THE TAMING OF THE SHREW

ACT 5

5.1 After Bianca has secretly married Lucentio, Petruchio, Katherine, and Lucentio's father arrive at Lucentio's lodging. They are rebuffed by the Merchant impersonating Vincentio. Vincentio denounces as frauds the Merchant and then Tranio, who turns up still disguised as Lucentio. As Vincentio is about to be carried off to jail by an officer, the true Lucentio arrives with his bride, successfully begs his father's pardon for the secret marriage, and explains the disguises.

10. bears more toward: is closer to

14. cheer is toward: refreshment can be expected

Scene 1 Enter Biondello, Lucentio as himself, and Bianca.

Gremio is out before and stands to the side.

BIONDELLO Softly and swiftly, sir, for the priest is ready.

LUCENTIO I fly, Biondello. But they may chance to need thee at home. Therefore leave us.

BIONDELLO Nay, faith, I'll see the church a' your back, and then come back to my master's as soon as I can.

The exits.

GREMIO I marvel Cambio comes not all this while.

Enter Petruchio, Katherine, Vincentio, Grumio, with Attendants.

PETRUCHIO

Sir, here's the door. This is Lucentio's house.
My father's bears more toward the marketplace.
Thither must I, and here I leave you, sir.

You shall not choose but drink before you go. I think I shall command your welcome here, And by all likelihood some cheer is toward.

 $\lceil He \rceil$ knocks.

10

20, 22. withal: i.e., with

28. frivolous circumstances: i.e., silly details

38. flat: downright

42. under my countenance: i.e., by exploiting my

good name

44. good shipping: i.e., good luck

GREMIO, 「coming forward

They're busy within. You were best knock louder. [Merchant] looks out of the window.

MERCHANT, as VINCENTIO What's he that knocks as he would beat down the gate?

VINCENTIO Is Signior Lucentio within, sir?

MERCHANT, as VINCENTIO He's within, sir, but not to be spoken withal.

VINCENTIO What if a man bring him a hundred pound or two to make merry withal?

MERCHANT, as VINCENTIO Keep your hundred pounds to yourself. He shall need none so long as I live.

PETRUCHIO, To Vincentio Nay, I told you your son was well beloved in Padua. - Do you hear, sir? To leave frivolous circumstances, I pray you tell Signior Lucentio that his father is come from Pisa and is here at the door to speak with him.

MERCHANT, as VINCENTIO Thou liest. His father is come from Padua and here looking out at the window.

VINCENTIO Art thou his father?

MERCHANT, as VINCENTIO Ay, sir, so his mother says, if I may believe her.

PETRUCHIO, to Vincentio Why, how now, gentleman! Why, this is flat knavery, to take upon you another man's name.

MERCHANT, as VINCENTIO Lay hands on the villain. I believe he means to cosen somebody in this city under my countenance.

Enter Biondello.

BIONDELLO, \[\text{aside} \] I have seen them in the church together. God send 'em good shipping! But who is here? Mine old master Vincentio! Now we are undone and brought to nothing.

47. crack-hemp: i.e., rogue (literally, someone who will stretch the hangman's rope)

48. I may choose: i.e., go my own way

67. fine villain: splendidly dressed rogue; doublet: jacket

68. hose: breeches; copatain: high-crowned

69. undone: ruined, destroyed

69-70. play the good husband: i.e., conserve, save

75. habit: clothes

76. 'cerns: i.e., concerns

78. maintain: afford

VINCENTIO, to Biondello Come hither, crack-hemp.
BIONDELLO I hope I may choose, sir.

VINCENTIO Come hither, you rogue! What, have you forgot me?

BIONDELLO Forgot you? No, sir. I could not forget you, for I never saw you before in all my life.

VINCENTIO What, you notorious villain, didst thou never see thy master's father, Vincentio?

BIONDELLO What, my old worshipful old master? Yes, marry, sir. See where he looks out of the window.

VINCENTIO Is't so indeed? He beats Biondello.

BIONDELLO Help, help! Here's a madman will
murder me. Biondello exits.

