

# Richard III

## 3.1

*The Trumpets sound. Enter young Prince Edward, the Dukes of Gloucester and Buckingham, Lord Cardinal, with others, including [Lord Stanley Earl of Derby and] Sir William Catesby*

**BUCKINGHAM**

Welcome, sweet Prince, to London, to your chamber.

**RICHARD GLOUCESTER** *(to Prince Edward)*

Welcome, dear cousin, my thoughts' sovereign.  
The weary way hath made you melancholy.

**PRINCE EDWARD**

No, uncle, but our crosses on the way  
Have made it tedious, wearisome, and heavy. 5  
I want more uncles here to welcome me.

**RICHARD GLOUCESTER**

Sweet Prince, the untainted virtue of your years  
Hath not yet dived into the world's deceit,  
Nor more can you distinguish of a man  
Than of his outward show, which God he knows 10  
Seldom or never jumpeth with the heart.  
Those uncles which you want were dangerous.  
Your grace attended to their sugared words,  
But looked not on the poison of their hearts.  
God keep you from them, and from such false friends. 15

**PRINCE EDWARD**

God keep me from false friends; but they were none.  
*Enter Lord Mayor [and his train]*

**RICHARD GLOUCESTER**

My lord, the Mayor of London comes to greet you.

**MAYOR** *(kneeling to Prince Edward)*

God bless your grace with health and happy days.

**PRINCE EDWARD**

I thank you, good my lord, and thank you all.±±  
I thought my mother and my brother York 20  
Would long ere this have met us on the way.  
Fie, what a slug is Hastings, that he hastes not  
To tell us whether they will come or no.

*Enter Lord Hastings*

**BUCKINGHAM**

In happy time here comes the sweating lord.

**PRINCE EDWARD** *(to Hastings)*

Welcome, my lord. What, will our mother come?

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**LORD HASTINGS**

On what occasion God he knows, not I,  
The Queen your mother, and your brother York,  
Have taken sanctuary. The tender Prince  
Would fain have come with me to meet your grace,  
But by his mother was perforce withheld.

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**BUCKINGHAM**

Fie, what an indirect and peevish course  
Is this of hers!±±Lord Cardinal, will your grace  
Persuade the Queen to send the Duke of York  
Unto his princely brother presently?±±  
If she deny, Lord Hastings, go with him,  
And from her jealous arms pluck him perforce.

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**CARDINAL**

My lord of Buckingham, if my weak oratory  
Can from his mother win the Duke of York,  
Anon expect him. But if she be obdurate  
To mild entreaties, God in heaven forbid  
We should infringe the sacred privilege  
Of blesseÁd sanctuary. Not for all this land  
Would I be guilty of so deep a sin.

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**BUCKINGHAM**

You are too senseless-obstinate, my lord,  
Too ceremonious and traditional.  
Weigh it not with the grossness of this age.  
You break not sanctuary in seizing him.  
The benefit thereof is always granted  
To those whose dealings have deserved the place,  
And those who have the wit to claim the place.  
This prince hath neither claimed it nor deserved it,  
And therefore, in my mind, he cannot have it.  
Then taking him from thence that 'longs not there,  
You break thereby no privilege nor charter.  
Oft have I heard of `sanctuary men',  
But `sanctuary children' ne'er till now.

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**CARDINAL**

My lord, you shall o'errule my mind for once.±±

Come on, Lord Hastings, will you go with me?

**LORD HASTINGS** I come, my lord.

**PRINCE EDWARD**

Good lords, make all the speedy haste you may.±± 60

*Exeunt Cardinal and Hastings*

Say, uncle Gloucester, if our brother come,  
Where shall we sojourn till our coronation?

**RICHARD GLOUCESTER**

Where it seems best unto your royal self.  
If I may counsel you, some day or two  
Your highness shall repose you at the Tower, 65  
Then where you please and shall be thought most fit  
For your best health and recreation.

**PRINCE EDWARD**

I do not like the Tower of any place.±±  
Did Julius Caesar build that place, my lord?

**BUCKINGHAM**

He did, my gracious lord, begin that place, 70  
Which since succeeding ages have re-edified.

**PRINCE EDWARD**

Is it upon record, or else reported  
Successively from age to age, he built it?

**BUCKINGHAM**

Upon record, my gracious liege.

**PRINCE EDWARD**

But say, my lord, it were not registered, 75  
Methinks the truth should live from age to age,  
As 'twere retailed to all posterity  
Even to the general all-ending day.

**RICHARD GLOUCESTER** *(aside)*

So wise so young, they say, do never live long.

**PRINCE EDWARD** What say you, uncle? 80

**RICHARD GLOUCESTER**

I say, 'Without characters fame lives long'.  
*(Aside)* Thus like the formal Vice, Iniquity,  
I moralize two meanings in one word.

**PRINCE EDWARD**

That Julius Caesar was a famous man:  
With what his valour did t'enrich his wit, 85  
His wit set down to make his valour live.  
Death made no conquest of this conqueror,

For yet he lives in fame though not in life.  
 I'll tell you what, my cousin Buckingham.

**BUCKINGHAM** What, my good lord? 90

**PRINCE EDWARD**  
 An if I live until I be a man,  
 I'll win our ancient right in France again,  
 Or die a soldier, as I lived a king.

