

# History of Henry VI, Part III

## Queen Margaret complete text



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**Queen Margaret.** Nay, go not from me; I will follow thee. 1.1.216

**Queen Margaret.** Who can be patient in such extremes? 1.1.218

Ah, wretched man! would I had died a maid 1.1.219  
And never seen thee, never borne thee son, 1.1.220  
Seeing thou hast proved so unnatural a father 1.1.221  
Hath he deserved to lose his birthright thus? 1.1.222  
Hadst thou but loved him half so well as I, 1.1.223  
Or felt that pain which I did for him once, 1.1.224  
Or nourish'd him as I did with my blood, 1.1.225  
Thou wouldst have left thy dearest heart-blood there, 1.1.226  
Rather than have that savage duke thine heir 1.1.227  
And disinherited thine only son. 1.1.228

**Queen Margaret.** Enforced thee! art thou king, and wilt be forced? 1.1.233

I shame to hear thee speak. Ah, timorous wretch! 1.1.234  
Thou hast undone thyself, thy son and me; 1.1.235  
And given unto the house of York such head 1.1.236  
As thou shalt reign but by their sufferance. 1.1.237  
To entail him and his heirs unto the crown, 1.1.238  
What is it, but to make thy sepulchre 1.1.239  
And creep into it far before thy time? 1.1.240  
Warwick is chancellor and the lord of Calais; 1.1.241  
Stern Falconbridge commands the narrow seas; 1.1.242  
The duke is made protector of the realm; 1.1.243  
And yet shalt thou be safe? such safety finds 1.1.244  
The trembling lamb environed with wolves. 1.1.245  
Had I been there, which am a silly woman, 1.1.246  
The soldiers should have toss'd me on their pikes 1.1.247  
Before I would have granted to that act. 1.1.248  
But thou preferr'st thy life before thine honour: 1.1.249  
And seeing thou dost, I here divorce myself 1.1.250  
Both from thy table, Henry, and thy bed, 1.1.251  
Until that act of parliament be repeal'd 1.1.252  
Whereby my son is disinherited. 1.1.253  
The northern lords that have forsworn thy colours 1.1.254  
Will follow mine, if once they see them spread; 1.1.255  
And spread they shall be, to thy foul disgrace 1.1.256  
And utter ruin of the house of York. 1.1.257  
Thus do I leave thee. Come, son, let's away; 1.1.258  
Our army is ready; come, we'll after them. 1.1.259

## History of Henry VI, Part III - character extract

<b>Queen Margaret.</b> Thou hast spoke too much already: get thee gone.	1.1.261
<b>Queen Margaret.</b> Ay, to be murder'd by his enemies.	1.1.263
<b>Queen Margaret.</b> Come, son, away; we may not linger thus. <i>Exeunt QUEEN MARGARET and PRINCE EDWARD</i>	1.1.266
<b>Queen Margaret.</b> Hold, valiant Clifford! for a thousand causes	1.4.51
I would prolong awhile the traitor's life.	1.4.52
Wrath makes him deaf: speak thou, Northumberland.	1.4.53
<b>Queen Margaret.</b> Brave warriors, Clifford and Northumberland,	1.4.66
Come, make him stand upon this molehill here,	1.4.67
That raught at mountains with outstretched arms,	1.4.68
Yet parted but the shadow with his hand.	1.4.69
What! was it you that would be England's king?	1.4.70
Was't you that revell'd in our parliament,	1.4.71
And made a preachment of your high descent?	1.4.72
Where are your mess of sons to back you now?	1.4.73
The wanton Edward, and the lusty George?	1.4.74
And where's that valiant crook-back prodigy,	1.4.75
Dicky your boy, that with his grumbling voice	1.4.76
Was wont to cheer his dad in mutinies?	1.4.77
Or, with the rest, where is your darling Rutland?	1.4.78
Look, York: I stain'd this napkin with the blood	1.4.79
That valiant Clifford, with his rapier's point,	1.4.80
Made issue from the bosom of the boy;	1.4.81
And if thine eyes can water for his death,	1.4.82
I give thee this to dry thy cheeks withal.	1.4.83
Alas poor York! but that I hate thee deadly,	1.4.84
I should lament thy miserable state.	1.4.85
I prithee, grieve, to make me merry, York.	1.4.86
What, hath thy fiery heart so parch'd thine entrails	1.4.87
That not a tear can fall for Rutland's death?	1.4.88
Why art thou patient, man? thou shouldst be mad;	1.4.89
And I, to make thee mad, do mock thee thus.	1.4.90
Stamp, rave, and fret, that I may sing and dance.	1.4.91
Thou wouldst be fee'd, I see, to make me sport:	1.4.92
York cannot speak, unless he wear a crown.	1.4.93
A crown for York! and, lords, bow low to him:	1.4.94
Hold you his hands, whilst I do set it on.	1.4.95
<i>Putting a paper crown on his head</i>	
Ay, marry, sir, now looks he like a king!	1.4.96
Ay, this is he that took King Henry's chair,	1.4.97
And this is he was his adopted heir.	1.4.98
But how is it that great Plantagenet	1.4.99
Is crown'd so soon, and broke his solemn oath?	1.4.100
As I bethink me, you should not be king	1.4.101
Till our King Henry had shook hands with death.	1.4.102

