

Henry VIII abbreviated

Act 3, Scene 2

Insight

Situation: Henry VIII needs a divorce. But if he is to divorce, tradition requires that he receive the pope's blessing. Secretly Cardinal Wolsey had sent a letter to the pope suggesting he delay his decision to agree to the king and queen's divorce. That letter, which was intercepted, will do Wolsey in and elevate Cranmer to archbishop.

NORFOLK: O, fear him not. His spell in that is out. The king hath found matter against him that forever mars the honey of his language.

SURREY: Sir, I should be glad to hear such news as this once every hour.

NORFOLK: Believe it, this is true. In the divorce his contrary proceedings are all unfolded, wherein he appears as I would wish mine enemy. How came his practices to light?

SUFFOLK: Most strangely.

Suffolk to Nobles

**The Cardinal's letters to the Pope, now
Seen by the King, having been seized, read how
The Cardinal did beg his Holiness
To delay the judgment of the divorce,
The King being trapped in a tangled mess
Of affection for the young Anne, a course
That's led him to marry her. She's a fine
Looking woman with good features to mine
Eye. Cardinal Campeius has now stolen
Away to Rome, backing York's plot. Cranmer
Supports the King's quick divorce; Katherine
Will be princess dowager to Arthur.
I believe from Anne shall fall some blessing
To this grateful land worth remembering.**

NORFOLK: This same Cranmer's a worthy fellow, and hath ta'en much pain in the king's business.

SUFFOLK: He has, and we shall see him for it an archbishop.

NORFOLK: So I hear.

SUFFOLK: 'Tis so.