

The Taming of the Shrew

1.2

Enter Petruccio and his man, Grumio

PETRUCCIO

Verona, for a while I take my leave
To see my friends in Padua; but of all
My best-beloveÁd and approveÁd friend
Hortensio, and I trow this is his house.

Here, sirrah Grumio, knock, I say. 5

GRUMIO Knock, sir? Whom should I knock? Is there any
man has rebused your worship?

PETRUCCIO Villain, I say, knock me here soundly.

GRUMIO Knock you here, sir? Why, sir, what am I, sir,
that I should knock you here, sir? 10

PETRUCCIO

Villain, I say, knock me at this gate,
And rap me well or I'll knock your knave's pate.

GRUMIO

My master is grown quarrelsome. I should knock you
first,

And then I know after who comes by the worst.

PETRUCCIO Will it not be? 15

Faith, sirrah, an you'll not knock, I'll ring it.
I'll try how you can sol-fa and sing it.

He wrings him by the ears. [Grumio kneels]

GRUMIO Help, masters, help! My master is mad.

PETRUCCIO Now knock when I bid you, sirrah villain.

Enter Hortensio

HORTENSIO How now, what's the matter? My old friend 20
Grumio and my good friend Petruccio? How do you all
at Verona?

PETRUCCIO

Signor Hortensio, come you to part the fray?
Con tutto il cuore ben trovato, may I say.

HORTENSIO *Alla nostra casa ben venuto, molto onorato signor* 25
mio Petruccio.

Rise, Grumio, rise. We will compound this quarrel.
Grumio rises

GRUMIO Nay, 'tis no matter, sir, what he 'leges in Latin.
If this be not a lawful cause for me to leave his service±±
look you, sir: he bid me knock him and rap him 30
soundly, sir. Well, was it fit for a servant to use his
master so, being perhaps, for aught I see, two-and-
thirty, a pip out?
Whom would to God I had well knocked at first,
Then had not Grumio come by the worst. 35

PETRUCCIO
A senseless villain. Good Hortensio,
I bade the rascal knock upon your gate,
And could not get him for my heart to do it.

GRUMIO Knock at the gate? O heavens, spake you not
these words plain? `Sirrah, knock me here, rap me 40
here, knock me well, and knock me soundly'? And
come you now with knocking at the gate?

PETRUCCIO
Sirrah, be gone, or talk not, I advise you.

HORTENSIO
Petruccio, patience. I am Grumio's pledge.
Why this' a heavy chance 'twixt him and you, 45
Your ancient, trusty, pleasant servant Grumio.
And tell me now, sweet friend, what happy gale
Blows you to Padua here from old Verona?

PETRUCCIO
Such wind as scatters young men through the world
To seek their fortunes farther than at home, 50
Where small experience grows. But in a few,
Signor Hortensio, thus it stands with me:
Antonio, my father, is deceased,
And I have thrust myself into this maze
Happily to wive and thrive as best I may. 55
Crowns in my purse I have, and goods at home,
And so am come abroad to see the world.

HORTENSIO
Petruccio, shall I then come roundly to thee
And wish thee to a shrewd, ill-favoured wife?
Thou'dst thank me but a little for my counsel, 60
And yet I'll promise thee she shall be rich,
And very rich. But thou'rt too much my friend,

And I'll not wish thee to her.

PETRUCCIO

Signor Hortensio, 'twixt such friends as we
Few words suffice; and therefore, if thou know 65
One rich enough to be Petruccio's wife±±
As wealth is burden of my wooing dance±±
Be she as foul as was Florentius' love,
As old as Sibyl, and as curst and shrewd
As Socrates' Xanthippe or a worse, 70
She moves me not±±or not removes at least
Affection's edge in me, were she as rough
As are the swelling Adriatic seas.
I come to wive it wealthily in Padua;
If wealthily, then happily in Padua. 75

GRUMIO (*to Hortensio*) Nay, look you, sir, he tells you flatly
what his mind is. Why, give him gold enough and
marry him to a puppet or an aglet-baby, or an old trot
with ne'er a tooth in her head, though she have as
many diseases as two-and-fifty horses. Why, nothing 80
comes amiss so money comes withal.

HORTENSIO

Petruccio, since we are stepped thus far in,
I will continue that I broached in jest.
I can, Petruccio, help thee to a wife
With wealth enough, and young and beauteous, 85
Brought up as best becomes a gentlewoman.
Her only fault±±and that is faults enough±±
Is that she is intolerable curst,
And shrewd and froward so beyond all measure
That, were my state far worsè than it is, 90
I would not wed her for a mine of gold.

