

3 Bianca / Katherine / Baptista

ACT 2

Scene 1

Enter Katherine and Bianca with her hands tied.

BIANCA

Good sister, wrong me not, nor wrong yourself,
To make a bondmaid and a slave of me.
That I disdain. But for these other goods—
Unbind my hands, I'll pull them off myself,
Yea, all my raiment to my petticoat,
Or what you will command me will I do,
So well I know my duty to my elders.

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KATHERINE

Of all thy suitors here I charge thee tell
Whom thou lov'st best. See thou dissemble not.

BIANCA

Believe me, sister, of all the men alive
I never yet beheld that special face
Which I could fancy more than any other.

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KATHERINE

Minion, thou liest. Is 't not Hortensio?

BIANCA

If you affect him, sister, here I swear
I'll plead for you myself, but you shall have him.

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KATHERINE

O, then belike you fancy riches more.
You will have Gremio to keep you fair.

73

75 The Taming of the Shrew ACT 2. SC. 1

BIANCA

Is it for him you do envy me so?
Nay, then, you jest, and now I well perceive
You have but jested with me all this while. 20
I prithee, sister Kate, untie my hands.
Katherine strikes her.

KATHERINE

If that be jest, then all the rest was so.

Enter Baptista.

BAPTISTA

Why, how now, dame, whence grows this
insolence?—
Bianca, stand aside.—Poor girl, she weeps! 25

He unties her hands.

To Bianca. Go ply thy needle; meddle not with her.
To Katherine. For shame, thou hilding of a devilish
spirit!

Why dost thou wrong her that did ne'er wrong
thee? 30

When did she cross thee with a bitter word?

KATHERINE

Her silence flouts me, and I'll be revenged!
She flies after Bianca.

BAPTISTA

What, in my sight?—Bianca, get thee in.
Bianca exits.

KATHERINE

What, will you not suffer me? Nay, now I see
She is your treasure, she must have a husband, 35
I must dance barefoot on her wedding day
And, for your love to her, lead apes in hell.
Talk not to me. I will go sit and weep
Till I can find occasion of revenge. She exits.

BAPTISTA

Was ever gentleman thus grieved as I?
But who comes here? 40