

**RICHARD III Podcast (Part Two-Act II)****ACT II**

*Music underscores narration.*

**Narration:** *Richard the Third. Act Two. Understanding that he is seriously ill and possibly close to death, King Edward seeks to foster peace between the factions in his family and the royal court. Arriving late to their conference, Richard pretends to be open to peace but then blames Edward for the death of their brother, Clarence, even though he was the one who arranged for the murder. Edward, in great despair, dies shortly afterwards. The grieving Queen Elizabeth does not know how to proceed, but her family members, Rivers, Grey and Dorset encourage her to bring her son, Prince Edward, to London in order to preserve the royal lineage. Unfortunately, Lord Buckingham, one of Richard's allies, arranges to separate the young prince from his family on his way to London so they cannot protect him. Later, in another room of the palace, Queen Elizabeth and the Duchess of York discuss their concerns. Prince Edward's brother, young York is delightfully oblivious and playful. A messenger arrives with the news that Richard has had Elizabeth's family members, Rivers and Grey, imprisoned at Pomfret. With their safety threatened, the Queen and the Duchess decide to go into hiding in a church with young York.*

**SCENE 1**

**Narration:** *Act Two Scene One. The Throne Room of the Palace. Enter King Edward and Queen Elizabeth with her family members: Rivers, Dorset & Grey. In addition, Lord Buckingham & Lord Chamberlain William Hastings.*

*A flourish of trumpets as King Edward enters the Throne Room.*

**KING EDWARD IV**

Why, so. Now have I done a good day's work.  
And more in peace my soul shall part to heaven,  
Since I have made my friends at peace on earth.  
Hastings and Rivers, take each other's hand;  
Dissemble not your hatred. Swear your love.

**RIVERS**

By heaven, my soul is purged from grudging hate,  
And with my hand I seal my true heart's love.

**HASTINGS**

So thrive I, as I truly swear the like.

**KING EDWARD IV**

Madam, yourself is not exempt in this;  
Nor your son Dorset; Buckingham, nor you.  
You have been factious one against the other.  
Wife, love Lord Hastings. Let him kiss your hand,  
And what you do, do it unfeignedly.

**QUEEN ELIZABETH**

There, Hastings, I will never more remember  
Our former hatred, so thrive I and mine.

**KING EDWARD IV**

Dorset, embrace him. Hastings, love Lord Dorset.

**DORSET**

This interchange of love, I here protest,  
Upon my part shall be unviolable.

**HASTINGS**

And so swear I.

*They embrace*

**KING EDWARD IV**

Now, princely Buckingham, seal thou this league  
With thy embracements to my wife's allies,  
And make me happy in your unity.

**BUCKINGHAM**

Whenever Buckingham doth turn his hate  
Upon your grace, but with all duteous love  
Doth cherish you and yours, God punish me  
With hate in those where I expect most love.

**KING EDWARD IV**

A pleasing cordial, princely Buckingham,  
Is this thy vow unto my sickly heart.  
There wanteth now our brother Gloucester here  
To make the blessed period of this peace.

**BUCKINGHAM**

And, in good time, here comes the noble Duke.

*Enter RICHARD*

*Sound of Richard entering*

**RICHARD**

Good morrow to my sovereign King and Queen,  
And, princely peers, a happy time of day.

**KING EDWARD IV**

Happy indeed, as we have spent the day.  
Gloucester, we done deeds of charity,  
Made peace of enmity, fair love of hate,  
Between these swelling, wrong-incensed peers.

**RICHARD**

A blessed labour, my most sovereign lord.  
Amongst this princely heap, if any here  
By false intelligence or wrong surmise  
Hold me a foe;

If I unwittingly, or in my rage,  
 Have aught committed that is hardly borne,  
 By any in this presence, I desire  
 To reconcile me to his friendly peace.  
 'Tis death to me to be at enmity;  
 I hate it, and desire all good men's love.  
 First, madam, I entreat true peace of you,  
 Which I will purchase with my duteous service;  
 Of you, my noble cousin Buckingham,  
 If ever any grudge were lodged between us;  
 Of you, Lord Rivers, and, Lord Grey, of you;  
 That without desert have frown'd on me;  
 Dukes, earls, lords, gentlemen; indeed, of all.  
 I do not know that Englishman alive  
 With whom my soul is any jot at odds  
 More than the infant that is born to-night.  
 I thank my God for my humility.

