THE TAMING OF A SHREW

ANONYMOUS

Earliest Extant Edition: 1594

DRAMATIS PERSONAE.

IN THE INDUCTION:

Sly, A Drunkard.
A Tapster.
A Lord (who calls himself in jest "Simon").
   Tom, a Serving Man to the Lord.
   Will, a Serving Man to the Lord.

Sander, a Player.
Tom, a Player.
A Boy, a Player.

A Messenger.
Serving-men, Huntsmen.

IN THE PLAY:

Jerobel, Duke of Sestos.
Aurelius, His Son.
   Valeria, Servant to Aurelius.

Polidor, a Gentleman of Athens.
   A Boy, Servant to Polidor.
Ferando, a Gentleman of Athens.
   Sander, Servant to Ferando.
   Tom, Servant to Ferando.
Alfonso, a Rich Citizen of Athens.
   Kate, Eldest Daughter to Alfonso.
   Philema, Middle Daughter to Alfonso.
   Emelia, Youngest Daughter to Alfonso.

Phylotus, a Merchant of Athens.

A Tailor.
A Haberdasher.
A. Scene Breaks, Settings, and Stage Directions.

*The Taming of a Shrew* was originally published in a 1594 quarto, with further editions printed in 1596 and 1607. As usual, we lean towards adhering to the wording of the earliest volume as much as possible.

Words or syllables which have been added to the original text to clarify the sense or repair the meter are surrounded by hard brackets []; these additions are often adopted from the play's later editions. A director who wishes to remain truer to the original text may of course choose to omit any of the supplementary wording.

The 1594 quarto does not divide *A Shrew* into Acts and Scenes, or provide settings. We separate the play into Acts and Scenes based on the suggestions of Boas, and adopt his suggestions for scene locations as well.

Finally, as is our normal practice, a good number of the quarto's stage directions have been modified, and others added, usually without comment, to give clarity to the action. Most of these changes are adopted from Boas.

B. Optional Textual Changes.

A list of optional emendations to the text can be found at the end of this play.
THE TAMING OF A SHREW

ANONYMOUS

Earliest Extant Edition: 1594

INDUCTION.

SCENE I.

Before an alehouse in the country.

Enter a Tapster, beating out of his doors Sly drunk.

1 Tap. You whoreson drunken slave! you had best be gone,
2 And empty your drunken paunch somewhere else,
For in this house thou shalt not rest to-night.

[Exit Tapster.]

6 Sly. Tilly vally, by crisee, Tapster, I’ll feeze you anon!
8 Fill’s the tother pot, and all’s paid for! look you,
I do drink it of mine own instigation. — Omne bene:
here I’ll lie awhile: — why, Tapster, I say, fill's a fresh
cushion here! — Heigh ho, here’s good warm lying.

[He falls asleep.]

Enter a Nobleman and his men from hunting.

16 Lord. Now that the gloomy shadow of the night,
Longing to view Orion's drizzling looks,
Leaps from th’ Antartic world unto the sky,
And dims the welkin with her pitchy breath,
And darksome night o'ershades the crystal heavens,
Here break we off our hunting for to-night:
Couple up the hounds and let us hie us home,
And bid the huntsmen see them meated well,
For they have all deserved it well to-day. —
But soft, what sleepy fellow is this lies here?
Or is he dead? — See one what he doth lack.

[One of the men examines Sly.]
Serving-man. My lord, 'tis nothing but a drunken sleep; his head is too heavy for his body, and he hath drunk so much that he can go no further.

Lord. Fie, how the slavish villain stinks of drink! — Ho, sirrah, arise! What, so sound asleep? — Go, take him up and bear him to my house, and bear him easily for fear he wake, and in my fairest chamber make a fire, and set a sumptuous banquet on the board, and put my richest garments on his back; then set him at the table in a chair. When this is done, against he shall awake, let heavenly music play about him still: go two of you away and bear him hence, and then I'll tell you what I have devised; but see in any case you wake him not.

[Exeunt two Servants with Sly.]

Now take my cloak and give me one of yours; all fellows now, and see you take me so, for we will wait upon this drunken man, to see his countenance when he doth awake and find himself clothed in such attire, with heavenly music sounding in his ears, and such a banquet set before his eyes, the fellow sure will think he is in Heaven; but we will be about him when he wakes, and see you call him 'lord' at every word, [To Will] and offer thou him his horse to ride abroad, [To Tom] and thou his hawks and hounds to hunt the deer, and I will ask what suits he means to wear, and whatsoever he saith, see you do not laugh, but still persuade him that he is a lord.

Enter Messenger.

Mess. And it please your honour, your players be come, and do attend your honour's pleasure here.

Lord. The fittest time they could have chosen out; bid one or two of them come hither straight. Now will I fit myself accordingly, for they shall play to him when he awakes.
Enter Sander and Tom (two of the players),
with packs at their backs, and a Boy.

Now, sirs, what store of plays have you?

_Sand._ Marry, my lord, you may have a tragical, or a
comodity, or what you will.

_Tom._ A comedy, thou should'st say; souns, thou't
shame us all.

_Lord._ And what's the name of your comedy?

_Sand._ Marry, my lord, 'tis called _The Taming of a
Shrew_; 'tis a good lesson for us, my lord, for us that
are married men.

_Lord._ _The Taming of a Shrew_, that's excellent, sure;
Go see that you make you ready straight,
For you must play before a lord to-night:
Say you are his men and I your fellow;
He's something foolish, but whatsoever he says,
See that you be not dashed out of countenance. −

_[To Boy]_ And, sirrah, go you make you ready straight,
And dress yourself like some lovely lady,
And when I call, see that you come to me;
For I will say to him thou art his wife.
Dally with him and hug him in thine arms;
An if he desire to go to bed with thee,
Then feign some 'scuse, and say thou wilt anon.
Be gone, I say, and see thou dost it well!

_Boy._ Fear not, my lord, I'll dandle him well enough,
And make him think I love him mightily.

_[Exit Boy.]_

_Lord._ Now, sirs, go you and make you ready too,
For you must play as soon as he doth wake,

_Sand._ O brave, − sirrah Tom, we must play before
A foolish lord, come, let's go make us ready;
Go get a dishclout to make clean your shoes,
And I'll speak for the properties. − My lord, we must
Have a shoulder of mutton for a property,
And a little vinegar to make our devil roar.

_Lord._ Very well; − sirrah, see that they want nothing.

_[Exeunt.]_
INDUCTION, SCENE II.

A room in the Lord’s house.

Enter two Servants with a table and a banquet on it, and two others with Sly, asleep in a chair, richly apparelled, and the music playing.

1st Serv. So: sirrah, now go call my lord, and tell him that all things is ready as he willed it.

2nd Serv. Set thou some wine upon the board, and then I’ll go fetch my lord presently.

[Exit 2nd Servant.]

Enter the Lord and his men.

Lord. How now! What, is all things ready?

1st Serv. Ay, my Lord.

Lord. Then sound the music, and I’ll wake him straight; And see you do as erst I gave in charge. − My lord, my lord! − He sleeps soundly. − My lord!

Sly. Tapster, gi’s a little small ale. Heigh ho!

Lord. Here’s wine, my lord, the purest of the grape.

Sly. For which lord?

Lord. For your honour, my Lord.

Sly. Who, I? Am I a lord? Jesus! What fine apparel have I got!

Lord. More richer far your honour hath to wear, And if it please you I will fetch them straight.

Will. And if your honour please to ride abroad, I’ll fetch you lusty steeds more swift of pace Than wingèd Pegasus in all his pride, That ran so swiftly o’er the Persian plains.

Tom. And if your honour please to hunt the deer, Your hounds stands ready coupled at the door; Who in running will o’ertake the roe,
And make the long-breathed tiger broken-winded.

_Sly._ By the mass, I think I am a lord indeed. —
What's thy name?

_Lord._ Simon, and it please your honour.

_Sly._ Simon, that's as much to say 'Simion' or 'Simon,'
put forth thy hand and fill the pot.
Give me thy hand, Sim, am I a lord indeed?

_Lord._ Ay, my gracious lord, and your lovely lady
Long time hath mournèd for your absence here,
And now with joy behold where she doth come,
To gratulate your honour's safe return.

_Enter the Boy in woman's attire._

_Sly._ Sim, is this she?

_Lord._ Ay, my Lord.

_Sly._ Mass! 'tis a pretty wench; what's her name?

_Boy._ Oh, that my lovely lord would once vouchsafe
To look on me, and leave these frantic fits;
Or were I now but half so eloquent,
To paint in words what I'll perform in deeds,
I know your honour then would pity me.

_Sly._ Hark you, mistress, will you eat a piece of bread?
Come sit down on my knee. — Sim, drink to her, Sim,
For she and I will go to bed anon.

_Lord._ May it please you, your honour's players be
come to offer your honour a play.

_Sly._ A play, Sim: O brave, be they my players?

_Lord._ Ay, my Lord.

_Sly._ Is there not a fool in the play?

_Lord._ Yes, my Lord.

_Sly._ When will they play, Sim?

_Lord._ Even when it please your honour, they be ready.

_Boy._ My lord, I'll go bid them begin their play.
The Taming of a Shrew

Induction, Scene ii

92  *Sly.* Do, but look that you come again.

94  *Boy.* I warrant you, my lord, I will not leave you thus.

96  

[Exit Boy.]

98  *Sly.* Come, Sim, where be the players? Sim, stand by me, and we’ll flout the players out of their coats.

