

Henry VI Part 1 abbreviated

Act 5, Scene 5

Persuasion

Situation: William de la Pole, the married, dashing, charming earl of Suffolk, better known as Suffolk, having met and fallen for Margaret, the daughter of Reignier, the Duke of Anjou, a titled but poor French noble, convinces England's young king that Margaret should be his wife and queen.

GLOUCESTER: Why, what, I pray, is Margaret more than that? Her father is no better than an earl, although in glorious titles he excel.

SUFFOLK: Yes, my lord, her father is a king, the King of Naples and Jerusalem; and of such great authority in France as his alliance will confirm our peace and keep the Frenchmen in allegiance.

GLOUCESTER: And so the Earl of Armagnac may do, because he is near kinsman unto Charles.

EXETER: Beside, his wealth doth warrant a liberal dower, where Reignier sooner will receive than give.

Suffolk to Henry VI and Lords

Talk not of dowry, my lords! Disgrace not
So your king, neither base nor poor, who ought
Not choose for wealth but for perfect love. It's
Not whom we will, but whom his Grace prefers
Must be his companion; the one who sits
At his side. Bindeth us if he defers
To her, for chosen wedlock bringeth bliss
And is a pattern of lasting peace. This
Margaret, one with undaunted spirit,
Peerless features, courage shown in this hour
Of need, and daughter to a king is fit
For none but a king and should answer our
Hope for more conquerors. Conclude with me
That Margaret be queen, and none but she.