

Richard III abbreviated

Act 3, Scene 1

Innocence

Situation: Queen Elizabeth's brother Earl Rivers tells his sister "Madam, bethink you, of the young prince your son. Send straight for him. Let him be crowned." Overhearing Rivers' comments, Richard secretly has the Queen's brother Rivers and her son Lord Grey sent to Pomfret prison and has the young Prince Edward "intercepted." Since Richard is the boy's "Lord Protector," Richard escorts him to London where he has the young prince and his younger brother transferred to London's Tower for safekeeping, so to speak.

PRINCE: Say, uncle Gloucester, if our brother come, where shall we sojourn till our coronation?

RICHARD: If I may counsel you, some day or two your Highness shall repose you at the Tower.

PRINCE: I do not like the Tower, of any place.

Prince Edward to Richard and Buckingham

I've heard Julius Caesar began building
It, which has been rebuilt by succeeding
Ages, and recorded so, but let's say
It were not registered. Methinks truth should
Live through all posterity to doomsday.
Fame doth live long and Julius Caesar would
Be famous, with his valor enriching
His wit and his uncommon wit making
His valor live. Death hath made no conquest
Of this conqueror, for now he lives in
Fame, though not in life. Please tell all the rest,
Buckingham, I'll die a soldier to win
Our ancient right in France again. I can
Conquer France, if I live to be a man.

RICHARD ASIDE: So wise so young, they say, do never live long.

Young Duke of York, Hastings and the Cardinal enter.

RICHARD TO PRINCE: My lord, myself and my good cousin Buckingham will to your mother, to entreat of her to meet you at the Tower and welcome you.

YORK TO PRINCE: What, will you go unto the Tower, my lord?

PRINCE: My Lord Protector needs will have it so.

YORK: I shall not sleep in quiet at the Tower.

RICHARD: Why, what should you fear?