100  *Lord.* I’ll call them, my Lord. – Ho! where are you there?
ACT I.

SCENE I.

Athens: a public place in front of Alfonso's house.

Enter two young gentlemen, Aurelius and Polidor, and their servants Valeria and a Boy.

Pol. Welcome to Athens, my beloved friend,
To Plato's schools and Aristotle's walks;
Welcome from Sestos, famous for the love
Of good Leander and his tragedy,
For whom the Hellespont weeps brinish tears:
The greatest grief is I cannot as I would
Give entertainment to my dearest friend.

Aurel. Thanks, noble Polidor, my second self:
The faithful love which I have found in thee
Hath made me leave my father's princely court,
The Duke of Sestos' thrice-renownèd seat,
To come to Athens thus to find thee out;
Which since I have so happily attained,
My fortune now I do account as great
As erst did Caesar when he conquered most.
But tell me, noble friend, where shall we lodge,
For I am unacquainted in this place.

Pol. My lord, if you vouchsafe of scholar's fare,
My house, my self, and all is yours to use.
You and your men shall stay and lodge with me.

Aurel. With all my heart I will requite thy love.

Enter Alfonso and his three daughters.

Alfon. Daughters, be gone, and hie you to the church,
And I will hie me down unto the key,
To see what merchandise is come ashore.

[Exeunt Alfonso and his three daughters.]
Pol. Why, how now, my lord? What, in a dump
To see these damsels pass away so soon?

Aurel. Trust me, my friend, I must confess to thee,
I took so much delight in these fair dames,
As I do wish they had not gone so soon;
But, if thou canst, resolve me what they be,
And what old man it was that went with them,
For I do long to see them once again.

Pol. I cannot blame your honour, good my lord,
For they are both lovely, wise, fair and young,
And one of them, the youngest of the three,
I long have loved (sweet friend) and she loved me;
But never yet we could not find a means
How we might compass our desirèd joys.

Aurel. Why, is not her father willing to the match?

Pol. Yes, trust me, but he hath solemnly sworn
His eldest daughter first shall be espoused,
Before he grants his youngest leave to love;
And, therefore, he that means to get their loves.
Must first provide for her if he will speed;
And he that hath her shall be fettered so
As good be wedded to the devil himself,
For such a scold as she did never live;
And till that she be sped none else can speed,
Which makes me think that all my labour's lost:
And whosoe'er can get her firm good will,
A large dowry he shall be sure to have,
For her father is a man of mighty wealth,
And an ancient citizen of the town,
And that was he that went along with them.

Aurel. But he shall keep her still by my advice;
And yet I needs must love his second daughter,
The image of honour and nobility,
In whose sweet person is comprised the sum
Of nature's skill and heavenly majesty.

Pol. I like your choice, and glad you chose not mine.
Then if you like to follow on your love,
We must devise a means and find some one
That will attempt to wed this devilish scold,
And I do know the man. − Come hither, boy;
Go your ways, sirrah, to Ferando's house,
Desire him take the pains to come to me,  
For I must speak with him immediately.

**Boy.** I will, sir, and fetch him presently.

[Exit Boy.]

**Pol.** A man, I think, will fit her humour right,  
As blunt in speech as she is sharp of tongue,  
And he, I think, will match her every way:  
And yet he is a man of wealth sufficient,  
And for his person worth as good as she;  
And if he compass her to be his wife,  
Then may we freely visit both our loves.

**Aurel.** Oh, might I see the centre of my soul,  
Whose sacred beauty hath enchanted me,  
More fair than was the Grecian Helena  
For whose sweet sake so many princes died,  
That came with thousand ships to Tenedos!  
But when we come unto her father's house,  
Tell him I am a merchant's son of Sestos,  
That comes for traffic unto Athens here, —  
[To Valeria]

And here, sirrah, I will change with you for once.  
And now be thou the Duke of Sestos' son;  
Revel and spend as if thou wert myself,  
For I will court my love in this disguise.

**Val.** My lord, how if the duke, your father, should  
By some means come to Athens for to see  
How you do profit in these public schools,  
And find me clothèd thus in your attire,  
How would he take it then, think you, my lord?

**Aurel.** Tush, fear not, Valeria, let me alone; —  
But stay, here comes some other company.

*Enter Ferando, and his man Sander with a blue coat.*

**Pol.** Here comes the man that I did tell you of.

**Feran.** Good morrow, gentlemen, to all at once! —  
How now, Polidor; what, man, still in love?  
Ever wooing and canst thou never speed?  
God send me better luck when I shall woo.

**Sand.** I warrant you, master, and you take my counsel.
Feran. Why, sirrah, are you so cunning?

Sand. Who, I? 'Twere better for you by five mark, and you could tell how to do it as well as I.

Pol. I would thy master once were in the vein To try himself how he could woo a wench.

Feran. Faith, I am even now a-going.

Sand. I'faith, sir, my master's going to this gear now.

Pol. Whither, in faith, Ferando? Tell me true.

Feran. To bonny Kate, the patientest wench alive — The devil himself dares scarce venture to woo her — Signor Alfonso's eldest daughter: And he hath promised me six thousand crowns If I can win her once to be my wife. And she and I must woo with scolding sure, And I will hold her to 't till she be weary, Or else I'll make her yield to grant me love.

Pol. How like you this, Aurelius? I think he knew Our minds before we sent to him. — But tell me, when do you mean to speak with her?

Feran. Faith, presently. Do you but stand aside, And I will make her father bring her hither, And she, and I, and he, will talk alone.

Pol. With all our hearts! — Come, Aurelius, Let us be gone, and leave him here alone.

[Exeunt Aurelius and Polonius.]

Feran. Ho! Signer Alfonso, who's within there?

Enter Alfonso.

Alfon. Signer Ferando, you're welcome heartily; You are a stranger, sir, unto my house. Hark you, sir, look, what I did promise you I'll perform, if you get my daughter's love.

Feran. Then when I have talked a word or two with her, Do you step in and give her hand to me, And tell her when the marriage day shall be; For I do know she would be married fain: And when our nuptial rites be once performed,
Let me alone to tame her well enough.
Now call her forth that I may speak with her.

_Enter Kate._

**Alfon.** Ha, Kate! Come hither, wench, and list to me.
Use this gentleman friendly as thou canst.

[Exit Alfonso; Sander retires.]

**Feran.** Twenty good morrows to my lovely Kate!

**Kate.** You jest, I am sure; is she yours already?

**Feran.** I tell thee, Kate, I know thou lov'st me well.

**Kate.** The devil you do! Who told you so?

**Feran.** My mind, sweet Kate, doth say I am the man
Must wed and bed and marry bonny Kate.

**Kate.** Was ever seen so gross an ass as this?

**Feran.** Ay, to stand so long and never get a kiss.

[**Ferando offers to kiss Kate.**]

**Kate.** Hands off, I say, and get you from this place;
Or I will set my ten commandments in your face.

**Feran.** I prithee, do, Kate; they say thou art a shrew,
And I like thee the better, for I would have thee so.

**Kate.** Let go my hand for fear it reach your ear.

**Feran.** No, Kate, this hand is mine, and I thy love.

**Kate.** In faith, sir, no; the woodcock wants his tail.

**Feran.** But yet his bill will serve, if the other fail.

_Re-enter Alfonso._

**Alfon.** How now, Ferando, what says my daughter?

**Feran.** She's willing, sir, and loves me as her life.

**Kate.** 'Tis for your skin then, but not to be your wife.

**Alfon.** Come hither, Kate, and let me give thy hand
To him that I have chosen for thy love,
And thou to-morrow shalt be wed to him.

Kate. Why, father, what do you mean to do with me,
To give me thus unto this brain-sick man,
That in his mood cares not to murder me?
[Aside] But yet I will consent and marry him,
For I methinks have lived too long a maid,
And match him too, or else his manhood's good.

Alfon. Give me thy hand. Ferando loves thee well,
And will with wealth and ease maintain thy state. —
Here, Ferando, take her for thy wife,
And Sunday next shall be your wedding day.

Feran. Why so, did I not tell thee I should be the man? —
Father, I leave my lovely Kate with you:
Provide yourselves against our marriage day;
For I must hie me to my country house
In haste, to see provision may be made
To entertain my Kate when she doth come.

Alfon. Do so. — Come, Kate, why dost thou look so sad?
Be merry, wench, thy wedding day's at hand, —
Son, fare you well, and see you keep your promise.

[Exeunt Alfonso and Kate.]

Feran. So: all, thus far, goes well. — Ho, Sander!

Enter Sander, laughing.

Sand. Sander, i' faith, you're a beast, I cry God
heartily mercy; my heart's ready to run out of my
belly with laughing. — I stood behind the door all
this while and heard what you said to her.

Feran. Why, did'st thou think that I did not speak well
to her?

Sand. You spoke like an ass to her; I'll tell you what,
and I had been there to have wooed her, and had this
cloak on that you have, chud have had her before she
had gone a step furder; and you talk of woodcocks
with her, and I cannot tell you what.

Feran. Well, sirrah, and yet thou seest I have got her
for all this.
Sand. Ay, marry, 'twas more by hap than any good cunning: I hope she'll make you one of the head-men of the parish shortly.

Feran. Well, sirrah, leave your jesting and go to Polidor's house, The young gentleman that was here with me, And tell him the circumstance of all thou know'st, Tell him on Sunday next we must be married; And if he ask thee whither I am gone, Tell him into the country, to my house, And upon Sunday I'll be here again.

