

**RICHARD III Podcast (Part Four-Act IV)****ACT IV**

*Music underscores narration.*

**Narration:** *Richard the Third. Act Four. At the beginning of the act, the Duchess of York, Lady Anne and Queen Elizabeth receive the news that Richard is usurping the throne. Elizabeth is denied access to the young princes and expresses her fears for them. Lord Stanley arrives and orders Lady Anne to Westminster Cathedral to be crowned Queen. As the story continues, Richard, now King Richard III, tests Buckingham to see if he will support his plan to have the young princes killed. Buckingham hesitates, which angers Richard, who then asks his henchman to find a murderer for hire.*

*Soon, we learn that there is a rebellion against Richard being led by Henry Tudor, Earl of Richmond, and that Queen Elizabeth's son, Dorset, has joined his forces. Richard realizes that he must marry Queen Elizabeth's daughter to secure his ties to the throne, so he puts out the word that Lady Anne is "sick" which means that he will have her killed. He also enlists a murderer named Tyrrel to dispose of the princes in the tower. Buckingham decides to ask Richard for the lands promised to him as a price for continuing to do his bidding, but the angry Richard ignores him. This makes Buckingham realize that he should join the opposing forces while he is still alive. Next, as the women of the palace grieve their losses, Richard interrupts them. Ironically, he asks for the hand of the young princess Elizabeth now that Lady Anne is dead. After scorning him, Queen Elizabeth seems to agree to the plan, although it is likely done out of a need for survival, and with a plan to mislead him. Finally, as the act comes to an end, Richard grows increasingly erratic as he learns of the opposing forces that are gathering to overthrow him.*

**SCENE 1**

**Narration:** *Act Four, Scene One. Queen Elizabeth, Lady Anne and the Duchess of York meet in the Garden of the Tower of London to discuss their situation.*

*Morning Sounds. Sounds of birds.*

**DUCHESS OF YORK**

Daughter, well met.

**LADY ANNE**

God give your graces both  
A happy and a joyful time of day.

**QUEEN ELIZABETH**

As much to you, good sister.  
Whither away?

**LADY ANNE**

No farther than the Tower, and, as I guess,  
Upon the like devotion as yourselves,  
To gratulate the gentle Princes there.

*Enter BRAKENBURY*

*Sound of Brakenbury  
entering*

**QUEEN ELIZABETH**

And in good time, here the Lieutenant comes.  
Master lieutenant, pray you, by your leave,  
How doth the Prince and my young son of York?

**BRAKENBURY**

Right well, dear madam.  
By your patience, I may not suffer you to visit them.  
The King hath strictly charged the contrary.

**QUEEN ELIZABETH**

The King? Who's that?

**BRAKENBURY**

I mean the Lord Protector.

**QUEEN ELIZABETH**

The Lord protect him from that kingly title.  
I am their mother. Who shall bar me from them?

**BRAKENBURY**

I am bound by oath, and therefore pardon me.  
*Brakenbury exits as Stanley enters*

*Sound of Brakenbury leaving  
as sound of horse or some  
other sound for Stanley  
entrance.*

**STANLEY**

Come, Lady Anne, you must straight to Westminster,  
There to be crowned Richard's royal queen.

**LADY ANNE**

Despiteful tidings. O, unpleasing news.

**QUEEN ELIZABETH**

Ah, cut my lace asunder,  
That my pent heart may have some scope to beat,  
Or else I swoon with this dead-killing news.

**DORSET**

Be of good cheer, mother. How fares your grace?

**QUEEN ELIZABETH**

O Dorset, speak not to me. Get thee gone.  
If thou wilt outstrip death, go, cross the seas,  
And live with Richmond, from the reach of hell.  
Go hie thee, hie thee from this slaughterhouse,  
Lest thou increase the number of the dead  
And make me die the thrall of Margaret's curse,  
Nor mother, wife, nor England's counted queen.

