

## Henry VI Part 3 abbreviated

Act 1, Scene 1

### Wife to Husband

**Situation:** Henry VI has safely arrived in London from the War of the Roses battle at St. Albans. When the king enters the Parliament House, he finds the duke of York sitting on his throne. When, under the direction of Warwick, some of York's soldiers enter the building, the king conditionally concedes his crown to duke of York, disappointing his wife, his son and others, to say the least.

King Henry and Exeter turn to leave. Queen Margaret and Prince Edward enter.

EXETER: Here comes the queen, whose looks expose her anger. I'll steal away.

KING HENRY: Exeter, so will I.

QUEEN MARGARET: Nay, go not from me.

KING HENRY: Be patient, gentle queen.

QUEEN MARGARET: Who can be patient in such extremes?

### Queen Margaret to King Henry

Would I died a maid and never seen thee,  
Never borne your son, having proved, we see,  
So unnatural a father. Hath he  
Deserved to lose his birthright thus? Hadst  
Thou but loved him half so well as I, we  
Would have left our heartblood there, and wouldst  
Not have made that savage Duke of York heir,  
Disinheriting thine only son. Their  
Freedom thus doth mean thou shalt reign but by  
Their sufferance. Thou'lt be safe like trembling  
Lambs find safety surrounded with wolves. Thy  
Ne'er should have surrendered, but preferring  
Thy life before thine honor, I divorce  
And thus leave thee, seeking here a new course.

PRINCE EDWARD: Father, you cannot disinherit me. If you be king, why should not I succeed?

KING HENRY: Pardon me, Margaret; pardon me, sweet son. The Earl of Warwick and the duke enforced me.

QUEEN MARGARET: Enforced thee? Art thou king, and wilt be forced? The northern lords that have forsworn thy colors will follow mine to thy foul disgrace and the utter ruin of the house of York. Thus do I leave thee.

QUEEN MARGARET TO PRINCE EDWARD: Come, son, let's away.