

# All Is True

## 1.2

*Cornetts. Enter King Henry leaning on Cardinal Wolsey's shoulder. Enter with them Wolsey's two secretaries, the nobles, and Sir Thomas Lovell. The King ascends to his seat under the cloth of state; Wolsey places himself under the King's feet on his right side*

**KING HENRY** *[to Wolsey]*

My life itself and the best heart of it  
Thanks you for this great care. I stood i'th' level  
Of a full-charged confederacy, and give thanks  
To you that choked it. Let be called before us  
That gentleman of Buckingham's. In person 5  
I'll hear him his confessions justify,  
And point by point the treasons of his master  
He shall again relate.

**[CRIER]** *(within)*

Room for the Queen, ushered by the Duke of Norfolk.  
*Enter Queen Katherine, the Duke of Norfolk, and  
the Duke of Suffolk. She kneels. King Henry riseth  
from his state, takes her up, and kisses her*

**QUEEN KATHERINE**

Nay, we must longer kneel. I am a suitor. 10

**KING HENRY**

Arise, and take place by us.  
*He placeth her by him*

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 KATHERINE** Thank your majesty.

That you would love yourself, and in that love 15  
Not unconsidered leave your honour nor  
The dignity of your office, is the point  
Of my petition.

**KING HENRY** Lady mine, proceed.

**QUEEN KATHERINE**

I am solicited, not by a few,  
And those of true condition, that your subjects 20  
Are in great grievance. There have been commissions  
Sent down among 'em which hath flawed the heart  
Of all their loyalties; wherein, although,  
My good lord Cardinal, they vent reproaches  
Most bitterly on you, as putter-on 25  
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'±± 30  
It doth appear; for upon these taxations  
The clothiers all, not able to maintain  
The many to them 'longing, have put off  
The spinsters, carders, fullers, weavers, who,  
Unfit for other life, compelled by hunger 35  
And lack of other means, in desperate manner  
Daring th'event to th' teeth, are all in uproar,  
And danger serves among them.

**KING HENRY** Taxation?  
Wherein, and what taxation? My lord Cardinal,  
You that are blamed for it alike with us, 40  
Know you of this taxation?

**CARDINAL 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 KATHERINE** No, my lord?  
You know no more than others? But you frame 45  
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 50  
The back is sacrifice to th' load. They say  
They are devised by you, or else you suffer  
Too hard an exclamation.

**KING HENRY** Still exaction!

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

**QUEEN KATHERINE** I am much too venturous 55

In tempting of your patience, but am boldened  
Under your promised 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 60  
Is named 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 65  
To each incenseÁd will. I would your highness  
Would give it quick consideration, for  
There is no primer business.

**KING HENRY** By my life,  
This is against our pleasure.

**CARDINAL WOLSEY** And for me, 70  
I have no further gone in this than by

A single voice, and that not passed me but  
By learneÁd approbation of the judges. If I am  
Traduced by ignorant tongues, which neither know  
My faculties nor person yet will be  
The chronicles of my doing, let me say 75

'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 80

That is new trimmed, but benefit no further  
Than vainly longing. What we oft do best,  
By sick interpreters, once weak ones, is  
Not ours or not allowed; what worst, as oft,  
Hitting a grosser quality, is cried up 85

For our best act. If we shall stand still,  
In fear our motion will be mocked or carped at,  
We should take root here where we sit,  
Or sit state-statues only.

**KING HENRY** Things done well,  
 And with a care, exempt themselves from fear; 90  
 Things done without example, in their issue  
 Are to be feared. 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? 95  
 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 hacked  
 The air will drink the sap. To every county  
 Where this is questioned send our letters with 100  
 Free pardon to each man that has denied  
 The force of this commission. Pray look to't±±  
 I put it to your care.

**CARDINAL WOLSEY** *(to a secretary)* A word with you.  
 Let there be letters writ to every shire  
 Of the King's grace and pardon.  
*(Aside to the secretary)* The grieveÁd commons 105  
 Hardly conceive of me. Let it be noised  
 That through our intercession this revokement  
 And pardon comes. I shall anon advise you  
 Further in the proceeding.

