

Coriolanus

4.4

Enter Coriolanus in mean apparel, disguised and muffled

CORIO LANUS

A goodly city is this Antium. City,
'Tis I that made thy widows. Many an heir
Of these fair edifices fore my wars
Have I heard groan and drop. Then know me not,
Lest that thy wives with spits and boys with stones 5
In puny battle slay me.

Enter a Citizen

Save you, sir.

CITIZEN

And you.

CORIO LANUS Direct me, if it be your will,
Where great Aufidius lies. Is he in Antium?

CITIZEN

He is, and feasts the nobles of the state
At his house this night.

CORIO LANUS Which is his house, beseech you? 10

CITIZEN

This here before you.

CORIO LANUS Thank you, sir. Farewell.

Exit Citizen

O world, thy slippery turns! Friends now fast sworn,
Whose double bosoms seem to wear one heart,
Whose hours, whose bed, whose meal and exercise
Are still together, who twin as 'twere in love 15
Unseparable, shall within this hour,
On a dissension of a doit, break out
To bitterest enmity. So fellest foes,
Whose passions and whose plots have broke their
sleep

To take the one the other, by some chance, 20
Some trick not worth an egg, shall grow dear friends
And interjoin their issues. So with me.
My birthplace hate I, and my love's upon

This enemy town. I'll enter. If he slay me,
He does fair justice; if he give me way,
I'll do his country service.

25

Exit