**STANLEY**

Full of wise care is this your counsel, madam.  
[To ANNE] Come, madam, come; I in all haste was sent.

**LADY ANNE**

And I in all unwillingness will go.

**QUEEN ELIZABETH**

Go, go, poor soul; I envy not thy glory.

**LADY ANNE**

O when, I say, I looked on Richard's face,  
This was my wish: 'Be thou,' quoth I, 'accursed  
For making me, so young, so old a widow;  
And, when thou wed'st, let sorrow haunt thy bed;  
And be thy wife, if any be so mad,  
More miserable by the life of thee  
Than thou hast made me by my dear lord's death.'  
Lo, ere I can repeat this curse again,  
Within so small a time, my woman's heart  
Grossly grew captive to his honey words  
And proved the subject of my own soul's curse,  
Which hitherto hath held mine eyes from rest;  
For never yet one hour in his bed  
Have I enjoyed the golden dew of sleep.  
Besides, he hates me for my father Warwick,  
And will, no doubt, shortly be rid of me.

**QUEEN ELIZABETH**

Poor heart, adieu! I pity thy complaining.

**LADY ANNE**

No more than from my soul I mourn for yours.

**DUCHESS OF YORK**

Dorset, go thou to Richmond, and good fortune guide thee.  
Anne, go thou to Richard, and good angels tend thee.  
Elizabeth, go thou to sanctuary, and good thoughts possess thee.  
I to my grave, where peace and rest lie with me.

**QUEEN ELIZABETH**

Stay, yet look back with me unto the Tower.  
Pity, you ancient stones, those tender babes  
Whom envy hath immured within your walls;  
Rude ragged nurse, old sullen playfellow  
For tender princes, use my babies well.  
So foolish sorrow bids your stones farewell.

**SCENE II.**

**Narration:** *Act Four. Scene Two. London. The Throne Room of the Palace. Richard enters in pomp, crowned, followed by Lord Buckingham & his henchmen, Catesby and Ratcliffe.*

*Music underscoring narration.*

**RICHARD**  
Stand all apart. Cousin of Buckingham.

*Sound of fanfare as Richard enters the throne room.*

**BUCKINGHAM**  
My gracious sovereign.

**RICHARD**  
Give me thy hand. Thus high, by thy advice  
And thy assistance, is King Richard seated.  
But shall we wear these glories for a day?  
Or shall they last, and we rejoice in them?

**BUCKINGHAM**  
Still live they and forever may they last!

**RICHARD**  
Ah Buckingham, now do I play the touch  
To try if thou be current gold indeed:  
Young Edward lives; think now what I would speak.

**BUCKINGHAM**  
Say on, my loving lord.

**RICHARD**  
Why, Buckingham, I say I would be king.

**BUCKINGHAM**  
Why so you are, my thrice-renowned liege.

**RICHARD**  
Ha! Am I king? 'Tis so—but Edward lives.

**BUCKINGHAM**  
True, noble prince.

**RICHARD**  
O bitter consequence  
That Edward still should live 'true noble prince'!  
Cousin, thou wast not wont to be so dull.  
Shall I be plain? I wish the bastards dead.  
What sayest thou? Speak suddenly. Be brief.

**BUCKINGHAM**

Your grace may do your pleasure.

**RICHARD**

Tut, tut, thou art all ice; thy kindness freezes.  
Say, have I thy consent that they shall die?

**BUCKINGHAM**

Give me some breath, some little pause, my lord  
Before I positively speak in this.  
I will resolve you herein presently.  
*Exit*

**CATESBY**

*[Aside to Ratcliffe]*

The King is angry. See, he gnaws his lip.

**RICHARD**

Ratcliffe!

**RATCLIFFE**

My lord?

**RICHARD**

Know'st thou not any whom corrupting gold  
Would tempt unto a close exploit of death?

**RATCLIFFE**

I know a discontented gentleman  
Whose humble means match not his haughty spirit.  
Gold were as good as twenty orators,  
And will, no doubt, tempt him to anything.

