

Richard III

2.4

Enter [Lord Cardinal], young Duke of York, Queen Elizabeth, and the old Duchess of York

[CARDINAL]

Last night, I hear, they lay them at Northampton.
At Stony Stratford they do rest tonight.
Tomorrow, or next day, they will be here.

DUCHESS OF YORK

I long with all my heart to see the Prince.
I hope he is much grown since last I saw him.

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QUEEN ELIZABETH

But I hear, no. They say my son of York
Has almost overta'en him in his growth.

YORK

Ay, mother, but I would not have it so.

DUCHESS OF YORK

Why, my young cousin, it is good to grow.

YORK

Grandam, one night as we did sit at supper,
My uncle Rivers talked how I did grow
More than my brother. `Ay', quoth my nuncle
Gloucester,
`Small herbs have grace; gross weeds do grow apace'.
And since, methinks I would not grow so fast,
Because sweet flow'rs are slow, and weeds make
haste.

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DUCHESS OF YORK

Good faith, good faith, the saying did not hold
In him that did object the same to thee.
He was the wretched'st thing when he was young,
So long a-growing, and so leisurely,
That if his rule were true he should be gracious.

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[CARDINAL]

Why, so no doubt he is, my gracious madam.

DUCHESS OF YORK

I hope he is, but yet let mothers doubt.

YORK

Now, by my troth, if I had been remembered,

I could have given my uncle's grace a flout
 To touch his growth, nearer than he touched mine. 25

DUCHESS OF YORK
 How, my young York? I pray thee, let me hear it.

YORK
 Marry, they say my uncle grew so fast
 That he could gnaw a crust at two hours old.
 'Twas full two years ere I could get a tooth.
 Grannam, this would have been a biting jest. 30

DUCHESS OF YORK
 I pray thee, pretty York, who told thee this?

YORK Grannam, his nurse.

DUCHESS OF YORK
 His nurse? Why, she was dead ere thou wast born.

YORK
 If 'twere not she, I cannot tell who told me.

QUEEN ELIZABETH
 A parlous boy! Go to, you are too shrewd. 35

[CARDINAL]
 Good madam, be not angry with the child.

QUEEN ELIZABETH
 Pitchers have ears.

Enter [Marquis Dorset]

[CARDINAL] Here comes your son, Lord Dorset.
 What news, Lord Marquis?

[DORSET] Such news, my lord,
 As grieves me to report.

QUEEN ELIZABETH How doth the Prince?

[DORSET]
 Well, madam, and in health.

DUCHESS OF YORK What is thy news then? 40

[DORSET]
 Lord Rivers and Lord Gray are sent to Pomfret,
 And with them Thomas Vaughan, prisoners.

DUCHESS OF YORK
 Who hath committed them?

[DORSET] The mighty dukes,
 Gloucester and Buckingham.

[CARDINAL] For what offence?

[DORSET]
 The sum of all I can, I have disclosed. 45

Why or for what the nobles were committed
Is all unknown to me, my gracious lord.

QUEEN ELIZABETH

Ay me! I see the ruin of our house.
The tiger now hath seized the gentle hind.
Insulting tyranny begins to jet
Upon the innocent and aweless throne.
Welcome destruction, blood, and massacre!
I see, as in a map, the end of all.

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DUCHESS OF YORK

Accurse Ád and unquiet wrangling days,
How many of you have mine eyes beheld?
My husband lost his life to get the crown,
And often up and down my sons were tossed,
For me to joy and weep their gain and loss.
And being seated, and domestic broils
Clean overblown, themselves the conquerors
Make war upon themselves, brother to brother,
Blood to blood, self against self. O preposterous
And frantic outrage, end thy damne Ád spleen,
Or let me die, to look on death no more.

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QUEEN ELIZABETH (to York)

Come, come, my boy, we will to sanctuary.±±
Madam, farewell.

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DUCHESS OF YORK Stay, I will go with you.

QUEEN ELIZABETH

You have no cause.

[CARDINAL] (to Elizabeth) My gracious lady, go,
And thither bear your treasure and your goods.
For my part, I'll resign unto your grace
The seal I keep, and so betide to me
As well I tender you and all of yours.
Go, I'll conduct you to the sanctuary.

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Exeunt