding-day.

# Act I.

## Scene 1.

*London. The palace*

*Enter the DUKE OF NORFOLK at one door;  
at the other, the DUKE OF BUCKINGHAM  
and the LORD ABERGAVERN*

### **Buckingham**

Good morrow, and well met. How have ye done  
Since last we saw in France?

### **Norfolk**

I thank your Grace,  
Healthful; and ever since a fresh admirer  
Of what I saw there.

### **Buckingham**

An untimely ague  
Stay'd me a prisoner in my chamber when  
Those suns of glory, those two lights of men,  
Met in the vale of Andren.

### **Norfolk**

'Twixt Guynes and Arde—  
I was then present, saw them salute on horseback;  
Beheld them, when they lighted, how they clung

In their embracement, as they grew together;  
Which had they, what four thron'd ones could have weigh'd  
Such a compounded one?

### Buckingham

All the whole time  
I was my chamber's prisoner.

### Norfolk

Then you lost  
The view of earthly glory; men might say,  
Till this time pomp was single, but now married  
To one above itself. Each following day  
Became the next day's master, till the last  
Made former wonders its. To-day the French,  
All clinquant, all in gold, like heathen gods,  
Shone down the English; and to-morrow they  
Made Britain India: every man that stood  
Show'd like a mine. Their dwarfish pages were  
As cherubins, an gilt; the madams too,  
Not us'd to toil, did almost sweat to bear  
The pride upon them, that their very labour  
Was to them as a painting. Now this masque  
Was cried incomparable; and th' ensuing night  
Made it a fool and beggar. The two kings,  
Equal in lustre, were now best, now worst,  
As presence did present them: him in eye still him in praise;  
and being present both,  
'Twas said they saw but one, and no discernor  
Durst wag his tongue in censure. When these suns—

For so they phrase 'em—by their heralds challeng'd  
The noble spirits to arms, they did perform  
Beyond thought's compass, that former fabulous story,  
Being now seen possible enough, got credit,  
That Bevis was believ'd.

### **Buckingham**

O, you go far!

### **Norfolk**

As I belong to worship, and affect  
In honour honesty, the tract of ev'rything  
Would by a good discourser lose some life  
Which action's self was tongue to. All was royal:  
To the disposing of it nought rebell'd;  
Order gave each thing view. The office did  
Distinctly his full function.

### **Buckingham**

Who did guide—  
I mean, who set the body and the limbs  
Of this great sport together, as you guess?

### **Norfolk**

One, certes, that promises no element  
In such a business.

### **Buckingham**

I pray you, who, my lord?

### Norfolk

All this was ord'red by the good discretion  
Of the right reverend Cardinal of York.

### Buckingham

The devil speed him! No man's pie is freed  
From his ambitious finger. What had he  
To do in these fierce vanities? I wonder  
That such a keech can with his very bulk  
Take up the rays o' th' beneficial sun,  
And keep it from the earth.

### Norfolk

Surely, sir,  
There's in him stuff that puts him to these ends;  
For, being not propp'd by ancestry, whose grace  
Chalks successors their way, nor call'd upon  
For high feats done to th' crown, neither allied  
To eminent assistants, but spider-like,  
Out of his self-drawing web, 'a gives us note  
The force of his own merit makes his way—  
A gift that heaven gives for him, which buys  
A place next to the King.

### Abergavenny

I cannot tell  
What heaven hath given him—let some graver eye  
Pierce into that; but I can see his pride  
Peep through each part of him. Whence has he that?  
If not from hell, the devil is a niggard

Or has given all before, and he begins  
A new hell in himself.

### **Buckingham**

Why the devil,  
Upon this French going out, took he upon him—  
Without the privity o' th' King-t' appoint  
Who should attend on him? He makes up the file  
Of all the gentry; for the most part such  
To whom as great a charge as little honour  
He meant to lay upon; and his own letter,  
The honourable board of council out,  
Must fetch him in he papers.

### **Abergavenny**

I do know  
Kinsmen of mine, three at the least, that have  
By this so sicken'd their estates that never  
They shall abound as formerly.

### **Buckingham**

O, many  
Have broke their backs with laying manors on 'em  
For this great journey. What did this vanity  
But minister communication of  
A most poor issue?

### **Norfolk**

Grievingly I think  
The peace between the French and us not values

The cost that did conclude it.

### **Buckingham**

Every man,  
After the hideous storm that follow'd, was  
A thing inspir'd, and, not consulting, broke  
Into a general prophecy-that this tempest,  
Dashing the garment of this peace, aboded  
The sudden breach on't.

### **Norfolk**

Which is budded out;  
For France hath flaw'd the league, and hath attach'd  
Our merchants' goods at Bordeaux.

### **Abergavenny**

Is it therefore  
Th' ambassador is silenc'd?

### **Norfolk**

Marry, is't.

### **Abergavenny**

A proper tide of a peace, and purchas'd  
At a superfluous rate!

### **Buckingham**

Why, all this business  
Our reverend Cardinal carried.



## Norfolk

Like it your Grace,  
The state takes notice of the private difference  
Betwixt you and the Cardinal. I advise you—  
And take it from a heart that wishes towards you  
Honour and plenteous safety—that you read  
The Cardinal's malice and his potency  
Together; to consider further, that  
What his high hatred would effect wants not  
A minister in his power. You know his nature,  
That he's revengeful; and I know his sword  
Hath a sharp edge—it's long and't may be said  
It reaches far, and where 'twill not extend,  
Thither he darts it. Bosom up my counsel  
You'll find it wholesome. Lo, where comes that rock  
That I advise your shunning.

*Enter CARDINAL WOLSEY, the purse borne  
before him, certain of the GUARD, and two  
SECRETARIES with papers. The CARDINAL in  
his passage fixeth his eye on BUCKINGHAM, and  
BUCKINGHAM on him, both full of disdain*

## Wolsey

The Duke of Buckingham's surveyor? Ha!  
Where's his examination?

## Secretary

Here, so please you.

**Wolsey**

Is he in person ready?

**Secretary**

Ay, please your Grace.

**Wolsey**

Well, we shall then know more, and Buckingham shall lessen  
this big look.

*Exeunt WOLSEY and his train*

**Buckingham**

This butcher's cur is venom-mouth'd, and I  
Have not the power to muzzle him; therefore best  
Not wake him in his slumber. A beggar's book  
Outworths a noble's blood.

**Norfolk**

What, are you chaf'd?  
Ask God for temp'rance; that's th' appliance only  
Which your disease requires.

**Buckingham**

I read in's looks  
Matter against me, and his eye revil'd  
Me as his abject object. At this instant  
He bores me with some trick. He's gone to th' King;  
I'll follow, and outstare him.

## Norfolk

Stay, my lord,  
And let your reason with your choler question  
What 'tis you go about. To climb steep hills  
Requires slow pace at first. Anger is like  
A full hot horse, who being allow'd his way,  
Self-mettle tires him. Not a man in England  
Can advise me like you; be to yourself  
As you would to your friend.

## Buckingham

I'll to the King,  
And from a mouth of honour quite cry down  
This Ipswich fellow's insolence; or proclaim  
There's difference in no persons.

## Norfolk

Be advis'd:  
Heat not a furnace for your foe so hot  
That it do singe yourself. We may outrun  
By violent swiftness that which we run at,  
And lose by over-running. Know you not  
The fire that mounts the liquor till't run o'er  
In seeming to augment it wastes it? Be advis'd.  
I say again there is no English soul  
More stronger to direct you than yourself,  
If with the sap of reason you would quench  
Or but allay the fire of passion.

## Buckingham

Sir,  
I am thankful to you, and I'll go along  
By your prescription; but this top-proud fellow—  
Whom from the flow of gan I name not, but  
From sincere motions, by intelligence,  
And proofs as clear as founts in July when  
We see each grain of gravel-I do know  
To be corrupt and treasonous.

## Norfolk

Say not treasonous.

## Buckingham

To th' King I'll say't, and make my vouch as strong  
As shore of rock. Attend: this holy fox,  
Or wolf, or both-for he is equal rav'nous  
As he is subtle, and as prone to mischief  
As able to perform't, his mind and place  
Infecting one another, yea, reciprocally—  
Only to show his pomp as well in France  
As here at home, suggests the King our master  
To this last costly treaty, th' interview  
That swallowed so much treasure and like a glass  
Did break i' th' wrenching.

## Norfolk

Faith, and so it did.

## Buckingham

Pray, give me favour, sir; this cunning cardinal  
The articles o' th' combination drew  
As himself pleas'd; and they were ratified  
As he cried 'Thus let be' to as much end  
As give a crutch to th' dead. But our Count-Cardinal  
Has done this, and 'tis well; for worthy Wolsey,  
Who cannot err, he did it. Now this follows,  
Which, as I take it, is a kind of puppy  
To th' old dam treason: Charles the Emperor,  
Under pretence to see the Queen his aunt—  
For 'twas indeed his colour, but he came  
To whisper Wolsey-here makes visitation—  
His fears were that the interview betwixt  
England and France might through their amity  
Breed him some prejudice; for from this league  
Peep'd harms that menac'd him-privily  
Deals with our Cardinal; and, as I trow—  
Which I do well, for I am sure the Emperor  
Paid ere he promis'd; whereby his suit was granted  
Ere it was ask'd-but when the way was made,  
And pav'd with gold, the Emperor thus desir'd,  
That he would please to alter the King's course,  
And break the foresaid peace. Let the King know,  
As soon he shall by me, that thus the Cardinal  
Does buy and sell his honour as he pleases,  
And for his own advantage.

## Norfolk

I am sorry

To hear this of him, and could wish he were  
Something mistaken in't.

### **Buckingham**

No, not a syllable:  
I do pronounce him in that very shape  
He shall appear in proof.

*Enter BRANDON, a SERGEANT-AT-ARMS  
before him, and two or three of the guard*

### **Brandon**

Your office, sergeant: execute it.

### **Sergeant**

Sir,  
My lord the Duke of Buckingham, and Earl  
Of Hereford, Stafford, and Northampton, I  
Arrest thee of high treason, in the name  
Of our most sovereign King.

### **Buckingham**

Lo you, my lord,  
The net has fall'n upon me! I shall perish  
Under device and practice.

### **Brandon**

I am sorry  
To see you ta'en from liberty, to look on  
The business present; 'tis his Highness' pleasure

You shall to th' Tower.

### Buckingham

It will help nothing  
To plead mine innocence; for that dye is on me  
Which makes my whit'st part black. The will of heav'n  
Be done in this and all things! I obey.  
O my Lord Aberga'ny, fare you well!

### Brandon

Nay, he must bear you company.  
[To **ABERGAVENNY**] The King  
Is pleas'd you shall to th' Tower, till you know  
How he determines further.

### Abergavenny

As the Duke said,  
The will of heaven be done, and the King's pleasure  
By me obey'd.

### Brandon

Here is warrant from  
The King t' attach Lord Montacute and the bodies  
Of the Duke's confessor, John de la Car,  
One Gilbert Peck, his chancellor—

### Buckingham

So, so!  
These are the limbs o' th' plot; no more, I hope.

*Henry VIII*

**Brandon**

A monk o' th' Chartreux.

**Buckingham**

O, Nicholas Hopkins?

**Brandon**

He.

**Buckingham**

My surveyor is false. The o'er-great Cardinal  
Hath show'd him gold; my life is spann'd already.  
I am the shadow of poor Buckingham,  
Whose figure even this instant cloud puts on  
By dark'ning my clear sun. My lord, farewell.

*Exeunt*



## Scene 2.

### *London. The Council Chamber*

*Cornets. Enter KING HENRY, leaning on the CARDINAL'S shoulder, the NOBLES, and SIR THOMAS LOVELL, with others. The CARDINAL places himself under the KING'S feet on his right side*

#### **King**

My life itself, and the best heart of it,  
Thanks you for this great care; I stood i' th' level  
Of a full-charg'd confederacy, and give thanks  
To you that chok'd it. Let be call'd before us  
That Gentleman of Buckingham's. In person  
I'll hear his confessions justify;  
And point by point the treasons of his master  
He shall again relate.

*A noise within, crying 'Room for the Queen!'*

*Enter the QUEEN, usher'd by the DUKES OF NORFOLK and SUFFOLK; she kneels. The KING riseth from his state, takes her up, kisses and placeth her by him*

#### **Queen Katharine**

Nay, we must longer kneel: I am suitor.

### King

Arise, and take place by us. Half your suit  
Never name to us: you have half our power.  
The other moiety ere you ask is given;  
Repeat your will, and take it.

### Queen Katharine

Thank your Majesty.  
That you would love yourself, and in that love  
Not unconsidered leave your honour nor  
The dignity of your office, is the point  
Of my petition.

### King

Lady mine, proceed.

### Queen Katharine

I am solicited, not by a few,  
And those of true condition, that your subjects  
Are in great grievance: there have been commissions  
Sent down among 'em which hath flaw'd the heart  
Of all their loyalties; wherein, although,  
My good Lord Cardinal, they vent reproaches  
Most bitterly on you as putter-on  
Of these exactions, yet the King our master—  
Whose honour Heaven shield from soil!-even he escapes not  
Language unmannerly; yea, such which breaks  
The sides of loyalty, and almost appears  
In loud rebellion.

## Norfolk

Not almost appears—  
It doth appear; for, upon these taxations,  
The clothiers all, not able to maintain  
The many to them 'longing, have put of  
The spinsters, carders, fullers, weavers, who  
Unfit for other life, compell'd by hunger  
And lack of other means, in desperate manner  
Daring th' event to th' teeth, are all in uproar,  
And danger serves among them.

## King

Taxation!  
Wherein? and what taxation? My Lord Cardinal,  
You that are blam'd for it alike with us,  
Know you of this taxation?

## Wolsey

Please you, sir,  
I know but of a single part in aught  
Pertains to th' state, and front but in that file  
Where others tell steps with me.

## Queen Katharine

No, my lord!  
You know no more than others! But you frame  
Things that are known alike, which are not wholesome  
To those which would not know them, and yet must  
Perforce be their acquaintance. These exactions,  
Whereof my sovereign would have note, they are

Most pestilent to th' hearing; and to bear 'em  
The back is sacrifice to th' load. They say  
They are devis'd by you, or else you suffer  
Too hard an exclamation.

### King

Still exaction!  
The nature of it? In what kind, let's know,  
Is this exaction?

### Queen Katharine

I am much too venturous  
In tempting of your patience, but am bold'ned  
Under your promis'd pardon. The subjects' grief  
Comes through commissions, which compels from each  
The sixth part of his substance, to be levied  
Without delay; and the pretence for this  
Is nam'd your wars in France. This makes bold mouths;  
Tongues spit their duties out, and cold hearts freeze  
Allegiance in them; their curses now  
Live where their prayers did; and it's come to pass  
This tractable obedience is a slave  
To each incensed will. I would your Highness  
Would give it quick consideration, for  
There is no primer business.

### King

By my life,  
This is against our pleasure.

## Wolsey

And for me,  
I have no further gone in this than by  
A single voice; and that not pass'd me but  
By learned approbation of the judges. If I am  
Traduc'd by ignorant tongues, which neither know  
My faculties nor person, yet will be  
The chronicles of my doing, let me say  
'Tis but the fate of place, and the rough brake  
That virtue must go through. We must not stint  
Our necessary actions in the fear  
To cope malicious censurers, which ever  
As rav'nous fishes do a vessel follow  
That is new-trimm'd, but benefit no further  
Than vainly longing. What we oft do best,  
By sick interpreters, once weak ones, is  
Not ours, or not allow'd; what worst, as oft  
Hitting a grosser quality, is cried up  
For our best act. If we shall stand still,  
In fear our motion will be mock'd or carp'd at,  
We should take root here where we sit, or sit  
State-statues only.

## King

Things done well  
And with a care exempt themselves from fear:  
Things done without example, in their issue  
Are to be fear'd. Have you a precedent  
Of this commission? I believe, not any.  
We must not rend our subjects from our laws,

And stick them in our will. Sixth part of each?  
A trembling contribution! Why, we take  
From every tree lop, bark, and part o' th' timber;  
And though we leave it with a root, thus hack'd,  
The air will drink the sap. To every county  
Where this is question'd send our letters with  
Free pardon to each man that has denied  
The force of this commission. Pray, look tot;  
I put it to your care.

### Wolsey

*[Aside to the SECRETARY]* A word with you.  
Let there be letters writ to every shire  
Of the King's grace and pardon. The griev'd commons  
Hardly conceive of me-let it be nois'd  
That through our intercession this revokement  
And pardon comes. I shall anon advise you  
Further in the proceeding.

*Exit SECRETARY*

*Enter SURVEYOR*

### Queen Katharine

I am sorry that the Duke of Buckingham  
Is run in your displeasure.

### King

It grieves many.  
The Gentleman is learn'd and a most rare speaker;

To nature none more bound; his training such  
That he may furnish and instruct great teachers  
And never seek for aid out of himself. Yet see,  
When these so noble benefits shall prove  
Not well dispos'd, the mind growing once corrupt,  
They turn to vicious forms, ten times more ugly  
Than ever they were fair. This man so complete,  
Who was enroll'd 'mongst wonders, and when we,  
Almost with ravish'd list'ning, could not find  
His hour of speech a minute—he, my lady,  
Hath into monstrous habits put the graces  
That once were his, and is become as black  
As if besmear'd in hell. Sit by us; you shall hear—  
This was his Gentleman in trust-of him  
Things to strike honour sad. Bid him recount  
The fore-recited practices, whereof  
We cannot feel too little, hear too much.

### Wolsey

Stand forth, and with bold spirit relate what you,  
Most like a careful subject, have collected  
Out of the Duke of Buckingham.

### King

Speak freely.

### Surveyor

First, it was usual with him—every day  
It would infect his speech—that if the King  
Should without issue die, he'll carry it so

To make the sceptre his. These very words  
I've heard him utter to his son-in-law,  
Lord Aberg'a'ny, to whom by oath he menac'd  
Revenge upon the Cardinal.