*Exit secretary*

*Enter Buckingham's Surveyor*

**QUEEN KATHERINE** *(to the King)*  
 I am sorry that the Duke of Buckingham 110  
 Is run in your displeasure.

**KING HENRY** It grieves many.  
 The gentleman is learneÁd, 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, 115  
 When these so noble benefits shall prove  
 Not well disposed, 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 enrolled 'mongst wonders±±and when we 120  
 Almost with ravished list'n'ing 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 besmeared in hell. Sit by us. You shall hear±± 125  
This was his gentleman in trust of him±±  
Things to strike honour sad.

(*To Wolsey*) Bid him recount  
The fore-recited practices whereof  
We cannot feel too little, hear too much.

**CARDINAL WOLSEY** (*to the Surveyor*)  
Stand forth, and with bold spirit relate what you 130  
Most like a careful subject have collected  
Out of the Duke of Buckingham.

**KING HENRY** (*to the Surveyor*) Speak freely.

**BUCKINGHAM'S 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 135  
To make the sceptre his. These very words  
I've heard him utter to his son-in-law,  
Lord Abergavenny, to whom by oath he menaced  
Revenge upon the Cardinal.

**CARDINAL WOLSEY** (*to the King*) Please your highness note  
His dangerous conception in this point, 140  
Not friended by his wish to your high person.  
His will is most malignant, and it stretches  
Beyond you to your friends.

**QUEEN KATHERINE** My learned Lord Cardinal,  
Deliver all with charity.

**KING HENRY** (*to the Surveyor*) Speak on.  
How grounded he his title to the crown 145  
Upon our fail? To this point hast thou heard him  
At any time speak aught?

**BUCKINGHAM'S SURVEYOR** He was brought to this  
By a vain prophecy of Nicholas Hopkins.

**KING HENRY**  
What was that Hopkins?

**BUCKINGHAM'S SURVEYOR** Sir, a Chartreux friar,  
His confessor, who fed him every minute 150  
With words of sovereignty.

**KING HENRY** How know'st thou this?

**BUCKINGHAM'S SURVEYOR**

Not long before your highness sped to France,  
The Duke being at the Rose, within the parish  
Saint Lawrence Poutney, did of me demand  
What was the speech among the Londoners 155  
Concerning the French journey. I replied  
Men feared 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 160  
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 165  
He solemnly had sworn, that what he spoke  
My chaplain to no creature living but  
To me should utter, with demure confidence  
This pausingly ensued: <sup>a</sup>neither the King nor's heirs<sup>o</sup>,  
Tell you the Duke, <sup>a</sup>shall prosper. Bid him strive 170  
To win the love o'th' commonalty. The Duke  
Shall govern England.<sup>o</sup> '

**QUEEN KATHERINE** 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 175  
And spoil your nobler soul. I say, take heed;  
Yes, heartily beseech you.

**KING HENRY** Let him on.  
(*To the Surveyor*) Go forward.

**BUCKINGHAM'S SURVEYOR** On my soul I'll speak but truth.  
I told my lord the Duke, by th' devil's illusions  
The monk might be deceived, and that 'twas  
dangerous 180  
To ruminate on this so far until  
It forged him some design which, being believed,  
It was much like to do. He answered, 'Tush,  
It can do me no damage', adding further  
That had the King in his last sickness failed, 185  
The Cardinal's and Sir Thomas Lovell's heads

Should have gone off.

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

**BUCKINGHAM'S SURVEYOR**

I can, my liege.

**KING HENRY** Proceed.

**BUCKINGHAM'S SURVEYOR** Being at Greenwich,  
After your highness had reprov'd the Duke 190  
About Sir William Bulmer±±

**KING HENRY** I remember  
Such a time, being my sworn servant,  
The Duke retained him his. But on±±what hence?

**BUCKINGHAM'S SURVEYOR**

'If', quoth he, 'I for this had been committed'±±  
As to the Tower, I thought±±I would have played 195  
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 HENRY** A giant traitor! 200

**CARDINAL WOLSEY** *(to the Queen)*

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

**QUEEN KATHERINE** God mend all.

**KING HENRY** *(to the Surveyor)*

There's something more would out of thee±±what  
sayst?

**BUCKINGHAM'S SURVEYOR**

After 'the Duke his father', with 'the knife',  
He stretched him, and with one hand on his dagger, 205  
Another spread on's breast, mounting his eyes,  
He did discharge a horrible oath whose tenor  
Was, were he evil used, he would outgo  
His father by as much as a performance  
Does an irresolute purpose.

**KING HENRY** There's his period±± 210

To sheathe his knife in us. He is attached.  
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.

*[Flourish.] Exeunt*

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