

# Richard Duke of York

## 4.1

*Enter Richard Duke of Gloucester, George Duke of Clarence, the Duke of Somerset, and the Marquis of Montague*

**RICHARD OF GLOUCESTER**

Now tell me, brother Clarence, what think you  
Of this new marriage with the Lady Gray?  
Hath not our brother made a worthy choice?

**GEORGE OF CLARENCE**

Alas, you know 'tis far from hence to France;  
How could he stay till Warwick made return?

5

**SOMERSET**

My lords, forbear this talk±±here comes the King.  
*Flourish. Enter King Edward, the Lady Gray his  
Queen, the Earl of Pembroke, and the Lords  
Stafford and Hastings. Four stand on one side [of  
the King], and four on the other*

**RICHARD OF GLOUCESTER** And his well-chosen bride.

**GEORGE OF CLARENCE**

I mind to tell him plainly what I think.

**KING EDWARD**

Now, brother of Clarence, how like you our choice,  
That you stand pensive, as half-malcontent?

10

**GEORGE OF CLARENCE**

As well as Louis of France, or the Earl of Warwick,  
Which are so weak of courage and in judgement  
That they'll take no offence at our abuse.

**KING EDWARD**

Suppose they take offence without a cause±±  
They are but Louis and Warwick; I am Edward,  
Your king and Warwick's, and must have my will.

15

**RICHARD OF GLOUCESTER**

And you shall have your will, because our king.  
Yet hasty marriage seldom proveth well.

**KING EDWARD**

Yea, brother Richard, are you offended too?

**RICHARD OF GLOUCESTER**

Not I, no±±God forbid that I should wish them severed

20

Whom God hath joined together. Ay, and 'twere pity  
To sunder them that yoke so well together.

**KING EDWARD**

Setting your scorns and your mislike aside,  
Tell me some reason why the Lady Gray  
Should not become my wife and England's queen. 25  
And you too, Somerset and Montague,  
Speak freely what you think.

**GEORGE OF CLARENCE**

Then this is my opinion: that King Louis  
Becomes your enemy for mocking him  
About the marriage of the Lady Bona. 30

**RICHARD OF GLOUCESTER**

And Warwick, doing what you gave in charge,  
Is now dishonoured by this new marriage.

**KING EDWARD**

What if both Louis and Warwick be appeased  
By such invention as I can devise?

**MONTAGUE**

Yet, to have joined with France in such alliance 35  
Would more have strengthened this our  
commonwealth  
'Gainst foreign storms than any home-bred marriage.

**HASTINGS**

Why, knows not Montague that of itself  
England is safe, if true within itself?

**MONTAGUE**

But the safer when 'tis backed with France. 40

**HASTINGS**

'Tis better using France than trusting France.  
Let us be backed with God and with the seas  
Which he hath giv'n for fence impregnable,  
And with their helps only defend ourselves.  
In them and in ourselves our safety lies. 45

**GEORGE OF CLARENCE**

For this one speech Lord Hastings well deserves  
To have the heir of the Lord Hungerford.

**KING EDWARD**

Ay, what of that? It was my will and grant±±  
And for this once my will shall stand for law.

**RICHARD OF GLOUCESTER**

And yet, methinks, your grace hath not done well      50  
 To give the heir and daughter of Lord Scales  
 Unto the brother of your loving bride.  
 She better would have fitted me or Clarence,  
 But in your bride you bury brotherhood.

**GEORGE OF CLARENCE**  
 Or else you would not have bestowed the heir      55  
 Of the Lord Bonville on your new wife's son,  
 And leave your brothers to go speed elsewhere.

**KING EDWARD**  
 Alas, poor Clarence, is it for a wife  
 That thou art malcontent? I will provide thee.

**GEORGE OF CLARENCE**  
 In choosing for yourself you showed your judgement,      60  
 Which being shallow, you shall give me leave  
 To play the broker in mine own behalf,  
 And to that end I shortly mind to leave you.

**KING EDWARD**  
 Leave me, or tarry. Edward will be king,  
 And not be tied unto his brother's will.      65

**LADY GRAY**  
 My lords, before it pleased his majesty  
 To raise my state to title of a queen,  
 Do me but right, and you must all confess  
 That I was not ignoble of descent±±  
 And meaner than myself have had like fortune.      70  
 But as this title honours me and mine,  
 So your dislikes, to whom I would be pleasing,  
 Doth cloud my joys with danger and with sorrow.