**RICHARD**

What is his name?

**RATCLIFFE**

His name, my lord, is Tyrrel.

**RICHARD**

I partly know the man. Go, call him hither.

*Exit RATCLIFFE*

The deep-revolving witty Buckingham  
No more shall be the neighbour to my counsel.

*Enter STANLEY*

How now, Lord Stanley, what's the news?

*Sound of Ratcliffe leaving*

*Sound of Stanley entering*

**STANLEY**

The Marquess Dorset, as I hear, is fled  
To Richmond, in the parts where he abides.

**RICHARD**

Come hither, Catesby. Rumour it abroad  
That Anne my queen is sick and like to die.

*Exit CATESBY*

*Sound of Catesby exiting*

I must be married to my brother's daughter,  
Or else my kingdom stands on brittle glass.  
Murder her brothers, and then marry her—  
Uncertain way of gain. But I am in  
So far in blood that sin will pluck on sin.  
Tear-falling pity dwells not in this eye.

*Enter TYRREL*

*Sound of Tyrrel entering*

Is thy name Tyrrel?

**TYRREL**

James Tyrrel, and your most obedient subject.

**RICHARD**

Art thou, indeed?

**TYRREL**

Prove me, my gracious lord.

**RICHARD**

Dar'st thou resolve to kill a friend of mine?

**TYRREL**

Please you. But I had rather kill two enemies

**RICHARD**

Why, then thou hast it. Two deep enemies.  
Tyrrel, I mean those bastards in the Tower.

**TYRREL**

Let me have open means to come to them,  
And soon I'll rid you from the fear of them.

**RICHARD**

Thou sing'st sweet music. Hark, come hither, Tyrrel.  
Go by this token. Rise, and lend thine ear:  
There is no more but so. Say it is done,  
And I will love thee and prefer thee for it.

**TYRREL**

I will dispatch it straight.  
*Exit*

*Sound of Tyrrel exiting  
and Buckingham entering*

**BUCKINGHAM**

My Lord, I have considered in my mind  
The late request that you did sound me in.

**RICHARD**

Well, let that rest. Dorset is fled to Richmond.

**BUCKINGHAM**

I hear the news, my lord.

**RICHARD**

Stanley, he is your wife's son. Well, look unto it.

**BUCKINGHAM**

My lord, I claim your gift, my due by promise,  
Th'earldom of Hereford and the moveables  
Which you have promised I shall possess.

**RICHARD**

Stanley, look to your wife; if she convey  
Letters to Richmond, you shall answer it.

**BUCKINGHAM**

What says your highness to my just request?  
My Lord!

**RICHARD**

Ay, what's o'clock?

**BUCKINGHAM**

I am thus bold to put your grace in mind  
Of what you promised me.

**RICHARD**

Well, but what's o'clock?

**BUCKINGHAM**

Upon the stroke of ten.

**RICHARD**

Well, let it strike.

**BUCKINGHAM**

Why let it strike?

**RICHARD**

Because that, like a jack, thou keep'st the stroke  
Betwixt thy begging and my meditation.  
I am not in the giving vein today.

**BUCKINGHAM**

May it please you to resolve me in my suit?

**RICHARD**

Thou troublest me; I am not in the vein.  
*Exeunt all but BUCKINGHAM*

*Sound of others leaving*

**BUCKINGHAM**

And is it thus? Repays he my deep service  
 With such contempt? Made I him king for this?  
 O, let me think on Hastings and be gone  
 To Brecknock, while my fearful head is on.

**SCENE III.**

*Narration: Act Four. Scene Three. Later the same day in the the Throne Room. Tyrrel enters.*

*Music underscoring narration.*

**TYRREL**

The tyrannous and bloody act is done,  
 The most arch deed of piteous massacre  
 That ever yet this land was guilty of.  
 O, thus lay the gentle babes,  
 Thus, thus, girdling one another  
 Within their alabaster innocent arms.  
 A book of prayers on their pillow lay,  
 Which once almost changed my mind;  
 But, O, the Devil—we smothered  
 The most replenished sweet work of nature,  
 That from the prime creation e'er she framed.  
*Enter RICHARD*  
 All health, my sovereign liege.