## History of Henry VI, Part III - character extract

And will you pale your head in Henry's glory,	1.4.103
And rob his temples of the diadem,	1.4.104
Now in his life, against your holy oath?	1.4.105
O, 'tis a fault too too unpardonable!	1.4.106
Off with the crown, and with the crown his head;	1.4.107
And, whilst we breathe, take time to do him dead.	1.4.108
 <b>Queen Margaret.</b> Nay, stay; lets hear the orisons he makes.	1.4.110
 <b>Queen Margaret.</b> What, weeping-ripe, my Lord Northumberland?	1.4.173
Think but upon the wrong he did us all,	1.4.174
And that will quickly dry thy melting tears.	1.4.175
 <b>Queen Margaret.</b> And here's to right our gentle-hearted king. <i>Stabbing him</i>	1.4.177
 <b>Queen Margaret.</b> Off with his head, and set it on York gates;	1.4.180
So York may overlook the town of York.	1.4.181
<i>Flourish. Exeunt</i>	
 <b>Queen Margaret.</b> Welcome, my lord, to this brave town of York.	2.2.1
Yonder's the head of that arch-enemy	2.2.2
That sought to be encompass'd with your crown:	2.2.3
Doth not the object cheer your heart, my lord?	2.2.4
 <b>Queen Margaret.</b> My lord, cheer up your spirits: our foes are nigh,	2.2.56
And this soft courage makes your followers faint.	2.2.57
You promised knighthood to our forward son:	2.2.58
Unsheathe your sword, and dub him presently.	2.2.59
Edward, kneel down.	2.2.60
 <b>Queen Margaret.</b> Ay, good my lord, and leave us to our fortune.	2.2.75
 <b>Queen Margaret.</b> Go, rate thy minions, proud insulting boy!	2.2.84
Becomes it thee to be thus bold in terms	2.2.85
Before thy sovereign and thy lawful king?	2.2.86
 <b>Queen Margaret.</b> Why, how now, long-tongued Warwick! dare you speak?	2.2.102
When you and I met at Saint Alban's last,	2.2.103
Your legs did better service than your hands.	2.2.104
 <b>Queen Margaret.</b> Defy them then, or else hold close thy lips.	2.2.118

## History of Henry VI, Part III - character extract

<b>Queen Margaret.</b> But thou art neither like thy sire nor dam;	2.2.135
But like a foul mis-shapen stigmatic,	2.2.136
Mark'd by the destinies to be avoided,	2.2.137
As venom toads, or lizards' dreadful stings.	2.2.138
<b>Queen Margaret.</b> Stay, Edward.	2.2.175
<b>Queen Margaret.</b> Mount you, my lord; towards Berwick post amain:	2.5.128
Edward and Richard, like a brace of greyhounds	2.5.129
Having the fearful flying hare in sight,	2.5.130
With fiery eyes sparkling for very wrath,	2.5.131
And bloody steel grasp'd in their ireful hands,	2.5.132
Are at our backs; and therefore hence amain.	2.5.133
<b>Queen Margaret.</b> No, mighty King of France: now Margaret	3.3.4
Must strike her sail and learn awhile to serve	3.3.5
Where kings command. I was, I must confess,	3.3.6
Great Albion's queen in former golden days:	3.3.7
But now mischance hath trod my title down,	3.3.8
And with dishonour laid me on the ground;	3.3.9
Where I must take like seat unto my fortune,	3.3.10
And to my humble seat conform myself.	3.3.11
<b>Queen Margaret.</b> From such a cause as fills mine eyes with tears	3.3.13
And stops my tongue, while heart is drown'd in cares.	3.3.14
<b>Queen Margaret.</b> Those gracious words revive my drooping thoughts	3.3.22
And give my tongue-tied sorrows leave to speak.	3.3.23
Now, therefore, be it known to noble Lewis,	3.3.24
That Henry, sole possessor of my love,	3.3.25
Is of a king become a banish'd man,	3.3.26
And forced to live in Scotland a forlorn;	3.3.27
While proud ambitious Edward Duke of York	3.3.28
Usurps the regal title and the seat	3.3.29
Of England's true-anointed lawful king.	3.3.30
This is the cause that I, poor Margaret,	3.3.31
With this my son, Prince Edward, Henry's heir,	3.3.32
Am come to crave thy just and lawful aid;	3.3.33
And if thou fail us, all our hope is done:	3.3.34
Scotland hath will to help, but cannot help;	3.3.35
Our people and our peers are both misled,	3.3.36
Our treasures seized, our soldiers put to flight,	3.3.37
And, as thou seest, ourselves in heavy plight.	3.3.38
<b>Queen Margaret.</b> The more we stay, the stronger grows our foe.	3.3.41