[Exit Ferando.]

Sand. I warrant you, master, fear not me for doing of my business. Now hang him that has not a livery coat to slash it out and swash it out amongst the proudest on them. Why look you now, I'll scarce put up plain 'Sander' now at any of their hands, for and anybody have anything to do with my master, straight they come crouching upon me, "I beseech you, good Master Sander, speak a good word for me," and then am I so stout and takes it upon me, and stands upon my pantofles to them out of all cry; why, I have a life like a giant now, but that my master hath such a pestilent mind to a woman now a late, and I have a pretty wench to my sister, and I had thought to have preferred my master to her, and that would have been a good deal in my way, but that he's sped already.

Enter Polidor's Boy.

Boy. Friend, well met!

Sand. Sounds, "Friend, well met!" I hold my life he sees not my master's livery coat. — Plain friend hop-of-my-thumb, know you who we are?

Boy. Trust me, sir, it is the use where I was born to salute men after this manner; yet, notwithstanding, if you be angry with me for calling of you "friend," I am the more sorry for it, hoping the style of a fool will make you amends for all.

Sand. The slave is sorry for his fault, now we cannot be angry. — Well, what's the matter that you would do with us.
Boy. Marry, sir, I hear you pertain to Signor Ferando.

Sand. Ay, and thou beest not blind, thou mayest see; *Ecce signum*, here.

Boy. Shall I entreat you to do me a message to your master?

Sand. Ay, it may be, and you tell us from whence you come.

Boy. Marry, sir, I serve young Polidor, your master's friend.

Sand. Do you serve him, and what's your name?

Boy. My name, sirrah, I tell thee, sirrah, is called Catapie.

Sand. Cake and pie? Oh, my teeth waters to have a piece of thee.

Boy. Why, slave, would'st thou eat me?

Sand. Eat thee, who would not eat cake and pie?

Boy. Why, villain, my name is Catapie. But wilt thou tell me where thy master is?

Sand. Nay, thou must first tell me where thy master is, for I have good news for him, I can tell thee.

Boy. Why, see where he comes.

Enter Polidor, Aurelius, and Valeria.

Pol. Come, sweet Aurelius, my faithful friend, Now will we go to see those lovely dames, Richer in beauty than the orient pearl, Whiter than is the Alpine crystal mould, And far more lovely than the Terean plant, That blushing in the air turns to a stone. — What, Sander, what news with you?

Sand. Marry, sir, my master sends you word that you must come to his wedding to-morrow.

Pol. What, shall he be married then?
The Taming of a Shrew

Act I, Scene i

382  **Sand.** Faith, ay: you think he stands as long about it as you do?

384  **Pol.** Whither is thy master gone now?

386  **Sand.** Marry, he's gone to our house in the country, to make all things in a readiness against my new mistress comes thither, but he'll come again tomorrow.

390  **Pol.** This is suddenly dispatched belike. —

392  Well, sirrah, boy, take Sander in with you, And have him to the buttery presently.

394  **Boy.** I will, sir: — come, Sander.

396  [Exeunt Sander and the Boy.]

398  **Aurel.** Valeria, as erst we did devise, Take thou thy lute and go to Alfonso's house, And say that Polidor sent thee thither.

400  **Pol.** Ay, Valeria, for he spoke to me, To help him to some cunning musician To teach his eldest daughter on the lute; And thou, I know, will fit his turn so well, As thou shalt get great favour at his hands: — Begone, Valeria, and say I sent thee to him.

402  **Val.** I will, sir, and stay your coming at Alfonso's house.

406  [Exit Valeria.]

408  **Pol.** Now, sweet Aurelius, by this device Shall we have leisure for to court our loves; For whilst that she is learning on the lute, Her sisters may take time to steal abroad; For otherwise she'll keep them both within, And make them work whilst she herself doth play. But come, let's go unto Alfonso's house, And see how Valeria and Kate agrees; I doubt his music scarce will please his scholar. — But stay, here comes Alfonso.

420  **Alfon.** What, Master Polidor, you are well met; I thank you for the man you sent to me, A good musician, I think he is,
I have set my daughter and him together.
But is this gentleman a friend of yours?

**Pol.** He is; I pray you, sir, bid him welcome.

He's a wealthy merchant's son of Sestos.

**Alfon.** You're welcome, sir, and if my house afford
You anything that may content your mind,
I pray you, sir, make bold with me.

**Aurel.** I thank you, sir, and if what I have got,
By merchandise or travel on the seas,
Satins, or lawns, or azure-coloured silk,
Or precious fiery pointed stones of Indie,
You shall command both them, myself, and all.

**Alfon.** Thanks, gentle sir; − Polidor, take him in,
And bid him welcome, too, unto my house,
For thou, I think, must be my second son.
Ferando − Polidor, dost thou not know? −
Must marry Kate; and to-morrow is the day.

**Pol.** Such news I heard, and I came now to know.

**Alfon.** Polidor, 'tis true; go, let me alone,
For I must see against the bridegroom come,
That all things be according to his mind,
And so I'll leave you for an hour or two.

[Exit Alfonso.]

**Pol.** Come then, Aurelius, come in with me,
And we'll go sit awhile and chat with them,
And after bring them forth to take the air.

[Exeunt.]

Then Sly speaks.

**Sly.** Sim, when will the fool come again?

**Lord.** He'll come again, my Lord, anon.

**Sly.** Gi's some more drink here; souns, where's the Tapster?
Here, Sim, eat some of these things.

**Lord.** So I do, my Lord.

**Sly.** Here, Sim, I drink to thee.
Lord. My Lord, here comes the players again.

Sly. O brave, here's two fine gentlewomen!
ACT II.

SCENE I.

A room in Alfonso's house.

Enter Valeria with a lute, and Kate with him.

Val. [Aside] The senseless trees by music have been moved,
And at the sound of pleasant tunèd strings,
Have savage beasts hung down their listening heads,
As though they had been cast into a trance:
Then it may be that she whom nought can please,
With music's sound in time may be surprised.—
Come, lovely mistress, will you take your lute,
And play the lesson that I taught you last?

Kate. It is no matter whether I do or no,
For, trust me, I take no great delight in it.

Val. I would, sweet mistress, that it lay in me
To help you to that thing that's your delight.

Kate. In you? with a pestilence, are you so kind?
Then make a night-cap of your fiddle's case,
To warm your head, and hide your filthy face.

Val. If that, sweet mistress, were your heart's content,
You should command a greater thing than that,
Although it were ten times to my disgrace.

Kate. You're so kind, 'twere pity you should be hanged; —
And yet methinks the fool doth look asquint.

Val. Why, mistress, do you mock me?

Kate. No, but I mean to move thee.

Val. Well, will you play a little?

Kate. Ay, give me the lute.

[She plays.]

Val. That stop was false, play it again.

Kate. Then mend it thou, thou filthy ass!
Val. What, do you bid me kiss your arse?

Kate. How now, Jack Sauce, you're a jolly mate;
You're best be still, lest I cross your pate,
And make your music fly about your ears;
I'll make it and your foolish coxcomb meet.

[She offers to strike him with the lute.]

Val. Hold, mistress; sounds, will you break my lute?

Kate. Ay, on thy head, and if thou speak to me:

[She throws it down.]

There, take it up, and fiddle somewhere else.
And see you come no more into this place,
Lest that I clap your fiddle on your face.

[Exit Kate.]

Val. Sounds, teach her to play upon the lute?
The devil shall teach her first; I am glad she's gone,
For I was ne'er so 'fraid in all my life,
But that my lute should fly about mine ears.
My master shall teach her his self for me,
For I'll keep me far enough without her reach:
For he and Polidor sent me before,
To be with her and teach her on the lute,
Whilst they did court the other gentlewomen,
And here methinks they come together.

Enter Aurelius, Polidor, Emelia, and Philema.

Pol. How now, Valeria, where's your mistress?

Val. At the vengeance, I think, and nowhere else.

Aurel. Why, Valeria, will she not learn apace?

Val. Yes, berlady, she has learnt too much already;
And that I had felt, had I not spoke her fair:
But she shall ne'er be learnt for me again.

Aurel. Well, Valeria, go to my chamber,
And bear him company that came to-day
From Sestos, where our agèd father dwells.

[Exit Valeria.]
Pol. Come, fair Emelia, my lovely love,
Brighter than the burnished palace of the sun,
The eyesight of the glorious firmament,
In whose bright looks sparkles the radiant fire
Wily Prometheus sily stole from Jove,
Infusing breath, life, motion, soul,
To every object stricken by thine eyes!
O fair Emelia, I pine for thee,
And either must enjoy thy love, or die.

Emel. Fie, man, I know you will not die for love.
Ah, Polidor, thou needst not to complain;
Eternal Heaven sooner be dissolved,
And all that pierceth Phoebe's silver eye,
Before such hap befall to Polidor.

Pol. Thanks, fair Emelia, for these sweet words; −
But what saith Philema to her friend?

Phil. Why, I am buying merchandise of him.

Aurel. Mistress, you shall not need to buy of me,
For when I crossed the bubbling Canibey,
And sailed along the crystal Hellespont,
I filled my coffers of the wealthy mines,
Where I did cause millions of labouring Moors
To undermine the caverns of the earth,
To seek for strange and new-found precious stones,
And dive into the sea to gather pearl,
As fair as Juno offered Priam's son;
And you shall take your liberal choice of all.