PETRUCCIO

Hortensio, peace. Thou know'st not gold's effect.
Tell me her father's name and 'tis enough,
For I will board her though she chide as loud
As thunder when the clouds in autumn crack. 95

HORTENSIO

Her father is Baptista Minola,
An affable and courteous gentleman.
Her name is Katherina Minola,

Renowned in Padua for her scolding tongue.

PETRUCCIO

I know her father, though I know not her, 100
And he knew my decease—Ad father well.
I will not sleep, Hortensio, till I see her,
And therefore let me be thus bold with you
To give you over at this first encounter,
Unless you will accompany me thither. 105

GRUMIO I pray you, sir, let him go while the humour
lasts. O' my word, an she knew him as well as I do
she would think scolding would do little good upon
him. She may perhaps call him half a score knaves or
so. Why, that's nothing; an he begin once he'll rail in 110
his rope-tricks. I'll tell you what, sir, an she stand him
but a little he will throw a figure in her face and so
disfigure her with it that she shall have no more eyes
to see withal than a cat. You know him not, sir.

HORTENSIO

Tarry, Petruccio, I must go with thee, 115
For in Baptista's keep my treasure is.
He hath the jewel of my life in hold,
His youngest daughter, beautiful Bianca,
And her withholds from me and other more,
Suitors to her and rivals in my love, 120
Supposing it a thing impossible,
For those defects I have before rehearsed,
That ever Katherine will be wooed.
Therefore this order hath Baptista ta'en:
That none shall have access unto Bianca 125
Till Katherine the curst have got a husband.

GRUMIO Katherine the curst±±
A title for a maid of all titles the worst.

HORTENSIO

Now shall my friend Petruccio do me grace,
And offer me disguised in sober robes 130
To old Baptista as a schoolmaster
Well seen in music, to instruct Bianca,
That so I may by this device at least
Have leave and leisure to make love to her,
And unsuspected court her by herself. 135

*Enter Gremio with a paper, and Lucentio disguised
as a schoolmaster*

GRUMIO Here's no knavery. See, to beguile the old folks,
how the young folks lay their heads together. Master,
master, look about you. Who goes there, ha?

HORTENSIO

Peace, Grumio, it is the rival of my love.
Petruccio, stand by a while.

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GRUMIO

A proper stripling, and an amorous!

Petruccio, Hortensio, and Grumio stand aside

GREMIO *(to Lucentio)*

O, very well±±I have perused the note.
Hark you, sir, I'll have them very fairly bound±±
All books of love, see that at any hand±±
And see you read no other lectures to her. 145
You understand me. Over and beside
Signor Baptista's liberality,
I'll mend it with a largess. Take your paper, too,
And let me have them very well perfumed,
For she is sweeter than perfume itself 150
To whom they go to. What will you read to her?

LUCENTIO

Whate'er I read to her, I'll plead for you
As for my patron, stand you so assured,
As firmly as yourself were still in place±±
Yea, and perhaps with more successful words 155
Than you, unless you were a scholar, sir.

GREMIO

O this learning, what a thing it is!

GRUMIO *(aside)*

O this woodcock, what an ass it is!

PETRUCCIO Peace, sirrah.

HORTENSIO

Grumio, mum. *(Coming forward)* God save you, Signor
Gremio. 160

GREMIO

And you are well met, Signor Hortensio.
Trow you whither I am going?
To Baptista Minola.
I promised to enquire carefully

<p>About a schoolmaster for the fair Bianca, And by good fortune I have lighted well On this young man, for learning and behaviour Fit for her turn, well read in poetry And other books±±good ones, I warrant ye.</p> <p>HORTENSIO</p> <p>'Tis well, and I have met a gentleman Hath promised me to help me to another, A fine musician, to instruct our mistress. So shall I no whit be behind in duty To fair Bianca, so beloved of me.</p> <p>GREMIO</p> <p>Beloved of me, and that my deeds shall prove.</p> <p>GRUMIO (<i>aside</i>) And that his bags shall prove.</p> <p>HORTENSIO</p> <p>Gremio, 'tis now no time to vent our love. Listen to me, and if you speak me fair I'll tell you news indifferent good for either. Here is a gentleman whom by chance I met, Upon agreement from us to his liking Will undertake to woo curst Katherine, Yea, and to marry her, if her dowry please.</p> <p>GREMIO So said, so done, is well. Hortensio, have you told him all her faults?</p> <p>PETRUCCIO</p> <p>I know she is an irksome brawling scold. If that be all, masters, I hear no harm.</p> <p>GREMIO</p> <p>No, sayst me so, friend? What countryman?</p> <p>PETRUCCIO</p> <p>Born in Verona, old Antonio's son. My father dead, his fortune lives for me, And I do hope good days and long to see.</p> <p>GREMIO O sir, such a life with such a wife were strange. But if you have a stomach, to't, a' God's name. You shall have me assisting you in all. But will you woo this wildcat?</p> <p>PETRUCCIO Will I live!</p> <p>GRUMIO</p> <p>Will he woo her? Ay, or I'll hang her.</p> <p>PETRUCCIO</p>	<p>165</p> <p>170</p> <p>175</p> <p>180</p> <p>185</p> <p>190</p> <p>195</p>
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Why came I hither but to that intent?
 Think you a little din can daunt mine ears?
 Have I not in my time heard lions roar?
 Have I not heard the sea, puffed up with winds, 200
 Rage like an angry boar chafed with sweat?
 Have I not heard great ordnance in the field,
 And heaven's artillery thunder in the skies?
 Have I not in a pitched battle heard
 Loud 'larums, neighing steeds, and trumpets' clang? 205
 And do you tell me of a woman's tongue,
 That gives not half so great a blow to hear
 As will a chestnut in a farmer's fire?
 Tush, tush±±fear boys with bugs.

