

# All Is True

## 2.4

*Trumpets: sennet. Then cornetts. 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, Rochester, and Saint Asaph; next them, with some small distance, follows a gentleman bearing both the purse containing the great seal and a cardinal's hat; then two priests bearing each a silver cross; then a gentleman usher, bare-headed, accompanied with a serjeant-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; then two noblemen with the sword and mace. The King [ascends] to his seat under the cloth of state; the two cardinals sit under him as judges; the Queen, attended by Griffith her gentleman usher, takes place some distance from the King; the Bishops place themselves on each side the court in the manner of a consistory; below them, the Scribes. The lords sit next the Bishops. The rest of the attendants stand in convenient order about the stage*

**CARDINAL WOLSEY**

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

**KING HENRY**

What's the need?

It hath already publicly been read,  
And on all sides th'authority allowed.  
You may then spare that time.

**CARDINAL WOLSEY**

Be't so. Proceed.

5

**SCRIBE** (to the Crier)

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

**CRIER**

Henry, King of England, come into the court.

**KING HENRY** Here.

**SCRIBE** (to the Crier)

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

**CRIER**

Katherine, Queen of England, come into the court. 10  
*The Queen makes no answer, but rises out of her  
chair, goes about the court, comes to the King, and  
kneels at his feet. Then she speaks*

**QUEEN KATHERINE**

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 15  
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 off,  
And take your good grace from me? Heaven witness 20  
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 inclined. When was the hour 25  
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 derived your anger did I 30  
Continue in my liking? Nay, gave notice  
He was from thence discharged? Sir, call to mind  
That I have been your wife in this obedience  
Upward of twenty years, and have been blessed  
With many children by you. If, in the course 35  
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 40  
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 judgement. Ferdinand                 | 45   |
| My father, King of Spain, was reckoned one                 |      |
| The wisest prince that there had reigned by many           |      |
| A year before. It is not to be questioned                  |      |
| That they had gathered a wise council to them              |      |
| Of every realm, that did debate this business,             | 50   |
| Who deemed our marriage lawful. Wherefore I humbly         |      |
| Beseech you, sir, to spare me till I may                   |      |
| Be by my friends in Spain advised, whose counsel           |      |
| I will implore. If not, i'th' name of God,                 |      |
| Your pleasure be fulfilled.                                |      |
| <b>CARDINAL WOLSEY</b> You have here, lady,                | 55   |
| 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                  | 60   |
| For your own quiet, as to rectify                          |      |
| What is unsettled in the King.                             |      |
| <b>CARDINAL CAMPEIUS</b> His grace                         |      |
| Hath spoken well and justly. Therefore, madam,             |      |
| It's fit this royal session do proceed,                    |      |
| And that without delay their arguments                     | 65   |
| Be now produced and heard.                                 |      |
| <b>QUEEN KATHERINE</b> ( <i>to Wolsey</i> ) Lord Cardinal, |      |
| To you I speak.                                            |      |
| <b>CARDINAL WOLSEY</b> Your pleasure, madam.               |      |
| <b>QUEEN KATHERINE</b>                                     | Sir, |
| I am about to weep, but thinking that                      |      |
| We are a queen, or long have dreamed so, certain           |      |
| The daughter of a king, my drops of tears                  | 70   |
| I'll turn to sparks of fire.                               |      |
| <b>CARDINAL WOLSEY</b> Be patient yet.                     |      |
| <b>QUEEN KATHERINE</b>                                     |      |
| I will when you are humble! Nay, before,                   |      |
| Or God will punish me. I do believe,                       |      |
| Induced by potent circumstances, that                      |      |
| You are mine enemy, and make my challenge                  | 75   |
| 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.

80

**CARDINAL WOLSEY** I do profess  
You speak not like yourself, who ever yet  
Have stood to charity, and displayed th'effects  
Of disposition gentle and of wisdom 85  
O'er-topping woman's power. 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, 90  
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 95  
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 100  
His highness shall speak in, I do beseech  
You, gracious madam, to unthink your speaking,  
And to say so no more.