Phil. I thank you, sir, and would Philema might
In any curtesy requite you so,
As she with willing heart could well bestow!

Enter Alfonso.

Alfon. How now, daughters, is Ferando come?

Emel. Not yet, father. I wonder he stays so long.

Alfon. And where's your sister, that she is not here?

Phil. She is making of her ready, father,
To go to church, and if that he were come.
Pol. I warrant you, he'll not be long away.

Alfon. Go, daughters, get you in, and bid your sister

Provide herself against that we do come,

And see you go to church along with us.

[Exeunt Philema and Emelia.]

I marvel that Ferando comes not away.

Pol. His tailor, it may be, hath been too slack

In his apparel which he means to wear;

For no question but some fantastic suits

He is determinèd to wear to-day,

And richly powderèd with precious stones,

Spotted with liquid gold, thick set with pearl,

And such he means shall be his wedding suits.

Alfon. I cared not, I, what cost he did bestow,

In gold or silk, so he himself were here,

For I had rather lose a thousand crowns,

Than that he should deceive us here to-day:

But soft, I think I see him come.

Enter Ferando, basely attired,

and a red cap on his head.

Feran. Good morrow, father; — Polidor, well met;

You wonder, I know, that I have stayed so long.

Alfon. Ay, marry, son, we were almost persuaded,

That we should scarce have had our bridegroom here.

But say, why art thou thus basely attired?

Feran. Thus richly, father, you should have said;

For when my wife and I am married once,

She's such a shrew, if we should once fall out

She'll pull my costly suits over mine ears,

And therefore am I thus attired awhile;

For many things I tell you's in my head,

And none must know thereof but Kate and I;

For we shall live like lambs and lions, sure;

Nor lambs to lions never was so tame,

If once they lie within the lion's paws,

As Kate to me if we were married once,

And therefore come, let us to church presently.

Pol. Fie, Ferando; not thus attired, for shame!

Come to my chamber and there suit thyself
The Taming of a Shrew

Act II, Scene i

Of twenty suits that I did never wear.

Feran. Tush, Polidor, I have as many suits
Fantastic made to fit my humour so
As any in Athens and as richly wrought
As was the massy robe that late adorned
The stately legate of the Persian King;
And this from them have I made choice to wear.

Alfon. I prithee, Ferando, let me entreat,
Before thou go'st unto the church with us,
To put some other suit upon thy back.

Feran. Not for the world, if I might gain it so:
And therefore take me thus, or not at all.

Enter Kate.

But soft, see where my Kate doth come!
I must salute her: − how fares my lovely Kate?
What, art thou ready? shall we go to church?

Kate. Not I, with one so mad, so basely 'tired,
To marry such a filthy, slavish groom,
That, as it seems, sometimes is from his wits,
Or else he would not thus have come to us.

Feran. Tush, Kate, these words adds greater love in me,
And makes me think thee fairer than before:
Sweet Kate, thee lovelier than Diana's purple robe,
Whiter than are the snowy Apennines,
Or icy hair that grows on Boreas' chin!
Father, I swear by Ibis' golden beak,
More fair and radiant is my bonny Kate,
Than silver Xanthus, when he doth embrace
The ruddy Simoës at Ida's feet.
And care not thou, sweet Kate, how I be clad;
Thou shalt have garments wrought of Median silk,
Enchased with precious jewels fetched from far,
By Italian merchants that with Russian stems
Ploughs up huge furrows in the Terrene Maine,
And better far my lovely Kate shall wear.
Then come, sweet love, and let us to the church,
For this I swear shall be my wedding suit.

[Exit Kate.]

Alfon. Come, gentlemen, go along with us;
For thus, do what we can, he will be wed.

[Exeunt Omnes.]
ACT II, SCENE II.

A room in Alfonso's house.

Enter Polidor's Boy and Sander.

Boy. Come hither, sirrah boy.

Sand. Boy, oh, disgrace to my person! Sounds! "boy", of your face! You have many boys with such pickadevants, I am sure! Sounds, would you not have a bloody nose for this?

Boy. Come, come, I did but jest; where is that same piece of pie that I gave thee to keep?

Sand. The pie? Ay, you have more mind of your belly than to go see what your master does.

Boy. Tush, 'tis no matter, man, I prithee give it me; I am very hungry, I promise thee.

Sand. Why, you may take it, and the devil burst you with it! One cannot save a bit after supper but you are always ready to munch it up.

Boy. Why come, man, we shall have good cheer anon at the bride-house, for your master's gone to church to be married already, and there's such cheer as passeth.

Sand. O brave, I would I had eat no meat this week, for I have never a corner left in my belly to put a venison pasty in; I think I shall burst myself with eating, for I'll so cram me down the tarts and the marchpanes, out of all cry.

Boy. Ay, but how wilt thou do, now, thy master's married? Thy mistress is such a devil as she'll make thee forget thy eating quickly, she'll beat thee so.

Sand. Let my master alone with her for that, for he'll make her tame well enough ere long, I warrant thee; for he's such a churl waxen now of late, that, and he be never so little angry, he thums me out of all cry. But in my mind, sirrah, the youngest is a very pretty wench, and if I thought thy master would not have her, I'd have a fling at her myself. I'll see soon whether 'twill be a match or no; and it will not, I'll set the
matter hard for myself, I warrant thee.

Boy. Souns, you slave, will you be a rival with my master in his love? Speak but such another word and I'll cut off one of thy legs.

Sand. Oh, cruel judgment! nay then, sirrah, my tongue shall talk no more to you: marry, my timber shall tell the trusty message of his master even on the very forehead on thee, thou abusious villain: therefore prepare thyself.

Boy. Come hither, thou imperfectious slave; in regard of thy beggary, hold thee, there's two shillings for thee, to pay for the healing of thy left leg, which I mean furiously to invade, or to maim at the least.

Sand. Oh, supernodical fool! Well, I'll take your two shillings; but I'll bar striking at legs.

Boy. Not I, for I'll strike anywhere.

Sand. Here, here, take your two shillings again. I'll see thee hanged ere I'll fight with thee; I gat a broken shin the other day, 'tis not whole yet, and therefore I'll not fight; come, come, why should we fall out?

Boy. Well, sirray, your fair words hath something allayed my choler: I am content for this once to put it up and be friends with thee. But soft, see where they come all from church, belike they be married already.

Enter Ferando, Kate, Alfonso, Polidor, Emelia, Aurelius, and Philema.

Feran. Father, farewell! my Kate and I must home. − Sirrah, go make ready my horse presently.

Alfon. Your horse? What, son, I hope you do but jest! I am sure you will not go so suddenly.

Kate. Let him go or tarry, I am resolved to stay, And not to travel on my wedding-day.

Feran. Tut, Kate, I tell thee we must needs go home. − Villain, hast thou saddled my horse?

Sand. Which horse? your curtal?
Feran. Souns, you slave, stand you prating here?  
Saddle the bay gelding for your mistress.

Kate. Not for me: for I'll not go.

Sand. The ostler will not let me have him. You owe  
ten-pence for his meat, and sixpence for stuffing my  
mistress' saddle.

Feran. Here, villain, go pay him straight.  

[Gives money.]

Sand. Shall I give them another peck of lavender?

Feran. Out, slave, and bring them presently to the door!

Alfon. Why, son, I hope at least you'll dine with us!

Sand. I pray you, master, let's stay till dinner be done.

Feran. Souns, villain, art thou here yet?  

[Exit Sander.]

Come, Kate, our dinner is provided at home.

Kate. But not for me; for here I mean to dine.  
I'll have my will in this as well as you:  
Though you in madding mood would leave your friends,  
Despite of you, I'll tarry with them still.

Feran. Ay, Kate, so thou shalt, but at some other time.  
Whenas thy sisters here shall be espoused,  
Then thou and I will keep our wedding-day  
In better sort than now we can provide;  
For here I promise thee before them all,  
We will ere long return to them again.  
Come, Kate, stand not on terms, we will away;  
This is my day; to-morrow thou shalt rule,  
And I will do whatever thou commands. —  
Gentlemen, farewell; we'll take our leaves:  
It will be late before that we come home.  

[Exeunt Ferando and Kate.]

Pol. Farewell, Ferando, since you will be gone!

Alfon. So mad a couple did I never see.
**The Taming of a Shrew**  
*Act II, Scene ii*

142  
*Emel.* They're even as well-matched as I would wish.

144  
*Phil.* And yet I hardly think that he can tame her;  
For when he has done she will do what she list.

146  
*Aurel.* Her manhood then is good, I do believe.

148  
*Pol.* Aurelius, or else I miss my mark,  
Her tongue will walk if she doth hold her hands.

150  
*Phil.* I am in doubt ere half a month be passed  
He'll curse the priest that married him so soon.

152  
*Pol.* And yet it may be she will be reclaimed,  
For she is very patient grown of late.

154  
*Alfon.* God hold it that it may continue still!  
I would be loath that they should disagree;

156  
*Pol.* But he, I hope, will hold her in a while.

158  
*Alfon.* Within this two days I will ride to him,  
And see how lovingly they do agree.

160  
*Pol.* Within this two days I will ride to him,  
And see how lovingly they do agree.

162  
*Alfon.* Now, Aurelius, what say you to this?  
What, have you sent to Sestos, as you said,  
To certify your father of your love?

166  
*Pol.* For I would gladly he would like of it;  
And if he be the man you tell to me,  
I guess he is a merchant of great wealth;  
And I have seen him oft at Athens here,

170  
*Alfon.* And for his sake assure thee thou art welcome.

