

Pericles abbreviated

Act 4, Scene 6

Persuasion

Situation: Lysimachus, Mytilene's governor, has given Marina enough money and gold to buy her freedom. He is visiting the brothel. Bawd, the brothel's madam, upset, having received no revenue from Marina's activities, tells Bolt, her servant, to "take her away." Marina lets Bolt know that he should find a better occupation and that he should help her find a job as a teacher.

Bawd and Pander exit.

BOLT: Come, mistress, come your way with me.

MARINA: Prithee, tell me one thing first. What canst thou wish thine enemy to be?

BOLT: Why, I could wish him to be my master, or rather, my mistress.

Marina to Bolt

Neither of these is so bad as thou art.
The most pained'st fiend of hell would not part
With his reputation for yours. Just what
Are you to every base fellow who calls
Here for his strumpet? Do anything but
This. Empty old trash bins; clean the duke's stalls;
Serve as an apprentice to the hangman.
But for thy soul, do something else you can.
Here, here's gold for thee that the gods might at
Their mercies deliver me. Thy master
Could profit by me by proclaiming that
I can sing, weave, sew and dance, with better
Virtues I'll keep from boast. I'll plan to teach.
We should have many pupils here to reach.

BOLT: But can you teach all this you speak of?

MARINA: Prove that I cannot.

BOLT: Well, I will see what I can do for thee. If I can place thee, I will