MERCHANT, as VINCENTIO Help, son! Help, Signior He exits from window.

PETRUCHIO Prithee, Kate, let's stand aside and see the end of this controversy. They move aside.

Enter Merchant with Servants, and Baptista and Tranio disguised as Lucentio.

TRANIO, [as LUCENTIO] Sir, what are you that offer to beat my servant?

VINCENTIO What am I, sir? Nay, what are you, sir! O immortal gods! O fine villain! A silken doublet, a velvet hose, a scarlet cloak, and a copatain hat! O, I am undone, I am undone! While I play the good husband at home, my son and my servant spend all at the university.

TRANIO, as LUCENTIO How now, what's the matter?

BAPTISTA What, is the man lunatic?

TRANIO, as LUCENTIO Sir, you seem a sober ancient gentleman by your habit, but your words show you a madman. Why, sir, what 'cerns it you if I wear pearl and gold? I thank my good father, I am able to maintain it.

110

82. his name: i.e., Tranio's name

95. forthcoming: produced (at the time of his

100-1. cony-catched: deceived and victimized

102. right: true

108. dotard: foolish old man

109. haled: molested

VINCENTIO Thy father! O villain, he is a sailmaker in Bergamo.

BAPTISTA You mistake, sir, you mistake, sir! Pray, what do you think is his name?

VINCENTIO His name? As if I knew not his name! I have brought him up ever since he was three years old, and his name is Tranio.

MERCHANT, as VINCENTIO Away, away, mad ass! His name is Lucentio and he is mine only son, and heir to the lands of me, Signior Vincentio.

VINCENTIO Lucentio? O, he hath murdered his master! Lay hold on him, I charge you in the Duke's name. O, my son, my son! Tell me, thou villain, where is my son Lucentio?

TRANIO, [as LUCENTIO] Call forth an officer.

「Enter an Officer. ¬

Carry this mad knave to the jail.—Father Baptista, I charge you see that he be forthcoming. VINCENTIO Carry me to the jail?

GREMIO Stay, officer. He shall not go to prison. BAPTISTA Talk not, Signior Gremio. I say he shall go to prison.

GREMIO Take heed, Signior Baptista, lest you be cony- 100 catched in this business. I dare swear this is the right Vincentio.

MERCHANT, as VINCENTIO Swear, if thou dar'st. GREMIO Nay, I dare not swear it.

TRANIO, as LUCENTIO Then thou wert best say that I 105 am not Lucentio.

GREMIO Yes, I know thee to be Signior Lucentio. BAPTISTA Away with the dotard, to the jail with him. VINCENTIO Thus strangers may be haled and abused. — O monstrous villain!

Enter Biondello, Lucentio and Bianca.

111. spoiled: ruined

119. Right: true

121. counterfeit supposes: false impersonations; eyne: i.e., eyes

122. packing: plotting, conspiracy; with a witness: i.e., with a vengeance

124. faced and braved: i.e., defied

128. state: status

129. countenance: i.e., position and reputation

131. Unto: i.e., at

AC1 3. SU	. 1
BIONDELLO O, we are spoiled, and yonder he is! De him, forswear him, or else we are all undone. Biondello, Tranio, and Merchar exit as fast as may be lucentio Pardon, sweet father. Lucentio and Bianca kneed vincentio Lives my sweet son?	ıt] e.
BIANCA	
Pardon, dear father.	
	11!
BAPTISTA How hast thou offended? Where is Lucentio?	
Y	
TICLE & LUCERTIO	
Right son to the right Vincentio,	
That have by marriage made thy daughter mine	120
white counterfeit supposes bleared thine eyne	
GREMIO	
Here's packing, with a witness, to deceive us all!	
VINCENTIO	
Where is that damnèd villain, Tranio,	
That faced and braved me in this matter so?	
BAPTISTA	
Why, tell me, is not this my Cambio?	125
BIANCA	125
Cambio is changed into Lucentio.	
LUCENTIO	
Love wrought these miracles. Bianca's love	
Made me exchange my state with Trans	
While he did bear my countenance in the town,	
And happily I have arrived at the last	
Unto the wished haven of my bliss.	130
What Tranio did, myself enforced him to.	
Then pardon him, sweet father, for my sake.	
VINCENTIO I'll slit, the villain's nose that would have	
sent me to the jail!	
BAPTISTA But do you hear din harra	135
BAPTISTA But do you hear, sir, have you married my daughter without asking my goodwill?	,

