

## ELEANOR / RICHARD

**ELEANOR.** Then run away; escape. You've still got time.

**RICHARD.** No. Geoffrey's right; we'll stay.

**ELEANOR.** You, too? Oh, Richard.

**RICHARD.** Oh, oh, oh. There's nothing in your oh's: they're empty.

**ELEANOR.** You're not an assassin.

**RICHARD.** Look again.

**ELEANOR.** You're not. You're my Richard and you love me.

**RICHARD.** Let me kiss the nasty scratch and make it well.

**ELEANOR.** Yes, do. Come let me hold you.

**RICHARD.** You're more beautiful than ever. There is much that's beautiful in evil when it's absolutely pure. You are so foul you're fair. You stand there looking like a saint in pain when you brought us the knives to do your work.

**ELEANOR.** That's not true.

**RICHARD.** You did bring these things.

**ELEANOR.** Not for this.

**RICHARD.** Here – you want him dead, you do it.

**ELEANOR.** You unnatural animal.

**RICHARD.** Unnatural, Mummy? You tell me, what's nature's way? If poisoned mushrooms grow and babies come with crooked backs, if dogs go mad and wives kill husbands, what's unnatural? Here stands your lamb. Come cover him with kisses; he's all yours.

**ELEANOR.** No, you're not mine. I'm not responsible.

**RICHARD.** Where do you think I learned this from? How old was I when you fought with Henry first?

**ELEANOR.** Young...I don't know.

**RICHARD.** How many battles did I watch?

**ELEANOR.** But those were battles, not a knife behind a door.

**RICHARD.** I've never heard a corpse ask how it got so cold. You've got a mind: you tell me, what was on it when you had your soldiers point their crossbows at him?

**ELEANOR.** That was in the field.

**RICHARD.** I don't care if it's in the dahlia bed. What were you thinking, Eleanor?

**ELEANOR.** Of you.

**RICHARD.** Of your unnatural animal?

**ELEANOR.** I did it all for you.

**RICHARD.** You wanted Father dead.

**ELEANOR.** No, never that.

**RICHARD.** You tried to kill him, didn't you?

**ELEANOR.** Yes.

**RICHARD.** Why? What did you want?

**ELEANOR.** I wanted Henry back.

**RICHARD.** You lie.