*Sound of Richard entering*

**RICHARD**

Kind Tyrrel, am I happy in thy news?

**TYRREL**

If to have done the thing you gave in charge  
 Beget your happiness, be happy then,  
 For it is done, my lord.

**RICHARD**

But didst thou see them dead?

**TYRREL**

I did, my lord.

**RICHARD**

And buried, gentle Tyrrel?

**TYRREL**

The chaplain of the Tower hath buried them,  
 But where, to say the truth, I do not know.



**RICHARD**

Come to me, Tyrrel, soon at after-supper,  
And thou shalt tell the process of their death.  
Farewell till then.

**TYRREL**

I humbly take my leave.  
*Exit TYRREL*

*Sound of Tyrrel leaving*

**RICHARD**

The sons of Edward sleep in Abraham's bosom,  
And Anne my wife hath bid the world good night.  
Now, for I know the Breton Richmond aims  
At young Elizabeth, my brother's daughter,  
And, by that knot, looks proudly o'er the crown,  
To her I go, a jolly thriving wooer.  
*Enter CATESBY*

*Sound of Catesby entering*

**CATESBY**

My lord.

**RICHARD**

Good or bad news, that thou com'st in so bluntly?

**CATESBY**

Bad news, my lord. Ely is fled to Richmond,  
And Buckingham, backed with the hardy Welshmen,  
Is in the field, and still his power increaseth.

**RICHARD**

Go muster men. My counsel is my shield.  
We must be brief when traitors brave the field.

**SCENE IV.**

*Narration: Act Four. Scene Four. The women of the Palace meet in the Palace Garden. Then, Richard and his guards interrupt.*

*Music underscoring narration.*

*Enter QUEEN MARGARET*

*Sound of Margaret entering*

**QUEEN MARGARET**

Here in these confines slyly have I lurked,  
To watch the waning of mine enemies.  
Withdraw thee, wretched Margaret. Who comes here?

*Enter QUEEN ELIZABETH and the DUCHESS OF YORK*

*Sound of women entering*

**QUEEN ELIZABETH**

Ah, my poor princes! Ah, my tender babes,  
 Hover about me with your airy wings  
 And hear your mother's lamentation!

**DUCHESS OF YORK**

Rest thy unrest on England's lawful earth,  
*Sitting down*  
 Unlawfully made drunk with innocent blood.

**QUEEN MARGARET**

*[Comes forward]*

If ancient sorrow be most reverend,  
 Give mine the benefit of seniory.  
 I had an Edward, till a Richard killed him;  
 I had a Henry, till a Richard killed him.  
 Thou hadst an Edward, till a Richard killed him.  
 Thou hadst a Richard, till a Richard killed him.  
 Thou hadst a Clarence too, and Richard killed him.  
 From forth the kennel of thy womb hath crept  
 A hell-hound that doth hunt us all to death.  
 Cancel his bond of life, dear God I pray,  
 That I may live to say, 'The dog is dead.'

*Sound of Margaret coming  
 forward*

**QUEEN ELIZABETH**

O, thou didst prophesy the time would come  
 That I should wish for thee to help me curse  
 That bottled spider, that foul bunch-backed toad.

**QUEEN MARGARET**

I called thee then vain flourish of my fortune;  
 I called thee then, poor shadow, painted queen.  
 Where is thy husband now? Where be thy brothers?  
 Where be thy two sons? Wherein dost thou joy?  
 Who sues, and kneels, and says, 'God save the Queen'?  
 Farewell, York's wife, and queen of sad mischance.  
 These English woes will make me smile in France.

**QUEEN ELIZABETH**

O thou well skilled in curses, stay awhile,  
 And teach me how to curse mine enemies.