### Wolsey

Please your Highness, note  
This dangerous conception in this point:  
Not friended by his wish, to your high person  
His will is most malignant, and it stretches  
Beyond you to your friends.

### Queen Katharine

My learn'd Lord Cardinal,  
Deliver all with charity.

### King

Speak on.  
How grounded he his title to the crown  
Upon our fail? To this point hast thou heard him  
At any time speak aught?

### Surveyor

He was brought to this  
By a vain prophecy of Nicholas Henton.

### King

What was that Henton?



## Surveyor

Sir, a Chartreux friar,  
His confessor, who fed him every minute  
With words of sovereignty.

## King

How know'st thou this?

## Surveyor

Not long before your Highness sped to France,  
The Duke being at the Rose, within the parish  
Saint Lawrence Poultney, did of me demand  
What was the speech among the Londoners  
Concerning the French journey. I replied  
Men fear'd the French would prove perfidious,  
To the King's danger. Presently the Duke  
Said 'twas the fear indeed and that he doubted  
'Twould prove the verity of certain words  
Spoke by a holy monk 'that oft' says he  
'Hath sent to me, wishing me to permit  
John de la Car, my chaplain, a choice hour  
To hear from him a matter of some moment;  
Whom after under the confession's seal  
He solemnly had sworn that what he spoke  
My chaplain to no creature living but  
To me should utter, with demure confidence  
This pausingly ensu'd: "Neither the King nor's heirs,  
Tell you the Duke, shall prosper; bid him strive  
To gain the love o' th' commonalty; the Duke  
Shall govern England."

### Queen Katharine

If I know you well,  
You were the Duke's surveyor, and lost your office  
On the complaint o' th' tenants. Take good heed  
You charge not in your spleen a noble person  
And spoil your nobler soul. I say, take heed;  
Yes, heartily beseech you.

### King

Let him on.  
Go forward.

### Surveyor

On my soul, I'll speak but truth.  
I told my lord the Duke, by th' devil's illusions  
The monk might be deceiv'd, and that 'twas dangerous for him  
To ruminate on this so far, until  
It forg'd him some design, which, being believ'd,  
It was much like to do. He answer'd 'Tush,  
It can do me no damage'; adding further  
That, had the King in his last sickness fail'd,  
The Cardinal's and Sir Thomas Lovell's heads  
Should have gone off.

### King

Ha! what, so rank? Ah ha!  
There's mischief in this man. Canst thou say further?

### Surveyor

I can, my liege.

**King**

Proceed.

**Surveyor**

Being at Greenwich,  
After your Highness had reprov'd the Duke  
About Sir William Bulmer—

**King**

I remember  
Of such a time: being my sworn servant,  
The Duke retain'd him his. But on: what hence?

**Surveyor**

'If' quoth he 'I for this had been committed—  
As to the Tower I thought-I would have play'd  
The part my father meant to act upon  
Th' usurper Richard; who, being at Salisbury,  
Made suit to come in's presence, which if granted,  
As he made semblance of his duty, would  
Have put his knife into him.'

**King**

A giant traitor!

**Wolsey**

Now, madam, may his Highness live in freedom,  
And this man out of prison?

## **Queen Katharine**

God mend all!

## **King**

There's something more would out of thee: what say'st?

## **Surveyor**

After 'the Duke his father' with the 'knife,'  
He stretch'd him, and, with one hand on his dagger,  
Another spread on's breast, mounting his eyes,  
He did discharge a horrible oath, whose tenour  
Was, were he evil us'd, he would outgo  
His father by as much as a performance  
Does an irresolute purpose.

## **King**

There's his period,  
To sheath his knife in us. He is attach'd;  
Call him to present trial. If he may  
Find mercy in the law, 'tis his; if none,  
Let him not seek't of us. By day and night!  
He's traitor to th' height.

## ***Exeunt***

## Scene 3.

### *London. The palace*

*Enter the LORD CHAMBERLAIN and LORD SANDYS*

#### **Chamberlain**

Is't possible the spells of France should juggle  
Men into such strange mysteries?

#### **Sandys**

New customs,  
Though they be never so ridiculous,  
Nay, let 'em be unmanly, yet are follow'd.

#### **Chamberlain**

As far as I see, all the good our English  
Have got by the late voyage is but merely  
A fit or two o' th' face; but they are shrewd ones;  
For when they hold 'em, you would swear directly  
Their very noses had been counsellors  
To Pepin or Clotharius, they keep state so.

#### **Sandys**

They have all new legs, and lame ones. One would take it,  
That never saw 'em pace before, the spavin  
Or springhalt reign'd among 'em.

**Chamberlain**

Death! my lord,  
Their clothes are after such a pagan cut to't,  
That sure th' have worn out Christendom.

*Enter SIR THOMAS LOVELL*

How now?  
What news, Sir Thomas Lovell?

**Lovell**

Faith, my lord,  
I hear of none but the new proclamation  
That's clapp'd upon the court gate.

**Chamberlain**

What is't for?

**Lovell**

The reformation of our travell'd gallants,  
That fill the court with quarrels, talk, and tailors.

**Chamberlain**

I am glad 'tis there. Now I would pray our monsieurs  
To think an English courtier may be wise,  
And never see the Louvre.

**Lovell**

They must either,  
For so run the conditions, leave those remnants

Of fool and feather that they got in France,  
With all their honourable points of ignorance  
Pertaining thereunto-as fights and fireworks;  
Abusing better men than they can be,  
Out of a foreign wisdom-renouncing clean  
The faith they have in tennis, and tall stockings,  
Short blist' red breeches, and those types of travel  
And understand again like honest men,  
Or pack to their old playfellows. There, I take it,  
They may, cum privilegio, wear away  
The lag end of their lewdness and be laugh'd at.

### Sandys

'Tis time to give 'em physic, their diseases  
Are grown so catching.

### Chamberlain

What a loss our ladies  
Will have of these trim vanities!

### Lovell

Ay, marry,  
There will be woe indeed, Lords: the sly whoresons  
Have got a speeding trick to lay down ladies.  
A French song and a fiddle has no fellow.

### Sandys

The devil fiddle 'em! I am glad they are going,  
For sure there's no converting 'em. Now  
An honest country lord, as I am, beaten

A long time out of play, may bring his plainsong  
And have an hour of hearing; and, by'r Lady,  
Held current music too.

### Chamberlain

Well said, Lord Sandys;  
Your colt's tooth is not cast yet.

### Sandys

No, my lord,  
Nor shall not while I have a stamp.

### Chamberlain

Sir Thomas,  
Whither were you a-going?

### Lovell

To the Cardinal's;  
Your Lordship is a guest too.

### Chamberlain

O, 'tis true;  
This night he makes a supper, and a great one,  
To many Lords and ladies; there will be  
The beauty of this kingdom, I'll assure you.

### Lovell

That churchman bears a bounteous mind indeed,  
A hand as fruitful as the land that feeds us;  
His dews fall everywhere.



### Chamberlain

No doubt he's noble;  
He had a black mouth that said other of him.

### Sandys

He may, my lord; has wherewithal. In him  
Sparing would show a worse sin than ill doctrine:  
Men of his way should be most liberal,  
They are set here for examples.

### Chamberlain

True, they are so;  
But few now give so great ones. My barge stays;  
Your Lordship shall along. Come, good Sir Thomas,  
We shall be late else; which I would not be,  
For I was spoke to, with Sir Henry Guildford,  
This night to be comptrollers.

### Sandys

I am your Lordship's.

### *Exeunt*

## Scene 4.

### *London. The Presence Chamber in York Place*

*Hautboys. A small table under a state for the Cardinal, a longer table for the guests. Then enter ANNE BULLEN, and divers other LADIES and GENTLEMEN, as guests, at one door; at another door enter SIR HENRY GUILDFORD*

#### **Guildford**

Ladies, a general welcome from his Grace  
Salutes ye all; this night he dedicates  
To fair content and you. None here, he hopes,  
In all this noble bevy, has brought with her  
One care abroad; he would have all as merry  
As, first, good company, good wine, good welcome,  
Can make good people.

*Enter LORD CHAMBERLAIN, LORD SANDYS, and SIR THOMAS LOVELL*

O, my lord, y'are tardy,  
The very thought of this fair company  
Clapp'd wings to me.

#### **Chamberlain**

You are young, Sir Harry Guildford.

## Sandys

Sir Thomas Lovell, had the Cardinal  
But half my lay thoughts in him, some of these  
Should find a running banquet ere they rested  
I think would better please 'em. By my life,  
They are a sweet society of fair ones.

## Lovell

O that your Lordship were but now confessor  
To one or two of these!

## Sandys

I would I were;  
They should find easy penance.

## Lovell

Faith, how easy?

## Sandys

As easy as a down bed would afford it.

## Chamberlain

Sweet ladies, will it please you sit? Sir Harry,  
Place you that side; I'll take the charge of this.  
His Grace is ent'ring. Nay, you must not freeze:  
Two women plac'd together makes cold weather.  
My Lord Sandys, you are one will keep 'em waking:  
Pray sit between these ladies.

## Sandys

By my faith,  
And thank your Lordship. By your leave, sweet ladies. [*Seats  
himself between ANNE BULLEN AND ANOTHER LADY*]  
If I chance to talk a little wild, forgive me;  
I had it from my father.

## Anne

Was he mad, sir?

## Sandys

O, very mad, exceeding mad, in love too.  
But he would bite none; just as I do now,  
He would kiss you twenty with a breath. [*Kisses her*]

## Chamberlain

Well said, my lord.  
So, now y'are fairly seated. Gentlemen,  
The penance lies on you if these fair ladies  
Pass away frowning.

## Sandys

For my little cure,  
Let me alone.

*Hautboys. Enter CARDINAL WOLSEY,  
attended; and takes his state*

## Wolsey

Y'are welcome, my fair guests. That noble lady

Or Gentleman that is not freely merry  
Is not my friend. This, to confirm my welcome—  
And to you all, good health! *[Drinks]*

### Sandys

Your Grace is noble.  
Let me have such a bowl may hold my thanks  
And save me so much talking.

### Wolsey

My Lord Sandys,  
I am beholding to you. Cheer your neighbours.  
Ladies, you are not merry. Gentlemen,  
Whose fault is this?

### Sandys

The red wine first must rise  
In their fair cheeks, my lord; then we shall have 'em  
Talk us to silence.

### Anne

You are a merry gamester,  
My Lord Sandys.

### Sandys

Yes, if I make my play.  
Here's to your ladyship; and pledge it, madam,  
For 'tis to such a thing—

Henry VIII

**Anne**

You cannot show me.

**Sandys**

I told your Grace they would talk anon. [*Drum and trumpet.  
Chambers discharg'd*]

**Wolsey**

What's that?

**Chamberlain**

Look out there, some of ye.

*Exit a SERVANT*

**Wolsey**

What warlike voice,  
And to what end, is this? Nay, ladies, fear not:  
By all the laws of war y'are privileg'd.

*Re-enter SERVANT*

**Chamberlain**

How now! what is't?

**Servant**

A noble troop of strangers—  
For so they seem. Th' have left their barge and landed,  
And hither make, as great ambassadors  
From foreign princes.

## Wolsey

Good Lord Chamberlain,  
Go, give 'em welcome; you can speak the French tongue;  
And pray receive 'em nobly and conduct 'em  
Into our presence, where this heaven of beauty  
Shall shine at full upon them. Some attend him.

*Exit CHAMBERLAIN attended. All  
rise, and tables remov'd*

You have now a broken banquet, but we'll mend it.  
A good digestion to you all; and once more  
I show'r a welcome on ye; welcome all.

*Hautboys. Enter the KING, and others, as maskers,  
habited like shepherds, usher'd by the LORD  
CHAMBERLAIN. They pass directly before the  
CARDINAL, and gracefully salute him*

A noble company! What are their pleasures?

## Chamberlain

Because they speak no English, thus they pray'd  
To tell your Grace, that, having heard by fame  
Of this so noble and so fair assembly  
This night to meet here, they could do no less,  
Out of the great respect they bear to beauty,  
But leave their flocks and, under your fair conduct,  
Crave leave to view these ladies and entreat  
An hour of revels with 'em.

## Wolsey

Say, Lord Chamberlain,  
They have done my poor house grace; for which I pay 'em  
A thousand thanks, and pray 'em take their pleasures. [*They  
choose ladies. The KING chooses ANNE BULLEN*]

## King

The fairest hand I ever touch'd! O beauty,  
Till now I never knew thee! [*Music. Dance*]

## Wolsey

My lord!

## Chamberlain

Your Grace?

## Wolsey

Pray tell 'em thus much from me:  
There should be one amongst 'em, by his person,  
More worthy this place than myself; to whom,  
If I but knew him, with my love and duty  
I would surrender it.

## Chamberlain

I will, my lord. [*He whispers to the maskers*]

## Wolsey

What say they?

## Chamberlain

Such a one, they all confess,



There is indeed; which they would have your Grace  
Find out, and he will take it.

### Wolsey

Let me see, then. [*Comes from his state*]  
By all your good leaves, gentlemen, here I'll make  
My royal choice.

### King

[*Unmasking*] Ye have found him, Cardinal.  
You hold a fair assembly; you do well, lord.  
You are a churchman, or, I'll tell you, Cardinal,  
I should judge now unhappily.

### Wolsey

I am glad  
Your Grace is grown so pleasant.

### King

My Lord Chamberlain,  
Prithee come hither: what fair lady's that?

### Chamberlain

An't please your Grace, Sir Thomas Bullen's daughter—  
The Viscount Rochford—one of her Highness' women.

### King

By heaven, she is a dainty one. Sweet heart,  
I were unmannerly to take you out  
And not to kiss you. A health, gentlemen!

*Henry VIII*

Let it go round.

**Wolsey**

Sir Thomas Lovell, is the banquet ready  
I' th' privy chamber?

**Lovell**

Yes, my lord.

**Wolsey**

Your Grace,  
I fear, with dancing is a little heated.

**King**

I fear, too much.

**Wolsey**

There's fresher air, my lord,  
In the next chamber.

**King**

Lead in your ladies, ev'ry one. Sweet partner,  
I must not yet forsake you. Let's be merry:  
Good my Lord Cardinal, I have half a dozen healths  
To drink to these fair ladies, and a measure  
To lead 'em once again; and then let's dream  
Who's best in favour. Let the music knock it.

*Exeunt, with trumpets*

# *Act II.*

## *Scene 1.*

*Westminster. A street*

*Enter two GENTLEMEN, at several doors*

### **First Gentleman**

Whither away so fast?

### **Second Gentleman**

O, God save ye!

Ev'n to the Hall, to hear what shall become  
Of the great Duke of Buckingham.

### **First Gentleman**

I'll save you

That labour, sir. All's now done but the ceremony  
Of bringing back the prisoner.

### **Second Gentleman**

Were you there?

### **First Gentleman**

Yes, indeed, was I.

### **Second Gentleman**

Pray, speak what has happen'd.

**First Gentleman**

You may guess quickly what.

**Second Gentleman**

Is he found guilty?

**First Gentleman**

Yes, truly is he, and condemn'd upon't.

**Second Gentleman**

I am sorry for't.

**First Gentleman**

So are a number more.

**Second Gentleman**

But, pray, how pass'd it?

**First Gentleman**

I'll tell you in a little. The great Duke.  
Came to the bar; where to his accusations  
He pleaded still not guilty, and alleged  
Many sharp reasons to defeat the law.  
The King's attorney, on the contrary,  
Urg'd on the examinations, proofs, confessions,  
Of divers witnesses; which the Duke desir'd  
To have brought, viva voce, to his face;  
At which appear'd against him his surveyor,  
Sir Gilbert Peck his chancellor, and John Car,  
Confessor to him, with that devil-monk,

Hopkins, that made this mischief.

## **Second Gentleman**

That was he  
That fed him with his prophecies?

## **First Gentleman**

The same.  
All these accus'd him strongly, which he fain  
Would have flung from him; but indeed he could not;  
And so his peers, upon this evidence,  
Have found him guilty of high treason. Much  
He spoke, and learnedly, for life; but all  
Was either pitied in him or forgotten.

## **Second Gentleman**

After all this, how did he bear him-self

## **First Gentleman**

When he was brought again to th' bar to hear  
His knell rung out, his judgment, he was stirr'd  
With such an agony he sweat extremely,  
And something spoke in choler, ill and hasty;  
But he fell to himself again, and sweetly  
In all the rest show'd a most noble patience.

## **Second Gentleman**

I do not think he fears death.

**First Gentleman**

Sure, he does not;  
He never was so womanish; the cause  
He may a little grieve at.

**Second Gentleman**

Certainly  
The Cardinal is the end of this.

**First Gentleman**

'Tis likely,  
By all conjectures: first, Kildare's attainder,  
Then deputy of Ireland, who remov'd,  
Earl Surrey was sent thither, and in haste too,  
Lest he should help his father.

**Second Gentleman**

That trick of state  
Was a deep envious one.

**First Gentleman**

At his return  
No doubt he will requite it. This is noted,  
And generally: whoever the King favours  
The Cardinal instantly will find employment,  
And far enough from court too.

**Second Gentleman**

All the commons  
Hate him perniciously, and, o' my conscience,

Wish him ten fathom deep: this Duke as much  
They love and dote on; call him bounteous Buckingham,  
The mirror of all courtesy—

*Enter BUCKINGHAM from his arraignment, tip-  
staves before him; the axe with the edge towards him;  
halberds on each side; accompanied with SIR THOMAS*

*LOVELL, SIR NICHOLAS VAUX, SIR WILLIAM  
SANDYS, and common people, etc.*

### First Gentleman

Stay there, sir,  
And see the noble ruin'd man you speak of.

### Second Gentleman

Let's stand close, and behold him.

