

Richard III

3.5

Enter Richard Duke of Gloucester and the Duke of Buckingham in rotten armour, marvellous ill-favoured

RICHARD GLOUCESTER

Come, cousin, canst thou quake and change thy colour?

Murder thy breath in middle of a word?

And then again begin, and stop again,

As if thou wert distraught and mad with terror?

BUCKINGHAM

Tut, I can counterfeit the deep tragedian, 5

Tremble and start at wagging of a straw,

Speak, and look back, and pry on every side,

Intending deep suspicion; ghastly looks

Are at my service, like enforced smiles,

And both are ready in their offices 10

At any time to grace my stratagems.

Enter the Lord Mayor

RICHARD GLOUCESTER *(aside to Buckingham)*

Here comes the Mayor.

BUCKINGHAM *(aside to Richard)*

Let me alone to entertain him.±±Lord Mayor±±

RICHARD GLOUCESTER *[calling as to one within]*

Look to the drawbridge there!

BUCKINGHAM Hark, a drum! 15

RICHARD GLOUCESTER *[calling as to one within]*

Catesby, o'erlook the walls!

BUCKINGHAM Lord Mayor, the reason we have sent±±

RICHARD GLOUCESTER

Look back, defend thee! Here are enemies.

BUCKINGHAM

God and our innocence defend and guard us.

Enter [Sir William Catesby] with Hastings' head

RICHARD GLOUCESTER

O, O, be quiet! It is Catesby. 20

CATESBY

Here is the head of that ignoble traitor,

The dangerous and unsuspected Hastings.

RICHARD GLOUCESTER

So dear I loved the man that I must weep.
I took him for the plainest harmless creature
That breathed upon the earth, a Christian, 25
Made him my book wherein my soul recorded
The history of all her secret thoughts.
So smooth he daubed his vice with show of virtue
That, his apparent open guilt omitted±±
I mean, his conversation with Shore's wife±± 30
He lived from all attainture of suspect.

BUCKINGHAM

The covert'st sheltered traitor that ever lived.
(*To the Mayor*) Would you imagine, or almost believe±±
Were't not that, by great preservation,
We live to tell it±±that the subtle traitor 35
This day had plotted in the Council house
To murder me and my good lord of Gloucester?

MAYOR Had he done so?

RICHARD GLOUCESTER

What, think you we are Turks or infidels,
Or that we would against the form of law 40
Proceed thus rashly in the villain's death
But that the extreme peril of the case,
The peace of England, and our persons' safety,
Enforced us to this execution?

MAYOR

Now fair befall you, he deserved his death, 45
And your good graces both have well proceeded,
To warn false traitors from the like attempts.
I never looked for better at his hands
After he once fell in with Mrs Shore.

[RICHARD GLOUCESTER]

Yet had not we determined he should die, 50
Until your lordship came to see his end,
Which now the loving haste of these our friends±±
Something against our meanings±±have prevented;
Because, my lord, we would have had you hear
The traitor speak, and timorously confess 55
The manner and the purpose of his treason,

That you might well have signified the same
Unto the citizens, who haply may
Misconster us in him, and wail his death.

MAYOR

But, my good lord, your graces' word shall serve 60
As well as I had seen and heard him speak.
And do not doubt, right noble princes both,
But I'll acquaint our duteous citizens
With all your just proceedings in this cause.

RICHARD GLOUCESTER

And to that end we wished your lordship here, 65
T'avoid the censures of the carping world.

BUCKINGHAM

Which, since you come too late of our intent,
Yet witness what you hear we did intend,
And so, my good Lord Mayor, we bid farewell.

Exit Mayor

RICHARD GLOUCESTER

Go after; after, cousin Buckingham! 70
The Mayor towards Guildhall hies him in all post;
There, at your meetest vantage of the time,
Infer the bastardy of Edward's children.
Tell them how Edward put to death a citizen
Only for saying he would make his son 75
`Heir to the Crown'±±meaning indeed, his house,
Which by the sign thereof was termeÁd so.
Moreover, urge his hateful luxury
And bestial appetite in change of lust,
Which stretched unto their servants, daughters, wives, 80
Even where his raging eye, or savage heart,
Without control, listed to make a prey.
Nay, for a need, thus far come near my person:
Tell them, when that my mother went with child
Of that insatiate Edward, noble York, 85
My princely father, then had wars in France,
And by true computation of the time
Found that the issue was not his begot±±
Which well appeareÁd in his lineaments,
Being nothing like the noble Duke my father. 90
Yet touch this sparingly, as 'twere far off,

Because, my lord, you know my mother lives.

BUCKINGHAM

Doubt not, my lord, I'll play the orator
As if the golden fee for which I plead
Were for myself. And so, my lord, adieu.

95

He starts to go

RICHARD GLOUCESTER

If you thrive well, bring them to Baynard's Castle,
Where you shall find me well accompanied
With reverend fathers and well-learned bishops.

BUCKINGHAM

I go, and towards three or four o'clock
Look for the news that the Guildhall affords.

100

Exit

RICHARD GLOUCESTER

Now will I in, to take some privy order
To draw the brats of Clarence out of sight,
And to give notice that no manner person
Have any time recourse unto the Princes.

Exeunt