172  
*Pol.* And so to me, whilst Polidor doth live.

174  
*Aurel.* I find it so, right worthy gentlemen,  
And of what worth your friendship I esteem,

176  
*Pol.* I leave [to] censure of your several thoughts.  
But for requital of your favours past,  
Rests yet behind, which, when occasion serves,  
I vow shall be remembered to the full;

180  
*Alfon.* And for my father's coming to this place,  
I do expect within this week at most.

182  
*Alfon.* Enough, Aurelius! but we forget  
Our marriage dinner, now the bride is gone;  
Come let us see what there they left behind.

186  
*[Exeunt Omnes.]*
ACT III.

SCENE I.

A room in Ferando's country house.

Enter Sander with two or three Serving men.

1 Sand. Come, sirs, provide all things as fast as you can, for my master's hard at hand and my new mistress and all, and he sent me before to see all things ready.

2 Tom. Welcome home, Sander! Sirrah, how looks our new mistress? they say she's a plaguey shrew.

3 Sand. Ay, and that thou shalt find, I can tell thee, and thou dost not please her well; why, my master has such ado with her as it passeth, and he's even like a madman.

4 Will. Why, Sander, what does he say?

5 Sand. Why, I'll tell you what: when they should go to church to be married, he puts on an old jerkin and a pair of canvas breeches down to the small of his leg and a red cap on his head, and he looks as thou wilt burst thyself with laughing when thou seest him: he's e'en as good as a fool for me: and then, when they should go to dinner, he made me saddle the horse, and away he came, and ne'er tarried for dinner: and therefore you had best get supper ready against they come, for they be hard at hand, I am sure, by this time.

6 Tom. Souns, see where they be all ready.

7 Enter Ferando and Kate.

8 Feran. Now welcome, Kate! - where's these villains? Here, what, not supper yet upon the board; Nor table spread, nor nothing done at all? Where's that villain that I sent before?

9 Sand. Now, adsum, sir.

10 Feran. Come hither, you villain, I'll cut your nose, you rogue! help me off with my boots: - will't please you to lay the cloth? - Souns, the villain hurts my foot! - Pull easily, I say; yet again!
The Taming of a Shrew

Act III, Scene i

[He beats them all.

They cover the board and fetch in the meat.]

Souns! Burnt and scorched! Who dressed this meat?

Will. Forsooth, John cook.

[He throws down the table and meat and all,
and beats them.]

Feran. Go, you villains, bring you me such meat?

Out of my sight, I say, and bear it hence! —

Come, Kate, we'll have other meat provided. —

Is there a fire in my chamber, sir?

Sand. Ay, forsooth.

[Exeunt Ferando and Kate.]

[Manent Serving-men and eat up all the meat.]

Tom. Souns! I think, of my conscience, my master's

mad since he was married.

Will. I laughed what a box he gave Sander for pulling

off his boots.

Enter Ferando again.

Sand. I hurt his foot for the nonce, man.

Feran. Did you so, you damned villain?

[He beats them all out again.]

This humour must I hold me to awhile,
To bridle and hold back my headstrong wife,
With curbs of hunger, ease, and want of sleep.
Nor sleep nor meat shall she enjoy to-night,
I'll mew her up as men do mew their hawks,
And make her gently come unto the lure.
Were she as stubborn or as full of strength
As were the Thracian horse Alcides tamed,
That King Egeus fed with flesh of men,
Yet would I pull her down and make her come
As hungry hawks do fly unto their lure.

[Exit.]
ACT III, SCENE II.

Athens: a street.

Enter Aurelius and Valeria.

Aurel. Valeria, attend: I have a lovely love,
As bright as is the heaven crystalline,
As fair as is the milk-white way of Jove,
As chaste as Phoebe in her summer sports,
As soft and tender as the azure down
That circles Cytherea's silver doves.
Her do I mean to make my lovely bride,
And in her bed to breathe the sweet content,
That I, thou know'st, long time have aimed at.

Now, Valeria, it rests in thee to help
To compass this, that I might gain my love,
Which easily thou may'st perform at will,
If that the merchant which thou told'st me of,
Will, as he said, go to Alfonso's house,
And say he is my father, and therewithal
Pass over certain deeds of land to me,
That I thereby may gain my heart's desire;
And he is promised reward of me.

Val. Fear not, my lord, I'll fetch him straight to you,
For he'll do anything that you command:
But tell me, my lord, is Ferando married then?

Aurel. He is: and Polidor shortly shall be wed,
And he means to tame his wife ere long.

Val. He says so.

Aurel. Faith, he's gone unto the taming school.

Val. The taming school; why, is there such a place?

Aurel. Ay, and Ferando is the master of the school.

Val. That's rare: but what decorum does he use?

Aurel. Faith, I know not, but by some odd device or other.
But come, Valeria, I long to see the man,
By whom we must comprise our plotted drift,
That I may tell him what we have to do.

Val. Then come, my lord, and I will bring you to him straight.
44  *Aurel.* Agreed, then let's go.

46  [Exeunt.]
ACT III, SCENE III.

A room In Ferando's country house.

Enter Sander and his mistress (Kate).

_Sand._ Come, mistress.

_Kate._ Sander, I prithee, help me to some meat,  
I am so faint that I can scarcely stand.

_Sand._ Ay, marry, mistress, but you know my master  
has given me a charge that you must eat nothing but  
that which he himself giveth you.

_Kate._ Why, man, thy master needs never know it!

_Sand._ You say true, indeed: why, look you, mistress,  
what say you to a piece of beef and mustard now?

_Kate._ Why, I say 'tis excellent meat; can't thou help  
me to some?

_Sand._ Aye, I could help you to some, but that I doubt  
the mustard is too choleric for you. But what say  
you to a sheep's head and garlic?

_Kate._ Why, anything; I care not what it be.

_Sand._ Ay, but the garlic, I doubt, will make your  
breath stink, and then my master will course me for  
letting you eat it. But what say you to a fat capon?

_Kate._ That's meat for a king; sweet Sander, help me to  
some of it.

_Sand._ Nay, belady, then 'tis too dear for us; we  
must not meddle with the king's meat.

_Kate._ Out, villain, dost thou mock me? Take that for  
thy sauciness.

[She beats him.]

_Sand._ Souns, are you so light-fingered, with a  
murrain? I'll keep you fasting for it this two days!

_Kate._ I tell thee, villain, I'll tear the flesh off thy face  
and eat it, and thou prates to me thus.
The Taming of a Shrew

Act III, Scene iii

Sand. Here comes my master: now he'll course you.

Enter Ferando with a piece of meat
upon his dagger's point,
and Polidor with him.

Feran. See here, Kate, I have provided meat for thee;
Here, take it; what, is't not worthy thanks? −

[Kate refuses meat.]

Go, sirrah, take it away again. −
You shall be thankful for the next you have.

Kate. Why, I thank you for it.

Feran. Nay, now 'tis not worth a pin. − Go, sirray, and
take it hence, I say.

Sand. Yes, sir, I'll carry it hence. Master, let her
have none, for she can fight, as hungry as she is.

Pol. I pray you, sir, let it stand, for I'll eat some with
her myself.

Feran. Well, sirrah, set it down again.

Kate. Nay, nay, I pray you let him take it hence,
And keep it for your own diet, for I'll none;
I'll ne'er be beholding to you for your meat;
I tell thee flatly here unto thy teeth,
Thou shalt not keep me nor feed me as thou list,
For I will home again unto my father's house.

Feran. Ay, when you're meek and gentle, but not before;
I know your stomach is not yet come down;
Therefore no marvel thou can'st not eat,
And I will go unto your father's house; −
Come, Polidor, let us go in again; −
And, Kate, come in with us! I know ere long
That thou and I shall lovingly agree.

[Exeunt Omnes.]
ACT III, SCENE IV.

Athens: a public place in font of Alfonso's house.

Enter Aurelius, Valeria and Phylotus, the merchant.

Aurel. Now, Signior Phylotus, we will go
Unto Alfonso's house, and be sure you say
As I did tell you concerning the man
That dwells in Sestos, whose son I said I was,
For you do very much resemble him:
And fear not; you may be bold to speak your mind.

Phylo. I warrant you, sir, take you no care;
I'll use myself so cunning in the cause,
As you shall soon enjoy your heart's delight.

Aurel. Thanks, sweet Phylotus, then stay you here,
And I will go and fetch him hither straight. –

Ho, Signior Alfonso, a word with you.

Enter Alfonso.

Alfon. Who's there? What, Aurelius, what's the matter,
That you stand so like a stranger at the door?

Aurel. My father, sir, is newly come to town,
And I have brought him here to speak with you,
Concerning those matters that I told you of,
And he can certify you of the truth.

Alfon. Is this your father? – You are welcome, sir.

Phylo. Thanks, Alfonso, for that's your name, I guess.
I understand my son hath set his mind
And bent his liking to your daughter's love;
And for because he is my only son,
And I would gladly that he should do well,
I tell you, sir, I not mislike his choice.

If you agree to give him your consent,
He shall have living to maintain his state;
Three hundred pounds a year I will assure
To him and to his heirs: and if they do join,
And knot themselves in holy wedlock band,
A thousand massy ingots of pure gold,
And twice as many bars of silver plate,
I freely give him, and in writing straight
I will confirm what I have said in words.
Alfon. Trust me, I must commend your liberal mind,
And loving care you bear unto your son;
And here I give him freely my consent.
As for my daughter, I think he knows her mind:
And I will enlarge her dowry for your sake;
And solemnise with joy your nuptial rites. −
But is this gentleman of Sestos, too?