### Buckingham

All good people,  
You that thus far have come to pity me,  
Hear what I say, and then go home and lose me.  
I have this day receiv'd a traitor's judgment,  
And by that name must die; yet, heaven bear witness,  
And if I have a conscience, let it sink me  
Even as the axe falls, if I be not faithful!  
The law I bear no malice for my death:  
'T has done, upon the premises, but justice.  
But those that sought it I could wish more Christians.  
Be what they will, I heartily forgive 'em;

Yet let 'em look they glory not in mischief  
Nor build their evils on the graves of great men,  
For then my guiltless blood must cry against 'em.  
For further life in this world I ne'er hope  
Nor will I sue, although the King have mercies  
More than I dare make faults. You few that lov'd me  
And dare be bold to weep for Buckingham,  
His noble friends and fellows, whom to leave  
Is only bitter to him, only dying,  
Go with me like good angels to my end;  
And as the long divorce of steel falls on me  
Make of your prayers one sweet sacrifice,  
And lift my soul to heaven. Lead on, a God's name.

### Lovell

I do beseech your Grace, for charity,  
If ever any malice in your heart  
Were hid against me, now to forgive me frankly.

### Buckingham

Sir Thomas Lovell, I as free forgive you  
As I would be forgiven. I forgive all.  
There cannot be those numberless offences  
'Gainst me that I cannot take peace with. No black envy  
Shall mark my grave. Commend me to his Grace;  
And if he speak of Buckingham, pray tell him  
You met him half in heaven. My vows and prayers  
Yet are the King's, and, till my soul forsake,  
Shall cry for blessings on him. May he live  
Longer than I have time to tell his years;



Ever belov'd and loving may his rule be;  
And when old time Shall lead him to his end,  
Goodness and he fill up one monument!

### Lovell

To th' water side I must conduct your Grace;  
Then give my charge up to Sir Nicholas Vaux,  
Who undertakes you to your end.

### Vaux

Prepare there;  
The Duke is coming; see the barge be ready;  
And fit it with such furniture as suits  
The greatness of his person.

### Buckingham

Nay, Sir Nicholas,  
Let it alone; my state now will but mock me.  
When I came hither I was Lord High Constable  
And Duke of Buckingham; now, poor Edward Bohun.  
Yet I am richer than my base accusers  
That never knew what truth meant; I now seal it;  
And with that blood will make 'em one day groan fort.  
My noble father, Henry of Buckingham,  
Who first rais'd head against usurping Richard,  
Flying for succour to his servant Banister,  
Being distress'd, was by that wretch betray'd  
And without trial fell; God's peace be with him!  
Henry the Seventh succeeding, truly pitying  
My father's loss, like a most royal prince,

Restor'd me to my honours, and out of ruins  
Made my name once more noble. Now his son,  
Henry the Eighth, life, honour, name, and all  
That made me happy, at one stroke has taken  
For ever from the world. I had my trial,  
And must needs say a noble one; which makes me  
A little happier than my wretched father;  
Yet thus far we are one in fortunes: both  
Fell by our servants, by those men we lov'd most—  
A most unnatural and faithless service.  
Heaven has an end in all. Yet, you that hear me,  
This from a dying man receive as certain:  
Where you are liberal of your loves and counsels,  
Be sure you be not loose; for those you make friends  
And give your hearts to, when they once perceive  
The least rub in your fortunes, fall away  
Like water from ye, never found again  
But where they mean to sink ye. All good people,  
Pray for me! I must now forsake ye; the last hour  
Of my long weary life is come upon me.  
Farewell;  
And when you would say something that is sad,  
Speak how I fell. I have done; and God forgive me!

*Exeunt BUCKINGHAM and train*

### First Gentleman

O, this is full of pity! Sir, it calls,  
I fear, too many curses on their heads  
That were the authors.

### **Second Gentleman**

If the Duke be guiltless,  
‘Tis full of woe; yet I can give you inkling  
Of an ensuing evil, if it fall,  
Greater than this.

### **First Gentleman**

Good angels keep it from us!  
What may it be? You do not doubt my faith, sir?

### **Second Gentleman**

This secret is so weighty, ‘twill require  
A strong faith to conceal it.

### **First Gentleman**

Let me have it;  
I do not talk much.

### **Second Gentleman**

I am confident.  
You shall, sir. Did you not of late days hear  
A buzzing of a separation  
Between the King and Katharine?

### **First Gentleman**

Yes, but it held not;  
For when the King once heard it, out of anger  
He sent command to the Lord Mayor straight  
To stop the rumour and allay those tongues  
That durst disperse it.

## Second Gentleman

But that slander, sir,  
Is found a truth now; for it grows again  
Fresher than e'er it was, and held for certain  
The King will venture at it. Either the Cardinal  
Or some about him near have, out of malice  
To the good Queen, possess'd him with a scruple  
That will undo her. To confirm this too,  
Cardinal Campeius is arriv'd and lately;  
As all think, for this business.

## First Gentleman

'Tis the Cardinal;  
And merely to revenge him on the Emperor  
For not bestowing on him at his asking  
The archbishopric of Toledo, this is purpos'd.

## Second Gentleman

I think you have hit the mark; but is't not cruel  
That she should feel the smart of this? The Cardinal  
Will have his will, and she must fall.

## First Gentleman

'Tis woeful.  
We are too open here to argue this;  
Let's think in private more.

## *Exeunt*

## Scene 2.

### *London. The palace*

*Enter the LORD CHAMBERLAIN reading this letter*

#### **Chamberlain**

‘My lord,

‘The horses your Lordship sent for, with all the care had, I saw well chosen, ridden, and furnish’d. They were young and handsome, and of the best breed in the north.

When they were ready to set out for London, a man of my Lord Cardinal’s, by commission, and main power, took ‘em from me, with this reason: his master would be serv’d before a subject, if not before the King; which stopp’d our mouths, sir.’

I fear he will indeed. Well, let him have them.

He will have all, I think.

*Enter to the LORD CHAMBERLAIN the  
DUKES OF NORFOLK and SUFFOLK*

#### **Norfolk**

Well met, my Lord Chamberlain.

#### **Chamberlain**

Good day to both your Graces.

**Suffolk**

How is the King employ'd?

**Chamberlain**

I left him private,  
Full of sad thoughts and troubles.

**Norfolk**

What's the cause?

**Chamberlain**

It seems the marriage with his brother's wife  
Has crept too near his conscience.

**Suffolk**

No, his conscience  
Has crept too near another lady.

**Norfolk**

'Tis so;  
This is the Cardinal's doing; the King-Cardinal,  
That blind priest, like the eldest son of fortune,  
Turns what he list. The King will know him one day.

**Suffolk**

Pray God he do! He'll never know himself else.

**Norfolk**

How holily he works in all his business!  
And with what zeal! For, now he has crack'd the league

Between us and the Emperor, the Queen's great nephew,  
He dives into the King's soul and there scatters  
Dangers, doubts, wringing of the conscience,  
Fears, and despairs-and all these for his marriage;  
And out of all these to restore the King,  
He counsels a divorce, a loss of her  
That like a jewel has hung twenty years  
About his neck, yet never lost her lustre;  
Of her that loves him with that excellence  
That angels love good men with; even of her  
That, when the greatest stroke of fortune falls,  
Will bless the King-and is not this course pious?

### **Chamberlain**

Heaven keep me from such counsel! 'Tis most true  
These news are everywhere; every tongue speaks 'em,  
And every true heart weeps for 't. All that dare  
Look into these affairs see this main end—  
The French King's sister. Heaven will one day open  
The King's eyes, that so long have slept upon  
This bold bad man.

### **Suffolk**

And free us from his slavery.

### **Norfolk**

We had need pray, and heartily, for our deliverance;  
Or this imperious man will work us an  
From princes into pages. All men's honours  
Lie like one lump before him, to be fashion'd

Into what pitch he please.

### Suffolk

For me, my Lords,  
I love him not, nor fear him-there's my creed;  
As I am made without him, so I'll stand,  
If the King please; his curses and his blessings  
Touch me alike; th' are breath I not believe in.  
I knew him, and I know him; so I leave him  
To him that made him proud-the Pope.

### Norfolk

Let's in;  
And with some other business put the King  
From these sad thoughts that work too much upon him.  
My lord, you'll bear us company?

### Chamberlain

Excuse me,  
The King has sent me elsewhere; besides,  
You'll find a most unfit time to disturb him.  
Health to your Lordships!

### Norfolk

Thanks, my good Lord Chamberlain.

*Exit LORD CHAMBERLAIN; and the KING  
draws the curtain and sits reading pensively*



**Suffolk**

How sad he looks; sure, he is much afflicted.

**King**

Who's there, ha?

**Norfolk**

Pray God he be not angry.

**King Henry**

Who's there, I say? How dare you thrust yourselves  
Into my private meditations?  
Who am I, ha?

**Norfolk**

A gracious king that pardons all offences  
Malice ne'er meant. Our breach of duty this way  
Is business of estate, in which we come  
To know your royal pleasure.

**King**

Ye are too bold.  
Go to; I'll make ye know your times of business.  
Is this an hour for temporal affairs, ha?

*Enter WOLSEY and CAMPEIUS with a commission*

Who's there? My good Lord Cardinal? O my Wolsey,  
The quiet of my wounded conscience,

Thou art a cure fit for a King. [*To CAMPEIUS*] You're welcome,

Most learned reverend sir, into our kingdom.

Use us and it. [*To WOLSEY*] My good lord, have great care

I be not found a talker.

### Wolsey

Sir, you cannot.

I would your Grace would give us but an hour

Of private conference.

### King

[*To NORFOLK and SUFFOLK*] We are busy; go.

### Norfolk

[*Aside to SUFFOLK*] This priest has no pride in him!

### Suffolk

[*Aside to NORFOLK*] Not to speak of!

I would not be so sick though for his place.

But this cannot continue.

### Norfolk

[*Aside to SUFFOLK*] If it do,

I'll venture one have-at-him.

### Suffolk

[*Aside to NORFOLK*] I another.

*Exeunt NORFOLK and SUFFOLK*

## Wolsey

Your Grace has given a precedent of wisdom  
Above all princes, in committing freely  
Your scruple to the voice of Christendom.  
Who can be angry now? What envy reach you?  
The Spaniard, tied by blood and favour to her,  
Must now confess, if they have any goodness,  
The trial just and noble. All the clerks,  
I mean the learned ones, in Christian kingdoms  
Have their free voices. Rome the nurse of judgment,  
Invited by your noble self, hath sent  
One general tongue unto us, this good man,  
This just and learned priest, Cardinal Campeius,  
Whom once more I present unto your Highness.

## King

And once more in mine arms I bid him welcome,  
And thank the holy conclave for their loves.  
They have sent me such a man I would have wish'd for.

## Campeius

Your Grace must needs deserve an strangers' loves,  
You are so noble. To your Highness' hand  
I tender my commission; by whose virtue—  
The court of Rome commanding-you, my Lord  
Cardinal of York, are join'd with me their servant  
In the impartial judging of this business.

## King

Two equal men. The Queen shall be acquainted

Forthwith for what you come. Where's Gardiner?

### Wolsey

I know your Majesty has always lov'd her  
So dear in heart not to deny her that  
A woman of less place might ask by law—  
Scholars allow'd freely to argue for her.

### King

Ay, and the best she shall have; and my favour  
To him that does best. God forbid else. Cardinal,  
Prithee call Gardiner to me, my new secretary;  
I find him a fit fellow.

*Exit WOLSEY*

*Re-enter WOLSEY with GARDINER*

### Wolsey

*[Aside to GARDINER]* Give me your hand: much joy and  
favour to you;  
You are the King's now.

### Gardiner

*[Aside to WOLSEY]* But to be commanded  
For ever by your Grace, whose hand has rais'd me.

### King

Come hither, Gardiner. *[Walks and whispers]*

**Campeius**

My Lord of York, was not one Doctor Pace  
In this man's place before him?

**Wolsey**

Yes, he was.

**Campeius**

Was he not held a learned man?

**Wolsey**

Yes, surely.

**Campeius**

Believe me, there's an ill opinion spread then,  
Even of yourself, Lord Cardinal.

**Wolsey**

How! Of me?

**Campeius**

They will not stick to say you envied him  
And, fearing he would rise, he was so virtuous,  
Kept him a foreign man still; which so griev'd him  
That he ran mad and died.

**Wolsey**

Heav'n's peace be with him!  
That's Christian care enough. For living murmurers  
There's places of rebuke. He was a fool,

*Henry VIII*

For he would needs be virtuous: that good fellow,  
If I command him, follows my appointment.  
I will have none so near else. Learn this, brother,  
We live not to be grip'd by meaner persons.

**King**

Deliver this with modesty to th' Queen.

*Exit GARDINER*

The most convenient place that I can think of  
For such receipt of learning is Blackfriars;  
There ye shall meet about this weighty business—  
My Wolsey, see it furnish'd. O, my lord,  
Would it not grieve an able man to leave  
So sweet a bedfellow? But, conscience, conscience!  
O, 'tis a tender place! and I must leave her.

*Exeunt*

## Scene 3.

### *London. The palace*

*Enter ANNE BULLEN and AN OLD LADY*

#### **Anne**

Not for that neither. Here's the pang that pinches:  
His Highness having liv'd so long with her, and she  
So good a lady that no tongue could ever  
Pronounce dishonour of her-by my life,  
She never knew harm-doing-O, now, after  
So many courses of the sun enthroned,  
Still growing in a majesty and pomp, the which  
To leave a thousand-fold more bitter than  
'Tis sweet at first t' acquire-after this process,  
To give her the avaunt, it is a pity  
Would move a monster.

#### **Old Lady**

Hearts of most hard temper  
Melt and lament for her.

#### **Anne**

O, God's will! much better  
She ne'er had known pomp; though't be temporal,  
Yet, if that quarrel, fortune, do divorce  
It from the bearer, 'tis a sufferance panging  
As soul and body's severing.

## Old Lady

Alas, poor lady!  
She's a stranger now again.

## Anne

So much the more  
Must pity drop upon her. Verily,  
I swear 'tis better to be lowly born  
And range with humble livers in content  
Than to be perk'd up in a glist'ring grief  
And wear a golden sorrow.

## Old Lady

Our content  
Is our best having.

## Anne

By my troth and maidenhead,  
I would not be a queen.

## Old Lady

Beshrew me, I would,  
And venture maidenhead for 't; and so would you,  
For all this spice of your hypocrisy.  
You that have so fair parts of woman on you  
Have too a woman's heart, which ever yet  
Affected eminence, wealth, sovereignty;  
Which, to say sooth, are blessings; and which gifts,  
Saving your mincing, the capacity  
Of your soft cheveril conscience would receive



If you might please to stretch it.

**Anne**

Nay, good troth.

**Old Lady**

Yes, troth and troth. You would not be a queen!

**Anne**

No, not for all the riches under heaven.

**Old Lady**

‘Tis strange: a threepence bow’d would hire me,  
Old as I am, to queen it. But, I pray you,  
What think you of a duchess? Have you limbs  
To bear that load of title?

**Anne**

No, in truth.

**Old Lady**

Then you are weakly made. Pluck off a little;  
I would not be a young count in your way  
For more than blushing comes to. If your back  
Cannot vouchsafe this burden, ‘tis too weak  
Ever to get a boy.

**Anne**

How you do talk!  
I swear again I would not be a queen

For all the world.

### **Old Lady**

In faith, for little England  
You'd venture an emballing. I myself  
Would for Carnarvonshire, although there long'd  
No more to th' crown but that. Lo, who comes here?

### ***Enter the LORD CHAMBERLAIN***

### **Chamberlain**

Good morrow, ladies. What were't worth to know  
The secret of your conference?

### **Anne**

My good lord,  
Not your demand; it values not your asking.  
Our mistress' sorrows we were pitying.

### **Chamberlain**

It was a gentle business and becoming  
The action of good women; there is hope  
All will be well.

### **Anne**

Now, I pray God, amen!

### **Chamberlain**

You bear a gentle mind, and heav'nly blessings  
Follow such creatures. That you may, fair lady,

Perceive I speak sincerely and high notes  
Ta'en of your many virtues, the King's Majesty  
Commends his good opinion of you to you, and  
Does purpose honour to you no less flowing  
Than Marchioness of Pembroke; to which tide  
A thousand pound a year, annual support,  
Out of his grace he adds.

### Anne

I do not know  
What kind of my obedience I should tender;  
More than my all is nothing, nor my prayers  
Are not words duly hallowed, nor my wishes  
More worth than empty vanities; yet prayers and wishes  
Are all I can return. Beseech your Lordship,  
Vouchsafe to speak my thanks and my obedience,  
As from a blushing handmaid, to his Highness;  
Whose health and royalty I pray for.

### Chamberlain

Lady,  
I shall not fail t' approve the fair conceit  
The King hath of you. *[Aside]* I have perus'd her well:  
Beauty and honour in her are so mingled  
That they have caught the King; and who knows yet  
But from this lady may proceed a gem  
To lighten all this isle?—I'll to the King  
And say I spoke with you.

**Anne**

My honour'd lord!

*Exit LORD CHAMBERLAIN*

**Old Lady**

Why, this it is: see, see!  
I have been begging sixteen years in court—  
Am yet a courtier beggarly-nor could  
Come pat betwixt too early and too late  
For any suit of pounds; and you, O fate!  
A very fresh-fish here-fie, fie, fie upon  
This compell'd fortune!-have your mouth fill'd up  
Before you open it.

**Anne**

This is strange to me.

**Old Lady**

How tastes it? Is it bitter? Forty pence, no.  
There was a lady once-'tis an old story—  
That would not be a queen, that would she not,  
For all the mud in Egypt. Have you heard it?

**Anne**

Come, you are pleasant.

**Old Lady**

With your theme I could  
O'ermount the lark. The Marchioness of Pembroke!

A thousand pounds a year for pure respect!  
No other obligation! By my life,  
That promises moe thousands: honour's train  
Is longer than his foreskirt. By this time  
I know your back will bear a duchess. Say,  
Are you not stronger than you were?

