

**Carradine:** (*Picking up the portrait and studying it.*) You're the first I've met who has a king for a pin-up.

**Grant:** He's no beauty, is he?

**Carradine:** Oh, I don't know. He looks a bit like a college professor of mine. Poor chap suffers with chronic indigestion but he's the kindest person imaginable. Is this who you want me to look up?

**Grant:** Yes. Nothing too arduous, I just want to know what a contemporary authority has to report.

**Carradine:** That shouldn't be too difficult. It is not far from the period I'm studying already. In fact, the current authority, Cuthbert Oliphant, covers both periods. I've a copy in my bag, as it happens. Have you read Oliphant?

**Grant:** I haven't. Just schoolbooks and Thomas More.

**Carradine:** More? Henry VII's chancellor?

**Grant:** That's him.

**Carradine:** I take you are not happy with his account.

**Grant:** It read like a publicity pamphlet for the Tudors. No, actually, worse than that. More like something you would read in a scandal sheet such as the News of the World. Downstairs gossip masquerading as journalism.

**Carradine:** That bad, eh?

**Grant:** Do you know much about Richard III?

**Carradine:** Only that he murdered his nephews and offered his kingdom for a horse. Oh yes, and he had two stooges. The Cat and the Rat.

**Grant:** The Cat and the Rat?

**Carradine:** The Cat, the Rat, and Lovell the Dog, Rule all England under a Hog.

**Grant:** I haven't heard that since I was a schoolboy and I'm amazed it made its way across the Atlantic. Would does it mean?

**Carradine:** I haven't a clue. It must be something to do with Richard's royal crest being a pig, but it's just something history students say to show off whenever his name was mentioned. What got you interested in him, anyway?

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**Grant:** Speak of the devil. (*Seeing Carradine's solemn expression.*) Is something wrong?

**Carradine:** Everything's wrong. We are undone. Oh, you are out of bed.

**Grant:** Never mind that, what's happened?

**Carradine:** A terrible thing. You know that chronicle written in Latin I talked about, the one written by the monk at Croyland Abbey, well I got hold of it and it mentions there being a rumour that the boys are dead. And this thing was written whilst Richard was still alive. It is a contemporary account.

**Grant:** Damn and blast. It might just be a rumour, but it is enough to throw our theory into doubt.

**Carradine:** It gets worse. I spent a little time looking to see if there was any other mention of this rumour, and I turned up a another. This time it was the Chancellor of France in a speech to his assembly. My French is not so good, so I copied it out for you to read yourself, but the meaning seems quite clear. (*He hands Grant a sheet of paper.*)