

Richard II

The last of the Plantagenets. Richard banishes his cousin, Henry Bolingbroke, after first ordering a trial by combat to settle a dispute about a political murder. Bolingbroke's father, the Duke of Lancaster dies, and Richard seizes his estates to fund his campaign in Ireland. Bolingbroke returns with an army, is welcomed by both the commoners and Richard's dissatisfied nobles, and marches his army through England. Richard, back from his campaign, is taken prisoner and brought to London, where Bolingbroke is crowned. He is then imprisoned in Pomfret castle, where he is killed. Henry denies responsibility but promises a Crusade in atonement.