**Anne**

Good lady,  
Make yourself mirth with your particular fancy,  
And leave me out on't. Would I had no being,  
If this salute my blood a jot; it faints me  
To think what follows.  
The Queen is comfortless, and we forgetful  
In our long absence. Pray, do not deliver  
What here y' have heard to her.

**Old Lady**

What do you think me?

*Exeunt*

## Scene 4.

### *London. A hall in Blackfriars*

*Trumpets, sennet, and cornets. Enter two VERGERS, with short silver wands; next them, two SCRIBES, in the habit of doctors; after them, the ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY alone; after him, the BISHOPS OF LINCOLN, ELY, ROHESTER, and SAINT ASAPH; next them, with some small distance, follows a GENTLEMAN bearing the purse, with the great seal, and a Cardinal's hat; then two PRIESTS, bearing each silver cross; then a GENTLEMAN USHER bareheaded, accompanied with a SERGEANT-AT-ARMS bearing a silver mace; then two GENTLEMEN bearing two great silver pillars; after them, side by side, the two CARDINALS, WOLSEY and CAMPEIUS; two NOBLEMEN with the sword and mace. Then enter the KING and QUEEN and their trains. The KING takes place under the cloth of state; the two CARDINALS sit under him as judges. The QUEEN takes place some distance from the KING. The BISHOPS place themselves on each side of the court, in manner of consistory; below them the SCRIBES. The LORDS sit next the BISHOPS. The rest of the ATTENDANTS stand in convenient order about the stage*

### **Wolsey**

Whilst our commission from Rome is read,  
Let silence be commanded.

**King**

What's the need?  
It hath already publicly been read,  
And on all sides th' authority allow'd;  
You may then spare that time.

**Wolsey**

Be't so; proceed.

**Scribe**

Say 'Henry King of England, come into the court.'

**Crier**

Henry King of England, &c.

**King**

Here.

**Scribe**

Say 'Katharine Queen of England, come into the court.'

**Crier**

Katharine Queen of England, &c.

*The QUEEN makes no answer, rises out of  
her chair, goes about the court, comes to the  
KING, and kneels at his feet; then speaks*

**Queen Katharine**

Sir, I desire you do me right and justice,

And to bestow your pity on me; for  
I am a most poor woman and a stranger,  
Born out of your dominions, having here  
No judge indifferent, nor no more assurance  
Of equal friendship and proceeding. Alas, sir,  
In what have I offended you? What cause  
Hath my behaviour given to your displeasure  
That thus you should proceed to put me of  
And take your good grace from me? Heaven witness,  
I have been to you a true and humble wife,  
At all times to your will conformable,  
Ever in fear to kindle your dislike,  
Yea, subject to your countenance-glad or sorry  
As I saw it inclin'd. When was the hour  
I ever contradicted your desire  
Or made it not mine too? Or which of your friends  
Have I not strove to love, although I knew  
He were mine enemy? What friend of mine  
That had to him deriv'd your anger did  
Continue in my liking? Nay, gave notice  
He was from thence discharg'd? Sir, call to mind  
That I have been your wife in this obedience  
Upward of twenty years, and have been blest  
With many children by you. If, in the course  
And process of this time, you can report,  
And prove it too against mine honour, aught,  
My bond to wedlock or my love and duty,  
Against your sacred person, in God's name,  
Turn me away and let the foul'st contempt  
Shut door upon me, and so give me up



To the sharp'st kind of justice. Please you, sir,  
The King, your father, was reputed for  
A prince most prudent, of an excellent  
And unmatched wit and judgment; Ferdinand,  
My father, King of Spain, was reckon'd one  
The wisest prince that there had reign'd by many  
A year before. It is not to be question'd  
That they had gather'd a wise council to them  
Of every realm, that did debate this business,  
Who deem'd our marriage lawful. Wherefore I humbly  
Beseech you, sir, to spare me till I may  
Be by my friends in Spain advis'd, whose counsel  
I will implore. If not, i' th' name of God,  
Your pleasure be fulfill'd!

### **Wolsey**

You have here, lady,  
And of your choice, these reverend fathers-men  
Of singular integrity and learning,  
Yea, the elect o' th' land, who are assembled  
To plead your cause. It shall be therefore bootless  
That longer you desire the court, as well  
For your own quiet as to rectify  
What is unsettled in the King.

### **Campeius**

His Grace  
Hath spoken well and justly; therefore, madam,  
It's fit this royal session do proceed  
And that, without delay, their arguments

Be now produc'd and heard.

**Queen Katharine**

Lord Cardinal,  
To you I speak.

**Wolsey**

Your pleasure, madam?

**Queen Katharine**

Sir,  
I am about to weep; but, thinking that  
We are a queen, or long have dream'd so, certain  
The daughter of a king, my drops of tears  
I'll turn to sparks of fire.

**Wolsey**

Be patient yet.

**Queen Katharine**

I Will, when you are humble; nay, before  
Or God will punish me. I do believe,  
Induc'd by potent circumstances, that  
You are mine enemy, and make my challenge  
You shall not be my judge; for it is you  
Have blown this coal betwixt my lord and me—  
Which God's dew quench! Therefore I say again,  
I utterly abhor, yea, from my soul  
Refuse you for my judge, whom yet once more  
I hold my most malicious foe and think not

At all a friend to truth.

## Wolsey

I do profess  
You speak not like yourself, who ever yet  
Have stood to charity and display'd th' effects  
Of disposition gentle and of wisdom  
O'ertopping woman's pow'r. Madam, you do me wrong:  
I have no spleen against you, nor injustice  
For you or any; how far I have proceeded,  
Or how far further shall, is warranted  
By a commission from the Consistory,  
Yea, the whole Consistory of Rome. You charge me  
That I have blown this coal: I do deny it.  
The King is present; if it be known to him  
That I gainsay my deed, how may he wound,  
And worthily, my falsehood! Yea, as much  
As you have done my truth. If he know  
That I am free of your report, he knows  
I am not of your wrong. Therefore in him  
It lies to cure me, and the cure is to  
Remove these thoughts from you; the which before  
His Highness shall speak in, I do beseech  
You, gracious madam, to unthink your speaking  
And to say so no more.

## Queen Katharine

My lord, my lord,  
I am a simple woman, much too weak  
T' oppose your cunning. Y'are meek and humble-mouth'd;

You sign your place and calling, in full seeming,  
With meekness and humility; but your heart  
Is cramm'd with arrogancy, spleen, and pride.  
You have, by fortune and his Highness' favours,  
Gone slightly o'er low steps, and now are mounted  
Where pow'rs are your retainers, and your words,  
Domestics to you, serve your will as't please  
Yourself pronounce their office. I must tell you  
You tender more your person's honour than  
Your high profession spiritual; that again  
I do refuse you for my judge and here,  
Before you all, appeal unto the Pope,  
To bring my whole cause 'fore his Holiness  
And to be judg'd by him. [*She curtsies to the KING, and offers  
to depart*]

### Campeius

The Queen is obstinate,  
Stubborn to justice, apt to accuse it, and  
Disdainful to be tried by't; 'tis not well.  
She's going away.

### King

Call her again.

### Crier

Katharine Queen of England, come into the court.

### Gentleman Usher

Madam, you are call'd back.

## Queen Katharine

What need you note it? Pray you keep your way;  
When you are call'd, return. Now the Lord help!  
They vex me past my patience. Pray you pass on.  
I will not tarry; no, nor ever more  
Upon this business my appearance make  
In any of their courts.

## *Exeunt QUEEN and her ATTENDANTS*

## King

Go thy ways, Kate.  
That man i' th' world who shall report he has  
A better wife, let him in nought be trusted  
For speaking false in that. Thou art, alone—  
If thy rare qualities, sweet gentleness,  
Thy meekness Saint-like, wife-like government,  
Obeying in commanding, and thy parts  
Sovereign and pious else, could speak thee out—  
The queen of earthly queens. She's noble born;  
And like her true nobility she has  
Carried herself towards me.

## Wolsey

Most gracious sir,  
In humblest manner I require your Highness  
That it shall please you to declare in hearing  
Of all these ears-for where I am robb'd and bound,  
There must I be unloos'd, although not there  
At once and fully satisfied-whether ever I

Did broach this business to your Highness, or  
Laid any scruple in your way which might  
Induce you to the question on't, or ever  
Have to you, but with thanks to God for such  
A royal lady, spake one the least word that might  
Be to the prejudice of her present state,  
Or touch of her good person?

### King

My Lord Cardinal,  
I do excuse you; yea, upon mine honour,  
I free you from't. You are not to be taught  
That you have many enemies that know not  
Why they are so, but, like to village curs,  
Bark when their fellows do. By some of these  
The Queen is put in anger. Y'are excus'd.  
But will you be more justified? You ever  
Have wish'd the sleeping of this business; never desir'd  
It to be stirr'd; but oft have hind'red, oft,  
The passages made toward it. On my honour,  
I speak my good Lord Cardinal to this point,  
And thus far clear him. Now, what mov'd me to't,  
I will be bold with time and your attention.  
Then mark th' inducement. Thus it came-give heed to't:  
My conscience first receiv'd a tenderness,  
Scruple, and prick, on certain speeches utter'd  
By th' Bishop of Bayonne, then French ambassador,  
Who had been hither sent on the debating  
A marriage 'twixt the Duke of Orleans and  
Our daughter Mary. I' th' progress of this business,

Ere a determinate resolution, he—  
I mean the Bishop-did require a respite  
Wherein he might the King his lord advertise  
Whether our daughter were legitimate,  
Respecting this our marriage with the dowager,  
Sometimes our brother's wife. This respite shook  
The bosom of my conscience, enter'd me,  
Yea, with a splitting power, and made to tremble  
The region of my breast, which forc'd such way  
That many maz'd considerings did throng  
And press'd in with this caution. First, methought  
I stood not in the smile of heaven, who had  
Commanded nature that my lady's womb,  
If it conceiv'd a male child by me, should  
Do no more offices of life to't than  
The grave does to the dead; for her male issue  
Or died where they were made, or shortly after  
This world had air'd them. Hence I took a thought  
This was a judgment on me, that my kingdom,  
Well worthy the best heir o' th' world, should not  
Be gladdened in't by me. Then follows that  
I weigh'd the danger which my realms stood in  
By this my issue's fail, and that gave to me  
Many a groaning throe. Thus hulling in  
The wild sea of my conscience, I did steer  
Toward this remedy, whereupon we are  
Now present here together; that's to say  
I meant to rectify my conscience, which  
I then did feel full sick, and yet not well,  
By all the reverend fathers of the land

And doctors learn'd. First, I began in private  
With you, my Lord of Lincoln; you remember  
How under my oppression I did reek,  
When I first mov'd you.

**Lincoln**

Very well, my liege.

**King**

I have spoke long; be pleas'd yourself to say  
How far you satisfied me.

**Lincoln**

So please your Highness,  
The question did at first so stagger me—  
Bearing a state of mighty moment in't  
And consequence of dread—that I committed  
The daring'st counsel which I had to doubt,  
And did entreat your Highness to this course  
Which you are running here.

**King**

I then mov'd you,  
My Lord of Canterbury, and got your leave  
To make this present summons. Unsolicited  
I left no reverend person in this court,  
But by particular consent proceeded  
Under your hands and seals; therefore, go on,  
For no dislike i' th' world against the person  
Of the good Queen, but the sharp thorny points



Of my alleged reasons, drives this forward.  
Prove but our marriage lawful, by my life  
And kingly dignity, we are contented  
To wear our moral state to come with her,  
Katharine our queen, before the primest creature  
That's paragon'd o' th' world.

### Campeius

So please your Highness,  
The Queen being absent, 'tis a needful fitness  
That we adjourn this court till further day;  
Meanwhile must be an earnest motion  
Made to the Queen to call back her appeal  
She intends unto his Holiness.

### King

*[Aside]* I may perceive  
These cardinals trifle with me. I abhor  
This dilatory sloth and tricks of Rome.  
My learn'd and well-beloved servant, Cranmer,  
Prithee return. With thy approach I know  
My comfort comes along. -Break up the court;  
I say, set on.

*Exuent in manner as they entered*



# Act III.

## Scene 1.

*London. The Queen's apartments*

*Enter the QUEEN and her women, as at work*

### Queen Katharine

Take thy lute, wench. My soul grows sad with troubles;  
Sing and disperse 'em, if thou canst. Leave working.

### Song

*Orpheus with his lute made trees,  
And the mountain tops that freeze,  
Bow themselves when he did sing;  
To his music plants and flowers  
Ever sprung, as sun and showers  
There had made a lasting spring.  
Every thing that heard him play,  
Even the billows of the sea,  
Hung their heads and then lay by.  
In sweet music is such art,  
Killing care and grief of heart  
Fall asleep or hearing die.*

*Enter a GENTLEMAN*

**Queen Katharine**

How now?

**Gentleman**

An't please your Grace, the two great Cardinals  
Wait in the presence.

**Queen Katharine**

Would they speak with me?

**Gentleman**

They will'd me say so, madam.

**Queen Katharine**

Pray their Graces

To come near. *[Exit GENTLEMAN]* What can be their  
business

With me, a poor weak woman, fall'n from favour?

I do not like their coming. Now I think on't,

They should be good men, their affairs as righteous;

But all hoods make not monks.

*Enter the two CARDINALS, WOLSEY and CAMPEIUS*

**Wolsey**

Peace to your Highness!

**Queen Katharine**

Your Graces find me here part of housewife;

I would be all, against the worst may happen.

What are your pleasures with me, reverend Lords?

### Wolsey

May it please you, noble madam, to withdraw  
Into your private chamber, we shall give you  
The full cause of our coming.

### Queen Katharine

Speak it here;  
There's nothing I have done yet, o' my conscience,  
Deserves a corner. Would all other women  
Could speak this with as free a soul as I do!  
My Lords, I care not-so much I am happy  
Above a number-if my actions  
Were tried by ev'ry tongue, ev'ry eye saw 'em,  
Envy and base opinion set against 'em,  
I know my life so even. If your business  
Seek me out, and that way I am wife in,  
Out with it boldly; truth loves open dealing.

### Wolsey

Tanta est erga te mentis integritas, regina serenissima—

### Queen Katharine

O, good my lord, no Latin!  
I am not such a truant since my coming,  
As not to know the language I have liv'd in;  
A strange tongue makes my cause more strange, suspicious;  
Pray speak in English. Here are some will thank you,  
If you speak truth, for their poor mistress' sake:

Believe me, she has had much wrong. Lord Cardinal,  
The willing'st sin I ever yet committed  
May be absolv'd in English.

### Wolsey

Noble lady,  
I am sorry my integrity should breed,  
And service to his Majesty and you,  
So deep suspicion, where all faith was meant  
We come not by the way of accusation  
To taint that honour every good tongue blesses,  
Nor to betray you any way to sorrow—  
You have too much, good lady; but to know  
How you stand minded in the weighty difference  
Between the King and you, and to deliver,  
Like free and honest men, our just opinions  
And comforts to your cause.

### Campeius

Most honour'd madam,  
My Lord of York, out of his noble nature,  
Zeal and obedience he still bore your Grace,  
Forgetting, like a good man, your late censure  
Both of his truth and him—which was too far—  
Offers, as I do, in a sign of peace,  
His service and his counsel.

### Queen Katharine

*[Aside]* To betray me.—  
My Lords, I thank you both for your good wins;

Ye speak like honest men-pray God ye prove so!  
But how to make ye suddenly an answer,  
In such a point of weight, so near mine honour,  
More near my life, I fear, with my weak wit,  
And to such men of gravity and learning,  
In truth I know not. I was set at work  
Among my maids, full little, God knows, looking  
Either for such men or such business.  
For her sake that I have been-for I feel  
The last fit of my greatness-good your Graces,  
Let me have time and counsel for my cause.  
Alas, I am a woman, friendless, hopeless!

### **Wolsey**

Madam, you wrong the King's love with these fears;  
Your hopes and friends are infinite.

### **Queen Katharine**

In England  
But little for my profit; can you think, Lords,  
That any Englishman dare give me counsel?  
Or be a known friend, 'gainst his Highness' pleasure—  
Though he be grown so desperate to be honest—  
And live a subject? Nay, forsooth, my friends,  
They that must weigh out my afflictions,  
They that my trust must grow to, live not here;  
They are, as all my other comforts, far hence,  
In mine own country, Lords.

**Campeius**

I would your Grace  
Would leave your griefs, and take my counsel.

**Queen Katharine**

How, sir?

**Campeius**

Put your main cause into the King's protection;  
He's loving and most gracious. 'Twill be much  
Both for your honour better and your cause;  
For if the trial of the law o'ertake ye  
You'll part away disgrac'd.

**Wolsey**

He tells you rightly.

**Queen Katharine**

Ye tell me what ye wish for both-my ruin.  
Is this your Christian counsel? Out upon ye!  
Heaven is above all yet: there sits a Judge  
That no king can corrupt.

**Campeius**

Your rage mistakes us.

**Queen Katharine**

The more shame for ye; holy men I thought ye,  
Upon my soul, two reverend cardinal virtues;  
But cardinal sins and hollow hearts I fear ye.



Mend 'em, for shame, my Lords. Is this your comfort?  
The cordial that ye bring a wretched lady—  
A woman lost among ye, laugh'd at, scorn'd?  
I will not wish ye half my miseries:  
I have more charity; but say I warned ye.  
Take heed, for heaven's sake take heed, lest at once  
The burden of my sorrows fall upon ye.

### Wolsey

Madam, this is a mere distraction;  
You turn the good we offer into envy.

### Queen Katharine

Ye turn me into nothing. Woe upon ye,  
And all such false professors! Would you have me—  
If you have any justice, any pity,  
If ye be any thing but churchmen's habits—  
Put my sick cause into his hands that hates me?  
Alas! has banish'd me his bed already,  
His love too long ago! I am old, my Lords,  
And all the fellowship I hold now with him  
Is only my obedience. What can happen  
To me above this wretchedness? All your studies  
Make me a curse like this.

