

The Taming of the Shrew abbreviated

Act 4, Scene 2

Envy

Situation: As Bianca's teacher of music and mathematics, Hortensio as Litio, sensing all isn't going well between Bianca and himself, asks Tranio as Lucentio to spy inconspicuously on Lucentio as Cambio when he is alone with Bianca. Tranio relates to Hortensio that when Cambio was reading "The Art to Love" to her, she said "and may you prove, sir, master of your art." Receiving such discouraging intelligence, Hortensio decides to give up in his effort to win Bianca.

LUCENTIO AS CAMBIO: While you, sweet dear, prove mistress of my heart.

They move aside, kiss and talk.

HORTENSIO AS LITIO: Now tell me, I pray, you that durst swear that your mistress Bianca loved none in the world so well as Lucentio.

TRANIO AS LUCENTIO: O spiteful love, unconstant womankind! I tell thee, Litio, this is wonderful.

Hortensio to Tranio as Lucentio

Make no mistake my friend, I am neither
Litio nor the musician I here
Seem to be, but one who scorns Cambio,
Living in this disguise, making a god
Of such a dullard. I'm Hortensio.
See how they do kiss. See how beastly odd
She doth court him! I firmly vow never
To woo her again, and do forswear her
As one unworthy of all the former
Favors I've fondly flattered her withal.
I'll be married to a widow before
Three days pass, who hath loved me from my call
Long ago. The kindness of a woman,
Not her looks, shall win the love of this man.

HORTENSIO: So I take my leave, in resolution as I swore before.