ACT 5. SC. 2

138-39. Go to!: expression of angry impatience

139. will in: i.e., will go in

143. My cake is dough: proverbial for "I've failed"

144. Out ... but: without hope of anything except

146. ado: fuss

156. Better ... late: Petruchio combines two proverbs-"Better once than never" (i.e., "Better late than never") and "It is never too late to mend."

5.2 Three couples attend the wedding banquet-Lucentio and Bianca, Petruchio and Katherine, and Hortensio and the Widow. Petruchio is repeatedly teased about being married to a shrew. In retaliation Petruchio wagers with Lucentio and Hortensio that if they all summon their wives to them, his Katherine will be the most obedient in responding. When Bianca and the Widow refuse to come at all and Katherine promptly appears, Petruchio wins, and then he sends Katherine to bring the other wives to their husbands. When they return, Petruchio tells Katherine to instruct the other wives in their wifely duty. Katherine delivers a long speech in praise of women's submission to their husbands. Petruchio kisses Katherine, and they go off to bed.

0 SD. banquet: dessert and wine 1. At last, though long: i.e., at long last VINCENTIO Fear not, Baptista, we will content you. Go to! But I will in to be revenged for this villainy.

He exits. BAPTISTA And I to sound the depth of this knavery.

He exits. LUCENTIO Look not pale, Bianca. Thy father will not frown. They exit. GREMIO

My cake is dough, but I'll in among the rest, Out of hope of all but my share of the feast.

「He exits. ┐ KATHERINE Husband, let's follow to see the end of this ado.

PETRUCHIO First kiss me, Kate, and we will. What, in the midst of the street? KATHERINE PETRUCHIO What, art thou ashamed of me?

No, sir, God forbid, but ashamed to kiss. 15 KATHERINE PETRUCHIO

Why, then, let's home again. To Grumio. Come. sirrah, let's away.

KATHERINE

Nay, I will give thee a kiss. She kisses him. Now pray thee, love, stay,

Is not this well? Come, my sweet Kate. Better once than never, for never too late.

They exit.

15.

「Scene 27

Enter Baptista, Vincentio, Gremio, the Merchant, Lucentio, and Bianca; [Hortensio] and [the] Widow. 「Petruchio and Katherine; Tranio, Biondello, 「and T Grumio, \(\text{with} \) Servingmen bringing in a banquet.

LUCENTIO

At last, though long, our jarring notes agree,

25

3. 'scapes: i.e., escapes; overblown: i.e., past

10. great good cheer: i.e., the wedding feast

15. would: wish

16. fears: is afraid of (She takes fears to mean "frightens.")

17. afeard: afraid

21. Roundly: bluntly

23. Thus I conceive by him: i.e., I come to this understanding through observing him

And time it is when raging war is fdone? To smile at 'scapes and perils overblown. My fair Bianca, bid my father welcome, While I with selfsame kindness welcome thine. Brother Petruchio, sister Katherina, And thou, Hortensio, with thy loving widow, Feast with the best, and welcome to my house. My banquet is to close our stomachs up After our great good cheer. Pray you, sit down, 10 For now we sit to chat as well as eat. 「They sit. ¬ PETRUCHIO Nothing but sit and sit, and eat and eat! BAPTISTA Padua affords this kindness, son Petruchio. PETRUCHIO Padua affords nothing but what is kind. HORTENSIO For both our sakes I would that word were true. Now, for my life, Hortensio fears his widow! WIDOW Then never trust me if I be afeard. PETRUCHIO You are very sensible, and yet you miss my sense: I mean Hortensio is afeard of you. WIDOW He that is giddy thinks the world turns round. 20 PETRUCHIO Roundly replied. KATHERINE Mistress, how mean you that? WIDOW Thus I conceive by him. PETRUCHIO Conceives by me? How likes Hortensio that?