## History of Henry VI, Part III - character extract

<b>Queen Margaret.</b> O, but impatience waiteth on true sorrow.	3.3.43
And see where comes the breeder of my sorrow!	3.3.44
<i>Enter WARWICK</i>	
<b>Queen Margaret.</b> Our Earl of Warwick, Edward's greatest friend.	3.3.46
<b>Queen Margaret.</b> Ay, now begins a second storm to rise;	3.3.48
For this is he that moves both wind and tide.	3.3.49
<b>Queen Margaret.</b> [Aside] If that go forward, Henry's hope is done.	3.3.59
<b>Queen Margaret.</b> King Lewis and Lady Bona, hear me speak,	3.3.66
Before you answer Warwick. His demand	3.3.67
Springs not from Edward's well-meant honest love,	3.3.68
But from deceit bred by necessity;	3.3.69
For how can tyrants safely govern home,	3.3.70
Unless abroad they purchase great alliance?	3.3.71
To prove him tyrant this reason may suffice,	3.3.72
That Henry liveth still: but were he dead,	3.3.73
Yet here Prince Edward stands, King Henry's son.	3.3.74
Look, therefore, Lewis, that by this league and marriage	3.3.75
Thou draw not on thy danger and dishonour;	3.3.76
For though usurpers sway the rule awhile,	3.3.77
Yet heavens are just, and time suppresseth wrongs.	3.3.78
<b>Queen Margaret.</b> Heavens grant that Warwick's words bewitch him not!	3.3.114
<b>Queen Margaret.</b> Deceitful Warwick! it was thy device	3.3.144
By this alliance to make void my suit:	3.3.145
Before thy coming Lewis was Henry's friend.	3.3.146
<b>Queen Margaret.</b> Peace, impudent and shameless Warwick, peace,	3.3.159
Proud setter up and puller down of kings!	3.3.160
I will not hence, till, with my talk and tears,	3.3.161
Both full of truth, I make King Lewis behold	3.3.162
Thy sly conveyance and thy lord's false love;	3.3.163
For both of you are birds of selfsame feather.	3.3.164
<i>Post blows a horn within</i>	
<b>Queen Margaret.</b> Mine, such as fill my heart with unhop'd joys.	3.3.175

## History of Henry VI, Part III - character extract

<b>Queen Margaret.</b> I told your majesty as much before:	3.3.182
This proveth Edward's love and Warwick's honesty.	3.3.183
<b>Queen Margaret.</b> Warwick, these words have turn'd my hate to love;	3.3.202
And I forgive and quite forget old faults,	3.3.203
And joy that thou becomest King Henry's friend.	3.3.204
<b>Queen Margaret.</b> Renowned prince, how shall poor Henry live,	3.3.217
Unless thou rescue him from foul despair?	3.3.218
<b>Queen Margaret.</b> Let me give humble thanks for all at once.	3.3.224
<b>Queen Margaret.</b> Tell him, my mourning weeds are laid aside,	3.3.232
And I am ready to put armour on.	3.3.233
<b>Queen Margaret.</b> Yes, I agree, and thank you for your motion.	3.3.248
Son Edward, she is fair and virtuous,	3.3.249
Therefore delay not, give thy hand to Warwick;	3.3.250
And, with thy hand, thy faith irrevocable,	3.3.251
That only Warwick's daughter shall be thine.	3.3.252
<b>Queen Margaret.</b> Great lords, wise men ne'er sit and wail their loss,	5.4.1
But cheerly seek how to redress their harms.	5.4.2
What though the mast be now blown overboard,	5.4.3
The cable broke, the holding-anchor lost,	5.4.4
And half our sailors swallow'd in the flood?	5.4.5
Yet lives our pilot still. Is't meet that he	5.4.6
Should leave the helm and like a fearful lad	5.4.7
With tearful eyes add water to the sea	5.4.8
And give more strength to that which hath too much,	5.4.9
Whiles, in his moan, the ship splits on the rock,	5.4.10
Which industry and courage might have saved?	5.4.11
Ah, what a shame! ah, what a fault were this!	5.4.12
Say Warwick was our anchor; what of that?	5.4.13
And Montague our topmost; what of him?	5.4.14
Our slaughter'd friends the tackles; what of these?	5.4.15
Why, is not Oxford here another anchor?	5.4.16
And Somerset another goodly mast?	5.4.17
The friends of France our shrouds and tacklings?	5.4.18
And, though unskilful, why not Ned and I	5.4.19
For once allow'd the skilful pilot's charge?	5.4.20
We will not from the helm to sit and weep,	5.4.21
But keep our course, though the rough wind say no,	5.4.22
From shelves and rocks that threaten us with wreck.	5.4.23
As good to chide the waves as speak them fair.	5.4.24
And what is Edward but ruthless sea?	5.4.25
What Clarence but a quicksand of deceit?	5.4.26