**QUEEN ELIZABETH**

A holy day shall this be kept hereafter.  
 I would to God all strifes were well compounded.  
 My sovereign lord, I do beseech your highness  
 To take our brother Clarence to your grace.

**RICHARD**

Why, madam, have I offered love for this,  
 To be so flouted in this royal presence?  
 Who knows not that the noble Duke is dead?  
*They all start*

**KING EDWARD IV**

Who knows not he is dead? Who knows he is?

**QUEEN ELIZABETH**

All seeing heaven, what a world is this?

**KING EDWARD IV**

Is Clarence dead? The order was reversed.

**GLOUCESTER**

But he, poor man, by your first order died.  
 And here comes Stanley, full of fear, it seems.

**STANLEY**

A boon, my sovereign, for my service done.

**KING EDWARD IV**

I prithee, peace. My soul is full of sorrow.

**STANLEY**

I will not rise, unless your highness hear me.

*Sound of general commotion.  
 The Lords and Gentlemen  
 shouting, "What!" or "Nay, it  
 cannot be etc."*

*Sound of quick footsteps entering  
 the hall.*

**KING EDWARD IV**

Then say at once what is it thou requests.

**STANLEY**

The forfeit, sovereign, of my servant's life,  
Who slew today a righteous gentleman  
Lately attendant on the Duke of Norfolk.

**KING EDWARD IV**

My brother killed no man; his fault was thought,  
And yet his punishment was bitter death.  
Who sued to me for him? Who, in my wrath,  
Kneeled at my feet and bid me be advised?  
Who spoke of brotherhood? Who spoke of love?  
But when your carters or your waiting vassals  
Have done a drunken slaughter and defaced  
The precious image of our dear Redeemer,  
You straight are on your knees for pardon, pardon;  
And I unjustly too, must grant it you.  
O God! I fear thy justice will take hold  
On me, and you, and mine and yours for this.  
Come, Hastings, help me to my closet.  
Ah, poor Clarence.

*Exit the KING, QUEEN and others but RICHARD and BUCKINGHAM remain.*

*Sound of all but Richard and Buckingham leaving*

**RICHARD**

This is the fruits of rashness: marked you not  
How that the guilty kindred of the queen  
Looked pale when they did hear of Clarence' death?  
O! They did urge it still unto the King.  
God will revenge it. Come, lord, will you go  
To comfort Edward with our company?

**BUCKINGHAM**

I wait upon your grace.

*Exit all.*

**SCENE II.**

*Narration: Act Two Scene Two. Another room Of the palace. The grieving Queen Elizabeth Enters with the Duchess of York and her family members Rivers and Grey.*

*Music underscoring narration*

**QUEEN ELIZABETH**

Ah! Who shall hinder me to wail and weep,  
To chide my fortune, and torment myself?

**DUCHESS OF YORK**

What means this scene of rude impatience?

**QUEEN ELIZABETH**

Edward, my lord, thy son, our king, is dead.

**DUCHESS OF YORK**

I have bewept a worthy husband's death  
 And lived by looking on his images:  
 But now two mirrors of his princely semblance  
 Are cracked in pieces by malignant death,  
 And I for comfort have but one false glass  
 Which grieves me when I see my shame in him.

**QUEEN ELIZABETH**

Oh for my husband, for my dear lord Edward!

**DUCHESS OF YORK**

Alas for both, both mine, Edward and Clarence!

**GRAY**

*[To Queen Elizabeth]* Comfort, dear mother.

**RIVERS**

Sister, bethink you, like a careful mother,  
 Of the young prince your son: send straight for him;  
 Let him be crowned. In him your comfort lives.

*Enter RICHARD and BUCKINGHAM*

*Sound of footsteps entering*

**RICHARD**

Madam, have comfort. All of us have cause  
 To wail the dimming of our shining star,  
 But none can cure their harms by wailing them.  
 Madam, my mother, I do cry you mercy;  
 I did not see your grace.  
 Humbly on my knee I crave your blessing.

**DUCHESS OF YORK**

God bless thee and put meekness in thy breast,  
 Love, charity, obedience and true duty.