My widow says, thus she conceives her tale.

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HORTENSIO

30. his: i.e., his own (Petruchio's)

34. mean...you: (1) temperate compared to you; (2) nasty, where you are concerned

37. marks: i.e., coins (A "mark" was worth 13 shillings.); put her down: defeat her

38. office: duty, privilege (Hortensio takes "put her down" in the sexual sense.)

39. Ha' to: i.e., here's to

41. butt together: knock heads

42. body: i.e., person

43. horn: symbol of a cuckold

47. Have at you for: i.e., I challenge you to

ACI 3, SC. 2	
PETRUCHIO	•
Very well mended. Kiss him for that, good widow.	
KATHERINE	
"He that is giddy thinks the world turns round"-	
I pray you tell me what you meant by that.	
WIDOW	
Your husband being troubled with a shrew	
Measures my husband's sorrow by his woe.	7.
And now you know my meaning.	30
KATHERINE	
A very mean meaning.	
widow Right, I mean you.	
KATHERINE	
And I am mean indeed, respecting you.	
PETRUCHIO To her, Kate!	35
HORTENSIO To her, widow!	
PETRUCHIO	
A hundred marks, my Kate does put her down.	
HORTENSIO That's my office.	
PETRUCHIO	
Spoke like an officer! Ha' to thee, lad.	
「He ^T drinks to Hortensio,	
BAPTISTA	
How likes Gremio these quick-witted folks?	40
GREMIO	
Believe me, sir, they butt together well.	
BIANCA	
Head and butt! An hasty-witted body	
Would say your head and butt were head and horn.	
VINCENTIO	
Ay, mistress bride, hath that awakened you?	
BIANCA	
Ay, but not frighted me. Therefore I'll sleep again.	45
PETRUCHIO	-

Nay, that you shall not. Since you have begun,

Have at you for a bitter jest or two.

48. bird: i.e., target

51. prevented me: stopped me in advance

53. health: toast

54. slipped: loosed

56. something: i.e., somewhat

58. deer ... bay: The image is perhaps of the cornered animal defending itself against the attacking hounds; or, perhaps, Tranio is picturing Kate as a deer cornering the hunter.

60. gird: biting remark

62. galled: scratched, irritated

65. in good sadness: i.e., seriously

66. veriest shrew: i.e., shrew in the truest sense, the most complete shrew

67. for assurance: i.e., to put it to the test

BIANCA	
Am I your bird? I mean to shift my bush,	
And then pursue me as you draw your bow.—	
You are welcome all.	
Bianca, Katherine, and the Widow exit.	5(
PETRUCHIO	
She hath prevented me. Here, Signior Tranio,	
This bird you aimed at, though you hit her not.—	
Therefore a health to all that shot and missed.	
TRANIO	
O, sir, Lucentio slipped me like his greyhound,	
Which runs himself and catches for his master.	_
PETRUCHIO	55
A good swift simile, but something currish.	
TRANIO	
Tis well, sir, that you hunted for yourself.	
Tis thought your deer does hold you at a bay.	
BAPTISTA	
O, O, Petruchio! Tranio hits you now.	
LUCENTIO	
I thank thee for that gird, good Tranio.	
HORTENSIO	60
Confess, confess! Hath he not hit you here?	
PETRUCHIO	
He has a little galled me, I confess.	
And as the jest did glance away from me,	
Tis ten to one it maimed you two outright.	
BAPTISTA	
Now, in good sadness, son Petruchio,	65
I think thou hast the veriest shrew of all.	00
PETRUCHIO	
Well, I say no. And therefore, for assurance,	
Let's each one send unto his wife.	
And he whose wife is most obedient	
To come at first when he doth send for her	70
Shall win the wager which we will propose.	70

