

# Pericles, Prince of Tyre

## Sc.15

*Enter Gower*

**GOWER**

Imagine Pericles arrived at Tyre,  
Welcomed and settled to his own desire.  
His woeful queen we leave at Ephesus,  
Unto Diana there 's a votaress.  
Now to Marina bend your mind, 5  
Whom our fast-growing scene must find  
At Tarsus, and by Cleon trained  
In music, letters; who hath gained  
Of education all the grace,  
Which makes her both the heart and place 10  
Of gen'ral wonder. But, alack,  
That monster envy, oft the wrack  
Of earneÁd praise, Marina's life  
Seeks to take off by treason's knife,  
And in this kind our Cleon has 15  
One daughter, and a full-grown lass  
E'en ripe for marriage-rite. This maid  
Hight Philoten, and it is said  
For certain in our story she  
Would ever with Marina be, 20  
Be't when they weaved the sleided silk  
With fingers long, small, white as milk;  
Or when she would with sharp nee'le wound  
The cambric which she made more sound  
By hurting it, or when to th' lute 25  
She sung, and made the night bird mute,  
That still records with moan; or when  
She would with rich and constant pen  
Vail to her mistress Dian. Still  
This Philoten contends in skill 30  
With absolute Marina; so  
With dove of Paphos might the crow  
Vie feathers white. Marina gets  
All praises which are paid as debts,

And not as given. This so darks 35  
 In Philoten all graceful marks  
 That Cleon's wife with envy rare  
 A present murder does prepare  
 For good Marina, that her daughter  
 Might stand peerless by this slaughter. 40  
 The sooner her vile thoughts to stead  
 Lychorida, our nurse, is dead,  
     *[A tomb is revealed]*  
 And curseÁd Dionyza hath  
 The pregnant instrument of wrath  
 Pressed for this blow. Th'unborn event 45  
 I do commend to your content,  
 Only I carry wingeÁd Time  
 Post on the lame feet of my rhyme,  
 Which never could I so convey  
 Unless your thoughts went on my way. 50  
     *[Enter Dionyza with Leonine]*  
 Dionyza does appear,  
 With Leonine, a murderer.  
     *Exit*

**DIONYZA**

Thy oath remember. Thou hast sworn to do't.  
 'Tis but a blow, which never shall be known.  
 Thou canst not do a thing i'th' world so soon 55  
 To yield thee so much profit. Let not conscience,  
 Which is but cold, or fanning love thy bosom  
 Unflame too nicely, nor let pity, which  
 E'en women have cast off, melt thee; but be  
 A soldier to thy purpose.

**LEONINE** I will do't; 60  
 But yet she is a goodly creature.

**DIONYZA**

The fitter then the gods should have her.  
     *Enter Marina [to the tomb] with a basket of flowers*  
 Here she comes, weeping her only nurse's death.  
 Thou art resolved.

**LEONINE** I am resolved.

**MARINA**

No, I will rob Tellus of her weed 65

To strew thy grave with flow'rs. The yellows, blues,  
The purple violets and marigolds  
Shall as a carpet hang upon thy tomb  
While summer days doth last. Ay me, poor maid,  
Born in a tempest when my mother died, 70  
This world to me is but a ceaseless storm  
Whirring me from my friends.

**DIONYZA**

How now, Marina, why do you keep alone?  
How chance my daughter is not with you?  
Do not consume your blood with sorrowing. 75  
Have you a nurse of me. Lord, how your favour  
Is changed with this unprofitable woe!  
Give me your flowers. Come, o'er the sea margin  
Walk with Leonine. The air is piercing there,  
And quick; it sharps the stomach. Come, Leonine, 80  
Take her by th' arm. Walk with her.

**MARINA**

No, I pray you,

I'll not bereave you of your servant.

**DIONYZA**

Come, come,

I love the King your father and yourself  
With more than foreign heart. We ev'ry day  
Expect him here. When he shall come and find 85  
Our paragon to all reports thus blasted,  
He will repent the breadth of his great voyage,  
Blame both my lord and me, that we have taken  
No care to your best courses. Go, I pray you,  
Walk and be cheerful once again; resume 90  
That excellent complexion which did steal  
The eyes of young and old. Care not for me.  
I can go home alone.

**MARINA**

Well, I will go,

But truly I have no desire to it.

**DIONYZA**

Nay, I know 'tis good for you. Walk half an hour, 95  
Leonine, at the least; remember  
What I have said.

**LEONINE**

I warr'nt you, madam.

**DIONYZA** *(to Marina)*

I'll leave you, my sweet lady, for a while.

Pray you walk softly, do not heat your blood.  
What, I must have care of you!

**MARINA**

My thanks, sweet madam.

100

*Exit Dionyza*

Is this wind westerly that blows?

**LEONINE**

South-west.

**MARINA**

When I was born the wind was north.

**LEONINE**

Was't so?

**MARINA**

My father, as nurse says, did never fear,  
But cried 'Good seamen' to the mariners,  
Galling his kingly hands with haling ropes, 105  
And, clasping to the mast, endured a sea  
That almost burst the deck.

**LEONINE** When was this?

**MARINA** When I was born.

Never was waves nor wind more violent. 110  
Once from the ladder tackle washes off  
A canvas-climber. 'Ha!' says one, 'wolt out?'  
And with a dropping industry they skip  
From stem to stern. The boatswain whistles, and  
The master calls and trebles their confusion. 115

**LEONINE** Come, say your prayers.

**MARINA** What mean you?

**LEONINE**

If you require a little space for prayer  
I grant it. Pray, but be not tedious.  
The gods are quick of ear, and I am sworn 120  
To do my work with haste.

**MARINA**

Why would you kill me?

**LEONINE**

To satisfy my lady.

**MARINA** Why would she have me killed?

Now, as I can remember, by my troth  
I never did her hurt in all my life.  
I never spake bad word, nor did ill turn 125  
To any living creature. Believe me, la.  
I never killed a mouse nor hurt a fly.

I trod once on a worm against my will,  
But I wept for it. How have I offended  
Wherein my death might yield her any profit 130  
Or my life imply her danger?

**LEONINE** My commission  
Is not to reason of the deed, but do't.

**MARINA**  
You will not do't for all the world, I hope.  
You are well favoured, and your looks foreshow  
You have a gentle heart. I saw you lately 135  
When you caught hurt in parting two that fought.  
Good sooth, it showed well in you. Do so now.  
Your lady seeks my life. Come you between,  
And save poor me, the weaker.

**LEONINE** *[drawing out his sword]* I am sworn,  
And will dispatch. 140

*Enter Pirates [running]*

**FIRST PIRATE** Hold, villain.

*Leonine runs away [and hides behind the tomb]*

**SECOND PIRATE** A prize, a prize.

**THIRD PIRATE** Half-part, mates, half-part. Come, let's have  
her aboard suddenly.

*Exeunt Pirates [carrying] Marina*

*Leonine [steals back]*

**LEONINE**  
These roguing thieves serve the great pirate Valdes. 145  
An they have seized Marina, let her go.  
There's no hope she'll return. I'll swear she's dead  
And thrown into the sea; but I'll see further.  
Perhaps they will but please themselves upon her,  
Not carry her aboard. If she remain, 150  
Whom they have ravished must by me be slain.  
*Exit. [The tomb is concealed]*