

Troilus and Cressida

5.2

Enter Diomedes

DIOMEDES What, are you up here? Ho! Speak!

CALCHAS *[at the door]* Who calls?

DIOMEDES Diomed. Calchas, I think. Where's your daughter?

CALCHAS *[at the door]* She comes to you. 5

Enter Troilus and Ulysses, unseen

ULYSSES *(aside)*

Stand where the torch may not discover us.

TROILUS *(aside)*

Cressid comes forth to him.

Enter Cressida

DIOMEDES How now, my charge?

CRESSIDA

Now, my sweet guardian. Hark, a word with you.

She whispers to him.

[Enter Thersites, unseen]

TROILUS *(aside)* Yea, so familiar?

ULYSSES *(aside)* She will sing any man at first sight. 10

THERSITES *(aside)* And any man may sing her, if he can take her clef. She's noted.

DIOMEDES Will you remember?

CRESSIDA Remember? Yes.

DIOMEDES Nay, but do then, 15

And let your mind be coupled with your words.

TROILUS *(aside)* What should she remember?

ULYSSES *(aside)* List!

CRESSIDA

Sweet honey Greek, tempt me no more to folly.

THERSITES *(aside)* Roguery. 20

DIOMEDES Nay, then!

CRESSIDA I'll tell you what±±

DIOMEDES

Fo, fo! Come, tell a pin. You are forsworn.

CRESSIDA

In faith, I cannot. What would you have me do?

THERSITES (*aside*) A juggling trick: to be secretly open. 25

DIOMEDES

What did you swear you would bestow on me?

CRESSIDA

I prithee, do not hold me to mine oath.

Bid me do anything but that, sweet Greek.

DIOMEDES Good night.

TROILUS (*aside*)

Hold, patience!

ULYSSES (*aside*) How now, Trojan?

CRESSIDA

Diomed. 30

DIOMEDES

No, no, good night. I'll be your fool no more.

TROILUS (*aside*) Thy better must.

CRESSIDA Hark, one word in your ear.

She whispers to him

TROILUS (*aside*) O plague and madness!

ULYSSES (*aside*)

You are moveÁd, Prince. Let us depart, I pray you, 35

Lest your displeasure should enlarge itself

To wrathful terms. This place is dangerous,

The time right deadly. I beseech you go.

TROILUS (*aside*)

Behold, I pray you.

ULYSSES (*aside*) Nay, good my lord, go off.

You flow to great distraction. Come, my lord. 40

TROILUS (*aside*)

I prithee, stay.

ULYSSES (*aside*) You have not patience. Come.

TROILUS (*aside*)

I pray you, stay. By hell and all hell's torments,

I will not speak a word.

DIOMEDES

And so good night.

CRESSIDA

Nay, but you part in anger.

TROILUS (*aside*) Doth that grieve thee?

O withered truth!

ULYSSES (*aside*) Why, how now, lord?

TROILUS (*aside*)

By Jove, 45

I will be patient.

[Diomedes starts to go]

CRESSIDA Guardian! Why, Greek!

DIOMEDES Fo, fo! Adieu. You palter.

CRESSIDA

In faith, I do not. Come hither once again.

ULYSSES *(aside)*

You shake, my lord, at something. Will you go?

50

You will break out.

TROILUS *(aside)* She strokes his cheek.

ULYSSES *(aside)*

Come,

come.

TROILUS *(aside)*

Nay, stay. By Jove, I will not speak a word.

There is between my will and all offences

A guard of patience. Stay a little while.

THERSITES *(aside)* How the devil Luxury with his fat rump 55

and potato finger tickles these together! Fry, lechery,

fry.

DIOMEDES But will you then?

CRESSIDA

In faith, I will, la. Never trust me else.

DIOMEDES

Give me some token for the surety of it.

60

CRESSIDA I'll fetch you one.

Exit

ULYSSES *(aside)* You have sworn patience.

TROILUS *(aside)* Fear me not, sweet lord.

I will not be myself, nor have cognition

Of what I feel. I am all patience.

65

Enter Cressida with Troilus' sleeve

THERSITES *(aside)* Now the pledge! Now, now, now.

CRESSIDA Here Diomed, keep this sleeve.

TROILUS *(aside)* O beauty, where is thy faith?

ULYSSES *(aside)* My lord.

TROILUS *(aside)*

I will be patient; outwardly I will.

70

CRESSIDA

You look upon that sleeve. Behold it well.

He loved me±±O false wench!±±give't me again.

She takes it back

DIOMEDES Whose was't?

CRESSIDA

It is no matter, now I ha't again.

I will not meet with you tomorrow night. 75

I prithee, Diomed, visit me no more.

THERSITES (*aside*) Now she sharpens. Well said, whetstone.

DIOMEDES I shall have it.

CRESSIDA What, this?

DIOMEDES Ay, that. 80

CRESSIDA

O all you gods! O pretty pretty pledge!

Thy master now lies thinking on his bed

Of thee and me, and sighs, and takes my glove

And gives memorial dainty kisses to it±±

[DIOMEDES]

As I kiss thee.

[He snatches the sleeve]

[CRESSIDA] Nay, do not snatch it from me. 85

He that takes that doth take my heart withal.

DIOMEDES

I had your heart before; this follows it.

TROILUS (*aside*) I did swear patience.

CRESSIDA

You shall not have it, Diomed. Faith, you shall not.

I'll give you something else.

DIOMEDES I will have this. Whose was it? 90

CRESSIDA

It is no matter.

DIOMEDES Come, tell me whose it was?