**QUEEN MARGARET**

Forbear to sleep the night, and fast the day;  
 Compare dead happiness with living woe;  
 Think that thy babes were sweeter than they were,  
 And he that slew them fouler than he is.  
 Bettering thy loss makes the bad causer worse:  
 Revolving this will teach thee how to curse.

**QUEEN ELIZABETH**

My words are dull. O, quicken them with thine.

**QUEEN MARGARET**

Thy woes will make them sharp and pierce like mine.  
*Exit*

**QUEEN ELIZABETH**

Let them have scope, though what they will impart  
Help nothing else, yet do they ease the heart.

**DUCHESS OF YORK**

If so, then be not tongue-tied. Go with me,  
And in the breath of bitter words let's smother  
My damned son, which thy two sweet sons smothered.

*Enter RICHARD and train*

*Sound of approaching guard  
Which abruptly stops.*

**RICHARD**

Who intercepts my expedition?

**DUCHESS OF YORK**

O, she that might have intercepted thee,  
By strangling thee in her accursed womb,  
From all the slaughters, wretch, that thou hast done.

**QUEEN ELIZABETH**

Tell me, thou villain-slave, where are my children?

**DUCHESS OF YORK**

Thou toad, thou toad, where is thy brother Clarence?

**QUEEN ELIZABETH**

Where is the gentle Rivers, Hastings, Grey?

**RICHARD**

Let not the heavens hear these tell-tale women  
Rail on the Lord's anointed. Strike, I say!  
Either be patient, and entreat me fair,  
Or with the clamorous report of war  
Thus will I drown your exclamations.

*Sound of guard staffs hitting  
the ground. Perhaps a drum.*

**DUCHESS OF YORK**

Thou cam'st on earth to make the earth my hell.

**RICHARD**

If I be so disgracious in your sight,  
Let me march on, and not offend your grace.  
You speak too bitterly.

**DUCHESS OF YORK**

Hear me a word;  
For I shall never speak to thee again.

**RICHARD**

So.

**DUCHESS OF YORK**

Therefore take with thee my most grievous curse.  
Bloody thou art; bloody will be thy end.  
Shame serves thy life and doth thy death attend.

*Exit*

*Sound of the Duchess exiting*

**QUEEN ELIZABETH**

Though far more cause, yet much less spirit to curse  
Abides in me. I say amen to all.

**RICHARD**

Stay, madam; I must speak a word with you.

**QUEEN ELIZABETH**

I have no more sons of the royal blood  
For thee to slaughter. For my daughters,  
Richard, They shall be praying nuns, not weeping queens,  
And therefore level not to hit their lives.

**RICHARD**

You have a daughter called Elizabeth,  
Virtuous and fair, royal and gracious.

**QUEEN ELIZABETH**

And must she die for this? O, let her live.  
So she may live unscarred of bleeding slaughter,  
I will confess she was not Edward's daughter.

**RICHARD**

Wrong not her birth. She is a royal princess.

**QUEEN ELIZABETH**

To save her life, I'll say she is not so.

**KING RICHARD**

Her life is safest only in her birth.

**QUEEN ELIZABETH**

And only in that safety died her brothers.

**RICHARD**

Madam, so thrive I in my enterprise  
And dangerous success of bloody wars,  
As I intend more good to you and yours  
Than ever you or yours were by me wronged.

**QUEEN ELIZABETH**

Tell me what state, what dignity, what honour,  
Canst thou demise to any child of mine?

**RICHARD**

Even all I have—ay, and myself and all.  
Then know that from my soul I love thy daughter  
And do intend to make her queen of England.

**QUEEN ELIZABETH**

Well then, who dost thou mean shall be her king?

**RICHARD**

Even he that makes her queen. Who should be else?

**QUEEN ELIZABETH**

What, thou?

**RICHARD**

Even so. How think you of it?

**QUEEN ELIZABETH**

How canst thou woo her?

**RICHARD**

That would I learn of you.

