

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?

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

CARDINAL WOLSEY And for me,
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
'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
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
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'ning 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: ^aneither the King nor's heirs^o,
Tell you the Duke, ^ashall prosper. Bid him strive 170
To win the love o'th' commonalty. The Duke
Shall govern England.^o '

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.

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[Flourish.] Exeunt