CRESSIDA

'Twas one's that loved me better than you will.

But now you have it, take it.

DIOMEDES Whose was it?

CRESSIDA

By all Diana's waiting-women yond,

And by herself, I will not tell you whose. 95

DIOMEDES

Tomorrow will I wear it on my helm,

And grieve his spirit that dares not challenge it.

TROILUS (*aside*)

Wert thou the devil and wor'st it on thy horn,
It should be challenged.

CRESSIDA

Well, well, 'tis done, 'tis past±±and yet it is not. 100
I will not keep my word.

DIOMEDES

Why then, farewell.

Thou never shalt mock Diomed again.

CRESSIDA

You shall not go. One cannot speak a word
But it straight starts you.

DIOMEDES

I do not like this fooling.

[TROILUS] (*aside*)

Nor I, by Pluto±±but that that likes not you 105
Pleases me best.

DIOMEDES

What, shall I come? The hour±±

CRESSIDA

Ay, come. O Jove, do come. I shall be plagued.

DIOMEDES

Farewell till then.

CRESSIDA

Good night. I prithee, come.

Exit Diomedes

Troilus, farewell. One eye yet looks on thee,
But with my heart the other eye doth see. 110

Ah, poor our sex! This fault in us I find:

The error of our eye directs our mind.

What error leads must err. O then conclude:

Minds swayed by eyes are full of turpitude.

Exit

THERSITES (*aside*)

A proof of strength she could not publish more 115

Unless she said, 'My mind is now turned whore'.

ULYSSES

All's done, my lord.

TROILUS

It is.

ULYSSES

Why stay we then?

TROILUS

To make a recordation to my soul
Of every syllable that here was spoke.

But if I tell how these two did co-act, 120

Shall I not lie in publishing a truth?

Sith yet there is a credence in my heart,

An esperance so obstinately strong,
 That doth invert th'attest of eyes and ears,
 As if those organs had deceptious functions
 Created only to calumniate. 125
 Was Cressid here?
ULYSSES I cannot conjure, Trojan.
TROILUS
 She was not, sure.
ULYSSES Most sure, she was.
TROILUS
 Why, my negation hath no taste of madness.
ULYSSES
 Nor mine, my lord. Cressid was here but now. 130
TROILUS
 Let it not be believed, for womanhood.
 Think: we had mothers. Do not give advantage
 To stubborn critics, apt without a theme
 For depravation to square the general sex
 By Cressid's rule. Rather, think this not Cressid. 135
ULYSSES
 What hath she done, Prince, that can soil our mothers?
TROILUS
 Nothing at all, unless that this were she.
THERSITES (*aside*) Will a swagger himself out on's own
 eyes?
TROILUS
 This, she? No, this is Diomed's Cressida. 140
 If beauty have a soul, this is not she.
 If souls guide vows, if vows be sanctimonies,
 If sanctimony be the gods' delight,
 If there be rule in unity itself,
 This is not she. O madness of discourse, 145
 That cause sets up with and against thyself!
 Bifold authority, where reason can revolt
 Without perdition, and loss assume all reason
 Without revolt! This is and is not Cressid.
 Within my soul there doth conduce a fight 150
 Of this strange nature, that a thing inseparate
 Divides more wider than the sky and earth,
 And yet the spacious breadth of this division
 Admits no orifex for a point as subtle

As Ariachne's broken woof to enter. 155
Instance, O instance, strong as Pluto's gates:
Cressid is mine, tied with the bonds of heaven.
Instance, O instance, strong as heaven itself:
The bonds of heaven are slipped, dissolved, and loosed,
And with another knot, five-finger-tied, 160
The fractions of her faith, orts of her love,
The fragments, scraps, the bits and greasy relics
Of her o'er-eaten faith, are bound to Diomed.

ULYSSES

May worthy Troilus e'en be half attached
With that which here his passion doth express? 165

TROILUS

Ay, Greek, and that shall be divulgeÁd well
In characters as red as Mars his heart
Inflamed with Venus. Never did young man fancy
With so eternal and so fixed a soul.
Hark, Greek: as much as I do Cressid love, 170
So much by weight hate I her Diomed.
That sleeve is mine that he'll bear in his helm.
Were it a casque composed by Vulcan's skill,
My sword should bite it. Not the dreadful spout
Which shipmen do the hurricano call, 175
Constringed in mass by the almighty sun,
Shall dizzy with more clamour Neptune's ear
In his descent, than shall my prompted sword
Falling on Diomed.

THERSITES (*aside*) He'll tickle it for his concupy. 180

TROILUS

O Cressid, O false Cressid! False, false, false.
Let all untruths stand by thy staineÁd name,
And they'll seem glorious.

ULYSSES O contain yourself.

Your passion draws ears hither.

Enter Aeneas

AENEAS (*to Troilus*)

I have been seeking you this hour, my lord. 185
Hector by this is arming him in Troy.
Ajax your guard stays to conduct you home.

TROILUS

Have with you, Prince.±±My courteous lord, adieu.±±
Farewell, revolted fair; and Diomed,
Stand fast and wear a castle on thy head.

190

ULYSSES

I'll bring you to the gates.

TROILUS

Accept distracted thanks.

Exeunt Troilus, Aeneas, and Ulysses

THERSITES

Would I could meet that rogue Diomed! I would
croak like a raven. I would bode, I would bode.

Patroclus will give me anything for the intelligence of
this whore. The parrot will not do more for an almond
than he for a commodious drab. Lechery, lechery, still
wars and lechery! Nothing else holds fashion. A burning
devil take them!

195

Exit