### Campeius

Your fears are worse.

### Queen Katharine

Have I liv'd thus long-let me speak myself,

Since virtue finds no friends-a wife, a true one?  
A woman, I dare say without vain-glory,  
Never yet branded with suspicion?  
Have I with all my full affections  
Still met the King, lov'd him next heav'n, obey'd him,  
Been, out of fondness, superstitious to him,  
Almost forgot my prayers to content him,  
And am I thus rewarded? 'Tis not well, Lords.  
Bring me a constant woman to her husband,  
One that ne'er dream'd a joy beyond his pleasure,  
And to that woman, when she has done most,  
Yet will I add an honour-a great patience.

### Wolsey

Madam, you wander from the good we aim at.

### Queen Katharine

My lord, I dare not make myself so guilty,  
To give up willingly that noble title  
Your master wed me to: nothing but death  
Shall e'er divorce my dignities.

### Wolsey

Pray hear me.

### Queen Katharine

Would I had never trod this English earth,  
Or felt the flatteries that grow upon it!  
Ye have angels' faces, but heaven knows your hearts.  
What will become of me now, wretched lady?

I am the most unhappy woman living.

[To her **WOMEN**] Alas, poor wenches, where are now your fortunes?

Shipwreck'd upon a kingdom, where no pity,  
No friends, no hope; no kindred weep for me;  
Almost no grave allow'd me. Like the My,  
That once was mistress of the field, and flourish'd,  
I'll hang my head and perish.

### Wolsey

If your Grace  
Could but be brought to know our ends are honest,  
You'd feel more comfort. Why should we, good lady,  
Upon what cause, wrong you? Alas, our places,  
The way of our profession is against it;  
We are to cure such sorrows, not to sow 'em.  
For goodness' sake, consider what you do;  
How you may hurt yourself, ay, utterly  
Grow from the King's acquaintance, by this carriage.  
The hearts of princes kiss obedience,  
So much they love it; but to stubborn spirits  
They swell and grow as terrible as storms.  
I know you have a gentle, noble temper,  
A soul as even as a calm. Pray think us  
Those we profess, peace-makers, friends, and servants.

### Campeius

Madam, you'll find it so. You wrong your virtues  
With these weak women's fears. A noble spirit,  
As yours was put into you, ever casts

Such doubts as false coin from it. The King loves you;  
Beware you lose it not. For us, if you please  
To trust us in your business, we are ready  
To use our utmost studies in your service.

### **Queen Katharine**

Do what ye will my Lords; and pray forgive me  
If I have us'd myself unmannerly;  
You know I am a woman, lacking wit  
To make a seemly answer to such persons.  
Pray do my service to his Majesty;  
He has my heart yet, and shall have my prayers  
While I shall have my life. Come, reverend fathers,  
Bestow your counsels on me; she now begs  
That little thought, when she set footing here,  
She should have bought her dignities so dear.

*Exeunt*

## Scene 2.

### *London. The palace*

*Enter the DUKE OF NORFOLK, the DUKE  
OF SUFFOLK, the EARL OF SURREY,  
and the LORD CHAMBERLAIN*

#### **Norfolk**

If you will now unite in your complaints  
And force them with a constancy, the Cardinal  
Cannot stand under them: if you omit  
The offer of this time, I cannot promise  
But that you shall sustain more new disgraces  
With these you bear already.

#### **Surrey**

I am joyful  
To meet the least occasion that may give me  
Remembrance of my father-in-law, the Duke,  
To be reveng'd on him.

#### **Suffolk**

Which of the peers  
Have uncondemned gone by him, or at least  
Strangely neglected? When did he regard  
The stamp of nobleness in any person  
Out of himself?

### Chamberlain

My Lords, you speak your pleasures.  
What he deserves of you and me I know;  
What we can do to him-though now the time  
Gives way to us-I much fear. If you cannot  
Bar his access to th' King, never attempt  
Anything on him; for he hath a witchcraft  
Over the King in's tongue.

### Norfolk

O, fear him not!  
His spell in that is out; the King hath found  
Matter against him that for ever mars  
The honey of his language. No, he's settled,  
Not to come off, in his displeasure.

### Surrey

Sir,  
I should be glad to hear such news as this  
Once every hour.

### Norfolk

Believe it, this is true:  
In the divorce his contrary proceedings  
Are all unfolded; wherein he appears  
As I would wish mine enemy.

### Surrey

How came  
His practices to light?

**Suffolk**

Most Strangely.

**Surrey**

O, how, how?

**Suffolk**

The Cardinal's letters to the Pope miscarried,  
And came to th' eye o' th' King; wherein was read  
How that the Cardinal did entreat his Holiness  
To stay the judgment o' th' divorce; for if  
It did take place, 'I do' quoth he 'perceive  
My king is tangled in affection to  
A creature of the Queen's, Lady Anne Bullen.'

**Surrey**

Has the King this?

**Suffolk**

Believe it.

**Surrey**

Will this work?

**Chamberlain**

The King in this perceives him how he coasts  
And hedges his own way. But in this point  
All his tricks founder, and he brings his physic  
After his patient's death: the King already  
Hath married the fair lady.

**Surrey**

Would he had!

**Suffolk**

May you be happy in your wish, my lord!  
For, I profess, you have it.

**Surrey**

Now, all my joy  
Trace the conjunction!

**Suffolk**

My amen to't!

**Norfolk**

An men's!

**Suffolk**

There's order given for her coronation;  
Marry, this is yet but young, and may be left  
To some ears unrecounted. But, my Lords,  
She is a gallant creature, and complete  
In mind and feature. I persuade me from her  
Will fall some blessing to this land, which shall  
In it be memoriz'd.

**Surrey**

But will the King  
Digest this letter of the Cardinal's?  
The Lord forbid!



**Norfolk**

Marry, amen!

**Suffolk**

No, no;  
There be moe wasps that buzz about his nose  
Will make this sting the sooner. Cardinal Campeius  
Is stol'n away to Rome; hath ta'en no leave;  
Has left the cause o' th' King unhandled, and  
Is posted, as the agent of our Cardinal,  
To second all his plot. I do assure you  
The King cried 'Ha!' at this.

**Chamberlain**

Now, God incense him,  
And let him cry 'Ha!' louder!

**Norfolk**

But, my lord,  
When returns Cranmer?

**Suffolk**

He is return'd in his opinions; which  
Have satisfied the King for his divorce,  
Together with all famous colleges  
Almost in Christendom. Shortly, I believe,  
His second marriage shall be publish'd, and  
Her coronation. Katharine no more  
Shall be call'd queen, but princess dowager  
And widow to Prince Arthur.

*Henry VIII*

**Norfolk**

This same Cranmer's  
A worthy fellow, and hath ta'en much pain  
In the King's business.

**Suffolk**

He has; and we shall see him  
For it an archbishop.

**Norfolk**

So I hear.

**Suffolk**

'Tis so.

*Enter WOLSEY and CROMWELL THE CARDINAL!*

**Norfolk**

Observe, observe, he's moody.

**Wolsey**

The packet, Cromwell,  
Gave't you the King?

**Cromwell**

To his own hand, in's bedchamber.

**Wolsey**

Look'd he o' th' inside of the paper?

**Cromwell**

Presently  
He did unseal them; and the first he view'd,  
He did it with a serious mind; a heed  
Was in his countenance. You he bade  
Attend him here this morning.

**Wolsey**

Is he ready  
To come abroad?

**Cromwell**

I think by this he is.

**Wolsey**

Leave me awhile.

*Exit CROMWELL*

*[Aside]* It shall be to the Duchess of Alencon,  
The French King's sister; he shall marry her.  
Anne Bullen! No, I'll no Anne Bullens for him;  
There's more in't than fair visage. Bullen!  
No, we'll no Bullens. Speedily I wish  
To hear from Rome. The Marchioness of Pembroke!

**Norfolk**

He's discontented.

## Suffolk

May be he hears the King  
Does whet his anger to him.

## Surrey

Sharp enough,  
Lord, for thy justice!

## Wolsey

*[Aside]* The late Queen's gentlewoman, a knight's daughter,  
To be her mistress' mistress! The Queen's queen!  
This candle burns not clear. 'Tis I must snuff it;  
Then out it goes. What though I know her virtuous  
And well deserving? Yet I know her for  
A spleeny Lutheran; and not wholesome to  
Our cause that she should lie i' th' bosom of  
Our hard-rul'd King. Again, there is sprung up  
An heretic, an arch one, Cranmer; one  
Hath crawl'd into the favour of the King,  
And is his oracle.

## Norfolk

He is vex'd at something.

*Enter the KING, reading of a schedule, and LOVELL*

## Surrey

I would 'twere something that would fret the string,  
The master-cord on's heart!

**Suffolk**

The King, the King!

**King**

What piles of wealth hath he accumulated  
To his own portion! And what expense by th' hour  
Seems to flow from him! How, i' th' name of thrift,  
Does he rake this together?-Now, my Lords,  
Saw you the Cardinal?

**Norfolk**

My lord, we have  
Stood here observing him. Some strange commotion  
Is in his brain: he bites his lip and starts,  
Stops on a sudden, looks upon the ground,  
Then lays his finger on his temple; straight  
Springs out into fast gait; then stops again,  
Strikes his breast hard; and anon he casts  
His eye against the moon. In most strange postures  
We have seen him set himself.

**King**

It may well be  
There is a mutiny in's mind. This morning  
Papers of state he sent me to peruse,  
As I requir'd; and wot you what I found  
There-on my conscience, put unwittingly?  
Forsooth, an inventory, thus importing  
The several parcels of his plate, his treasure,  
Rich stuffs, and ornaments of household; which

I find at such proud rate that it outspeaks  
Possession of a subject.

## Norfolk

It's heaven's will;  
Some spirit put this paper in the packet  
To bless your eye withal.

## King

If we did think  
His contemplation were above the earth  
And fix'd on spiritual object, he should still dwell in his  
musings; but I am afraid  
His thinkings are below the moon, not worth  
His serious considering. [*The KING takes his seat and  
whispers LOVELL, who goes to the CARDINAL*]

## Wolsey

Heaven forgive me!  
Ever God bless your Highness!

## King

Good, my lord,  
You are full of heavenly stuff, and bear the inventory  
Of your best graces in your mind; the which  
You were now running o'er. You have scarce time  
To steal from spiritual leisure a brief span  
To keep your earthly audit; sure, in that  
I deem you an ill husband, and am glad  
To have you therein my companion.

**Wolsey**

Sir,  
For holy offices I have a time; a time  
To think upon the part of business which  
I bear i' th' state; and nature does require  
Her times of preservation, which perforce  
I, her frail son, amongst my brethren mortal,  
Must give my tendance to.

**King**

You have said well.

**Wolsey**

And ever may your Highness yoke together,  
As I will lend you cause, my doing well  
With my well saying!

**King**

'Tis well said again;  
And 'tis a kind of good deed to say well;  
And yet words are no deeds. My father lov'd you:  
He said he did; and with his deed did crown  
His word upon you. Since I had my office  
I have kept you next my heart; have not alone  
Employ'd you where high profits might come home,  
But par'd my present havings to bestow  
My bounties upon you.

**Wolsey**

*[Aside]* What should this mean?

## Surrey

*[Aside]* The Lord increase this business!

## King

Have I not made you  
The prime man of the state? I pray you tell me  
If what I now pronounce you have found true;  
And, if you may confess it, say withal  
If you are bound to us or no. What say you?

## Wolsey

My sovereign, I confess your royal graces,  
Show'r'd on me daily, have been more than could  
My studied purposes requite; which went  
Beyond all man's endeavours. My endeavours,  
Have ever come too short of my desires,  
Yet fil'd with my abilities; mine own ends  
Have been mine so that evermore they pointed  
To th' good of your most sacred person and  
The profit of the state. For your great graces  
Heap'd upon me, poor undeserver, I  
Can nothing render but allegiant thanks;  
My pray'rs to heaven for you; my loyalty,  
Which ever has and ever shall be growing,  
Till death, that winter, kill it.

## King

Fairly answer'd!  
A loyal and obedient subject is  
Therein illustrated; the honour of it



Does pay the act of it, as, i' th' contrary,  
The foulness is the punishment. I presume  
That, as my hand has open'd bounty to you,  
My heart dropp'd love, my pow'r rain'd honour, more  
On you than any, so your hand and heart,  
Your brain, and every function of your power,  
Should, notwithstanding that your bond of duty,  
As 'twere in love's particular, be more  
To me, your friend, than any.

### Wolsey

I do profess  
That for your Highness' good I ever labour'd  
More than mine own; that am, have, and will be—  
Though all the world should crack their duty to you,  
And throw it from their soul; though perils did  
Abound as thick as thought could make 'em, and  
Appear in forms more horrid-yet my duty,  
As doth a rock against the chiding flood,  
Should the approach of this wild river break,  
And stand unshaken yours.

### King

'Tis nobly spoken.  
Take notice, Lords, he has a loyal breast,  
For you have seen him open 't. Read o'er this; [*Giving him  
papers*]  
And after, this; and then to breakfast with

What appetite you have.

*Exit the KING, frowning upon the CARDINAL; the  
NOBLES throng after him, smiling and whispering*

### Wolsey

What should this mean?  
What sudden anger's this? How have I reap'd it?  
He parted frowning from me, as if ruin  
Leap'd from his eyes; so looks the chafed lion  
Upon the daring huntsman that has gall'd him—  
Then makes him nothing. I must read this paper;  
I fear, the story of his anger. 'Tis so;  
This paper has undone me. 'Tis th' account  
Of all that world of wealth I have drawn together  
For mine own ends; indeed to gain the popedom,  
And fee my friends in Rome. O negligence,  
Fit for a fool to fall by! What cross devil  
Made me put this main secret in the packet  
I sent the King? Is there no way to cure this?  
No new device to beat this from his brains?  
I know 'twill stir him strongly; yet I know  
A way, if it take right, in spite of fortune,  
Will bring me off again. What's this? 'To th' Pope.'  
The letter, as I live, with all the business  
I writ to's Holiness. Nay then, farewell!  
I have touch'd the highest point of all my greatness,  
And from that full meridian of my glory  
I haste now to my setting. I shall fall  
Like a bright exhalation in the evening,

And no man see me more.

*Re-enter to WOLSEY the DUKES OF NORFOLK  
and SUFFOLK, the EARL OF SURREY,  
and the LORD CHAMBERLAIN*

### Norfolk

Hear the King's pleasure, Cardinal, who commands you  
To render up the great seal presently  
Into our hands, and to confine yourself  
To Asher House, my Lord of Winchester's,  
Till you hear further from his Highness.

### Wolsey

Stay:  
Where's your commission, Lords? Words cannot carry  
Authority so weighty.

### Suffolk

Who dares cross 'em,  
Bearing the King's will from his mouth expressly?

### Wolsey

Till I find more than will or words to do it—  
I mean your malice-know, officious Lords,  
I dare and must deny it. Now I feel  
Of what coarse metal ye are moulded-envy;  
How eagerly ye follow my disgraces,  
As if it fed ye; and how sleek and wanton  
Ye appear in every thing may bring my ruin!

Follow your envious courses, men of malice;  
You have Christian warrant for 'em, and no doubt  
In time will find their fit rewards. That seal  
You ask with such a violence, the King—  
Mine and your master-with his own hand gave me;  
Bade me enjoy it, with the place and honours,  
During my life; and, to confirm his goodness,  
Tied it by letters-patents. Now, who'll take it?

### Surrey

The King, that gave it.

### Wolsey

It must be himself then.

### Surrey

Thou art a proud traitor, priest.

### Wolsey

Proud lord, thou liest.  
Within these forty hours Surrey durst better  
Have burnt that tongue than said so.

### Surrey

Thy ambition,  
Thou scarlet sin, robb'd this bewailing land  
Of noble Buckingham, my father-in-law.  
The heads of all thy brother cardinals,  
With thee and all thy best parts bound together,  
Weigh'd not a hair of his. Plague of your policy!

You sent me deputy for Ireland;  
Far from his succour, from the King, from all  
That might have mercy on the fault thou gav'st him;  
Whilst your great goodness, out of holy pity,  
Absolv'd him with an axe.

### **Wolsey**

This, and all else  
This talking lord can lay upon my credit,  
I answer is most false. The Duke by law  
Found his deserts; how innocent I was  
From any private malice in his end,  
His noble jury and foul cause can witness.  
If I lov'd many words, lord, I should tell you  
You have as little honesty as honour,  
That in the way of loyalty and truth  
Toward the King, my ever royal master,  
Dare mate a sounder man than Surrey can be  
And an that love his follies.

### **Surrey**

By my soul,  
Your long coat, priest, protects you; thou shouldst feel  
My sword i' the life-blood of thee else. My Lords  
Can ye endure to hear this arrogance?  
And from this fellow? If we live thus tamely,  
To be thus jaded by a piece of scarlet,  
Farewell nobility! Let his Grace go forward  
And dare us with his cap like larks.

## Wolsey

All goodness  
Is poison to thy stomach.

## Surrey

Yes, that goodness  
Of gleaning all the land's wealth into one,  
Into your own hands, Cardinal, by extortion;  
The goodness of your intercepted packets  
You writ to th' Pope against the King; your goodness,  
Since you provoke me, shall be most notorious.  
My Lord of Norfolk, as you are truly noble,  
As you respect the common good, the state  
Of our despis'd nobility, our issues,  
Whom, if he live, will scarce be gentlemen—  
Produce the grand sum of his sins, the articles  
Collected from his life. I'll startle you  
Worse than the sacring bell, when the brown wench  
Lay kissing in your arms, Lord Cardinal.

## Wolsey

How much, methinks, I could despise this man,  
But that I am bound in charity against it!

## Norfolk

Those articles, my lord, are in the King's hand;  
But, thus much, they are foul ones.

## Wolsey

So much fairer

And spotless shall mine innocence arise,  
When the King knows my truth.