GRUMIO For he fears none. 210

GREMIO Hortensio, hark.
 This gentleman is happily arrived,
 My mind presumes, for his own good and ours.

HORTENSIO
 I promised we would be contributors,
 And bear his charge of wooing, whatsoe'er. 215

GREMIO
 And so we will, provided that he win her.

GRUMIO
 I would I were as sure of a good dinner.
Enter Tranio, brave, as Lucentio, and Biondello

TRANIO Gentlemen, God save you. If I may be bold, tell
 me, I beseech you, which is the readiest way to the
 house of Signor Baptista Minola? 220

BIONDELLO He that has the two fair daughters±±is't he
 you mean?

TRANIO Even he, Biondello.

GREMIO
 Hark you, sir, you mean not her to±±

TRANIO
 Perhaps him and her, sir. What have you to do? 225

PETRUCCIO
 Not her that chides, sir, at any hand, I pray.

TRANIO
 I love no chiders, sir. Biondello, let's away.

LUCENTIO (*aside*)
 Well begun, Tranio.

HORTENSIO Sir, a word ere you go.
Are you a suitor to the maid you talk of±±yea or no?

TRANIO
And if I be, sir, is it any offence? 230

GREMIO
No, if without more words you will get you hence.

TRANIO
Why, sir, I pray, are not the streets as free
For me as for you?

GREMIO But so is not she.

TRANIO
For what reason, I beseech you?

GREMIO
For this reason, if you'll know±± 235
That she's the choice love of Signor Gremio.

HORTENSIO
That she's the chosen of Signor Hortensio.

TRANIO
Softly, my masters. If you be gentlemen,
Do me this right, hear me with patience.
Baptista is a noble gentleman 240
To whom my father is not all unknown,
And were his daughter fairer than she is
She may more suitors have, and me for one.
Fair Leda's daughter had a thousand wooers;
Then well one more may fair Bianca have, 245
And so she shall. Lucentio shall make one,
Though Paris came, in hope to speed alone.

GREMIO
What, this gentleman will out-talk us all!

LUCENTIO
Sir, give him head, I know he'll prove a jade.

PETRUCCIO
Hortensio, to what end are all these words? 250

HORTENSIO
Sir, let me be so bold as ask you,
Did you yet ever see Baptista's daughter?

TRANIO
No, sir, but hear I do that he hath two,
The one as famous for a scolding tongue
As is the other for beauteous modesty. 255

PETRUCCIO

Sir, sir, the first's for me. Let her go by.

GREMIO

Yea, leave that labour to great Hercules,
And let it be more than Alcides' twelve.

PETRUCCIO

Sir, understand you this of me in sooth,
The youngest daughter whom you hearken for 260
Her father keeps from all access of suitors,
And will not promise her to any man
Until the elder sister first be wed.
The younger then is free, and not before.

TRANIO

If it be so, sir, that you are the man 265
Must stead us all, and me amongst the rest,
And if you break the ice and do this feat,
Achieve the elder, set the younger free
For our access, whose hap shall be to have her
Will not so graceless be to be ingrate. 270

HORTENSIO

Sir, you say well, and well you do conceive;
And since you do profess to be a suitor
You must, as we do, gratify this gentleman,
To whom we all rest generally beholden.

TRANIO

Sir, I shall not be slack. In sign whereof, 275
Please ye we may contrive this afternoon,
And quaff carouses to our mistress' health,
And do as adversaries do in law±±
Strive mightily, but eat and drink as friends.

GRUMIO AND BIONDELLO

O excellent motion! Fellows, let's be gone. 280

HORTENSIO

The motion's good indeed, and be it so.
Petruccio, I shall be your *ben venuto*.

Exeunt