75. of: i.e., on

84. be your half: assume half your bet

96. forthwith: immediately

HORTENSIO Content, what's the wager? LUCENTIO Twenty crowns. PETRUCHIO Twenty crowns? I'll venture so much of my hawk or hound, 75 But twenty times so much upon my wife. LUCENTIO A hundred, then. HORTENSIO Content. PETRUCHIO A match! 'Tis done. HORTENSIO Who shall begin? 80 LUCENTIO That will I. Go, Biondello, bid your mistress come to me. BIONDELLO I go. He exits. BAPTISTA Son, I'll be your half Bianca comes. LUCENTIO I'll have no halves. I'll bear it all myself. 85 Enter Biondello How now, what news? BIONDELLO Sir, my mistress sends you word That she is busy, and she cannot come. PETRUCHIO How? "She's busy, and she cannot come"? 90 Is that an answer? GREMIO Ay, and a kind one, too. Pray God, sir, your wife send you not a worse. PETRUCHIO I hope better. HORTENSIO Sirrah Biondello, go and entreat my wife 95 To come to me forthwith. Biondello exits. PETRUCHIO O ho, entreat her!

Nay, then, she must needs come.

ACT 5. SC. 2

100

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115

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112. holidam: a confusion of "holidom," meaning a relic or the state of holiness, with "holidame," or the Virgin Mary

116. deny: i.e., refuse

117. Swinge me them: beat them

118. straight: immediately

119. wonder: miracle

120. bodes: foretells, presages

HORTENSIO I am afraid, sir,
Do what you can, yours will not be entreated.

Enter Biondello

Now, where's my wife?
BIONDELLO
She says you have some goodly jest in hand.
She will not come. She bids you come to her.
PETRUCHIO Worse and worse. She will not come!

O vile, intolerable, not to be endured!—
Sirrah Grumio, go to your mistress,
Say I command her come to me.

Grumio exits.

Say I command her come to me. Grumio exits.

I know her answer.

PETRUCHIO What?

HORTENSIO She will not. PETRUCHIO

The fouler fortune mine, and there an end.

Enter Katherine.

BAPTISTA

Now by my holidam, here comes Katherina! KATHERINE

What is your will, sir, that you send for me? PETRUCHIO

Where is your sister, and Hortensio's wife? KATHERINE

They sit conferring by the parlor fire.
PETRUCHIO

Go fetch them hither. If they deny to come, Swinge me them soundly forth unto their husbands. Away, I say, and bring them hither straight.

Katherine exits.

LUCENTIO

Here is a wonder, if you talk of a wonder.

And so it iş. I wonder what it bodes.

130

140

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122. awful rule: rule by commanding respect or awe; right: proper

123. what not: i.e., anything and everything

124. fair befall thee: i.e., good fortune come to you

128. as: i.e., as though

132. froward: perverse

136. bauble: showy trifle

137. cause: reason

138. pass: state of affairs

139. duty: obedience

143. laying: betting

PETRUCHIO
Marry, peace it bodes, and love, and quiet life,
An awful rule, and right supremacy,
And to be all right supremacy,
And, to be short, what not that's sweet and happy.
BAPTISTA
Now fair befall thee, good Petruchio!
The wager thou hast won, and I will add
Unto their losses twenty thousand crowns.
Another dowry to another daughter.
For she is changed as she had never been.
PETRUCHIO
Nay, I will win my wager better yet,
And show more sign of her obedience,
Her new-built virtue and obedience

Enter Katherine, Bianca, and Widow.

See where she comes, and brings your froward wives

As prisoners to her womanly persuasion.—
Katherine, that cap of yours becomes you not.
Off with that bauble, throw it underfoot.

She obeys.

WIDOW

Lord, let me never have a cause to sigh Till I be brought to such a silly pass.

Fie, what a foolish duty call you this?

I would your duty were as foolish too.
The wisdom of your duty, fair Bianca,

Hath cost me a hundred crowns since suppertime.

The more fool you for laying on my duty.

Katherine, I charge thee tell these headstrong women

What duty they do owe their lords and husbands.

