

Henry VI Part 3 abbreviated

Act 5, Scene 6

Ruthlessness

Situation: In one of the tragic and infamous moments in Shakespeare's series of eight fifteenth century histories, Richard duke of Gloucester kills a weak and defenseless Henry VI, a prisoner held in a cell in London's Tower.

KING HENRY: Ay, and for much more slaughter after this. O, God forgive my sins, and pardon thee.

He dies.

Richard Duke of Gloucester to himself, No. 2

'Tis true that Henry told me of, for I
Came into the world with my legs first, my
Mother often said. Had I not reason
To seek their ruin that usurped our right?
I should snarl, seeing what heaven hath done
To shape my body so; seeing this sight
Hath crooked made my mind to answer it.
I am like no brother and do not fit
With this word "love," which graybeards call divine.
I am myself alone. Clarence, beware.
Edward, fear for your life that will be mine.
Now Henry and his son no longer dare
Me. One by one I will dispatch the rest,
Counting myself but bad till I be best.

RICHARD DUKE OF GLOUCESTER: I'll throw thy body in another room and triumph, Henry, in thy day of doom.

He exits with the body.