**KING EDWARD**  
 My love, forbear to fawn upon their frowns.  
 What danger or what sorrow can befall thee      75  
 So long as Edward is thy constant friend,  
 And their true sovereign, whom they must obey?  
 Nay, whom they shall obey, and love thee too±±  
 Unless they seek for hatred at my hands,  
 Which if they do, yet will I keep thee safe,      80  
 And they shall feel the vengeance of my wrath.

**RICHARD OF GLOUCESTER** (*aside*)  
 I hear, yet say not much, but think the more.  
*Enter the Post from France*

**KING EDWARD**

Now, messenger, what letters or what news from  
France?

**POST**

My sovereign liege, no letters and few words,  
But such as I, without your special pardon, 85  
Dare not relate.

**KING EDWARD**

Go to, we pardon thee. Therefore, in brief,  
Tell me their words as near as thou canst guess them.  
What answer makes King Louis unto our letters?

**POST**

At my depart these were his very words: 90  
`Go tell false Edward, thy suppose Ad king,  
That Louis of France is sending over masquers  
To revel it with him and his new bride.'

**KING EDWARD**

Is Louis so brave? Belike he thinks me Henry.  
But what said Lady Bona to my marriage? 95

**POST**

These were her words, uttered with mild disdain:  
`Tell him in hope he'll prove a widower shortly,  
I'll wear the willow garland for his sake.'

**KING EDWARD**

I blame not her, she could say little less;  
She had the wrong. But what said Henry's queen? 100  
For I have heard that she was there in place.

**POST**

`Tell him', quoth she, `my mourning weeds are done,  
And I am ready to put armour on.'

**KING EDWARD**

Belike she minds to play the Amazon.  
But what said Warwick to these injuries? 105

**POST**

He, more incensed against your majesty  
Than all the rest, discharged me with these words:  
`Tell him from me that he hath done me wrong,  
And therefore I'll uncrown him ere't be long.'

**KING EDWARD**

Ha! Durst the traitor breathe out so proud words? 110  
Well, I will arm me, being thus forewarned.

They shall have wars and pay for their presumption.  
But say, is Warwick friends with Margaret?

**POST**

Ay, gracious sovereign, they are so linked in friendship  
That young Prince Edward marries Warwick's daughter. 115

**GEORGE OF CLARENCE**

Belike the elder; Clarence will have the younger.  
Now, brother King, farewell, and sit you fast,  
For I will hence to Warwick's other daughter,  
That, though I want a kingdom, yet in marriage  
I may not prove inferior to yourself. 120  
You that love me and Warwick, follow me.

*Exit Clarence, and Somerset follows*

**RICHARD OF GLOUCESTER**

Not I±± *[aside]* my thoughts aim at a further matter.  
I stay not for the love of Edward, but the crown.

**KING EDWARD**

Clarence and Somerset both gone to Warwick?  
Yet am I armed against the worst can happen, 125  
And haste is needful in this desp'rate case.  
Pembroke and Stafford, you in our behalf  
Go levy men and make prepare for war.  
They are already, or quickly will be, landed.  
Myself in person will straight follow you. 130

*Exeunt Pembroke and Stafford*

But ere I go, Hastings and Montague,  
Resolve my doubt. You twain, of all the rest,  
Are near'st to Warwick by blood and by alliance.  
Tell me if you love Warwick more than me.  
If it be so, then both depart to him±± 135  
I rather wish you foes than hollow friends.  
But if you mind to hold your true obedience,  
Give me assurance with some friendly vow  
That I may never have you in suspect.

**MONTAGUE**

So God help Montague as he proves true. 140

**HASTINGS**

And Hastings as he favours Edward's cause.

**KING EDWARD**

Now, brother Richard, will you stand by us?

**RICHARD OF GLOUCESTER**

Ay, in despite of all that shall withstand you.

**KING EDWARD**

Why, so. Then am I sure of victory.

Now, therefore, let us hence and lose no hour

145

Till we meet Warwick with his foreign power.

*Exeunt*