**QUEEN ELIZABETH**

Send to her, by the man that slew her brothers,  
A pair of bleeding-hearts; thereon engrave  
'Edward' and 'York'. Then haply she will weep.  
If this inducement move her not to love,  
Send her a letter of thy noble deeds:  
Tell her thou mad'st away her uncle Clarence,  
Her uncle Rivers, ay, and for her sake  
Mad'st quick conveyance with her good aunt Anne.

**RICHARD**

You mock me, madam.  
This is not the way to win your daughter.

**QUEEN ELIZABETH**

There is no other way.

**RICHARD**

Look, what is done cannot be now amended.  
Men shall deal unadvisedly sometimes.  
If I did take the kingdom from your sons,  
To make amends, I'll give it to your daughter.  
If I have killed the issue of your womb,  
To quicken your increase, I will beget  
Mine issue of your blood upon your daughter.  
Go then, my mother; to thy daughter go.  
Put in her tender heart th'aspiring flame  
Of golden sovereignty; acquaint the princess  
With the sweet silent hours of marriage joys;  
And when this arm of mine hath chastised  
The petty rebel, dull-brained Buckingham,  
Bound with triumphant garlands will I come  
And lead thy daughter to a conqueror's bed.

**QUEEN ELIZABETH**

What were I best to say? Her father's brother  
Would be her lord? Or shall I say her uncle?  
Or he that slew her brothers and her uncles?  
Under what title shall I woo for thee?

**RICHARD**

Say, I will love her everlastingly.

**QUEEN ELIZABETH**

But how long shall that title 'ever' last?

**RICHARD**

Sweetly in force, unto her fair life's end.

**QUEEN ELIZABETH**

But how long fairly shall her sweet life last?

**RICHARD**

As long as heaven and nature lengthens it.

**QUEEN ELIZABETH**

As long as hell and Richard likes of it.

**RICHARD**

I swear—

**QUEEN ELIZABETH**

By nothing, for this is no oath.  
If something thou wouldst swear to be believed,  
Swear then by something that thou hast not wronged.

**RICHARD**

Then, by myself—

**QUEEN ELIZABETH**

Thyself thyself misusest.

**RICHARD**

Now, by the world—

**QUEEN ELIZABETH**

'Tis full of thy foul wrongs.

**RICHARD**

Why then, by God.

**QUEEN ELIZABETH**

God's wrong is most of all.  
What canst thou swear by now?

**RICHARD**

The time to come.

**QUEEN ELIZABETH**

That thou hast wronged in the time o'erpast.  
The children live whose fathers thou hast slaughtered;  
The parents live whose children thou hast butchered.  
Swear not by time to come, for that thou hast  
Misused ere used, by times ill-used o'erpast.

**RICHARD**

Heaven and fortune bar me happy hours,  
Be opposite all planets of good luck  
To my proceeding, if with dear heart's love,  
I tender not thy beauteous, princely daughter.  
In her consists my happiness and thine;  
Without her, follows to myself and thee,  
Herself, the land and many a Christian soul,  
Death, desolation, ruin and decay.  
It cannot be avoided but by this;  
It will not be avoided but by this.  
Therefore, dear mother,--I must call you so—  
Be the attorney of my love to her:  
Plead what I will be, not what I have been;  
Not my deserts, but what I will deserve.

**QUEEN ELIZABETH**

Shall I be tempted of the devil thus?

**RICHARD**

Ay, if the devil tempt thee to do good.

**QUEEN ELIZABETH**

Yet thou didst kill my children.

**RICHARD**

But in your daughter's womb I bury them.

**ELIZABETH**

Shall I go win my daughter to thy will?

**RICHARD**

And be a happy mother by the deed.

**QUEEN ELIZABETH**

I go. Write to me very shortly,  
And you shall understand from me her mind.

**RICHARD**

Bear her my true love's kiss; and so, farewell.

*Exit QUEEN ELIZABETH*

*Sound of Elizabeth leaving*

Relenting fool, and shallow, changing woman.

