

Richard II abbreviated

Act 3, Scene 1

Courtesy

Situation: At Bristow Castle, continuing with his plan to unseat the king, Bolingbroke calls Bushy and Green forward, both confidants of Richard II, and gently and as kindly under the circumstances as can be welcomes them to their imminent death. The two men accept their fate with grace.

Bolingbroke to Bushy and Green

Come here men. I will not disturb your poor
Souls, since presently your souls must part your
Bodies, by heeding to your destructive
Lives, there being no charity. So here
I'll unfold some causes why you won't live.
You two have mislead a royal king, I fear;
A prince blessed by birth, by you unhappied.
By your foul wrongs, we've seen the fair queen bleed
Tears, staining her checks. Myself, a prince by
Fortune of my birth, near to the king till
You did make him misinterpret me. My
Coat of arms has been erased by your will,
Leaving me no sign save that I have breathe.
This and much more condemns you to the death.

BOLINGBROKE: See them delivered over to execution and the hand of death.

BUSHY: More welcome is the stroke of death to me than Bolingbroke to England. Lords, farewell.

GREEN: My comfort is that heaven will take our souls.

BOLINGBROKE TO YORK: Uncle, you say the queen is at your house. For God's sake, fairly let her be treated. Take special care my greetings be delivered.

YORK: A gentleman of mine I have dispatched with letters of your love to her at large.

BOLINGBROKE: Thanks, gentle uncle. Come, lords, away, to fight Glendower and his complices.