



The troublesome Raigne of
King Iohn.

Enter *K. Iohn*, *Queene Elinor* his mother, *William Marshal*
Earle of *Pembrooke*, the Earles of *Essex*, and of *Salisbury*.

Queene Elinor.

B Irons of *England*, and my noble Lords;
Though God and Fortune haue herest from vs
Victorious *Richard* scourge of Infidels,
And clad this Land in stole of dismall hieu:

Yet giue me leaue to toy, and toy you all,
That from this wombe hath sprung a second hope,
A King that may inrule and vertue both
Succede his brother in his Emperie.

K. Iohn By gracious mother *Queene*, and Barons all;
Though farre unwoorthie of so high a place,
As is the Throne of mightie *Englands* King:
Yet *Iohn* your Lord, contentes discontent,
Will (as he may) sustaine the beaute pike
Of pressing cares, that hang vpon a Crowne.
By Lord of *Pembrooke* and Lord *Salisbury*,
Admitt the Lord *Shattilion* to our presence;
That we may know what *Philip* King of *France*
(By his Ambassadors) requires of vs.

Q. Elinor Dare lay my hand that *Elinor* can gesse
Whereto this weightie Embassage doth tend:
If of my Nephew *Arthur* and his claine,
Then lay my Sonne I haue not mist my aime,

Enter

Anonymous. *[The] troublesome raigne of John King of England*. London: Sampson Clarke, 1591. Folger STC 14644.

Possible sources for Shakespeare's *King John* include this anonymous play of the early 1590s. The lives of the Plantagenets were appealing theater in the Elizabethan period, as attested by these multiple versions of the life of John Lackland, as well as the historical plays that round out Shakespeare's corpus.

From an original in the [Folger Shakespeare Library](#)
Licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike 4.0 International License](#) (CC BY-SA 4.0)