**RICHARD**

Amen; *[Aside]* and make me die a good old man.  
 That is the butt-end of a mother's blessing;  
 I marvel that her grace did leave it out.

**BUCKINGHAM**

Me seemeth good that with some little train  
 Forthwith from Ludlow the young Prince be fetched  
 Hither to London, to be crowned our king.

**RIVERS**

Why with some little train, my Lord of Buckingham?

**BUCKINGHAM**

Marry, my lord, lest by a multitude  
The new-healed wound of malice should break out.

**RICHARD**

I hope the king made peace with all of us,  
And the compact is firm and true in me.

**RIVERS**

And so in me, and so, I think, in all.  
Yet, since it is but green, it should be put  
To no apparent likelihood of breach,  
Which haply by much company might be urged;  
Therefore I say with noble Buckingham  
That it is meet so few should fetch the Prince.

**RICHARD**

Then be it so, and go we to determine  
Who they shall be that straight shall post to Ludlow.

*Exit all but BUCKINGHAM and RICHARD*

*Sound of footsteps leaving*

**BUCKINGHAM**

My lord, whoever journeys to the Prince,  
For God's sake let not us two stay at home;  
For by the way I'll sort occasion,  
As index to the story we late talked of,  
To part the Queen's proud kindred from the Prince.

**RICHARD**

My other self, my counsel's consistory,  
My oracle, my prophet, my dear cousin,  
I, as a child, will go by thy direction.  
Toward Ludlow then, for we'll not stay behind.

*Exit*

**SCENE III.**

**Narration:** *Act Two Scene Three. London.  
The Palace. The Quarters of Queen Elizabeth.  
Enter young York, Queen Elizabeth, and the  
Duchess of York.*

*Music underscoring narration*

**DUCHESS OF YORK**

I long with all my heart to see the Prince.  
I hope he is much grown since last I saw him.

**QUEEN ELIZABETH**

But I hear no. They say my son of York  
Hath almost overta'en him in his growth.

**YORK**

Ay, mother, but I would not have it so.

**DUCHESS OF YORK**

Why, my young cousin, it is good to grow.

**YORK**

Grandam, one night, as we did sit at supper,  
My uncle Rivers talked how I did grow  
More than my brother. 'Ay,' quoth my uncle Gloucester,  
'Small herbs have grace, great weeds do grow apace.'  
And since, methinks I would not grow so fast  
Because sweet flowers are slow and weeds make haste.

**DUCHESS OF YORK**

Good faith, good faith, the saying did not hold  
In him that did object the same to thee.  
He was the wretched'st thing when he was young,  
So long a-growing, and so leisurely,  
That if his rule were true, he should be gracious.

**YORK**

Marry, they say my uncle grew so fast  
That he could gnaw a crust at two hours old; '  
Twas full two years ere I could get a tooth.

**QUEEN ELIZABETH**

A parlous boy; go to, you are too shrewd.

**DUCHESS OF YORK**

Good madam, be not angry with the child.

**QUEEN ELIZABETH**

Pitchers have ears.

*Enter a Messenger*

*Sound of someone running, panting.*

**DUCHESS OF YORK**

Here comes a messenger. What news?

**MESSENGER**

Such news, Madam, as grieves me to report.

**QUEEN ELIZABETH**

How fares the Prince?

**MESSENGER**

Well, madam, and in health.

**DUCHESS OF YORK**

What is thy news then?

**MESSENGER**

Lord Rivers and Lord Grey are sent to Pomfret, prisoners.

**DUCHESS OF YORK**

Who hath committed them?

**MESSENGER**

The mighty Dukes,  
Gloucester and Buckingham.

**QUEEN ELIZABETH**

For what offence?

**MESSENGER**

The sum of all I can, I have disclosed;  
Why or for what these nobles were committed  
Is all unknown to me, my gracious lady.

**QUEEN ELIZABETH**

Ay me! I see the ruin of my house.  
Welcome, destruction, blood and massacre.  
I see, as in a map, the end of all.

**DUCHESS OF YORK**

Accursed and unquiet wrangling days,  
How many of you have mine eyes beheld?

**QUEEN ELIZABETH**

Come, come, my dear, we will to sanctuary.

**MESSENGER**

Go, I'll conduct you to the sanctuary.

*Sound of running steps, as all  
rush to leave.*