### Surrey

This cannot save you.  
I thank my memory I yet remember  
Some of these articles; and out they shall.  
Now, if you can blush and cry guilty, Cardinal,  
You'll show a little honesty.

### Wolsey

Speak on, sir;  
I dare your worst objections. If I blush,  
It is to see a nobleman want manners.

### Surrey

I had rather want those than my head. Have at you!  
First, that without the King's assent or knowledge  
You wrought to be a legate; by which power  
You maim'd the jurisdiction of all bishops.

### Norfolk

Then, that in all you writ to Rome, or else  
To foreign princes, 'Ego et Rex meus'  
Was still inscrib'd; in which you brought the King  
To be your servant.

### Suffolk

Then, that without the knowledge  
Either of King or Council, when you went

Ambassador to the Emperor, you made bold  
To carry into Flanders the great seal.

### Surrey

Item, you sent a large commission  
To Gregory de Cassado, to conclude,  
Without the King's will or the state's allowance,  
A league between his Highness and Ferrara.

### Suffolk

That out of mere ambition you have caus'd  
Your holy hat to be stamp'd on the King's coin.

### Surrey

Then, that you have sent innumerable substance,  
By what means got I leave to your own conscience,  
To furnish Rome and to prepare the ways  
You have for dignities, to the mere undoing  
Of all the kingdom. Many more there are,  
Which, since they are of you, and odious,  
I will not taint my mouth with.

### Chamberlain

O my lord,  
Press not a falling man too far! 'Tis virtue.  
His faults lie open to the laws; let them,  
Not you, correct him. My heart weeps to see him  
So little of his great self.



## Surrey

I forgive him.

## Suffolk

Lord Cardinal, the King's further pleasure is—  
Because all those things you have done of late,  
By your power legatine within this kingdom,  
Fall into th' compass of a praemunire—  
That therefore such a writ be sued against you:  
To forfeit all your goods, lands, tenements,  
Chattels, and whatsoever, and to be  
Out of the King's protection. This is my charge.

## Norfolk

And so we'll leave you to your meditations  
How to live better. For your stubborn answer  
About the giving back the great seal to us,  
The King shall know it, and, no doubt, shall thank you.  
So fare you well, my little good Lord Cardinal.

## *Exeunt all but WOLSEY*

## Wolsey

So farewell to the little good you bear me.  
Farewell, a long farewell, to all my greatness!  
This is the state of man: to-day he puts forth  
The tender leaves of hopes; to-morrow blossoms  
And bears his blushing honours thick upon him;  
The third day comes a frost, a killing frost,  
And when he thinks, good easy man, full surely

His greatness is a-ripening, nips his root,  
And then he falls, as I do. I have ventur'd,  
Like little wanton boys that swim on bladders,  
This many summers in a sea of glory;  
But far beyond my depth. My high-blown pride  
At length broke under me, and now has left me,  
Weary and old with service, to the mercy  
Of a rude stream, that must for ever hide me.  
Vain pomp and glory of this world, I hate ye;  
I feel my heart new open'd. O, how wretched  
Is that poor man that hangs on princes' favours!  
There is betwixt that smile we would aspire to,  
That sweet aspect of princes, and their ruin  
More pangs and fears than wars or women have;  
And when he falls, he falls like Lucifer,  
Never to hope again.

*Enter CROMWELL, standing amazed*

Why, how now, Cromwell!

**Cromwell**

I have no power to speak, sir.

**Wolsey**

What, amaz'd  
At my misfortunes? Can thy spirit wonder  
A great man should decline? Nay, an you weep,  
I am fall'n indeed.

**Cromwell**

How does your Grace?

**Wolsey**

Why, well;  
Never so truly happy, my good Cromwell.  
I know myself now, and I feel within me  
A peace above all earthly dignities,  
A still and quiet conscience. The King has cur'd me,  
I humbly thank his Grace; and from these shoulders,  
These ruin'd pillars, out of pity, taken  
A load would sink a navy-too much honour.  
O, 'tis a burden, Cromwell, 'tis a burden  
Too heavy for a man that hopes for heaven!

**Cromwell**

I am glad your Grace has made that right use of it.

**Wolsey**

I hope I have. I am able now, methinks,  
Out of a fortitude of soul I feel,  
To endure more miseries and greater far  
Than my weak-hearted enemies dare offer.  
What news abroad?

**Cromwell**

The heaviest and the worst  
Is your displeasure with the King.

**Wolsey**

God bless him!

**Cromwell**

The next is that Sir Thomas More is chosen  
Lord Chancellor in your place.

**Wolsey**

That's somewhat sudden.  
But he's a learned man. May he continue  
Long in his Highness' favour, and do justice  
For truth's sake and his conscience; that his bones  
When he has run his course and sleeps in blessings,  
May have a tomb of orphans' tears wept on him!  
What more?

**Cromwell**

That Cranmer is return'd with welcome,  
Install'd Lord Archbishop of Canterbury.

**Wolsey**

That's news indeed.

**Cromwell**

Last, that the Lady Anne,  
Whom the King hath in secrecy long married,  
This day was view'd in open as his queen,  
Going to chapel; and the voice is now  
Only about her coronation.

## Wolsey

There was the weight that pull'd me down.  
O Cromwell,  
The King has gone beyond me. All my glories  
In that one woman I have lost for ever.  
No sun shall ever usher forth mine honours,  
Or gild again the noble troops that waited  
Upon my smiles. Go get thee from me, Cromwell;  
I am a poor fall'n man, unworthy now  
To be thy lord and master. Seek the King;  
That sun, I pray, may never set! I have told him  
What and how true thou art. He will advance thee;  
Some little memory of me will stir him—  
I know his noble nature-not to let  
Thy hopeful service perish too. Good Cromwell,  
Neglect him not; make use now, and provide  
For thine own future safety.

## Cromwell

O my lord,  
Must I then leave you? Must I needs forgo  
So good, so noble, and so true a master?  
Bear witness, all that have not hearts of iron,  
With what a sorrow Cromwell leaves his lord.  
The King shall have my service; but my prayers  
For ever and for ever shall be yours.

## Wolsey

Cromwell, I did not think to shed a tear  
In all my miseries; but thou hast forc'd me,

Out of thy honest truth, to play the woman.  
Let's dry our eyes; and thus far hear me, Cromwell,  
And when I am forgotten, as I shall be,  
And sleep in dull cold marble, where no mention  
Of me more must be heard of, say I taught thee—  
Say Wolsey, that once trod the ways of glory,  
And sounded all the depths and shoals of honour,  
Found thee a way, out of his wreck, to rise in—  
A sure and safe one, though thy master miss'd it.  
Mark but my fall and that that ruin'd me.  
Cromwell, I charge thee, fling away ambition:  
By that sin fell the angels. How can man then,  
The image of his Maker, hope to win by it?  
Love thyself last; cherish those hearts that hate thee;  
Corruption wins not more than honesty.  
Still in thy right hand carry gentle peace  
To silence envious tongues. Be just, and fear not;  
Let all the ends thou aim'st at be thy country's,  
Thy God's, and truth's; then, if thou fall'st, O Cromwell,  
Thou fall'st a blessed martyr!  
Serve the King, and-prithee lead me in.  
There take an inventory of all I have  
To the last penny; 'tis the King's. My robe,  
And my integrity to heaven, is all  
I dare now call mine own. O Cromwell, Cromwell!  
Had I but serv'd my God with half the zeal  
I serv'd my King, he would not in mine age  
Have left me naked to mine enemies.

**Cromwell**

Good sir, have patience.

**Wolsey**

So I have. Farewell

The hopes of court! My hopes in heaven do dwell.

*Exeunt*

*Henry VIII*



# Act IV.

## Scene 1.

*A street in Westminster*

*Enter two GENTLEMEN, meeting one another*

### First Gentleman

Y're well met once again.

### Second Gentleman

So are you.

### First Gentleman

You come to take your stand here, and behold  
The Lady Anne pass from her coronation?

### Second Gentleman

'Tis all my business. At our last encounter  
The Duke of Buckingham came from his trial.

### First Gentleman

'Tis very true. But that time offer'd sorrow;  
This, general joy.

### Second Gentleman

'Tis well. The citizens,  
I am sure, have shown at full their royal minds—

As, let 'em have their rights, they are ever forward—  
In celebration of this day with shows,  
Pageants, and sights of honour.

**First Gentleman**

Never greater,  
Nor, I'll assure you, better taken, sir.

**Second Gentleman**

May I be bold to ask what that contains,  
That paper in your hand?

**First Gentleman**

Yes; 'tis the list  
Of those that claim their offices this day,  
By custom of the coronation.  
The Duke of Suffolk is the first, and claims  
To be High Steward; next, the Duke of Norfolk,  
He to be Earl Marshal. You may read the rest.

**Second Gentleman**

I thank you, sir; had I not known those customs,  
I should have been beholding to your paper.  
But, I beseech you, what's become of Katharine,  
The Princess Dowager? How goes her business?

**First Gentleman**

That I can tell you too. The Archbishop  
Of Canterbury, accompanied with other  
Learned and reverend fathers of his order,

Held a late court at Dunstable, six miles of  
From Ampthill, where the Princess lay; to which  
She was often cited by them, but appear'd not.  
And, to be short, for not appearance and  
The King's late scruple, by the main assent  
Of all these learned men, she was divorc'd,  
And the late marriage made of none effect;  
Since which she was removed to Kimbolton,  
Where she remains now sick.

## Second Gentleman

Alas, good lady! *[Trumpets]*

*The trumpets sound. Stand close, the Queen is coming.*

*[Hautboys]*

*The order of the coronation.*

*1. A lively flourish of trumpets.*

*2. Then two JUDGES.*

*3. LORD CHANCELLOR, with  
purse and mace before him.*

*4. CHORISTERS singing. [Music]*

*5. MAYOR OF LONDON, bearing the mace.  
Then GARTER, in his coat of arms, and on  
his head he wore a gilt copper crown.*

*6. MARQUIS DORSET, bearing a sceptre of gold, on  
his head a demi-coronal of gold. With him, the EARL  
OF SURREY, bearing the rod of silver with the dove,  
crowned with an earl's coronet. Collars of Esses.*

*7. DUKE OF SUFFOLK, in his robe of estate, his coronet  
on his head, bearing a long white wand, as High Steward.*

*With him, the DUKE OF NORFOLK, with the rod of marshalship, a coronet on his head. Collars of Esses.*

*8. A canopy borne by four of the CLINQUE-PORTS; under it the QUEEN in her robe; in her hair richly adorned with pearl, crowned. On each side her, the BISHOPS OF LONDON and WINCHESTER.*

*9. The old DUCHESS OF NORFOLK, in a coronal of gold wrought with flowers, bearing the QUEEN'S train.*

*10. Certain LADIES or COUNTESESSES, with plain circlets of gold without flowers.*

*Exeunt, first passing over the stage in order and state, and then a great flourish of trumpets*

### **Second Gentleman**

A royal train, believe me. These know.  
Who's that that bears the sceptre?

### **First Gentleman**

Marquis Dorset;  
And that the Earl of Surrey, with the rod.

### **Second Gentleman**

A bold brave Gentleman. That should be  
The Duke of Suffolk?

**First Gentleman**

'Tis the same-High Steward.

**Second Gentleman**

And that my Lord of Norfolk?

**First Gentleman**

Yes.

**Second Gentleman**

*[Looking on the QUEEN]* Heaven bless thee!  
Thou hast the sweetest face I ever look'd on.  
Sir, as I have a soul, she is an angel;  
Our king has all the Indies in his arms,  
And more and richer, when he strains that lady;  
I cannot blame his conscience.

**First Gentleman**

They that bear  
The cloth of honour over her are four barons  
Of the Cinque-ports.

**Second Gentleman**

Those men are happy; and so are all are near her.  
I take it she that carries up the train  
Is that old noble lady, Duchess of Norfolk.

**First Gentleman**

It is; and all the rest are Countesses.

**Second Gentleman**

Their coronets say so. These are stars indeed,  
And sometimes falling ones.

**First Gentleman**

No more of that.

*Exit Procession, with a great flourish of trumpets*

*Enter a third GENTLEMAN*

God save you, sir! Where have you been broiling?

**Third Gentleman**

Among the crowds i' th' Abbey, where a finger  
Could not be wedg'd in more; I am stifled  
With the mere rankness of their joy.

**Second Gentleman**

You saw  
The ceremony?

**Third Gentleman**

That I did.

**First Gentleman**

How was it?

**Third Gentleman**

Well worth the seeing.

## Second Gentleman

Good sir, speak it to us.

## Third Gentleman

As well as I am able. The rich stream  
Of Lords and ladies, having brought the Queen  
To a prepar'd place in the choir, fell of  
A distance from her, while her Grace sat down  
To rest awhile, some half an hour or so,  
In a rich chair of state, opposing freely  
The beauty of her person to the people.  
Believe me, sir, she is the goodliest woman  
That ever lay by man; which when the people  
Had the full view of, such a noise arose  
As the shrouds make at sea in a stiff tempest,  
As loud, and to as many tunes; hats, cloaks—  
Doublets, I think-flew up, and had their faces  
Been loose, this day they had been lost. Such joy  
I never saw before. Great-bellied women,  
That had not half a week to go, like rams  
In the old time of war, would shake the press,  
And make 'em reel before 'em. No man living  
Could say 'This is my wife' there, all were woven  
So strangely in one piece.

## Second Gentleman

But what follow'd?

## Third Gentleman

At length her Grace rose, and with modest paces



Came to the altar, where she kneel'd, and Saintlike  
Cast her fair eyes to heaven, and pray'd devoutly.  
Then rose again, and bow'd her to the people;  
When by the Archbishop of Canterbury  
She had all the royal makings of a queen:  
As holy oil, Edward Confessor's crown,  
The rod, and bird of peace, and all such emblems  
Laid nobly on her; which perform'd, the choir,  
With all the choicest music of the kingdom,  
Together sung 'Te Deum.' So she parted,  
And with the same full state pac'd back again  
To York Place, where the feast is held.

### First Gentleman

Sir,  
You must no more call it York Place: that's past:  
For since the Cardinal fell that title's lost.  
'Tis now the King's, and called Whitehall.

### Third Gentleman

I know it;  
But 'tis so lately alter'd that the old name  
Is fresh about me.

### Second Gentleman

What two reverend bishops  
Were those that went on each side of the Queen?

### Third Gentleman

Stokesly and Gardiner: the one of Winchester,

Newly preferr'd from the King's secretary;  
The other, London.

### Second Gentleman

He of Winchester  
Is held no great good lover of the Archbishop's,  
The virtuous Cranmer.

### Third Gentleman

All the land knows that;  
However, yet there is no great breach. When it comes,  
Cranmer will find a friend will not shrink from him.

### Second Gentleman

Who may that be, I pray you?

### Third Gentleman

Thomas Cromwell,  
A man in much esteem with th' King, and truly  
A worthy friend. The King has made him Master  
O' th' jewel House,  
And one, already, of the Privy Council.

### Second Gentleman

He will deserve more.

### Third Gentleman

Yes, without all doubt.  
Come, gentlemen, ye shall go my way, which  
Is to th' court, and there ye shall be my guests:

*Act IV.*

Something I can command. As I walk thither,  
I'll tell ye more.

**Both**

You may command us, sir.

*Exeunt*

## Scene 2.

### *Kimbolton*

*Enter KATHARINE, Dowager, sick; led  
between GRIFFITH, her Gentleman  
Usher, and PATIENCE, her woman*

#### **Griffith**

How does your Grace?

#### **Katharine**

O Griffith, sick to death!  
My legs like loaden branches bow to th' earth,  
Willing to leave their burden. Reach a chair.  
So-now, methinks, I feel a little ease.  
Didst thou not tell me, Griffith, as thou led'st me,  
That the great child of honour, Cardinal Wolsey,  
Was dead?

#### **Griffith**

Yes, madam; but I think your Grace,  
Out of the pain you suffer'd, gave no ear to't.

#### **Katharine**

Prithee, good Griffith, tell me how he died.  
If well, he stepp'd before me, happily,  
For my example.

### Griffith

Well, the voice goes, madam;  
For after the stout Earl Northumberland  
Arrested him at York and brought him forward,  
As a man sorely tainted, to his answer,  
He fell sick suddenly, and grew so ill  
He could not sit his mule.

### Katharine

Alas, poor man!

### Griffith

At last, with easy roads, he came to Leicester,  
Lodg'd in the abbey; where the reverend abbot,  
With all his covent, honourably receiv'd him;  
To whom he gave these words: 'O father Abbot,  
An old man, broken with the storms of state,  
Is come to lay his weary bones among ye;  
Give him a little earth for charity!'  
So went to bed; where eagerly his sickness  
Pursu'd him still And three nights after this,  
About the hour of eight-which he himself  
Foretold should be his last-full of repentance,  
Continual meditations, tears, and sorrows,  
He gave his honours to the world again,  
His blessed part to heaven, and slept in peace.

### Katharine

So may he rest; his faults lie gently on him!  
Yet thus far, Griffith, give me leave to speak him,

And yet with charity. He was a man  
Of an unbounded stomach, ever ranking  
Himself with princes; one that, by suggestion,  
Tied all the kingdom. Simony was fair play;  
His own opinion was his law. I' th' presence  
He would say untruths, and be ever double  
Both in his words and meaning. He was never,  
But where he meant to ruin, pitiful.  
His promises were, as he then was, mighty;  
But his performance, as he is now, nothing.  
Of his own body he was ill, and gave  
The clergy ill example.

### Griffith

Noble madam,  
Men's evil manners live in brass: their virtues  
We write in water. May it please your Highness  
To hear me speak his good now?

### Katharine

Yes, good Griffith;  
I were malicious else.