## History of Henry VI, Part III - character extract

And Richard but a ragged fatal rock? 5.4.27  
All these the enemies to our poor bark. 5.4.28  
Say you can swim; alas, 'tis but a while! 5.4.29  
Tread on the sand; why, there you quickly sink: 5.4.30  
Bestride the rock; the tide will wash you off, 5.4.31  
Or else you famish; that's a threefold death. 5.4.32  
This speak I, lords, to let you understand, 5.4.33  
If case some one of you would fly from us, 5.4.34  
That there's no hoped-for mercy with the brothers 5.4.35  
More than with ruthless waves, with sands and rocks. 5.4.36  
Why, courage then! what cannot be avoided 5.4.37  
'Twere childish weakness to lament or fear. 5.4.38

**Queen Margaret.** Thanks, gentle Somerset; sweet Oxford, thanks. 5.4.58

**Queen Margaret.** This cheers my heart, to see your forwardness. 5.4.65

**Queen Margaret.** Lords, knights, and gentlemen, what I should say 5.4.73  
My tears gainsay; for every word I speak, 5.4.74  
Ye see, I drink the water of mine eyes. 5.4.75  
Therefore, no more but this: Henry, your sovereign, 5.4.76  
Is prisoner to the foe; his state usurp'd, 5.4.77  
His realm a slaughter-house, his subjects slain, 5.4.78  
His statutes cancell'd and his treasure spent; 5.4.79  
And yonder is the wolf that makes this spoil. 5.4.80  
You fight in justice: then, in God's name, lords, 5.4.81  
Be valiant and give signal to the fight. 5.4.82  
*Alarum. Retreat. Excursions. Exeunt*

**Queen Margaret.** So part we sadly in this troublous world, 5.5.7  
To meet with joy in sweet Jerusalem. 5.5.8

**Queen Margaret.** Ah, that thy father had been so resolved! 5.5.22

**Queen Margaret.** Ay, thou wast born to be a plague to men. 5.5.28

**Queen Margaret.** O, kill me too! 5.5.41

**Queen Margaret.** O Ned, sweet Ned! speak to thy mother, boy! 5.5.51  
Canst thou not speak? O traitors! murderers! 5.5.52  
They that stabb'd Caesar shed no blood at all, 5.5.53  
Did not offend, nor were not worthy blame, 5.5.54  
If this foul deed were by to equal it: 5.5.55  
He was a man; this, in respect, a child: 5.5.56  
And men ne'er spend their fury on a child. 5.5.57

## History of Henry VI, Part III - character extract

What's worse than murderer, that I may name it? 5.5.58  
No, no, my heart will burst, and if I speak: 5.5.59  
And I will speak, that so my heart may burst. 5.5.60  
Butchers and villains! bloody cannibals! 5.5.61  
How sweet a plant have you untimely cropp'd! 5.5.62  
You have no children, butchers! if you had, 5.5.63  
The thought of them would have stirr'd up remorse: 5.5.64  
But if you ever chance to have a child, 5.5.65  
Look in his youth to have him so cut off 5.5.66  
As, deathmen, you have rid this sweet young prince! 5.5.67

**Queen Margaret.** Nay, never bear me hence, dispatch me here, 5.5.69  
Here sheathe thy sword, I'll pardon thee my death: 5.5.70  
What, wilt thou not? then, Clarence, do it thou. 5.5.71

**Queen Margaret.** Good Clarence, do; sweet Clarence, do thou do it. 5.5.73

**Queen Margaret.** Ay, but thou usest to forswear thyself: 5.5.75  
'Twas sin before, but now 'tis charity. 5.5.76  
What, wilt thou not? Where is that devil's butcher, 5.5.77  
Hard-favour'd Richard? Richard, where art thou? 5.5.78  
Thou art not here: murder is thy alms-deed; 5.5.79  
Petitioners for blood thou ne'er put'st back. 5.5.80

**Queen Margaret.** So come to you and yours, as to this Prince! 5.5.82  
*Exit, led out forcibly*

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