*Enter RATCLIFFE; CATESBY following*

*Sound of Ratcliffe & Catesby entering*

How now, what news?

**RATCLIFFE**

My gracious sovereign, on the western coast  
Rideth a puissant navy. To our shores  
Throng many doubtful hollow-hearted friends,  
Unarmed and unresolved to beat them back. 'Tis thought that Richmond is their admiral,  
And there they hull, expecting but the aid  
Of Buckingham to welcome them ashore.

**RICHARD**

Some light-foot friend post to the Duke of Norfolk:  
Ratcliffe, thyself—or Catesby. Where is he?

**CATESBY**

Here, my lord.

**RICHARD**

*[To CATESBY]* Catesby, fly to the Duke.

*[To RATCLIFFE]* Ratcliffe, post thou to Salisbury, when thou comest thither—

*[To CATESBY]* Catesby, dull, unmindful villain!

Why stay'st thou here, and go'st not to the Duke?



**CATESBY**

First, mighty liege, tell me your highness' pleasure,  
What from your grace I shall deliver to him.

**RICHARD**

O, true, good Catesby. Bid him levy straight  
The greatest strength and power he can make  
And meet me suddenly at Salisbury.

**CATESBY**

I go.  
*Exit*

*Sound of Catesby exiting*

**RATCLIFFE**

What, may it please you, shall I do at Salisbury?

**RICHARD**

Why, what wouldst thou do there before I go?

**RATCLIFFE**

Your highness told me I should post before.

**RICHARD**

My mind is changed.  
*Enter STANLEY*

*Sound of Stanley entering*

**RICHARD**

Stanley, what news with you?

**STANLEY**

Richmond is on the seas.

**RICHARD**

There let him sink and be the seas on him.  
White-livered runagate. What doth he there?

**STANLEY**

Stirred up by Dorset, Buckingham, and Ely,  
He makes for England, here to claim the crown.

**RICHARD**

Is the chair empty? Is the sword unswayed?  
Is the king dead? The empire unpossessed?  
Thou wilt revolt and fly to him, I fear.

**STANLEY**

You have no cause to hold my friendship doubtful;  
I never was, nor never will be, false.

**RICHARD**

Go then, and muster men, but leave behind  
Your son George Stanley. Look your heart be firm,  
Or else his head's assurance is but frail.

**STANLEY**

So deal with him as I prove true to you.  
*Exit*

*Enter a Messenger*

*Sound of someone running in*

**Messenger**

My gracious sovereign, now in Devonshire,  
Sir Edward Courtney and the haughty prelate  
Bishop of Exeter, his elder brother,  
With many more confederates in arms.  
*Enter another Messenger*

*Another person runs in*

**Second Messenger**

In Kent, my liege, the Guildfords are in arms  
And every hour more competitors  
Flock to the rebels, and still their power grows strong.

*Enter another Messenger*

*A third person runs in*

**Third Messenger**

My lord, the army of great Buckingham—

**RICHARD**

Out on you, owls! Nothing but songs of death.  
There, take thou that, till thou bring better news.  
*He striketh him*

*Sound of him slapping the messenger*

**Third Messenger**

The news I have to tell your majesty  
Is that by sudden floods and fall of waters  
Buckingham's army is dispersed and scattered,  
And he himself wandered away alone,  
No man knows whither.

**RICHARD**

I cry thee mercy.  
There is my purse to cure that blow of thine.  
*Re-enter CATESBY*

*Sound of Catesby entering*

**CATESBY**

My liege, the Duke of Buckingham is taken.  
That is the best news. That the Earl of Richmond  
Is with a mighty power landed at Milford  
Is colder tidings, yet they must be told.

**RICHARD**

Away towards Salisbury! While we reason here,  
A royal battle might be won and lost.  
Someone take order Buckingham be brought to Salisbury.  
The rest march on with me.  
*Flourish. Exeunt*

*Sound of trumpets as they  
leave.*