

The Taming of the Shrew

3.3

[Enter Lucentio as Cambio, and Tranio as Lucentio]

TRANIO

But, sir, to love concerneth us to add
Her father's liking, which to bring to pass,
As I before imparted to your worship,
I am to get a man±±whate'er he be
It skills not much, we'll fit him to our turn±± 5
And he shall be Vincentio of Pisa,
And make assurance here in Padua
Of greater sums than I have promiseÁd.
So shall you quietly enjoy your hope,
And marry sweet Bianca with consent. 10

LUCENTIO

Were it not that my fellow schoolmaster
Doth watch Bianca's steps so narrowly,
'Twere good, methinks, to steal our marriage,
Which once performed, let all the world say no,
I'll keep mine own, despite of all the world. 15

TRANIO

That by degrees we mean to look into,
And watch our vantage in this business.
We'll overreach the greybeard Gremio,
The narrow-prying father Minola,
The quaint musician, amorous Licio, 20
All for my master's sake, Lucentio.

Enter Gremio

Signor Gremio, came you from the church?

GREMIO

As willingly as e'er I came from school.

TRANIO

And is the bride and bridegroom coming home?

GREMIO

A bridegroom, say you? 'Tis a groom indeed±± 25
A grumbling groom, and that the girl shall find.

TRANIO

Curster than she? Why, 'tis impossible.

GREMIO

Why, he's a devil, a devil, a very fiend.

TRANIO

Why, she's a devil, a devil, the devil's dam.

GREMIO

Tut, she's a lamb, a dove, a fool to him. 30

I'll tell you, Sir Lucentio: when the priest

Should ask if Katherine should be his wife,

`Ay, by Gog's woun's,' quoth he, and swore so loud

That all amazed the priest let fall the book,

And as he stooped again to take it up 35

This mad-brained bridegroom took him such a cuff

That down fell priest, and book, and book, and priest.

`Now take them up,' quoth he, `if any list.'

TRANIO

What said the vicar when he rose again?

GREMIO

Trembled and shook, forwhy he stamped and swore 40

As if the vicar meant to cozen him.

But after many ceremonies done

He calls for wine. `A health,' quoth he, as if

He had been aboard, carousing to his mates

After a storm; quaffed off the muscatel 45

And threw the sops all in the sexton's face,

Having no other reason

But that his beard grew thin and hungerly

And seemed to ask him sops as he was drinking.

This done, he took the bride about the neck 50

And kissed her lips with such a clamorous smack

That at the parting all the church did echo,

And I seeing this came thence for very shame,

And after me, I know, the rout is coming.

Such a mad marriage never was before. 55

Music plays

Hark, hark, I hear the minstrels play.

Enter Petruccio, Katherine, Bianca, Hortensio as

Licio, Baptista, Grumio, and others, attendants

PETRUCCIO

Gentlemen and friends, I thank you for your pains.

I know you think to dine with me today,

And have prepared great store of wedding cheer.

But so it is my haste doth call me hence, 60
And therefore here I mean to take my leave.

BAPTISTA

Is't possible you will away tonight?

PETRUCCIO

I must away today, before night come.
Make it no wonder. If you knew my business,
You would entreat me rather go than stay. 65
And, honest company, I thank you all
That have beheld me give away myself
To this most patient, sweet, and virtuous wife.
Dine with my father, drink a health to me,
For I must hence; and farewell to you all. 70

TRANIO

Let us entreat you stay till after dinner.

PETRUCCIO

It may not be.

GREMIO Let me entreat you.

PETRUCCIO

It cannot be.

KATHERINE Let me entreat you.

PETRUCCIO

I am content.

KATHERINE Are you content to stay?

PETRUCCIO

I am content you shall entreat me stay, 75
But yet not stay, entreat me how you can.

KATHERINE

Now, if you love me, stay.

PETRUCCIO

Grumio, my horse.

GRUMIO Ay, sir, they be ready. The oats have eaten the
horses.

KATHERINE

Nay, then, do what thou canst, I will not go today, 80
No, nor tomorrow±±not till I please myself.
The door is open, sir, there lies your way.
You may be jogging whiles your boots are green.
For me, I'll not be gone till I please myself.
'Tis like you'll prove a jolly, surly groom, 85
That take it on you at the first so roundly.

PETRUCCIO

O Kate, content thee. Prithee, be not angry.

KATHERINE
 I will be angry. What hast thou to do?
 Father, be quiet. He shall stay my leisure.

GREMIO
 Ay, marry, sir. Now it begins to work. 90

KATHERINE
 Gentlemen, forward to the bridal dinner.
 I see a woman may be made a fool
 If she had not a spirit to resist.

PETRUCCIO
 They shall go forward, Kate, at thy command.
 Obey the bride, you that attend on her. 95
 Go to the feast, revel and domineer,
 Carouse full measure to her maidenhead.
 Be mad and merry, or go hang yourselves.
 But for my bonny Kate, she must with me.
 Nay, look not big, nor stamp, nor stare, nor fret. 100
 I will be master of what is mine own.
 She is my goods, my chattels. She is my house,
 My household-stuff, my field, my barn,
 My horse, my ox, my ass, my anything,
 And here she stands, touch her whoever dare. 105
 I'll bring mine action on the proudest he
 That stops my way in Padua. Grumio,
 Draw forth thy weapon, we are beset with thieves.
 Rescue thy mistress if thou be a man.
 Fear not, sweet wench. They shall not touch thee,
 Kate. 110
 I'll buckler thee against a million.

Exeunt Petruccio, Katherine, and Grumio

BAPTISTA
 Nay, let them go±±a couple of quiet ones!

GREMIO
 Went they not quickly I should die with laughing.

TRANIO
 Of all mad matches never was the like.

LUCENTIO
 Mistress, what's your opinion of your sister? 115

BIANCA
 That being mad herself she's madly mated.

GREMIO

I warrant him, Petruccio is Kated.

BAPTISTA

Neighbours and friends, though bride and bridegroom
wants

For to supply the places at the table,

You know there wants no junkets at the feast. 120

Lucentio, you shall supply the bridegroom's place,

And let Bianca take her sister's room.

TRANIO

Shall sweet Bianca practise how to bride it?

BAPTISTA

She shall, Lucentio. Come, gentlemen, let's go.

Exeunt