Aurel. He is the Duke of Sestos' thrice-renownèd son,
Who for the love his honour bears to me
Hath thus accompanied me to this place.

Alfon. You were to blame you told me not before: −
Pardon me, my lord, for if I had known
Your honour had been here in place with me,
I would have done my duty to your honour.

Val. Thanks, good Alfonso: but I did come to see
Whenas these marriage rites should be performed;
And if in these nuptials you vouchsafe
To honour thus the prince of Sestos' friend,
In celebration of his spousal rites,
He shall remain a lasting friend to you.
What says Aurelius' father?

Phylo. I humbly thank your honour, good my lord;
And ere we part, before your honour here,
Shall articles of such content be drawn,
As 'twixt our houses and posterities,
Eternally this league of peace shall last,
Inviolate and pure on either part.

Alfon. With all my heart, and if your honour please,
To walk along with us unto my house,
We will confirm these leagues of lasting love.

Val. Come then, Aurelius, I will go with you.

[Exeunt Omnes.]
ACT III, SCENE V.

A room in Ferando's country house.

Enter Ferando, Kate, and Sander.

Sand. Master, the haberdasher has brought my mistress home her cap here.

Enter the Haberdasher.

Feran. Come hither, sirrah! What have you there?

Haber. A velvet cap, sir, and it please you.

Feran. Who spoke for it? Didst thou, Kate?

Kate. What if I did? − Come hither, sirrah, give me the cap! I'll see if it will fit me.

[She sets it on her head.]

Feran. O monstrous, why, it becomes thee not; Let me see it, Kate! − Here, sirrah, take it hence! This cap is out of fashion quite!

Kate. The fashion is good enough. Belike you mean To make a fool of me.

Feran. Why, true, he means to make a fool of thee, To have thee put on such a curtalled cap! − Sirrah, begone with it!

[Exit Haberdasher.]

Enter the Tailor with a gown.

Sand. Here is the tailor too with my mistress' gown.

Feran. Let me see it, Tailor! What, with cuts and jags, Sounds, you villain, thou hast spoilt the gown!

Tailor. Why, sir, I made it as your man gave me direction. You may read the note here.

Feran. Come hither, sirrah Tailor! Read the note.

Tailor. Item, a fair round-compassed cape.

Sand. Ay, that's true.
The Taming of a Shrew

Act III, Scene v

46 Tailor. And a large trunk sleeve.
48 Sand. That's a lie, master! I said two trunk sleeves.
50 Feran. Well, sir, go forward!
52 Tailor. Item, a loose-bodied gown.
54 Sand. Master, if ever I said loose body's gown, sew me in a seam and beat me to death with [a] bottom of brown thread!
58 Tailor. I made it as the note bade me.
60 Sand. I say the note lies in his throat, and thou too, and thou say'st it.
62 Tailor. Nay, nay, n'er be so hot, sirrah; for I fear you not.
66 Sand. Dost thou hear, Tailor? Thou hast braved many men: brave not me. Thou'st faced many men —
68 Tailor. Well, sir.
70 Sand. Face not me: I'll neither be faced nor braved at thy hands, I can tell thee!
74 Kate. Come, come, I like the fashion of it well enough: Here's more ado than needs; I'll have it, I; —
76 And if you do not like it, hide your eyes.
I think I shall have nothing by your will.
78 Feran. [To the Tailor]
80 Go, I say, and take it up for your master's use.
82 Sand. Souns, villain, not for thy life; touch it not!
Souns, take up my mistress' gown to his master's use!
84 Feran. Well, sir, what's your conceit of it?
86 Sand. I have a deeper conceit in it than you think for.
Take up my mistress' gown to his master's use!
88 Feran. Tailor, come hither; for this time take it Hence again, and I'll content thee for thy pains.
90 Tailor. I thank you, sir.
94 [Exit Tailor.]
Feran. Come, Kate, we now will go see thy father's house,
Even in these honest mean habiliments;
Our purses shall be rich, our garments plain,
To shroud our bodies from the winter rage,
And that's enough; what should we care for more?
Thy sisters, Kate, to-morrow must be wed,
And I have promised them thou should'st be there:
The morning is well up; let's haste away:
It will be nine a-clock ere we come there.
Kate. Nine a-clock? why, 'tis already past two
In the afternoon by all the clocks in the town!
Feran. I say 'tis but nine a-clock in the morning.
Kate. I say 'tis two a-clock in the afternoon.
Feran. It shall be nine then ere we go to your father's:
Come back again, we will not go to-day.
Nothing but crossing of me still!
I'll have you say as I do ere you go.

[Exeunt Omnes.]
ACT III, SCENE VI.

A room in Alfonso’s house.

Enter Polidor, Emelia, Aurelius and Philema.

Pol. Fair Emelia, summer’s sun-bright queen,
Brighter of hue than is the burning clime,
Where Phoebus in his bright equator sits,
Creating gold and precious minerals.
What would Emelia do, if I were forced
To leave fair Athens and to range the world?

Emel. Should thou assay to scale the seat of Jove,
Mounting the subtle airy regions,
Or be snatched up as erst was Ganymede,
Love should give wings unto my swift desires,
And prune my thoughts that I would follow thee,
Or fall and perish as did Icarus.

Aurel. Sweetly resolvèd, fair Emelia! —
But would Philema say as much to me,
If I should ask a question now of thee;
What if the Duke of Sestos' only son,
Which came with me unto your father's house,
Should seek to get Philema's love from me,
And make thee duchess of that stately town,
Wouldst thou not then forsake me for his love?

Phil. Not for great Neptune, no, nor Jove himself,
Will Philema leave Aurelius' love;
Could he install me empress of the world,
Or make me queen and guidress of the heavens,
Yet would I not exchange thy love for his;
Thy company is poor Philema's Heaven,
And without thee Heaven were hell to me.

Emel. And should my love, as erst did Hercules,
Attempt to pass the burning vaults of hell,
I would with piteous looks and pleasing words,
As once did Orpheus with his harmony,
And ravishing sound of his melodious harp,
Entreat grim Pluto and of him obtain,
That thou mightest go and safe return again.

Phil. And should my love, as erst Leander did,
Attempt to swim the boiling Hellespont
For Hero's love, no towers of brass should hold
But I would follow thee thorough those raging floods
With locks dishevered and my breast all bare;
With bended knees upon Abydos' shore
I would with smoky sighs and brinish tears,
Importune Neptune and the watery gods
To send a guard of silver-scalèd dolphins
With sounding Tritons to be our convoy,
And to transport us safe unto the shore;
Whilst I would hang about thy lovely neck,
Redoubling kiss on kiss upon thy cheeks,
And with our pastime still the swelling waves.

Emel. Should Polidor, as great Achilles did,
Only employ himself to follow arms,
Like to the warlike Amazonian queen
Penthesilea, Hector's paramour,
Who foiled the bloody Pyrrhus, murderous Greek,
I'll thrust myself amongst the thickest throngs,
And with my utmost force assist my love.

Phil. Let Aeole storm, be mild and quiet thou;
Let Neptune swell, be Aurelius calm and pleased:
I care not, I, betide what may betide,
Let Fates and Fortune do the worst they can,
I reck them not; they not discord with me,
Whilst that my love and I do well agree.

Aurel. Sweet Philema, beauty's mineral,
From whence the sun exhales his glorious shine,
And clad the heaven in thy reflected rays!
And now, my liefest love, the time draws nigh,
That Hymen mounted in his saffron robe,
Must with his torches wait upon thy train,
As Helen's brothers on the hornèd moon. −
Now, Juno, to thy number shall I add
The fairest bride that ever merchant had.

Pol. Come, fair Emelia, the priest is gone,
And at the church your father and the rest
Do stay to see our marriage rites performed,
And knit in sight of Heaven this Gordian knot,
That teeth of fretting time may ne'er untwist:
Then come, fair love, and gratulate with me
This day's content and sweet solemnity.

Pol. Come, fair Emelia, the priest is gone,
And at the church your father and the rest
Do stay to see our marriage rites performed,
And knit in sight of Heaven this Gordian knot,
That teeth of fretting time may ne'er untwist:
Then come, fair love, and gratulate with me
This day's content and sweet solemnity.

Pol. Come, fair Emelia, the priest is gone,
And at the church your father and the rest
Do stay to see our marriage rites performed,
And knit in sight of Heaven this Gordian knot,
That teeth of fretting time may ne'er untwist:
Then come, fair love, and gratulate with me
This day's content and sweet solemnity.

[Exeunt Omnes.]
92  Lord. Ay, my lord.
ACT IV.

SCENE I.

Initially Ferando's country house, then a country road.

Enter Ferando, Kate, and Sander.

Sly. Look, Sim, the fool is come again now.

Feran. Sirrah, go fetch our horses forth and bring them to the back gate presently.

Sand. I will, sir, I warrant you.

[Ferrando, Kate, and Sander exit.

Feran. Come, Kate, the moon shines clear to-night, methinks.

Kate. The moon? why, husband, you are deceived; It is the sun!

Feran. Yet again? Come back again. It shall be the moon ere we come at your father's.

Kate. Why, I'll say as you say: it is the moon.

Feran. Jesus save the glorious moon!

Kate. Jesus save the glorious moon!