175

155. meads: meadows

156. **Confounds thy fame:** i.e., spoils your reputation

157. meet: appropriate

158. moved: angry

159, ill-seeming: unbecoming

162–70. Thy husband...debt: See Paul's Letter to the Ephesians 5.22–28 ("Wives, submit yourselves unto your husbands,... for the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the Church..."). In the Geneva Bible, the marginal gloss adds "So the husband ought to nourish, govern, and defend his wife from perils."

166. To watch: i.e., to keep watch throughout

168. at: i.e., from

171-76. **Such duty...lord:** See 1 Peter 2.13-3.7: "Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake: whether it be to the king... or unto governors... Likewise, ye wives, be in subjection to your own husbands...."

177. simple: foolish

WIDOW

Come, come, you're mocking. We will have no telling.

PETRUCHIO

Come on, I say, and first begin with her. widow She shall not.

PETRUCHIO

I say she shall.—And first begin with her.

What is she but a foul contending rebel

And graceless traitor to her loving lord?

I am ashamed that women are so simple

To offer war where they should kneel for peace,

KATHERINE

Fie, fie! Unknit that threat'ning unkind brow, And dart not scornful glances from those eyes To wound thy lord, thy king, thy governor. It blots thy beauty as frosts do bite the meads, 155 Confounds thy fame as whirlwinds shake fair buds, And in no sense is meet or amiable. A woman moved is like a fountain troubled, Muddy, ill-seeming, thick, bereft of beauty, And while it is so, none so dry or thirsty 160 Will deign to sip or touch one drop of it. Thy husband is thy lord, thy life, thy keeper, Thy head, thy sovereign, one that cares for thee, And for thy maintenance commits his body To painful labor both by sea and land, 165 To watch the night in storms, the day in cold, Whilst thou liest warm at home, secure and safe, And craves no other tribute at thy hands But love, fair looks, and true obedience-Too little payment for so great a debt. 170 Such duty as the subject owes the prince, Even such a woman oweth to her husband; And when she is froward, peevish, sullen, sour, And not obedient to his honest will.

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179. sway: power

182. Unapt: unsuited

183. conditions: qualities

185. unable: helpless

186. big: self-important

187. heart: courage

188. bandy: exchange; literally, hit back and forth

190. as weak: i.e., as weak as straws; past compare: beyond comparison

192. vail your stomachs: i.e., subdue your pride; no boot: i.e., bootless, futile

195. may it: i.e., if it may

197. ha't: have it (i.e., you win)

198. a good hearing: i.e., good to hear; toward: compliant, cooperative

201. We three: i.e., Petruchio, Hortensio, Lucentio; sped: done for

203. **the white:** the bull's eye (i.e., won the woman prized by all, Bianca, whose name in Italian means "white")

204. God: i.e., I pray God to



Hitting "the white." (5.2.203) From Gilles Corrozet, Hecatongraphie . . . (1543).

220

Or seek for rule, supremacy, and sway When they are bound to serve, love, and obey. Why are our bodies soft and weak and smooth, 180 Unapt to toil and trouble in the world, But that our soft conditions and our hearts Should well agree with our external parts? Come, come, you froward and unable worms! 185 My mind hath been as big as one of yours, My heart as great, my reason haply more, To bandy word for word and frown for frown; But now I see our lances are but straws, Our strength as weak, our weakness past compare, 190 That seeming to be most which we indeed least are. Then vail your stomachs, for it is no boot, And place your hands below your husband's foot; In token of which duty, if he please, My hand is ready, may it do him ease. 195 Why, there's a wench! Come on, and kiss me, Kate. $\lceil They\ kiss. \rceil$ LUCENTIO Well, go thy ways, old lad, for thou shalt ha 't. VINCENTIO Tis a good hearing when children are toward. LUCENTIO

But a harsh hearing when women are froward.
PETRUCHIO Come, Kate, we'll to bed.

We three are married, but you two are sped.

To Lucentio. Twas I won the wager, though you hit the white,

And being a winner, God give you good night.

Petruchio and Katherine exit.

HORTENSIO

Now, go thy ways, thou hast tamed a curst shrow.

Tis a wonder, by your leave, she will be tamed so.

They exit.