

All Is True

2.2

Enter the Lord Chamberlain with a letter

LORD CHAMBERLAIN (reads) 'My lord, the horses your lordship sent for, with all the care I had, I saw well chosen, ridden, and furnished. 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 served before a subject, if not before the King; which stopped our mouths, sir.'

I fear he will indeed. Well, let him have them. 10
He will have all, I think.

Enter to the Lord Chamberlain the Dukes of Norfolk and Suffolk

NORFOLK Well met, my Lord Chamberlain.

LORD CHAMBERLAIN Good day to both your graces.

SUFFOLK

How is the King employed?

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

NORFOLK

What's the cause?

15

LORD 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, 20
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 cracked the

league
Between us and the Emperor, the Queen's great-
nephew, 25
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 30
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, 35
Will bless the King±±and is not this course pious?

LORD 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±± 40
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, 45
And heartily, for our deliverance,
Or this imperious man will work us all
From princes into pages. All men's honours
Lie like one lump before him, to be fashioned
Into what pitch he please.

SUFFOLK For me, my lords, 50
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; they're breath I not believe in.
I knew him, and I know him; so I leave him 55
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.

(To the Lord Chamberlain)

My lord, you'll bear us company?

LORD CHAMBERLAIN

Excuse me,

The King has sent me elsewhere. Besides,

60

You'll find a most unfit time to disturb him.

Health to your lordships.

NORFOLK

Thanks, my good Lord Chamberlain.

Exit the Lord Chamberlain

*King Henry draws the curtain, and sits reading
pensively*

SUFFOLK

How sad he looks! Sure he is much afflicted.

KING HENRY

Who's there? Ha?

NORFOLK

Pray God he be not angry.

KING HENRY

Who's there, I say? How dare you thrust yourselves 65

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

70

To know your royal pleasure.

KING HENRY

Ye are too bold.

Go to, I'll make ye know your times of business.

Is this an hour for temporal affairs? Ha?

*Enter Cardinal Wolsey and Cardinal Campeius, the
latter with a commission*

Who's there? My good lord Cardinal? O, my Wolsey,

The quiet of my wounded conscience,

75

Thou art a cure fit for a king.

(To Campeius)

You're welcome,

Most learnèd reverend sir, into our kingdom.

Use us, and it. *(To Wolsey)* My good lord, have great
care

I be not found a talker.

CARDINAL WOLSEY

Sir, you cannot.

I would your grace would give us but an hour

80

Of private conference.

KING HENRY *(to Norfolk and Suffolk)* We are busy; go.
*Norfolk and Suffolk speak privately to one another
as they depart*

NORFOLK

This priest has no pride in him!

SUFFOLK

Not to speak of.

I would not be so sick, though, for his place±±

But this cannot continue.

NORFOLK

If it do

I'll venture one have-at-him.

SUFFOLK

I another.

85

Exeunt Norfolk and Suffolk

CARDINAL WOLSEY *(to the King)*

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, 90

Must now confess, if they have any goodness,

The trial just and noble. All the clerks±±

I mean the learneÁd ones in Christian kingdoms±±

Have their free voices. Rome, the nurse of judgement,

Invited by your noble self, hath sent 95

One general tongue unto us: this good man,

This just and learneÁd priest, Card'nal Campeius,

Whom once more I present unto your highness.

KING HENRY *(embracing Campeius)*

And once more in mine arms I bid him welcome,

And thank the holy conclave for their loves. 100

They have sent me such a man I would have wished for.

CARDINAL CAMPEIUS

Your grace must needs deserve all strangers' loves,

You are so noble. To your highness' hand

I tender my commission,

He gives the commission to the King

(To Wolsey) by whose virtue,

The Court of Rome commanding, you, my lord 105

Cardinal of York, are joined with me their servant

In the impartial judging of this business.

KING HENRY

Two equal men. The Queen shall be acquainted
Forthwith for what you come. Where's Gardiner?

CARDINAL WOLSEY

I know your majesty has always loved her 110
So dear in heart not to deny her that
A woman of less place might ask by law±±
Scholars allowed freely to argue for her.

KING HENRY

Ay, and the best she shall have, and my favour
To him that does best, God forbid else. Cardinal, 115
Prithee call Gardiner to me, my new secretary.

Cardinal Wolsey goes to the door and calls Gardiner

I find him a fit fellow.

Enter Gardiner

CARDINAL 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 raised me. 120

KING HENRY Come hither, Gardiner.

The King walks with Gardiner and whispers with him

CARDINAL CAMPEIUS (*to Wolsey*)

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

CARDINAL WOLSEY Yes, he was.

CARDINAL CAMPEIUS

Was he not held a learneÁd man?

CARDINAL WOLSEY Yes, surely.

CARDINAL CAMPEIUS

Believe me, there's an ill opinion spread then, 125
Even of yourself, lord Cardinal.

CARDINAL WOLSEY How? Of me?

CARDINAL 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 grieved him
That he ran mad and died.

CARDINAL WOLSEY Heav'n's peace be with him±± 130
That's Christian care enough. For living murmurers
There's places of rebuke. He was a fool,

For he would needs be virtuous.

(Gesturing towards Gardiner) That good fellow,

If I command him, follows my appointment.

I will have none so near else. Learn this, brother: 135

We live not to be griped by meaner persons.

KING HENRY *(to Gardiner)*

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. 140

My Wolsey, see it furnished. 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