

# All Is True

## 5.1

*Enter [at one door] Gardiner, Bishop of Winchester; before him, a Page with a torch*

**GARDINER**

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

**PAGE**

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.

*Enter [at another door] Sir Thomas Lovell, meeting them*

Good hour of night, Sir

Thomas! 5

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? 10  
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 15  
That seeks dispatch 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 feared  
She'll with the labour end.

**GARDINER** The fruit she goes with 20  
I pray for heartily, that it may find

Good time, and live. But, for the stock, Sir Thomas,  
I wish it grubbed up now.

**LOVELL** Methinks I could  
Cry the amen, and yet my conscience says  
She's a good creature and, sweet lady, does 25  
Deserve our better wishes.

**GARDINER** But sir, sir,  
Hear me, Sir Thomas. You're 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±± 30  
Till Cranmer, Cromwell±±her two hands±±and she,  
Sleep in their graves.

**LOVELL** Now, sir, you speak of two  
The most remarked 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, 35  
Stands in the gap and trade of more 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 ventured 40  
To speak my mind of him, and, indeed, this day,  
Sir±±I may tell it you, I think±±I have  
Incensed the lords o'th' Council that he is±±  
For so I know he is, they know he is±±  
A most arch heretic, a pestilence 45  
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 50  
Tomorrow 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. 55  
*Exeunt Gardiner and Page at one door*

*Enter King Henry and Suffolk at another door*

**KING HENRY** *(to Suffolk)*

Charles, I will play no more tonight.  
My mind's not on't. You are too hard for me.

**SUFFOLK**

Sir, I did never win of you before.

**KING HENRY** But little, Charles,

Nor shall not when my fancy's on my play. 60

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 returned her thanks  
In the great'st humbleness, and desired your highness 65  
Most heartily to pray for her.

**KING HENRY**

What sayst thou? Ha?

To pray for her? What, is she crying out?

**LOVELL**

So said her woman, and that her suffrance made  
Almost each pang a death.

**KING HENRY**

Alas, good lady.

**SUFFOLK**

God safely quit her of her burden, and 70  
With gentle travail, to the gladding of  
Your highness with an heir.

**KING HENRY**

'Tis midnight, Charles.

Prithee to bed, and in thy prayers remember  
Th'estate of my poor queen. Leave me alone,  
For I must think of that which company 75  
Would not be friendly to.

**SUFFOLK**

I wish your highness

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

**KING HENRY**

Charles, good night.

*Exit Suffolk*

*Enter Sir Anthony Denny*

Well, sir, what follows?

**DENNY**

Sir, I have brought my lord the Archbishop, 80  
As you commanded me.

**KING HENRY** Ha, Canterbury?

**DENNY**

Ay, my good lord.

**KING HENRY** 'Tis true±±where is he, Denny?

**DENNY**

He attends your highness' pleasure.

**KING HENRY**

Bring him to us.

*Exit Denny*

**LOVELL** (*aside*)

This is about that which the Bishop spake.

I am happily come hither.

85

*Enter Cranmer the Archbishop, ushered by Denny*

**KING HENRY** (*to Lovell and Denny*) Avoid the gallery.

*[Denny begins to depart.] 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 HENRY**

How now, my lord? You do desire to know

90

Wherefore I sent for you.

**CRANMER** (*kneeling*) It is my duty

T'attend your highness' pleasure.

**KING HENRY**

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±±give me your

hand.

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*[Cranmer rises. They walk]*

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 considered, 100

Have moved 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

105

Your patience to you, and be well contented  
To make your house our Tower. You a brother of us,  
It fits we thus proceed, or else no witness  
Would come against you.

**CRANMER** (*kneeling*) I humbly thank your highness,  
And am right glad to catch this good occasion 110  
Most throughly 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 HENRY** Stand up, good Canterbury.  
Thy truth and thy integrity is rooted 115  
In us, thy friend. Give me thy hand. Stand up.  
Prithee, let's walk.

*Cranmer rises. They walk*

Now, by my halidom,  
What manner of man are you? My lord, I looked  
You would have given me your petition that  
I should have ta'en some pains to bring together 120  
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, 125  
Being of those virtues vacant. I fear nothing  
What can be said against me.

**KING HENRY** 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 130  
The justice and the truth o'th' question carries  
The dew 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 opposed, and with a malice 135  
Of as great size. Ween you of better luck,  
I mean in perjured witness, than your master,  
Whose minister you are, whiles here he lived

Upon this naughty earth? Go to, go to.  
You take a precipice for no leap of danger, 140  
And woo your own destruction.

**CRANMER** God and your majesty  
Protect mine innocence, or I fall into  
The trap is laid for me.

**KING HENRY** Be of good cheer.  
They shall no more prevail than we give way to.  
Keep comfort to you, and this morning see 145  
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 150  
Will render you no remedy, *[giving his ring]* this ring  
Deliver them, and your appeal to us  
There make before them.

*Cranmer weeps*

Look, the good man

weeps.

He's honest, on mine honour. God's blest mother,  
I swear he is true-hearted, and a soul 155  
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 the Old Lady*

**[LOVELL]** *(within)* Come back! What mean you?

*[Enter Lovell, following her]*

**OLD LADY**

I'll not come back. The tidings that I bring  
Will make my boldness manners. *(To the King)* Now  
good angels 160

Fly o'er thy royal head, and shade thy person  
Under their blesseÁd wings.

**KING HENRY** Now by thy looks  
I guess thy message. Is the Queen delivered?  
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.

165

**KING HENRY** Lovell±±

**LOVELL**

Sir?

170

**KING HENRY**

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

175

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

I'll put it to the issue.

*Exeunt*