

Richard III abbreviated

Act 4, Scene 4.2

Persuasion

Situation: Richard continues his aggressive and persuasive pitch to Queen Elizabeth. His pitch is that she should be his agent in his effort to woo and marry her daughter, Elizabeth.

Richard III to Queen Elizabeth, No. 2

May fortune bar me happy hours, day yield
Me not thy light and nightly rest be sealed
From me if with dear heart's devoted love,
I tender not thy beautiful princely
Daughter. In her consists promised hope of
Thee and me, herself, the land and many
A Christian soul from ruin and decay.
For us, dear mother, be my attorney.
Happiness will be avoided but by
This, and not avoided but by this. We
Serve of necessity with you the tie
Between her and me. Plead what I will be,
Not how some others have served those we serve;
Not what I've been, but what I will deserve.

QUEEN ELIZABETH: Shall I be tempted of the devil thus?

RICHARD: Ay, if the devil tempt you to do good.

QUEEN ELIZABETH: Yet thou didst kill my children. Shall I do win my daughter to thy will? I go. Write to me very shortly, and you shall understand from me her mind.

RICHARD: Bear her my true love's kiss; and so, farewell.