

Can be but brief, for I have made him know
I have a servant comes with me along,
45 That stays upon me, whose persuasion is
I come about my brother.

DUKE 'Tis well borne up,
I have not yet made known to Mariana
A word of this.— What ho, within! Come forth!

Enter Mariana

50 I pray you be acquainted with this maid,
She comes to do you good.

ISABELLA I do desire the like.

DUKE Do you persuade yourself that I respect you?

MARIANA Good friar, I know you do, and have found it.

55 DUKE Take, then, this your companion by the haud,
Who hath a story ready for your ear.
I shall attend your leisure, but make haste,
The vaporous night approaches.

MARIANA Will't please you walk aside?

Exit [Mariana with Isabella]

60 DUKE O place and greatness! Millions of false eyes
Are stuck upon thee: volumes of report
Run with these false and most contrarious quests
Upon thy doings, thousand escapes of wit
Make thee the father of their idle dream
65 And rack thee in their fancies.

Enter Mariana and Isabella

Welcome, how agreed?

ISABELLA She'll take the enterprise upon her, father,
If you advise it.

DUKE It is not my consent,

70 But my entreaty too.

45 stays upon attends persuasion belief 47 borne up sustained, managed 52 like same
54 have found it have experience of it 57 attend your leisure wait for you until you are ready
60 place status, position false treacherous 61 stuck fixed report rumor 62 quests . . .
doings inquiries into your business 63 escapes outbursts 64 father . . . dream source of
their delusion 65 rack torment/distort fancies imaginations 69 It . . . too I not only
agree to it, but beg you to do it

ISABELLA Little have you to say
When you depart from him, but, soft and low,
'Remember now my brother.'

MARIANA Fear me not.

75 DUKE Nor, gentle daughter, fear you not at all.

He is your husband on a pre-contract:
To bring you thus together 'tis no sin,
Sith that the justice of your title to him
Doth flourish the deceit. Come, let us go:

80 Our corn's to reap, for yet our tithe's to sow. *Exeunt*

Act 4 Scene 2

running scene 10

Enter Provost and Clown [Pompey]

START PROVOST Come hither, sirrah. Can you cut off a man's head?
POMPEY If the man be a bachelor, sir, I can. But if he be a
married man, he's his wife's head, and I can never cut off a
woman's head.

PROVOST Come, sir, leave me your snatches, and yield me a
direct answer. Tomorrow morning are to die Claudio and
Barnardine. Here is in our prison a common executioner, who
in his office lacks a helper: if you will take it on you to assist
him, it shall redeem you from your gyves: if not, you shall have
10 your full time of imprisonment and your deliverance with an
unpitted whipping, for you have been a notorious bawd.

END

POMPEY Sir, I have been an unlawful bawd time out of mind,
but yet I will be content to be a lawful hangman. I would be
glad to receive some instruction from my fellow partner.

71 Little . . . say say little 76 pre-contract betrothal, a binding contract 78 Sith since
title claim 79 flourish adorn, render attractive 80 Our . . . sow we have yet to reap the
harvest for we have not sown the seed tithe a tenth of the crop, due to the Church (some
editors emend to "tilth," plowed field) 4.2 Location: Vienna 3 head master (the
sense then shifts to pun on "maidenhead"—i.e. virginity) 5 leave . . . snatches leave out
your quibbles 7 common public 9 redeem release gyves shackles, ankle letters
10 deliverance release 11 unpitted relentless, merciless 12 time . . . mind for longer than I
can remember