

Richard III abbreviated

Act 4, Scene 4.1

Persuasion

Situation: When Richard says to Queen Elizabeth “I must talk a word with you,” she responds “I have no more sons of the royal blood for thee to slaughter.” He says “you have a daughter called Elizabeth,” and she says “And she must die for this? O, let her live. I will confess she was not Edward’s daughter.” At this point Richard says I “do intend to make her Queen of England.” It’s then that Elizabeth (the Lady Grey) lashes out at him.

RICHARD: You mock me, madam. Say that I did all this for love of her.

QUEEN ELIZABETH: Nay, then indeed she cannot chose but hate thee, having bought love with such a bloody spoil.

Richard III to Queen Elizabeth, No. 1

Look, what’s been done cannot be amended,
And men do repent sins unintended.
I’ll give the kingdom to your daughter to
Make amends if it was taken from your
Sons, and I’ll beget your blood issue through
Her; children one step below those you bore,
Your loss being but a son being king,
And by that loss to you a queen I bring.
The king that calls your beauteous daughter
Wife shall soon call home Dorset your son to
High promotion, calling Dorset brother,
While being the king’s mother honors you.
And when I am Buckingham’s conqueror,
She shall be victoress, Caesar’s Caesar.

QUEEN ELIZABETH: What were I best to say? Her father’s brother would be her lord? Or shall I say her uncle? Or he that slew her brothers and her uncles? Under what title shall I woo for thee, that God, the law, my honor, and her love can make seem pleasing to her tender years?

RICHARD: Infer fair England’s peace by this alliance. Say I will love her everlastingly. Be eloquent in my behalf to her. Plainly to her tell my loving tale.