JAGGARD. My eighteen plays by William Shakespeare have been printed. By me. So though you managed to shut down my last attempt to publish your friend, I stand here willing to forgive that slight and forge ahead with a complete collection.

HENRY. No. No--

JAGGARD. William Jaggard, at your service.

HENRY. OH FOR GOD'S SAKE. GET OUT, YOU DOG.

JAGGARD. You stopped my presses. You cost me coin. I could sue

you for damages-

HENRY. You stole those plays, which you had no right to print nor

call Will’s!

JAGGARD. Poets don't have rights, not to their names and not to their work. It's business, friends, no harm in it. What I want to make is a deal, a partnership between us to create a volume of plays by-

HENRY. NO. Again and again NO.

JAGGARD. If you want to do this, you cannot do it without me.

HENRY. We can and will. We don't need your filthy business.

JAGGARD. What about the plays to which you have no rights?

HENRY. You said poets don't have rights.

JAGGARD. Well printers do. And lawyers. And investors, and those are the ones you really don't want to fuck with.

HENRY. We'll get the rights from honest men who want the first and

only authorized version of Shakespeare--as in the actual author.

JAGGARD. And how much of that work is there without your friend's

Hamlet? Dear old Smethwick owns it and Romeo and Juliet, gave me

the rights to both. What about Much Ado? That's Aspley’s title, already on board. The Richards, the Henrys, crowd favorites all and all mine, and who will buy your collection without them? I wouldn't.

Let me be frank: I know you don't have the funds to do this. I do.

I know you don't have the means to print. I do.

You don't have the rights to all the plays, but I have already brought

together a syndicate of owners to invest in this folio's production.

Suddenly you have money, rights, texts, presses, and nothing in your way but … an old blind man asking to be friends. So. Is there a deal to be made, gentlemen?

(Pause).

HENRY. We'll consider your proposal

JAGGARD. You should. Until tomorrow. When I start printing HALF The Collected Works of William Shakespeare. Good day.