### Griffith

This Cardinal,  
Though from an humble stock, undoubtedly  
Was fashion'd to much honour from his cradle.  
He was a scholar, and a ripe and good one;  
Exceeding wise, fair-spoken, and persuading;  
Lofty and sour to them that lov'd him not,

But to those men that sought him sweet as summer.  
 And though he were unsatisfied in getting—  
 Which was a sin-yet in bestowing, madam,  
 He was most princely: ever witness for him  
 Those twins of learning that he rais'd in you,  
 Ipswich and Oxford! One of which fell with him,  
 Unwilling to outlive the good that did it;  
 The other, though unfinish'd, yet so famous,  
 So excellent in art, and still so rising,  
 That Christendom shall ever speak his virtue.  
 His overthrow heap'd happiness upon him;  
 For then, and not till then, he felt himself,  
 And found the blessedness of being little.  
 And, to add greater honours to his age  
 Than man could give him, he died fearing God.

### Katharine

After my death I wish no other herald,  
 No other speaker of my living actions,  
 To keep mine honour from corruption,  
 But such an honest chronicler as Griffith.  
 Whom I most hated living, thou hast made me,  
 With thy religious truth and modesty,  
 Now in his ashes honour. Peace be with him!  
 Patience, be near me still, and set me lower:  
 I have not long to trouble thee. Good Griffith,  
 Cause the musicians play me that sad note  
 I nam'd my knell, whilst I sit meditating  
 On that celestial harmony I go to. [*Sad and solemn music*]

## Griffith

She is asleep. Good wench, let's sit down quiet,  
For fear we wake her. Softly, gentle Patience.

### *The Vision.*

*Enter, solemnly tripping one after another, six*

*PERSONAGES clad in white robes, wearing on their heads garlands of bays, and golden vizards on their faces; branches of bays or palm in their hands. They first congee unto her, then dance; and, at certain changes, the first two hold a spare garland over her head, at which the other four make reverent curtsies.*

*Then the two that held the garland deliver the same to the other next two, who observe the same order in their changes, and holding the garland over her head; which done, they deliver the same garland to the last two, who likewise observe the same order; at which, as it were by inspiration, she makes in her sleep signs of rejoicing, and holdeth up her hands to heaven. And so in their dancing vanish, carrying the garland with them. The music continues*

## Katharine

Spirits of peace, where are ye? Are ye all gone?  
And leave me here in wretchedness behind ye?



**Griffith**

Madam, we are here.

**Katharine**

It is not you I call for.

Saw ye none enter since I slept?

**Griffith**

None, madam.

**Katharine**

No? Saw you not, even now, a blessed troop

Invite me to a banquet; whose bright faces

Cast thousand beams upon me, like the sun?

They promis'd me eternal happiness,

And brought me garlands, Griffith, which I feel

I am not worthy yet to wear. I shall, assuredly.

**Griffith**

I am most joyful, madam, such good dreams

Possess your fancy.

**Katharine**

Bid the music leave,

They are harsh and heavy to me. *[Music ceases]*

**Patience**

Do you note

How much her Grace is alter'd on the sudden?

How long her face is drawn! How pale she looks,

And of an earthly cold! Mark her eyes.

**Griffith**

She is going, wench. Pray, pray.

**Patience**

Heaven comfort her!

*Enter a MESSENGER*

**Messenger**

An't like your Grace—

**Katharine**

You are a saucy fellow.  
Deserve we no more reverence?

**Griffith**

You are to blame,  
Knowing she will not lose her wonted greatness,  
To use so rude behaviour. Go to, kneel.

**Messenger**

I humbly do entreat your Highness' pardon;  
My haste made me unmannerly. There is staying  
A Gentleman, sent from the King, to see you.

**Katharine**

Admit him entrance, Griffith; but this fellow

Let me ne'er see again.

*Exit MESSENGER*

*Enter LORD CAPUCIUS*

If my sight fail not,  
You should be Lord Ambassador from the Emperor,  
My royal nephew, and your name Capucius.

**Capucius**

Madam, the same-your servant.

**Katharine**

O, my Lord,  
The times and titles now are alter'd strangely  
With me since first you knew me. But, I pray you,  
What is your pleasure with me?

**Capucius**

Noble lady,  
First, mine own service to your Grace; the next,  
The King's request that I would visit you,  
Who grieves much for your weakness, and by me  
Sends you his princely commendations  
And heartily entreats you take good comfort.

**Katharine**

O my good lord, that comfort comes too late,  
'Tis like a pardon after execution:

That gentle physic, given in time, had cur'd me;  
But now I am past all comforts here, but prayers.  
How does his Highness?

**Capucius**

Madam, in good health.

**Katharine**

So may he ever do! and ever flourish  
When I shall dwell with worms, and my poor name  
Banish'd the kingdom! Patience, is that letter  
I caus'd you write yet sent away?

**Patience**

No, madam. [*Giving it to KATHARINE*]

**Katharine**

Sir, I most humbly pray you to deliver  
This to my lord the King.

**Capucius**

Most willing, madam.

**Katharine**

In which I have commended to his goodness  
The model of our chaste loves, his young daughter—  
The dews of heaven fall thick in blessings on her!—  
Beseeching him to give her virtuous breeding—  
She is young, and of a noble modest nature;  
I hope she will deserve well-and a little

To love her for her mother's sake, that lov'd him,  
Heaven knows how dearly. My next poor petition  
Is that his noble Grace would have some pity  
Upon my wretched women that so long  
Have follow'd both my fortunes faithfully;  
Of which there is not one, I dare avow—  
And now I should not lie-but will deserve,  
For virtue and true beauty of the soul,  
For honesty and decent carriage,  
A right good husband, let him be a noble;  
And sure those men are happy that shall have 'em.  
The last is for my men-they are the poorest,  
But poverty could never draw 'em from me—  
That they may have their wages duly paid 'em,  
And something over to remember me by.  
If heaven had pleas'd to have given me longer life  
And able means, we had not parted thus.  
These are the whole contents; and, good my lord,  
By that you love the dearest in this world,  
As you wish Christian peace to souls departed,  
Stand these poor people's friend, and urge the King  
To do me this last right.

### Capucius

By heaven, I will,  
Or let me lose the fashion of a man!

### Katharine

I thank you, honest lord. Remember me  
In all humility unto his Highness;

Say his long trouble now is passing  
Out of this world. Tell him in death I bless'd him,  
For so I will. Mine eyes grow dim. Farewell,  
My lord. Griffith, farewell. Nay, Patience,  
You must not leave me yet. I must to bed;  
Call in more women. When I am dead, good wench,  
Let me be us'd with honour; strew me over  
With maiden flowers, that all the world may know  
I was a chaste wife to my grave. Embalm me,  
Then lay me forth; although unqueen'd, yet like  
A queen, and daughter to a king, inter me.  
I can no more.

*Exeunt, leading KATHARINE*

# Act V.

## Scene 1.

*London. A gallery in the palace*

*Enter GARDINER, BISHOP OF WINCHESTER, a PAGE  
with a torch before him, met by SIR THOMAS LOVELL*

**Gardiner**

It's one o'clock, boy, is't not?

**Boy**

It hath struck.

**Gardiner**

These should be hours for necessities,  
Not for delights; times to repair our nature  
With comforting repose, and not for us  
To waste these times. Good hour of night, Sir Thomas!  
Whither so late?

**Lovell**

Came you from the King, my lord?

**Gardiner**

I did, Sir Thomas, and left him at primero  
With the Duke of Suffolk.

**Lovell**

I must to him too,  
Before he go to bed. I'll take my leave.

**Gardiner**

Not yet, Sir Thomas Lovell. What's the matter?  
It seems you are in haste. An if there be  
No great offence belongs to't, give your friend  
Some touch of your late business. Affairs that walk—  
As they say spirits do-at midnight, have  
In them a wilder nature than the business  
That seeks despatch by day.

**Lovell**

My lord, I love you;  
And durst commend a secret to your ear  
Much weightier than this work. The Queen's in labour,  
They say in great extremity, and fear'd  
She'll with the labour end.

**Gardiner**

The fruit she goes with  
I pray for heartily, that it may find  
Good time, and live; but for the stock, Sir Thomas,  
I wish it grubb'd up now.

**Lovell**

Methinks I could  
Cry thee amen; and yet my conscience says  
She's a good creature, and, sweet lady, does



Deserve our better wishes.

### Gardiner

But, sir, sir—  
Hear me, Sir Thomas. Y'are a Gentleman  
Of mine own way; I know you wise, religious;  
And, let me tell you, it will ne'er be well—  
'Twill not, Sir Thomas Lovell, take't of me—  
Till Cranmer, Cromwell, her two hands, and she,  
Sleep in their graves.

### Lovell

Now, sir, you speak of two  
The most remark'd i' th' kingdom. As for Cromwell,  
Beside that of the Jewel House, is made Master  
O' th' Rolls, and the King's secretary; further, sir,  
Stands in the gap and trade of moe preferments,  
With which the time will load him. Th' Archbishop  
Is the King's hand and tongue, and who dare speak  
One syllable against him?

### Gardiner

Yes, yes, Sir Thomas,  
There are that dare; and I myself have ventur'd  
To speak my mind of him; and indeed this day,  
Sir-I may tell it you-I think I have  
Incens'd the Lords o' th' Council, that he is—  
For so I know he is, they know he is—  
A most arch heretic, a pestilence  
That does infect the land; with which they moved

Have broken with the King, who hath so far  
Given ear to our complaint-of his great grace  
And princely care, foreseeing those fell mischiefs  
Our reasons laid before him-hath commanded  
To-morrow morning to the Council board  
He be convented. He's a rank weed, Sir Thomas,  
And we must root him out. From your affairs  
I hinder you too long-good night, Sir Thomas.

**Lovell**

Many good nights, my lord; I rest your servant.

*Exeunt GARDINER and PAGE*

*Enter the KING and the DUKE OF SUFFOLK*

**King**

Charles, I will play no more to-night;  
My mind's not on't; you are too hard for me.

**Suffolk**

Sir, I did never win of you before.

**King**

But little, Charles;  
Nor shall not, when my fancy's on my play.  
Now, Lovell, from the Queen what is the news?

**Lovell**

I could not personally deliver to her

What you commanded me, but by her woman  
I sent your message; who return'd her thanks  
In the great'st humbleness, and desir'd your Highness  
Most heartily to pray for her.

**King**

What say'st thou, ha?  
To pray for her? What, is she crying out?

**Lovell**

So said her woman; and that her suff'rance made  
Almost each pang a death.

**King**

Alas, good lady!

**Suffolk**

God safely quit her of her burden, and  
With gentle travail, to the gladding of  
Your Highness with an heir!

**King**

'Tis midnight, Charles;  
Prithee to bed; and in thy pray'rs remember  
Th' estate of my poor queen. Leave me alone,  
For I must think of that which company  
Will not be friendly to.

**Suffolk**

I wish your Highness

*Henry VIII*

A quiet night, and my good mistress will  
Remember in my prayers.

**King**

Charles, good night.

*Exit SUFFOLK*

*Enter SIR ANTHONY DENNY*

Well, sir, what follows?

**Denny**

Sir, I have brought my lord the Archbishop,  
As you commanded me.

**King**

Ha! Canterbury?

**Denny**

Ay, my good lord.

**King**

'Tis true. Where is he, Denny?

**Denny**

He attends your Highness' pleasure.

**King**

Bring him to us.

*Exit DENNY*

**Lovell**

*[Aside]* This is about that which the bishop spake.  
I am happily come hither.

*Re-enter DENNY, With CRANMER*

**King**

Avoid the gallery. *[LOVELL seems to stay]*  
Ha! I have said. Be gone.  
What!

*Exeunt LOVELL and DENNY*

**Cranmer**

*[Aside]* I am fearful-wherefore frowns he thus?  
‘Tis his aspect of terror. All’s not well.

**King**

How now, my lord? You do desire to know  
Wherefore I sent for you.

**Cranmer**

*[Kneeling]* It is my duty  
T’attend your Highness’ pleasure.

### King

Pray you, arise,  
My good and gracious Lord of Canterbury.  
Come, you and I must walk a turn together;  
I have news to tell you; come, come, me your hand.  
Ah, my good lord, I grieve at what I speak,  
And am right sorry to repeat what follows.  
I have, and most unwillingly, of late  
Heard many grievous-I do say, my lord,  
Grievous-complaints of you; which, being consider'd,  
Have mov'd us and our Council that you shall  
This morning come before us; where I know  
You cannot with such freedom purge yourself  
But that, till further trial in those charges  
Which will require your answer, you must take  
Your patience to you and be well contented  
To make your house our Tow'r. You a brother of us,  
It fits we thus proceed, or else no witness  
Would come against you.

### Cranmer

I humbly thank your Highness  
And am right glad to catch this good occasion  
Most thoroughly to be winnowed where my chaff  
And corn shall fly asunder; for I know  
There's none stands under more calumnious tongues  
Than I myself, poor man.

### King

Stand up, good Canterbury;

Thy truth and thy integrity is rooted  
In us, thy friend. Give me thy hand, stand up;  
Prithee let's walk. Now, by my holidame,  
What manner of man are you? My lord, I look'd  
You would have given me your petition that  
I should have ta'en some pains to bring together  
Yourself and your accusers, and to have heard you  
Without indurance further.

### Cranmer

Most dread liege,  
The good I stand on is my truth and honesty;  
If they shall fail, I with mine enemies  
Will triumph o'er my person; which I weigh not,  
Being of those virtues vacant. I fear nothing  
What can be said against me.

### King

Know you not  
How your state stands i' th' world, with the whole world?  
Your enemies are many, and not small; their practices  
Must bear the same proportion; and not ever  
The justice and the truth o' th' question carries  
The due o' th' verdict with it; at what ease  
Might corrupt minds procure knaves as corrupt  
To swear against you? Such things have been done.  
You are potently oppos'd, and with a malice  
Of as great size. Ween you of better luck,  
I mean in perjur'd witness, than your Master,  
Whose minister you are, whiles here He liv'd

Upon this naughty earth? Go to, go to;  
You take a precipice for no leap of danger,  
And woo your own destruction.

**Cranmer**

God and your Majesty  
Protect mine innocence, or I fall into  
The trap is laid for me!

**King**

Be of good cheer;  
They shall no more prevail than we give way to.  
Keep comfort to you, and this morning see  
You do appear before them; if they shall chance,  
In charging you with matters, to commit you,  
The best persuasions to the contrary  
Fail not to use, and with what vehemency  
Th' occasion shall instruct you. If entreaties  
Will render you no remedy, this ring  
Deliver them, and your appeal to us  
There make before them. Look, the good man weeps!  
He's honest, on mine honour. God's blest Mother!  
I swear he is true-hearted, and a soul  
None better in my kingdom. Get you gone,  
And do as I have bid you.

*Exit CRANMER*



He has strangled his language in his tears.

*Enter OLD LADY*

**Gentleman**

*[Within]* Come back; what mean you?

**Old Lady**

I'll not come back; the tidings that I bring  
Will make my boldness manners. Now, good angels  
Fly o'er thy royal head, and shade thy person  
Under their blessed wings!

**King**

Now, by thy looks  
I guess thy message. Is the Queen deliver'd?  
Say ay, and of a boy.

**Old Lady**

Ay, ay, my liege;  
And of a lovely boy. The God of Heaven  
Both now and ever bless her! 'Tis a girl,  
Promises boys hereafter. Sir, your queen  
Desires your visitation, and to be  
Acquainted with this stranger; 'tis as like you  
As cherry is to cherry.

*Henry VIII*

**King**

Lovell!

*Enter LOVELL*

**Lovell**

Sir?

**King**

Give her an hundred marks. I'll to the Queen.

*Exit*

**Old Lady**

An hundred marks? By this light, I'll ha' more!

An ordinary groom is for such payment.

I will have more, or scold it out of him.

Said I for this the girl was like to him! I'll

Have more, or else unsay't; and now, while 'tis hot,

I'll put it to the issue.

*Exeunt*

## Scene 2.

### *Lobby before the Council Chamber*

*Enter CRANMER, ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY*

**Cranmer**

I hope I am not too late; and yet the Gentleman  
That was sent to me from the Council pray'd me  
To make great haste. All fast? What means this? Ho!  
Who waits there? Sure you know me?

*Enter KEEPER*

**Keeper**

Yes, my lord;  
But yet I cannot help you.

**Cranmer**

Why?

**Keeper**

*Enter DOCTOR BUTTS*

**Cranmer**

So.

**Butts**

*[Aside]* This is a piece of malice. I am glad  
I came this way so happily; the King  
Shall understand it presently.

*Exit*

**Cranmer**

*[Aside]* 'Tis Butts,  
The King's physician; as he pass'd along,  
How earnestly he cast his eyes upon me!  
Pray heaven he sound not my disgrace! For certain,  
This is of purpose laid by some that hate me—  
God turn their hearts! I never sought their malice—  
To quench mine honour; they would shame to make me  
Wait else at door, a fellow councillor,  
'Mong boys, grooms, and lackeys. But their pleasures  
Must be fulfill'd, and I attend with patience.

*Enter the KING and BUTTS at window above*

**Butts**

I'll show your Grace the strangest sight—

**King**

What's that, Butts?

**Butts**

I think your Highness saw this many a day.

**King**

Body a me, where is it?

**Butts**

There my lord:  
The high promotion of his Grace of Canterbury;  
Who holds his state at door, 'mongst pursuivants,  
Pages, and footboys.

**King**

Ha, 'tis he indeed.  
Is this the honour they do one another?  
'Tis well there's one above 'em yet. I had thought  
They had parted so much honesty among 'em—  
At least good manners-as not thus to suffer  
A man of his place, and so near our favour,  
To dance attendance on their Lordships' pleasures,  
And at the door too, like a post with packets.  
By holy Mary, Butts, there's knavery!  
Let 'em alone, and draw the curtain close;  
We shall hear more anon.

***Exeunt***

## Scene 3.

### *The Council Chamber*

*A Council table brought in, with chairs and stools, and placed under the state. Enter LORD CHANCELLOR, places himself at the upper end of the table on the left hand, a seat being left void above him, as for Canterbury's seat. DUKE OF SUFFOLK, DUKE OF NORFOLK, SURREY, LORD CHAMBERLAIN, GARDINER, seat themselves in order on each side; CROMWELL at lower end, as secretary. KEEPER at the door*

#### **Chancellor**

Speak to the business, master secretary;  
Why are we met in council?

