

Richard Duke of York

4.5

*Enter Earl Rivers and his sister, Lady Gray,
Edward's queen*

RIVERS

Madam, what makes you in this sudden change?

LADY GRAY

Why, brother Rivers, are you yet to learn
What late misfortune is befall'n King Edward?

RIVERS

What? Loss of some pitched battle against Warwick?

LADY GRAY

No, but the loss of his own royal person. 5

RIVERS Then is my sovereign slain?

LADY GRAY

Ay, almost slain— for he is taken prisoner,
Either betrayed by falsehood of his guard
Or by his foe surprised at unawares, 10
And, as I further have to understand,
Is now committed to the Bishop of York,
Fell Warwick's brother, and by that our foe.

RIVERS

These news, I must confess, are full of grief.
Yet, gracious madam, bear it as you may.
Warwick may lose, that now hath won the day. 15

LADY GRAY

Till then fair hope must hinder life's decay,
And I the rather wean me from despair
For love of Edward's offspring in my womb.
This is it that makes me bridle passion
And bear with mildness my misfortune's cross. 20
Ay, ay, for this I draw in many a tear
And stop the rising of blood-sucking sighs,
Lest with my sighs or tears I blast or drown
King Edward's fruit, true heir to th'English crown.

RIVERS

But, madam, where is Warwick then become? 25

LADY GRAY

I am inform'd that he comes towards London

To set the crown once more on Henry's head.
Guess thou the rest±±King Edward's friends must down.
But to prevent the tyrant's violence±±
For trust not him that hath once broken faith±± 30
I'll hence forthwith unto the sanctuary,
To save at least the heir of Edward's right.
There shall I rest secure from force and fraud.
Come, therefore, let us fly while we may fly.
If Warwick take us, we are sure to die.

35

Exeunt