Feran. I am glad, Kate, your stomach is come down. I know it well thou knowest it is the sun; But I did try to see if thou would'st speak, And cross me now, as thou hast done before: And trust me, Kate, hadst thou not named the moon, We had gone back again as sure as death.

But soft, who's this that's coming here?

[Enter the Duke of Sestos alone.

Duke. Thus all alone from Sestos am I come, And left my princely court and noble train, To come to Athens, and in this disguise, To see what course my son Aurelius takes. But stay, here's some, it may be, travels thither. − Good sir, can you direct me the way to Athens?

Feran. [to the Duke] Fair lovely maid, young and affable, More clear of hue and far more beautiful
Than precious sardonyx or purple rocks
Of amethysts, or glistering hyacinth!
More amiable far than is the plain
Where glistering Cepherus in silver bowers,
Gazeth upon the giant Andromede!
Sweet Kate, entertain this lovely woman.

Duke. I think the man is mad; he calls me a woman.

Kate. Fair lovely lady, bright and crystalline,
Beauteous and stately as the eye-trained bird,
As glorious as the morning washed with dew,
Within whose eyes she takes her dawning beams,
And golden summer sleeps upon thy cheeks;
Wrap up thy radiations in some cloud,
Lest that thy beauty make this stately town
Inhabitable like the burning zone
With sweet reflections of thy lovely face!

Duke. What, is she mad too? or is my shape transformed,
That both of them persuade me I am a woman;
But they are mad, sure, and therefore I'll be gone,
And leave their companies for fear of harm,
And unto Athens haste, to seek my son.

[Exit Duke.]

Feran. Why, so, Kate; this was friendly done of thee,
And kindly, too; why, thus must we two live,
One mind, one heart, and one content for both!
This good old man does think that we are mad,
And glad he is, I am sure, that he is gone,
But come, sweet Kate, for we will after him,
And now persuade him to his shape again.

[Exeunt Omnes.]
ACT IV, SCENE II.

Athens: a public place.

Enter Alfonso, Phylotus, Valeria, Polidor, Emelia, Aurelius, and Philema.

Alfon. Come, lovely sons, your marriage rites performed,
Let's hie us home to see what cheer we have;
I wonder that Ferando and his wife
Come not to see this great solemnity.

Pol. No marvel if Ferando be away;
His wife, I think, hath troubled so his wits,
That he remains at home to keep them warm;
For forward wedlock, as the proverb says,
Hath brought him to his nightcap long ago.

Phylo. But, Polidor, let my son and you take heed,
That Ferando say not ere long as much to you. −
And now, Alfonso, more to show my love,
If unto Sestos you do send your ships,
Myself will fraught them with Arabian silks,
Rich Afric spices, arras, counter-points,
Musk, cassia, sweet-smelling ambergris,
Pearl, coral, crystal, jet, and ivory,
To gratulate the favours of my son,
And friendly love that you have shown to him.

Enter the Duke of Sestos.

Val. And for to honour him, and this fair bride,
I'll yearly send you from my father's court,
Chests of refinèd sugar severally,
Ten tun of Tunis wine, sucket, sweet drugs,
To celebrate and solemnise this day;
And custom-free your merchants shall converse
And interchange the profits of your land,
Sending you gold for brass, silver for lead,
Cases of silk for packs of wool and cloth,
To bind this friendship and confirm this league.

Duke. I am glad, sir, that you would be so frank.
Are you become the Duke of Sestos' son,
And revel with my treasure in this town?
Base villain, that thus dishonourest me!

Val. [Aside] Souns, it is the Duke; what shall I do? −
Dishonour thee, why, know'st thou what thou say'st?

**Duke.** Here's no villain! He will not know me now! —
[To Aurelius] But what say you? have you forgot me, too?

**Phylo.** Why, sir, are you acquainted with my son?

**Duke.** With thy son? No, trust me, if he be thine; —
I pray you, sir, who am I?

**Aurel.** [Kneeling] Pardon me, father! Humbly on my knees,
I do entreat your grace to hear me speak.

**Duke.** Peace, villain! — Lay hands on them,
And send them to prison straight.

[Phylotus and Valeria run away.]

[Then Sly speaks.]

**Sly.** I say, we'll have no sending to prison.

**Lord.** My lord, this is but the play; they're but in jest.

**Sly.** I tell thee, Sim, we'll have no sending to prison,
that's flat. Why, Sim, am not I Don Christo Vary?
Therefore, I say, they shall not go to prison.

**Lord.** No more they shall not, my lord: they be run away.

**Sly.** Are they run away, Sim? That's well; then gi's
some more drink, and let them play again.

**Lord.** Here, my lord!

[Sly drinks and then falls asleep.]

**Duke.** Ah, treacherous boy, that durst presume
To wed thyself without thy father's leave!
I swear by fair Cynthia's burning rays,
By Merops' head, and by seven-mouthèd Nile,
Had I but known, ere thou hadst wedded her,
Were in thy breast the world's immortal soul,
This angry sword should rip thy hateful chest,
And hewed thee smaller than the Lybian sands,
Turn hence thy face, oh, cruël, impious boy! —
Alfonso, I did not think you would presume
To match your daughter with my princely house,
And ne'er make me acquainted with the cause.
Alfon. My lord, by heavens I swear unto your grace,
I knew none other but Valeria, your man,
Had been the Duke of Sestos' noble son;
Nor did my daughter, I dare swear for her.

Duke. That damned villain that hath deluded me,
Whom I did send [for] guide unto my son!
Oh that my furious force could cleave the earth,
That I might muster bands of hellish fiends,
To rack his heart and tear his impious soul;
The ceaseless turning of celestial orbs
Kindles not greater flames in flitting air,
Than passionate anguish of my raging breast.

Aurel. Then let my death, sweet father, end your grief;
For I it is that thus have wrought your woes:
Then be revenged on me, for here I swear
That they are innocent of what I did.
Oh, had I charge to cut off Hydra's head,
To make the topless Alps a champion field,
To kill untamèd monsters with my sword,
To travail daily in the hottest sun,
And watch in winter when the nights be cold,
I would with gladness undertake them all
And think the pain but pleasure that I felt,
So that my noble father at my return
Would but forget and pardon my offence!

Phil. [Kneeling] Let me entreat your grace upon my knees,
To pardon him and let my death discharge
The heavy wrath your grace hath vowed 'gainst him.

Pol. [Kneeling] And, good my lord, let us entreat your grace
To purge your stomach of this melancholy:
Taint not your princely mind with grief, my lord,
But pardon and forgive these lovers' faults,
That kneeling crave your gracious favour here.

Emel. Great prince of Sestos, let a woman's words
Entreat a pardon in your lordly breast,
Both for your princely son, and us, my lord.

Duke. Aurelius, stand up; I pardon thee;
I see that virtue will have enemies,
And Fortune will be thwarting honour still. —
And you, fair virgin, too, I am content
T' accept you for my daughter, since 'tis done,
And see you princely used in Sestos' court.

Phil. Thanks, good my lord, and I no longer live
Than I obey and honour you in all.

Alfon. Let me give thanks unto your royal grace
For this great honour done to me and mine;
And if your grace will walk unto my house,
I will, in humblest manner I can, show
Th' eternal service I do owe your grace.

Duke. Thanks, good Alfonso, but I came alone,
And not as did beseem the Sestian Duke;
Nor would I have it known within the town,
That I was here and thus without my train:
But as I came alone, so will I go,
And leave my son to solemnise his feast;
And ere't be long I'll come again to you,
And do him honour as beseems the son
Of mighty Jerobel, the Sestian Duke,
Till when I'll leave you. − Farewell, Aurelius!

Aurel. Not yet, my lord; I'll bring you to your ship.

[Exeunt Omnes.]

[Sly sleeps.]

Lord. Who's within there? Come hither, sirs, my lord's
Asleep again; go, take him easily up,
And put him in his own apparel again,
And lay him in the place where we did find him,
Just underneath the alehouse side below:
But see you wake him not in any case.

Boy. It shall be done, my lord. − Come, help to bear him hence.

[Exeunt with Sty.]
ACT V.

SCENE I.

A Room in Alfonso's House.

Enter Ferando, Aurelius, Polidor and his Boy, Valeria, and Sander.

Feran. Come, gentlemen, now that supper's done,
How shall we spend the time till we go to bed?

Aurel. Faith, if you will, in trial of our wives,
Who will come soonest at their husband's call.

Pol. Nay, then Ferando he must needs sit out;
For he may call, I think, till he be weary,
Before his wife will come before she list.

Feran. 'Tis well for you that have such gentle wives,
Yet in this trial will I not sit out;
It may be Kate will come as soon as yours.

Aurel. My wife comes soonest, for a hundred pound.

Pol. I take it. I'll lay as much to yours,
That my wife comes as soon as I do send.

Aurel. How now, Ferando; you dare not lay, belike?

Feran. Why, true, I dare not lay indeed — but how? —
So little money on so sure a thing.

A hundred pound! why, I have laid as much
Upon my dog, in running at a deer.

She shall not come so far for such a trifle.
But will you lay five hundred marks with me,
And whose wife soonest comes when he doth call,
And shews herself most loving unto him,
Let him enjoy the wager I have laid?

Now, what say you? dare you adventure thus?

Pol. Ay, were it a thousand pounds, I durst presume
On my wife's love, and I will lay with thee.

Enter Alfonso.

