

The Taming of the Shrew

4.2

Enter Tranio as Lucentio, and Hortensio as Licio

TRANIO

Is't possible, friend Licio, that Mistress Bianca
Doth fancy any other but Lucentio?
I tell you, sir, she bears me fair in hand.

HORTENSIO

Sir, to satisfy you in what I have said,
Stand by, and mark the manner of his teaching.
They stand aside.

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Enter Bianca, and Lucentio as Cambio

LUCENTIO

Now, mistress, profit you in what you read?

BIANCA

What, master, read you? First resolve me that.

LUCENTIO

I read that I profess, *The Art to Love*.

BIANCA

And may you prove, sir, master of your art.

LUCENTIO

While you, sweet dear, prove mistress of my heart. 10
They stand aside

HORTENSIO

Quick proceeders, marry! Now tell me, I pray,
You that durst swear that your mistress Bianca
Loved none in the world so well as Lucentio.

TRANIO

O spiteful love, unconstant womankind!
I tell thee, Licio, this is wonderful. 15

HORTENSIO

Mistake no more, I am not Licio,
Nor a musician as I seem to be,
But one that scorn to live in this disguise
For such a one as leaves a gentleman
And makes a god of such a cullion. 20
Know, sir, that I am called Hortensio.

TRANIO

Signor Hortensio, I have often heard

Of your entire affection to Bianca,
And since mine eyes are witness of her lightness
I will with you, if you be so contented, 25
Forswear Bianca and her love for ever.

HORTENSIO

See how they kiss and court. Signor Lucentio,
Here is my hand, and here I firmly vow
Never to woo her more, but do forswear her
As one unworthy all the former favours 30
That I have fondly flattered her withal.

TRANIO

And here I take the like unfeign'd oath
Never to marry with her, though she would entreat.
Fie on her, see how beastly she doth court him!

HORTENSIO

Would all the world but he had quite forsworn. 35
For me, that I may surely keep mine oath
I will be married to a wealthy widow
Ere three days pass, which hath as long loved me
As I have loved this proud disdainful haggard.
And so farewell, Signor Lucentio. 40
Kindness in women, not their beauteous looks,
Shall win my love; and so I take my leave,
In resolution as I swore before.

Exit

TRANIO

Mistress Bianca, bless you with such grace
As 'longeth to a lover's blesse'd case. 45
Nay, I have ta'en you napping, gentle love,
And have forsworn you with Hortensio.

BIANCA

Tranio, you jest. But have you both forsworn me?

TRANIO

Mistress, we have.

LUCENTIO Then we are rid of Licio.

TRANIO

I'faith, he'll have a lusty widow now, 50
That shall be wooed and wedded in a day.

BIANCA God give him joy.

TRANIO Ay, and he'll tame her.

BIANCA He says so, Tranio.

TRANIO

Faith, he is gone unto the taming-school. 55

BIANCA

The taming-school±±what, is there such a place?

TRANIO

Ay, mistress, and Petruccio is the master,
That teacheth tricks eleven-and-twenty long
To tame a shrew and charm her chattering tongue.

Enter Biondello

BIONDELLO

O, master, master, I have watched so long 60
That I am dog-weary, but at last I spied
An ancient angel coming down the hill
Will serve the turn.

TRANIO What is he, Biondello?

BIONDELLO

Master, a marcantant or a pedant,
I know not what, but formal in apparel, 65
In gait and countenance surely like a father.

LUCENTIO And what of him, Tranio?

TRANIO

If he be credulous and trust my tale,
I'll make him glad to seem Vincentio
And give assurance to Baptista Minola 70
As if he were the right Vincentio.
Take in your love, and then let me alone.

Exeunt Lucentio and Bianca

Enter a Pedant

PEDANT

God save you, sir.

TRANIO And you, sir. You are welcome.

Travel you farre on, or are you at the farthest?

PEDANT

Sir, at the farthest for a week or two, 75
But then up farther and as far as Rome,
And so to Tripoli, if God lend me life.

TRANIO

What countryman, I pray?

PEDANT Of Mantua.

TRANIO

Of Mantua, sir? Marry, God forbid,

And come to Padua careless of your life! 80

PEDANT
My life, sir? How, I pray? For that goes hard.

TRANIO
'Tis death for anyone in Mantua
To come to Padua. Know you not the cause?
Your ships are stayed at Venice, and the Duke,
For private quarrel 'twixt your Duke and him, 85
Hath published and proclaimed it openly.
'Tis marvel, but that you are but newly come,
You might have heard it else proclaimed about.

PEDANT
Alas, sir, it is worse for me than so,
For I have bills for money by exchange 90
From Florence, and must here deliver them.

TRANIO
Well, sir, to do you courtesy
This will I do, and this I will advise you.
First tell me, have you ever been at Pisa?

PEDANT
Ay, sir, in Pisa have I often been, 95
Pisa renowneÁd for grave citizens.

TRANIO
Among them know you one Vincentio?

PEDANT
I know him not, but I have heard of him,
A merchant of incomparable wealth.

TRANIO
He is my father, sir, and sooth to say, 100
In count'nance somewhat doth resemble you.

BIONDELLO (*aside*) As much as an apple doth an oyster,
and all one.

TRANIO
To save your life in this extremity
This favour will I do you for his sake, 105
And think it not the worst of all your fortunes
That you are like to Sir Vincentio.
His name and credit shall you undertake,
And in my house you shall be friendly lodged.
Look that you take upon you as you should. 110
You understand me, sir? So shall you stay

Till you have done your business in the city.
If this be courtesy, sir, accept of it.

PEDANT

O sir, I do, and will repute you ever
The patron of my life and liberty. 115

TRANIO

Then go with me to make the matter good.
This, by the way, I let you understand±±
My father is here looked for every day
To pass assurance of a dower in marriage
'Twixt me and one Baptista's daughter here. 120
In all these circumstances I'll instruct you.
Go with me to clothe you as becomes you.
Exeunt