

All Is True

2.1

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?

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FIRST GENTLEMAN

Yes, indeed was I.

SECOND GENTLEMAN Pray speak what has happened.

FIRST GENTLEMAN

You may guess quickly what.

SECOND GENTLEMAN Is he found guilty?

FIRST GENTLEMAN

Yes, truly is he, and condemned upon't.

SECOND GENTLEMAN I am sorry for't.

FIRST GENTLEMAN So are a number more. 10

SECOND GENTLEMAN But pray, how passed 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 allegeÁd
Many sharp reasons to defeat the law. 15

The King's attorney, on the contrary,
Urged on the examinations, proofs, confessions,
Of divers witnesses, which the Duke desired
To him brought *viva voce* to his face±±

At which appeared against him his surveyor, 20
Sir Gilbert Perk 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. 25
 All these accused 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 learneÁdly, for life, but all
 Was either pitied in him or forgotten. 30

SECOND GENTLEMAN
 After all this, how did he bear himself?

FIRST GENTLEMAN
 When he was brought again to th' bar to hear
 His knell rung out, his judgement, he was stirred
 With such an agony he sweat extremely,
 And something spoke in choler, ill and hasty; 35
 But he fell to himself again, and sweetly
 In all the rest showed 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 40
 The Cardinal is the end of this.

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

SECOND GENTLEMAN That trick of state 45
 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 Card'nal instantly will find employment±±
 And far enough from court, too.

SECOND GENTLEMAN All the commons 50
 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 the Duke of Buckingham from his arraignment, tipstaves before him, the axe with the edge towards him, halberdiers on each side, accompanied with Sir Thomas Lovell, Sir Nicholas Vaux, Sir William Sands, and common people

FIRST GENTLEMAN Stay there, sir,
And see the noble ruined man you speak of. 55

SECOND GENTLEMAN
Let's stand close and behold him.
They stand apart

BUCKINGHAM *(to the common people)* 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 received a traitor's judgement,
And by that name must die. Yet, heaven bear witness, 60
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. 65
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, 70
Nor will I sue, although the King have mercies
More than I dare make faults. You few that loved me,
And dare be bold to weep for Buckingham,
His noble friends and fellows, whom to leave
Is only bitter to him, only dying, 75
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. *(To the guard)* Lead on, i'
God's name.

LOVELL
I do beseech your grace, for charity, 80
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 85
'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, 90
Shall cry for blessings on him. May he live
Longer than I have time to tell his years;
Ever beloved and loving may his rule be;
And, when old time shall lead him to his end,
Goodness and he fill up one monument. 95

LOVELL

To th' waterside I must conduct your grace,
Then give my charge up to Sir Nicholas Vaux,
Who undertakes you to your end.

VAUX (*to an attendant*) Prepare there±±
The Duke is coming. See the barge be ready,
And fit it with such furniture as suits 100
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, 105
That never knew what truth meant. I now seal it,
And with that blood will make 'em one day groan for't.
My noble father, Henry of Buckingham,
Who first raised head against usurping Richard,
Flying for succour to his servant Banister, 110
Being distressed, was by that wretch betrayed,
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,
Restored me to my honours, and out of ruins 115
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 120
A little happier than my wretched father.
Yet thus far we are one in fortunes: both
Fell by our servants, by those men we loved most±±
A most unnatural and faithless service.
Heaven has an end in all. Yet, you that hear me, 125
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 130
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, 135
Speak how I fell. I have done, and God forgive me.

Exeunt Buckingham and train

The two Gentlemen come forward

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 140
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±± 145
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 Katherine?

FIRST GENTLEMAN Yes, but it held not.
For when the King once heard it, out of anger 150
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 155
The King will venture at it. Either the Cardinal
Or some about him near have, out of malice
To the good Queen, possessed him with a scruple
That will undo her. To confirm this, too,
Cardinal Campeius is arrived, and lately, 160
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 purposed.

SECOND GENTLEMAN
I think you have hit the mark. But is't not cruel 165
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