

Cymbeline abbreviated

Act 2, Scene 1

Insight

Situation: Cloten has an interest in Imogen. His mother, ambitious as she can be for her son, would very much have liked to have had Cloten and Imogen find a way to marry. But Imogen has had little use for Cloten as has a Lord in the King's court, as we see here.

CLOTEN: Is there no detraction from my honor in 't?

SECOND LORD: You have no honor to lose, my lord.

CLOTEN: Not easily, I think.

SECOND LORD ASIDE: You are a fool granted; therefore your actions, being foolish, do not detract from your honor.

CLOTEN: Come, I'll see this Italian.

Cloten and First Lord exit.

Second Lord to Himself

That one as crafty as is his mother
Should yield the world this ass! She can use her
Brain to overwhelm those around her, while
Her son cannot take two from twenty, for
His life, and leave eighteen. With thy grand style,
Divine Imogen, thou endur'st more
Burden than the divorce he'd take, with a
Father led by thy stepdame who doth lay
Plots hourly, and the foul expulsion
Of thy dear husband. May the heavens hold
Thy high honor firm and keep the union
Of thy fair mind and soul unshaked. And bold
As you can be, stand with him hand in hand.
Enjoy thy banished lord and rule this land.