**RICHARD GLOUCESTER** (*aside*)  
 Short summers lightly have a forward spring.  
*Enter young Duke of York, Lord Hastings, and Lord Cardinal*

**BUCKINGHAM**  
 Now in good time, here comes the Duke of York. 95

**PRINCE EDWARD**  
 Richard of York, how fares our loving brother?

**YORK**  
 Well, my dread lord—so must I call you now.

**PRINCE EDWARD**  
 Ay, brother, to our grief, as it is yours.  
 Too late he died that might have kept that title,  
 Which by his death hath lost much majesty. 100

**RICHARD GLOUCESTER**  
 How fares our noble cousin, Lord of York?

**YORK**  
 I thank you, gentle uncle, well. O, my lord,  
 You said that idle weeds are fast in growth;  
 The Prince, my brother, hath outgrown me far.

**RICHARD GLOUCESTER**  
 He hath, my lord.

**YORK** And therefore is he idle? 105

**RICHARD GLOUCESTER**  
 O my fair cousin, I must not say so.

**YORK**  
 He is more beholden to you than I.

**RICHARD GLOUCESTER**  
 He may command me as my sovereign,  
 But you have power in me as a kinsman.

**YORK**  
 I pray you, uncle, render me this dagger. 110

**RICHARD GLOUCESTER**  
 My dagger, little cousin? With all my heart.

**PRINCE EDWARD** A beggar, brother?

**YORK**

**RICHARD GLOUCESTER**

115

## RICHARD GLOUCESTER

**YORK**

**RICHARD GLOUCESTER**

120

**RICHARD GLOUCESTER**

**YORK**

**RICHARD GLOUCESTER**      How?

## PRINCE EDWARD

**YORK**

Uncle, my brother mocks both you and me.

Because that I am little like an ape, 130

He thinks that you should bear me on your shoulders.

# BUCKINGHAM

To mitigate the scorn he gives his uncle,

He prettily and aptly taunts himself.

So cunning and so young is wonderful.

135

My lord, will't please you pass along?

Myself and my good cousin Buckingham

Will to your mother to entreat of her

To meet you at the Tower and welcome you.

**YORK** *(to Prince Edward)*

What, will you go unto the Tower, my lord? 140

**PRINCE EDWARD**  
My Lord Protector needs will have it so.

**YORK**  
I shall not sleep in quiet at the Tower.

**RICHARD GLOUCESTER** Why, what should you fear there?

**YORK**  
Marry, my uncle Clarence' angry ghost.  
My grannam told me he was murdered there. 145

**PRINCE EDWARD**  
I fear no uncles dead.

**RICHARD GLOUCESTER** Nor none that live, I hope.

**PRINCE EDWARD**  
An if they live, I hope I need not fear.  
(*To York*) But come, my lord, and with a heavy heart,  
Thinking on them, go we unto the Tower.  
*A Sennet. Exeunt all but Richard, Buckingham,  
and Catesby*

**BUCKINGHAM** (*to Richard*)  
Think you, my lord, this little prating York 150  
Was not incensed by his subtle mother  
To taunt and scorn you thus opprobriously?

**RICHARD GLOUCESTER**  
No doubt, no doubt. O, 'tis a parlous boy,  
Bold, quick, ingenious, forward, capable.  
He is all the mother's, from the top to toe. 155

**BUCKINGHAM**  
Well, let them rest.±±Come hither, Catesby. Thou art  
sworn  
As deeply to effect what we intend  
As closely to conceal what we impart.  
Thou know'st our reasons, urged upon the way.  
What think'st thou? Is it not an easy matter 160  
To make Lord William Hastings of our mind,  
For the instalment of this noble duke  
In the seat royal of this famous isle?

**CATESBY**  
He for his father's sake so loves the Prince  
That he will not be won to aught against him. 165

**BUCKINGHAM**  
What think'st thou then of Stanley? Will not he?

**CATESBY**

He will do all-in-all as Hastings doth.

**BUCKINGHAM**

Well then, no more but this. Go, gentle Catesby,  
And, as it were far off, sound thou Lord Hastings  
How he doth stand affected to our purpose.

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If thou dost find him tractable to us,  
Encourage him, and tell him all our reasons.  
If he be leaden, icy, cold, unwilling,  
Be thou so too, and so break off your talk,  
And give us notice of his inclination,  
For we tomorrow hold divided counsels,  
Wherein thyself shalt highly be employed.

175

**RICHARD GLOUCESTER**

Commend me to Lord William. Tell him, Catesby,  
His ancient knot of dangerous adversaries  
Tomorrow are let blood at Pomfret Castle,  
And bid my lord, for joy of this good news,  
Give Mrs Shore one gentle kiss the more.

180

**BUCKINGHAM**

Good Catesby, go effect this business soundly.

**CATESBY**

My good lords both, with all the heed I can.

**RICHARD GLOUCESTER**

Shall we hear from you, Catesby, ere we sleep?

185

**CATESBY** You shall, my lord.

**RICHARD GLOUCESTER**

At Crosby House, there shall you find us both.

*Exit Catesby*

**BUCKINGHAM**

My lord, what shall we do if we perceive  
Lord Hastings will not yield to our complots?

**RICHARD GLOUCESTER**

Chop off his head. Something we will determine.  
And look when I am king, claim thou of me  
The earldom of Hereford, and all the movables  
Whereof the King my brother was possessed.

190

**BUCKINGHAM**

I'll claim that promise at your grace's hand.

**RICHARD GLOUCESTER**

And look to have it yielded with all kindness.

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Come, let us sup betimes, that afterwards  
We may digest our complots in some form.  
*Exeunt*