

## Henry VI Part 2 abbreviated

Act 1, Scene 3

### Disillusionment

**Situation:** The queen in a cry of frustration lets Suffolk, referred to by her as “Pole,” know how disappointed she is with her husband the king, thinking he would have been more like Suffolk himself who she says “stolest away the ladies’ hearts of France.” Suffolk lets her know he’ll help her meet her ambitions.

**Queen to Suffolk, No. 1**

Am I, Lord Suffolk, a queen in title,  
Subject to a duke? Is Great Britain’s isle  
Governed thus? Shall the king be a pupil  
Under the surly Gloucester? I tell thee,  
Pole, when in the city of Tours, thou stole  
The French ladies’ hearts. I thought King Henry  
Had resembled thee, but I find him less,  
Where all his mind is bent to holiness,  
To say Ave Maries, champion  
The apostles and to repeat holy  
Saws of sacred writ; his loves are brazen  
Pictures of canonized saints. I would the  
College of Cardinals, for me alone,  
Would choose him Pope and carry him to Rome.

SUFFOLK: Madam, be patient; as I was cause your Highness came to England, so will I in England work your Grace’s full content.

QUEEN: Besides the haughty Protector, have we Beaufort, the imperious churchman, Somerset, Buckingham, and grumbling York, and not the least of these but can do more in England than the king.

SUFFOLK: And he of these that can do most of all cannot do more in England than the Nevilles: Salisbury and Warwick are no simple peers.

QUEEN: Not all these lords do vex me half so much as that proud dame the Lord Protector’s wife. She bears a duke’s revenues on her back, and in her heart she scorns our poverty. The very train of her worst wearing gown was better worth than all my father’s lands, till Suffolk gave two dukedoms for his daughter.

SUFFOLK: Madam, although we fancy not the Cardinal, yet must we join with him and with the lords, till we have brought Duke Humphrey in disgrace. So, one by one, we’ll weed them all at last, and you yourself shall steer the happy helm.