

ACT 2 SCENE 4
Eastcheap: the Boar's Head Tavern

Enter PRINCE and POINS

PRINCE Poins, I've been chilling in the cellar with the waiters. We're best mates now. They call me "a good boy" and say when I'm King I'll be the king of all the cool kids in Eastcheap. I've learnt all their slang. I can drink with any tinker in his own language for the rest of my life.

POINS lol nice

PRINCE Watch this. Go stand over there and keep yelling "Francis!" while I talk to him.

Enter FRANCIS, a waiter

FRANCIS Anon, anon, sir!

PRINCE Francis, how long have you got left on ur contract?

POINS (offstage) Francis!

FRANCIS Anon, anon, sir! Five years sir

PRINCE Five years? Damn. Would u ever run away?

POINS (offstage) Francis!

FRANCIS Anon, sir!

PRINCE Francis, I'll give u a thousand pounds for a pennyworth of sugar

POINS (offstage) Francis!

FRANCIS Anon, anon!

Here they both call him; FRANCIS stands confused, not knowing which way to go. Enter VINTNER

VINTNER Wtf Francis why are u standing there?? Can't u hear the customers?

Exit FRANCIS

POINS lmao what was the point of that

PRINCE Idk. I'm in the mood for anything rn. Francis only knows two words: "anon" and "upstairs". He's like the opposite of Hotspur, who kills six or seven dozen Scots before breakfast, washes his hands and says to his wife "this quiet life is so boring, I need work". Get Falstaff in here. I'll play Hotspur and he can play his wife.

Enter FALSTAFF, GADSHILL, BARDOLPH and PETO

FALSTAFF A plague on all cowards! Waiter, get me some wine. A plague on all cowards!! Is there no honesty left in this world?

PRINCE Wassup Falstaff, what's wrong?

FALSTAFF You're a coward Hal. And Poin too. I'm not gonna call you a coward, but I'd give a thousand pounds to run as fast as you.

PRINCE What are u on about?

FALSTAFF We stole a thousand pounds this morning!

PRINCE So where is it?

FALSTAFF Taken from us. A hundred of them attacked the four of us.

PRINCE wtf? A hundred?

FALSTAFF I fought a dozen of them for two hours. I'm a legend. Look, my shield is hacked, my sword is like a saw. I've never fought better in my life. A plague on all cowards!

PRINCE How many did u fight?

FALSTAFF Two, I killed two of them. Two dudes in buckram suits. They charged at me like this *does a pose*

PRINCE Hold up, how many?

FALSTAFF Four. These four came at me all at once

PRINCE u said two

FALSTAFF Four Hal I said four. These seven came at me and I blocked all their swords with my shield, like this

PRINCE Seven? There were just four a second ago

FALSTAFF In buckram?

POINS Yeah, four in buckram suits

FALSTAFF Seven. I swear on these hilts.

PRINCE (to POINS) leave him, we'll get more soon

FALSTAFF These nine in buckram that I told you about —

PRINCE Two more already lmao

FALSTAFF — and then three cunts in Kendal green came up behind me, but it was so dark Hal, you couldn't see your own hand

PRINCE If it was so dark, how did u know their clothes were Kendal green? Come on, give me a reason

FALSTAFF A reason?? If reasons were as common as blackberries I still wouldn't give you one just because you asked

PRINCE ok I'm done. This fat guy is full of shit. Here's what really happened. Pains and I saw you four rob four guys. Then we two attacked you four, and you dropped the money and ran away. And Falstaff, you ran away so fast, roaring for mercy like a bull calf. Then you hacked up your own sword and said it was from fighting. What's ur excuse now huh?

POINS yeah what's ur excuse?

FALSTAFF ...By the Lord, I knew it was you the whole time lol. Should I kill the heir to the throne? Would I turn on the true prince? A lion would never touch the true prince. I was a coward by instinct. Anyway, I'm glad u have the money. Let's party!!! Shall we put on a play?

Enter HOSTESS

HOSTESS My lord, there's a nobleman from the court at the door. Your dad sent him.

FALSTAFF I'll send him packing

Exit FALSTAFF

PRINCE (to the others) So how did Falstaff's sword get hacked up?

PETO He hacked it with his own dagger and said he'd swear it was from fighting

BARDOLPH And he made us tickle our noses with grass until they bled, then smear the blood on our clothes. I haven't done that in seven years. I blushed.

Enter FALSTAFF

FALSTAFF Bad news. Hotspur, Glendower, Mortimer and Douglas are all rebelling. Your dad wants you back at court tomorrow morning. Hal, aren't u scared af? Three enemies like Percy, Douglas and Glendower?

PRINCE Nah. I don't have your instinct, remember?

FALSTAFF Well your dad's gonna yell at you tomorrow. Better practise.

PRINCE ok you be my dad, and ask me about my life

FALSTAFF *uses a chair as a throne, a dagger as a sceptre and a cushion as a crown* Harry, I am surprised by the company you keep. Everyone says you are a thief. But there is one good man who is always with you. I forgot his name.

PRINCE What kind of man, ur majesty?

FALSTAFF A good portly man, cheerful face, around fifty, or nearly sixty. His name is Falstaff. Keep him around, and ditch the rest.

PRINCE lmao ok switch. I'm the king now, you be me.

They swap

PRINCE Harry, where have you been?

FALSTAFF Eastcheap, my lord

PRINCE I've heard terrible things about you. There's a devil who hangs out with you in the shape of a fat old man. A massive barrel of a man. That villainous, abominable misleader of youth, Falstaff, that old white-bearded Satan.

FALSTAFF My lord, I know him. If it's a sin to be old and merry then a lot of old guys I know are going to hell. If being fat is a crime, then cows deserve to go to hell. No, my good lord. Banish Peto, banish Bardolph, banish Poins. But sweet Jack Falstaff, kind Jack Falstaff, true Jack Falstaff, valiant Jack Falstaff, old Jack Falstaff... don't banish him from your Harry's company. Banish plump Jack, and banish all the world.

PRINCE I do. I will.

Knocking. Exeunt HOSTESS, FRANCIS and BARDOLPH. Enter BARDOLPH, running

BARDOLPH My lord! The sheriff and a whole squad of police are at the door!

FALSTAFF Get out, wait, I haven't finished the play

HOSTESS (entering) Holy shit, my lord!

PRINCE Hide behind the curtain, Falstaff. Everyone else go upstairs.

They all hide except the PRINCE and PETO. Enter SHERIFF and the CARRIER

SHERIFF Sorry to bother you sir. A bunch of people chased some robbers into this inn. One of them is a fat guy, you'd know him if you saw him.

PRINCE He isn't here. But if he is, I'll make sure he goes to you tomorrow by lunchtime and answers for everything. Ok?

SHERIFF Ok. They stole three hundred marks.

PRINCE If he robbed them, he'll pay it back. Goodnight.

Exeunt SHERIFF and CARRIER

PRINCE Peto, call Falstaff out

PETO He's asleep behind the curtain, snoring like a horse lol

PRINCE Search his pockets

PETO searches his pockets and finds some papers

PETO It's a receipt.
Chicken: 2 shillings 2 pence.
Sauce: 4 pence.
Wine, two gallons: 5 shillings 8 pence.
Anchovies and wine after dinner: 2 shillings 6 pence.
Bread: half a penny.

PRINCE lmaooo half a penny of bread and a fuckton of wine. Leave him there.
Tomorrow I'm going to court, and we're all going to war. I'll get this fat
guy put in charge of some foot soldiers. Walking 200 metres will kill him
lol. And the money will be paid back with interest. See u tmr Peto.

PETO Gn my lord

Exeunt