**QUEEN KATHERINE** My lord, my lord±±  
I am a simple woman, much too weak  
T'oppose your cunning. You're meek and humble-  
mouthed; 105  
You sign your place and calling, in full seeming,  
With meekness and humility±±but your heart  
Is crammed with arrogancy, spleen, and pride.  
You have by fortune and his highness' favours  
Gone slightly o'er low steps, and now are mounted 110  
Where powers 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 115  
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 judged by him.

*She curtsies to the King and begins to depart*

**CARDINAL CAMPEIUS** The Queen is obstinate,  
Stubborn to justice, apt to accuse it, and 120  
Disdainful to be tried by't. 'Tis not well.  
She's going away.

**KING HENRY** *(to the Crier)* Call her again.

**CRIER**

Katherine, Queen of England, come into the court.

**GRIFFITH** *(to the Queen)* Madam, you are called back.

**QUEEN KATHERINE**

What need you note it? Pray you keep your way. 125  
When *you* are called, 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 Katherine and her attendants*

**KING HENRY** Go thy ways, Kate. 130

That man i'th' world who shall report he has  
A better wife, let him in naught be trusted  
For speaking false in that. Thou art alone±±  
If thy rare qualities, sweet gentleness,  
Thy meekness saint-like, wife-like government, 135  
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.

**CARDINAL WOLSEY** Most gracious sir, 140  
In humblest manner I require your highness  
That it shall please you to declare in hearing  
Of all these ears±±for where I am robbed and bound,  
There must I be unloosed, although not there  
At once and fully satisfied±±whether ever I 145

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 150  
Be to the prejudice of her present state,  
Or touch of her good person?

**KING HENRY** 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 155  
Why they are so, but, like to village curs,  
Bark when their fellows do. By some of these  
The Queen is put in anger. You're excused.  
But will you be more justified? You ever  
Have wished the sleeping of this business, never desired 160  
It to be stirred, but oft have hindered, oft,  
The passages made toward it. On my honour  
I speak my good lord Card'nal to this point,  
And thus far clear him. Now, what moved me to't,  
I will be bold with time and your attention. 165  
Then mark th'inducement. Thus it came±±give heed to't.  
My conscience first received a tenderness,  
Scruple, and prick, on certain speeches uttered  
By th' Bishop of Bayonne, then French Ambassador,  
Who had been hither sent on the debating 170  
A marriage 'twixt the Duke of OrleÂans 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 175  
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, entered me,  
Yea, with a spitting power, and made to tremble 180  
The region of my breast; which forced such way  
That many mazed considerings did throng  
And prest in with this caution. First, methought  
I stood not in the smile of heaven, who had

Commanded nature that my lady's womb, 185  
 If it conceived a male child by me, should  
 Do no more offices of life to't than  
 The grave does yield to th' dead. For her male issue  
 Or died where they were made, or shortly after  
 This world had aired them. Hence I took a thought 190  
 This was a judgement 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 weighed the danger which my realms stood in  
 By this my issue's fail, and that gave to me 195  
 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 200  
 I then did feel full sick, and yet not well,  
 By all the reverend fathers of the land  
 And doctors learned. First I began in private  
 With you, my lord of Lincoln. You remember  
 How under my oppression I did reek 205  
 When I first moved you.

**LINCOLN** Very well, my liege.

**KING HENRY**

I have spoke long. Be pleased 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 210  
 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 HENRY** *(to Canterbury)* I then moved you,  
 My lord of Canterbury, and got your leave 215  
 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 220

Of the good Queen, but the sharp thorny points  
Of my allegeÁd reasons, drives this forward.  
Prove but our marriage lawful, by my life  
And kingly dignity, we are contented  
To wear our mortal state to come with her, 225  
Katherine, our queen, before the primest creature  
That's paragoned o'th' world.

**CARDINAL 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 230  
Made to the Queen to call back her appeal  
She intends unto his holiness.

**KING HENRY** (*aside*) I may perceive  
These cardinals trifle with me. I abhor  
This dilatory sloth and tricks of Rome.  
My learned and well-beloveÁd servant, Cranmer, 235  
Prithee return. With thy approach I know  
My comfort comes along. (*Aloud*) Break up the court.  
I say, set on.

*Exeunt in manner as they entered*