

The Merchant of Venice

2.3

Enter Jessica and Lancelot, the clown

JESSICA

I am sorry thou wilt leave my father so.
Our house is hell, and thou, a merry devil,
Didst rob it of some taste of tediousness.
But fare thee well. There is a ducat for thee.
And, Lancelot, soon at supper shalt thou see 5
Lorenzo, who is thy new master's guest.
Give him this letter, do it secretly;
And so farewell. I would not have my father
See me in talk with thee.

LANCELOT Adieu. Tears exhibit my tongue, most beautiful 10
pagan; most sweet Jew; if a Christian do not play the
knave and get thee, I am much deceived. But adieu.
These foolish drops do something drown my manly
spirit. Adieu.

JESSICA Farewell, good Lancelot. 15

Exit Lancelot

Alack, what heinous sin is it in me
To be ashamed to be my father's child!
But though I am a daughter to his blood,
I am not to his manners. O Lorenzo,
If thou keep promise I shall end this strife, 20
Become a Christian and thy loving wife.

Exit