

The Taming of the Shrew abbreviated

Act 4, Scene 1

Humor

Situation: Grumio, Petruchio's servant, tells another servant the story of the improbable and annoying events suffered by Petruchio and Katherine on their way to Petruchio's place in the country, when "her horse fell, and she under her horse; thou shouldst have heard in how swampy a place; how he beat me because her horse stumbled, how she waded through the dirt to pluck him off me, how the horses ran away." He further described how discourteous Petruchio was to his servants, once they arrived at his country place, complaining about, among other things, that their dinner "'tis burnt, and so is all the meat."

KATHERINE: I pray you, husband, be not so disquiet. The meat was well, if you were so contented.

PETRUCHIO: I tell thee, Kate, 'twas burnt and dried away, and I expressly am forbid to touch it, for it engenders choler. Be patient. Tomorrow 't shall be mended. Come, I will bring thee to thy bridal chamber.

They exit. The Servants exit separately.

GRUMIO: Where is he?

CURTIS: In her chamber, railing that she knows not which way to stand, to look, to speak. Away, for he is coming hither!

They exit. Petruchio enters.

Petruchio to the Audience

My falcon now is hungry but never
Looks for bait, except to me. She knows her
Keeper's call. She ate no meat today nor
None shall she. She'll sleep not this night after
None last night, some undeserved fault found or
Other measure taken to deny her
Sleep and meat. Amid this agitation
I intend all to be done kindly in
Reverend care of her, not to disturb
Her as she's kept awake all night and frets
With my railing and brawling; thus I'll curb
Her mad and headstrong humor. You who lets
Me know a better way to tame a shrew
Will find me forever grateful to you.