Alfon. How now, sons? What, in conference so hard?
May I, without offence, know whereabouts?
The Taming of a Shrew

Act V, Scene i

Aurel. Faith, father, a weighty cause about our wives,
Five hundred marks already we have laid;
And he whose wife doth show most love to him,
He must enjoy the wager to himself.

Alfon. Why, then, Ferando, he is sure to lose!
I promise thee, son, thy wife will hardly come,
And therefore I would not wish thee lay so much.

Feran. Tush, father, were it ten times more,
I durst adventure on my lovely Kate;
But if I lose, I'll pay; and so shall you.

Aurel. Upon mine honour, if I lose, I'll pay.

Pol. And so will I; upon my faith, I vow.

Feran. Then sit we down and let us send for them.

Alfon. I promise thee, Ferando, I am afraid thou wilt lose.

Aurel. I'll send for my wife first. — Valeria,
Go bid your mistress come to me.

Val. I will, my lord.

[Exit Valeria.]

Aurel. Now for my hundred pound!
Would any lay ten hundred more with me,
I know I should obtain it by her love.

Feran. I pray God you have not laid too much already.

Aurel. Trust me, Ferando, I am sure you have;
For you, I dare presume, have lost it all.

Re-enter Valeria.

Now, sirrah, what says your mistress?

Val. She is something busy, but she'll come anon.

Feran. Why, so. Did I not tell thee this before?
She is busy and cannot come.

Aurel. I pray God your wife send you so good an answer!
She may be busy, yet she says she'll come.

Feran. Well, well! Polidor, send you for your wife.
Agreed! — Boy, desire your mistress to come hither.

Boy. I will, sir.

[Exit Boy.]

Feran. Ay, so, so, he "desires" her to come.

Alfon. Polidor, I dare presume for thee, 
I think thy wife will not deny to come: 
And I do marvel much, Aurelius, 
That your wife came not when you sent for her.

Re-enter the Boy.

Pol. Now where 's your mistress?

Boy. She bad me tell you that she will not come: 
And you have any business, you must come to her.

Feran. Oh, monstrous, intolerable presumption, 
Worse than a blazing star, or snow at midsummer, 
Earthquakes or anything unseasonable! 
She will not come; but he must come to her.

Pol. Well, sir, I pray you, let's hear what answer 
Your wife will make.

Feran. [To Sander] Sirrah, 
Command your mistress to come to me presently.

[Exit Sander.]

Aurel. I think my wife, for all she did not come, 
Will prove most kind, for now I have no fear; 
For I am sure Ferando's wife she will not come.

Feran. The more's the pity; then I must lose.

Enter Kate and Sander.

But I have won, for see where Kate doth come!

Kate. Sweet husband, did you send for me?

Feran. I did, my love, I sent for thee to come: 
Come hither, Kate, what's that upon thy head?

Kate. Nothing, husband, but my cap, I think.
Feran. Pull it off, and tread it under thy feet:
’Tis foolish; I will not have thee wear it.

[She takes off her cap and treads on it.]

Pol. Oh, wonderful metamorphosis!

Aurel. This is a wonder almost past belief!

Feran. This is a token of her true love to me; −
And yet I'll try her further; you shall see; −
Come hither, Kate, where are thy sisters?

Kate. They be sitting in the bridal chamber.

Feran. Fetch them hither; and if they will not come,
Bring them perforce and make them come with thee.

Kate. I will.

[Exit Kate.]

Alfon. I promise thee, Ferando, I would have sworn
Thy wife would ne’er have done so much for thee.

Feran. But you shall see she will do more than this;
For see where she brings her sisters forth by force!

Enter Kate thrusting Philema and Emelia before her,
and makes them come unto their husbands’ call.

Kate. See, husband, I have brought them both.

Feran. ’Tis well done, Kate.

Emel. Ay, sure, and like a loving piece; you’re worthy
To have great praise for this attempt.

Phil. Ay, for making a fool of herself and us.

Aurel. Beshrew thee, Philema, thou hast lost me
A hundred pound to-night;
For I did lay that thou wouldst first have come.

Pol. But thou, Emelia, hast lost me a great deal more.

Emel. You might have kept it better then;
Who bad you lay?

Feran. Now, lovely Kate, before their husbands here,
I prithee tell unto these headstrong women
What duty wives do owe unto their husbands.

Kate. Then you that live thus by your pampered wills,
Now list to me and mark what I shall say:
Th' eternal power that with his only breath,
Shall cause this end and this beginning frame,
Not in time, nor before time, but with time, confused; −
For all the course of years, of ages, months,
Of seasons temperate, of days and hours,
Are tuned and stopped by measure of his hand; −
The first world was a form without a form,
A heap confused, a mixture all deformed,
A gulf of gulfs, a body bodiless,
Where all the elements were orderless,
Before the great Commander of the world,
The King of Kings, the glorious God of Heaven,
Who in six days did frame His heavenly work
And made all things to stand in perfect course:
Then to His image did He make a man,
Old Adam, and from his side asleep
A rib was taken, of which the Lord did make
The woe of man, so termed by Adam then
Wo-man, for that by her came sin to us;
And for her sin was Adam doomed to die.
As Sarah to her husband, so should we
Obey them, love them, keep, and nourish them,
If they by any means do want our helps;
Laying our hands under their feet to tread,
If that by that we might procure their ease;
And for a president I'll first begin
And lay my hand under my husband's feet.

[She lays her hand under her husband's feet.]

Feran. Enough, sweet, the wager thou hast won;
And they, I am sure, cannot deny the same.

Alfon. Ay, Fernando, the wager thou hast won:
And for to shew thee how I am pleased in this,
A hundred pounds I freely give thee more,
Another dowry for another daughter,
For she is not the same she was before.

Feran. Thanks, sweet father; gentlemen, god-night;
For Kate and I will leave you for to-night:
'Tis Kate and I am wed, and you are sped:
And so, farewell, for we will to our beds.

[Exeunt Ferando, Kate, and Sander.]

240

Alfon. Now, Aurelius, what say you to this?

244

Aurel. Believe me, father, I rejoice to see

246

Ferando and his wife so lovingly agree.

248

[Exeunt Aurelius, Philema, Alfonso, and Valeria.]

250

Emel. How now, Polidor, in a dump? What say'st thou, man?

252

Pol. I say thou art a shrew.

254

Emel. That's better than a sheep.

256

Pol. Well, since 'tis done, let it go. Come, let's in.

258

[Exeunt Polidor and Emelia.]
EPILOGUE.

Before the alehouse.

*Enter two bearing of Sly in his own apparel again,*  
*and leave him where they found him,*  
*and then go out.*

*Then enter the Tapster.*

1 *Tap.* Now that the darksome night is overpassed,  
And dawning day appears in crystal sky.  
Now must I haste abroad. – But soft, who's this?  

4 *What, Sly? oh wondrous, hath he lain here all night?*  
I'll wake him; I think he's starved by this,  
But that his belly was so stuffed with ale. –  
*What, how, Sly! Awake for shame!*  

*Sly.* Gi's some more wine! What's all the players gone?  
am not I a lord?  

10 *Tap.* A lord, with a murrain! Come, art thou drunken still?  

14 *Sly.* Who's this? Tapster? Oh, lord, sirrah, I have had  
the bravest dream to-night, that ever thou hearest in  
all thy life!  

18 *Tap.* Ay, marry, but you had best get you home, for  
your wife will course you for dreaming here to-night.  

22 *Sly.* Will she? I know now how to tame a shrew!  
I dreamt upon it all this night till now,  
And thou hast waked me out of the best dream  
That ever I had in my life.  
But I'll to my wife presently  
And tame her too, and if she anger me.  

28 *Tap.* Nay, tarry, Sly, for I'll go home with thee,  
And hear the rest that thou hast dreamt to-night.  

[Exeunt Omnes.]

FINIS.
Optional Textual Changes.

The texts of the Scripts prepared for our website, ElizabethanDrama.org, generally lean towards keeping the language of the plays' earliest editions. Where obvious errors in typography have occurred, the emendations suggested by early and modern editors are usually accepted without comment.

Words and syllables have in some cases been added to the original text; such additions appear within hard brackets [ ], and may be omitted at a director's discretion. Such additions may be made for one of two reasons: (1) where words or syllables have clearly been omitted from the original text by accident, and are needed for a line to make sense; and (2) where words or syllables are added to repair a line's meter.

The text of this Script may be confidently adopted by a theatre group without further revision; however, we present below a list of changes a director may wish to consider, if he or she feels any of them would make the language more sensible, etc. Most of these emendations represent suggestions of later editors of the play, and a few represent restoring original language from the quartos.

Explanations for all these possible emendations can be found in the annotated edition of this play found on our website.

Induction, Scene i:
1. line 33: modernize furder to further.

Induction, Scene ii:
1. line 48: emend the second Simon to Sim.

Act I, Scene i.
1. line 12: modernize renowned to renowned.
2. line 35: modernize key to quay.
3. line 64: emend fettered to fretted.

Act II, Scene i.
1. line 216: omit thee.

Act III, Scene v.
1. lines 105, 107, 110 and 112: modernize a-clock to o'clock.

Act III, Scene vi.
1. line 44: emend dishevered to disheveled.

Act IV, Scene i.
1. line 46: emend Cepherus to Cepheus.

Act V, Scene i.
1. line 29: modernize shews to shows.
2. line 222: modernize president to precedent.
3. line 231: modernize shew to show.
4. line 236: modernize god-night to good night.