#### **Cromwell**

Please your honours,  
The chief cause concerns his Grace of Canterbury.

#### **Gardiner**

Has he had knowledge of it?

#### **Cromwell**

Yes.

**Norfolk**

Who waits there?

**Keeper**

Without, my noble Lords?

**Gardiner**

Yes.

**Keeper**

My Lord Archbishop;

And has done half an hour, to know your pleasures.

**Chancellor**

Let him come in.

**Keeper**

Your Grace may enter now.

*CRANMER approaches the Council table*

**Chancellor**

My good Lord Archbishop, I am very sorry

To sit here at this present, and behold

That chair stand empty; but we all are men,

In our own natures frail and capable

Of our flesh; few are angels; out of which frailty

And want of wisdom, you, that best should teach us,

Have misdeemean'd yourself, and not a little,

Toward the King first, then his laws, in filling

The whole realm by your teaching and your chaplains—  
For so we are inform'd-with new opinions,  
Divers and dangerous; which are heresies,  
And, not reform'd, may prove pernicious.

### Gardiner

Which reformation must be sudden too,  
My noble Lords; for those that tame wild horses  
Pace 'em not in their hands to make 'em gentle,  
But stop their mouth with stubborn bits and spur 'em  
Till they obey the manage. If we suffer,  
Out of our easiness and childish pity  
To one man's honour, this contagious sickness,  
Farewell all physic; and what follows then?  
Commutations, uproars, with a general taint  
Of the whole state; as of late days our neighbours,  
The upper Germany, can dearly witness,  
Yet freshly pitied in our memories.

### Cranmer

My good Lords, hitherto in all the progress  
Both of my life and office, I have labour'd,  
And with no little study, that my teaching  
And the strong course of my authority  
Might go one way, and safely; and the end  
Was ever to do well. Nor is there living—  
I speak it with a single heart, my Lords—  
A man that more detests, more stirs against,  
Both in his private conscience and his place,  
Defacers of a public peace than I do.



Pray heaven the King may never find a heart  
With less allegiance in it! Men that make  
Envy and crooked malice nourishment  
Dare bite the best. I do beseech your Lordships  
That, in this case of justice, my accusers,  
Be what they will, may stand forth face to face  
And freely urge against me.

### Suffolk

Nay, my lord,  
That cannot be; you are a councillor,  
And by that virtue no man dare accuse you.

### Gardiner

My lord, because we have business of more moment,  
We will be short with you. 'Tis his Highness' pleasure  
And our consent, for better trial of you,  
From hence you be committed to the Tower;  
Where, being but a private man again,  
You shall know many dare accuse you boldly,  
More than, I fear, you are provided for.

### Cranmer

Ah, my good Lord of Winchester, I thank you;  
You are always my good friend; if your will pass,  
I shall both find your Lordship judge and juror,  
You are so merciful. I see your end—  
'Tis my undoing. Love and meekness, lord,  
Become a churchman better than ambition;  
Win straying souls with modesty again,

Cast none away. That I shall clear myself,  
Lay all the weight ye can upon my patience,  
I make as little doubt as you do conscience  
In doing daily wrongs. I could say more,  
But reverence to your calling makes me modest.

### **Gardiner**

My lord, my lord, you are a sectary;  
That's the plain truth. Your painted gloss discovers,  
To men that understand you, words and weakness.

### **Cromwell**

My Lord of Winchester, y'are a little,  
By your good favour, too sharp; men so noble,  
However faulty, yet should find respect  
For what they have been; 'tis a cruelty  
To load a falling man.

### **Gardiner**

Good Master Secretary,  
I cry your honour mercy; you may, worst  
Of all this table, say so.

### **Cromwell**

Why, my lord?

### **Gardiner**

Do not I know you for a favourer  
Of this new sect? Ye are not sound.

**Cromwell**

Not sound?

**Gardiner**

Not sound, I say.

**Cromwell**

Would you were half so honest!

Men's prayers then would seek you, not their fears.

**Gardiner**

I shall remember this bold language.

**Cromwell**

Do.

Remember your bold life too.

**Chancellor**

This is too much;

Forbear, for shame, my Lords.

**Gardiner**

I have done.

**Cromwell**

And I.

**Chancellor**

Then thus for you, my lord: it stands agreed,

I take it, by all voices, that forthwith

You be convey'd to th' Tower a prisoner;  
There to remain till the King's further pleasure  
Be known unto us. Are you all agreed, Lords?

**All**

We are.

**Cranmer**

Is there no other way of mercy,  
But I must needs to th' Tower, my Lords?

**Gardiner**

What other  
Would you expect? You are strangely troublesome.  
Let some o' th' guard be ready there.

*Enter the GUARD*

**Cranmer**

For me?  
Must I go like a traitor thither?

**Gardiner**

Receive him,  
And see him safe i' th' Tower.

**Cranmer**

Stay, good my Lords,  
I have a little yet to say. Look there, my Lords;  
By virtue of that ring I take my cause

Out of the gripes of cruel men and give it  
To a most noble judge, the King my master.

### Chamberlain

This is the King's ring.

### Surrey

'Tis no counterfeit.

### Suffolk

'Tis the right ring, by heav'n. I told ye all,  
When we first put this dangerous stone a-rolling,  
'Twould fall upon ourselves.

### Norfolk

Do you think, my Lords,  
The King will suffer but the little finger  
Of this man to be vex'd?

### Chamberlain

'Tis now too certain;  
How much more is his life in value with him!  
Would I were fairly out on't!

### Cromwell

My mind gave me,  
In seeking tales and informations  
Against this man-whose honesty the devil  
And his disciples only envy at—

Ye blew the fire that burns ye. Now have at ye!

*Enter the KING frowning on them; he takes his seat*

### Gardiner

Dread sovereign, how much are we bound to heaven  
In daily thanks, that gave us such a prince;  
Not only good and wise but most religious;  
One that in all obedience makes the church  
The chief aim of his honour and, to strengthen  
That holy duty, out of dear respect,  
His royal self in judgment comes to hear  
The cause betwixt her and this great offender.

### King

You were ever good at sudden commendations,  
Bishop of Winchester. But know I come not  
To hear such flattery now, and in my presence  
They are too thin and bare to hide offences.  
To me you cannot reach you play the spaniel,  
And think with wagging of your tongue to win me;  
But whatsoe'er thou tak'st me for, I'm sure  
Thou hast a cruel nature and a bloody.

*[To CRANMER]* Good man, sit down. Now let me see the  
proudest

He that dares most but wag his finger at thee.  
By all that's holy, he had better starve  
Than but once think this place becomes thee not.

## Surrey

May it please your Grace—

## King

No, sir, it does not please me.  
I had thought I had had men of some understanding  
And wisdom of my Council; but I find none.  
Was it discretion, Lords, to let this man,  
This good man-few of you deserve that title—  
This honest man, wait like a lousy footboy  
At chamber door? and one as great as you are?  
Why, what a shame was this! Did my commission  
Bid ye so far forget yourselves? I gave ye  
Power as he was a councillor to try him,  
Not as a groom. There's some of ye, I see,  
More out of malice than integrity,  
Would try him to the utmost, had ye mean;  
Which ye shall never have while I live.

## Chancellor

Thus far,  
My most dread sovereign, may it like your Grace  
To let my tongue excuse all. What was purpos'd concerning his  
imprisonment was rather—  
If there be faith in men-meant for his trial  
And fair purgation to the world, than malice,  
I'm sure, in me.

## King

Well, well, my Lords, respect him;

Take him, and use him well, he's worthy of it.  
I will say thus much for him: if a prince  
May be beholding to a subject,  
Am for his love and service so to him.  
Make me no more ado, but all embrace him;  
Be friends, for shame, my Lords! My Lord of Canterbury,  
I have a suit which you must not deny me:  
That is, a fair young maid that yet wants baptism;  
You must be godfather, and answer for her.

### **Cranmer**

The greatest monarch now alive may glory  
In such an honour; how may I deserve it,  
That am a poor and humble subject to you?

### **King**

Come, come, my lord, you'd spare your spoons. You shall have  
Two noble partners with you: the old Duchess of Norfolk  
And Lady Marquis Dorset. Will these please you?  
Once more, my Lord of Winchester, I charge you,  
Embrace and love this man.

### **Gardiner**

With a true heart  
And brother-love I do it.

### **Cranmer**

And let heaven  
Witness how dear I hold this confirmation.



**King**

Good man, those joyful tears show thy true heart.  
The common voice, I see, is verified  
Of thee, which says thus: 'Do my Lord of Canterbury  
A shrewd turn and he's your friend for ever.'  
Come, Lords, we trifle time away; I long  
To have this young one made a Christian.  
As I have made ye one, Lords, one remain;  
So I grow stronger, you more honour gain.

*Exeunt*

## Scene 4.

### *The palace yard*

*Noise and tumult within. Enter PORTER and his MAN*

#### **Porter**

You'll leave your noise anon, ye rascals. Do you take the court for Paris garden? Ye rude slaves, leave your gaping. [*Within: Good master porter, I belong to th' larder.*]

#### **Porter**

Belong to th' gallows, and be hang'd, ye rogue! Is this a place to roar in? Fetch me a dozen crab-tree staves, and strong ones; these are but switches to 'em. I'll scratch your heads. You must be seeing christenings? Do you look for ale and cakes here, you rude rascals?

#### **Man**

Pray, sir, be patient; 'tis as much impossible,  
Unless we sweep 'em from the door with cannons,  
To scatter 'em as 'tis to make 'em sleep  
On May-day morning; which will never be.  
We may as well push against Paul's as stir 'em.

#### **Porter**

How got they in, and be hang'd?

**Man**

Alas, I know not: how gets the tide in?  
As much as one sound cudgel of four foot—  
You see the poor remainder-could distribute,  
I made no spare, sir.

**Porter**

You did nothing, sir.

**Man**

I am not Samson, nor Sir Guy, nor Colbrand,  
To mow 'em down before me; but if I spar'd any  
That had a head to hit, either young or old,  
He or she, cuckold or cuckold-maker,  
Let me ne'er hope to see a chine again;  
And that I would not for a cow, God save her! [*Within: Do you  
hear, master porter?*]

**Porter**

I shall be with you presently, good master puppy.  
Keep the door close, sirrah.

**Man**

What would you have me do?

**Porter**

What should you do, but knock 'em down by th' dozens? Is  
this Moorfields to muster in? Or have we some strange  
Indian with the great tool come to court, the women so  
besiege us? Bless me, what a fry of fornication is at door! On

my Christian conscience, this one christening will beget a thousand: here will be father, godfather, and all together.

## Man

The spoons will be the bigger, sir. There is a fellow somewhat near the door, he should be a brazier by his face, for, o' my conscience, twenty of the dog-days now reign in's nose; all that stand about him are under the line, they need no other penance. That fire-drake did I hit three times on the head, and three times was his nose discharged against me; he stands there like a mortar-piece, to blow us.

There was a haberdasher's wife of small wit near him, that rail'd upon me till her pink'd porringer fell off her head, for kindling such a combustion in the state. I miss'd the meteor once, and hit that woman, who cried out 'Clubs!' when I might see from far some forty truncheoners draw to her succour, which were the hope o' th' Strand, where she was quartered. They fell on; I made good my place.

At length they came to th' broomstaff to me; I defied 'em still; when suddenly a file of boys behind 'em, loose shot, deliver'd such a show'r of pebbles that I was fain to draw mine honour in and let 'em win the work: the devil was amongst 'em, I think surely.

## Porter

These are the youths that thunder at a playhouse and fight for bitten apples; that no audience but the tribulation of Tower-hill or the limbs of Limehouse, their dear brothers, are able to endure. I have some of 'em in Limbo

Patrum, and there they are like to dance these three days;  
besides the running banquet of two beadles that is to come.

*Enter the LORD CHAMBERLAIN*

**Chamberlain**

Mercy o' me, what a multitude are here!  
They grow still too; from all parts they are coming,  
As if we kept a fair here! Where are these porters,  
These lazy knaves? Y'have made a fine hand, fellows.  
There's a trim rabble let in: are all these  
Your faithful friends o' th' suburbs? We shall have  
Great store of room, no doubt, left for the ladies,  
When they pass back from the christening.

**Porter**

An't please your honour,  
We are but men; and what so many may do,  
Not being torn a pieces, we have done.  
An army cannot rule 'em.

**Chamberlain**

As I live,  
If the King blame me for't, I'll lay ye an  
By th' heels, and suddenly; and on your heads  
Clap round fines for neglect. Y'are lazy knaves;  
And here ye lie baiting of bombards, when  
Ye should do service. Hark! the trumpets sound;  
Th' are come already from the christening.  
Go break among the press and find a way out

*Henry VIII*

To let the troops pass fairly, or I'll find  
A Marshalsea shall hold ye play these two months.

**Porter**

Make way there for the Princess.

**Man**

You great fellow,  
Stand close up, or I'll make your head ache.

**Porter**

You i' th' camlet, get up o' th' rail;  
I'll peck you o'er the pales else.

*Exeunt*

## Scene 5.

### *The palace*

*Enter TRUMPETS, sounding; then two ALDERMEN, LORD MAYOR, GARTER, CRANMER, DUKE OF NORFOLK, with his marshal's staff, DUKE OF SUFFOLK, two NOBLEMEN bearing great standing-bowls for the christening gifts; then four NOBLEMEN bearing a canopy, under which the DUCHESS OF NORFOLK, godmother, bearing the CHILD richly habited in a mantle, etc., train borne by a LADY; then follows the MARCHIONESS DORSET, the other godmother, and LADIES. The troop pass once about the stage, and GARTER speaks*

#### **Garter**

Heaven, from thy endless goodness, send prosperous life, long  
and ever-happy, to the high and mighty  
Princess of England, Elizabeth!

*Flourish. Enter KING and GUARD*

#### **Cranmer**

*[Kneeling]* And to your royal Grace and the good Queen!  
My noble partners and myself thus pray:  
All comfort, joy, in this most gracious lady,  
Heaven ever laid up to make parents happy,  
May hourly fall upon ye!

**King**

Thank you, good Lord Archbishop.  
What is her name?

**Cranmer**

Elizabeth.

**King**

Stand up, lord. [*The KING kisses the child*]  
With this kiss take my blessing: God protect thee!  
Into whose hand I give thy life.

**Cranmer**

Amen.

**King**

My noble gossips, y'have been too prodigal;  
I thank ye heartily. So shall this lady,  
When she has so much English.

**Cranmer**

Let me speak, sir,  
For heaven now bids me; and the words I utter  
Let none think flattery, for they'll find 'em truth.  
This royal infant-heaven still move about her!—  
Though in her cradle, yet now promises  
Upon this land a thousand blessings,  
Which time shall bring to ripeness. She shall be—  
But few now living can behold that goodness—  
A pattern to all princes living with her,



And all that shall succeed. Saba was never  
More covetous of wisdom and fair virtue  
Than this pure soul shall be. All princely graces  
That mould up such a mighty piece as this is,  
With all the virtues that attend the good,  
Shall still be doubled on her. Truth shall nurse her,  
Holy and heavenly thoughts still counsel her;  
She shall be lov'd and fear'd. Her own shall bless her:  
Her foes shake like a field of beaten corn,  
And hang their heads with sorrow. Good grows with her;  
In her days every man shall eat in safety  
Under his own vine what he plants, and sing  
The merry songs of peace to all his neighbours.  
God shall be truly known; and those about her  
From her shall read the perfect ways of honour,  
And by those claim their greatness, not by blood.  
Nor shall this peace sleep with her; but as when  
The bird of wonder dies, the maiden phoenix  
Her ashes new create another heir  
As great in admiration as herself,  
So shall she leave her blessedness to one—  
When heaven shall call her from this cloud of darkness—  
Who from the sacred ashes of her honour  
Shall star-like rise, as great in fame as she was,  
And so stand fix'd. Peace, plenty, love, truth, terror,  
That were the servants to this chosen infant,  
Shall then be his, and like a vine grow to him;  
Wherever the bright sun of heaven shall shine,  
His honour and the greatness of his name  
Shall be, and make new nations; he shall flourish,

And like a mountain cedar reach his branches  
To all the plains about him; our children's children  
Shall see this and bless heaven.

### King

Thou speakest wonders.

### Cranmer

She shall be, to the happiness of England,  
An aged princess; many days shall see her,  
And yet no day without a deed to crown it.  
Would I had known no more! But she must die—  
She must, the Saints must have her-yet a virgin;  
A most unspotted lily shall she pass  
To th' ground, and all the world shall mourn her.

### King

O Lord Archbishop,  
Thou hast made me now a man; never before  
This happy child did I get anything.  
This oracle of comfort has so pleas'd me  
That when I am in heaven I shall desire  
To see what this child does, and praise my Maker.  
I thank ye all. To you, my good Lord Mayor,  
And you, good brethren, I am much beholding;  
I have receiv'd much honour by your presence,  
And ye shall find me thankful. Lead the way, Lords;  
Ye must all see the Queen, and she must thank ye,  
She will be sick else. This day, no man think  
Has business at his house; for all shall stay.

*Act V.*

This little one shall make it holiday.

*Exeunt*



## *The Epilouge*

'Tis ten to one this play can never please  
All that are here. Some come to take their ease  
And sleep an act or two; but those, we fear,  
W'have frighted with our trumpets; so, 'tis clear,  
They'll say 'tis nought; others to hear the city  
Abus'd extremely, and to cry 'That's witty!'  
Which we have not done neither; that, I fear,  
All the expected good w'are like to hear  
For this play at this time is only in  
The merciful construction of good women;  
For such a one we show'd 'em. If they smile  
And say 'twill do, I know within a while  
All the best men are ours; for 'tis ill hap  
If they hold when their ladies bid 'em clap.

## *The End*





