

5

Petruchio / Katherine

87

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

PETRUCHIO

I pray you do. I'll attend her here—

*All but Petruchio exit.*

And woo her with some spirit when she comes!

Say that she rail, why then I'll tell her plain

She sings as sweetly as a nightingale.

Say that she frown, I'll say she looks as clear

180

As morning roses newly washed with dew.

Say she be mute and will not speak a word,

Then I'll commend her volubility

And say she uttereth piercing eloquence.

If she do bid me pack, I'll give her thanks

185

As though she bid me stay by her a week.

If she deny to wed, I'll crave the day

When I shall ask the banns, and when be married.

But here she comes—and now, Petruchio, speak.

*Enter Katherine*

Good morrow, Kate, for that's your name, I hear.

190

KATHERINE

Well have you heard, but something hard of hearing.

They call me Katherine that do talk of me.

PETRUCHIO

You lie, in faith, for you are called plain Kate,

And bonny Kate, and sometimes Kate the curst.

But Kate, the prettiest Kate in Christendom,

195

Kate of Kate Hall, my super-dainty Kate

(For dainties are all Kates)—and therefore, Kate,

Take this of me, Kate of my consolation:

Hearing thy mildness praised in every town,

Thy virtues spoke of, and thy beauty sounded

200

(Yet not so deeply as to thee belongs),

Myself am moved to woo thee for my wife.

KATHERINE

"Moved," in good time! Let him that moved you  
hither

89

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

Remove you hence. I knew you at the first  
You were a movable.

205

PETRUCHIO

Why, what's a movable?

KATHERINE

A joint stool.

PETRUCHIO

Thou hast hit it. Come, sit on me.

KATHERINE

Asses are made to bear, and so are you.

210

PETRUCHIO

Women are made to bear, and so are you.

KATHERINE

No such jade as you, if me you mean.

PETRUCHIO

Alas, good Kate, I will not burden thee,  
For knowing thee to be but young and light—

KATHERINE

Too light for such a swain as you to catch,  
And yet as heavy as my weight should be.

215

PETRUCHIO

"Should be"—should buzz!

KATHERINE

Well ta'en, and like a

buzzard.

PETRUCHIO

O slow-winged turtle, shall a buzzard take thee?

220

KATHERINE

Ay, for a turtle, as he takes a buzzard.

PETRUCHIO

Come, come, you wasp! I' faith, you are too angry.

KATHERINE

If I be waspish, best beware my sting.

PETRUCHIO

My remedy is then to pluck it out.

KATHERINE

Ay, if the fool could find it where it lies.

225

PETRUCHIO

Who knows not where a wasp does wear his sting?  
In his tail.

KATHERINE In his tongue.

PETRUCHIO Whose tongue?

KATHERINE

Yours, if you talk of tales, and so farewell.

PETRUCHIO What, with my tongue in your tail? 230

Nay, come again, good Kate. I am a gentleman—

KATHERINE That I'll try. *She strikes him.*

PETRUCHIO

I swear I'll cuff you if you strike again.

KATHERINE So may you lose your arms. 235

If you strike me, you are no gentleman,  
And if no gentleman, why then no arms.

PETRUCHIO

A herald, Kate? O, put me in thy books.

KATHERINE What is your crest? A coxcomb?

PETRUCHIO

A combless cock, so Kate will be my hen. 240

KATHERINE

No cock of mine. You crow too like a craven.

PETRUCHIO

Nay, come, Kate, come. You must not look so sour.

KATHERINE

It is my fashion when I see a crab.

PETRUCHIO

Why, here's no crab, and therefore look not sour.

KATHERINE There is, there is. 245

PETRUCHIO

Then show it me.

KATHERINE Had I a glass, I would.

PETRUCHIO What, you mean my face?

KATHERINE Well aimed of such a young one.

PETRUCHIO

Now, by Saint George, I am too young for you. 250