

The Taming of the Shrew abbreviated

Act 1, Scene 2.2

Confidence

Situation: Lucentio has now disguised himself as Cambio, a schoolmaster, hoping to get closer to the beautiful Bianca, taking his cue from the moment when she had said “sister, content you in my discontent. My books and instruments shall be my company.” Hortensio, having overheard the same comment, disguises himself as Litio, a “fine musician to instruct our mistress.” In a reality check, Gremio asks Hortensio, as he refers to Katherine at the time he introduces her to Petruchio, “have you told him all her faults?”

PETRUCHIO: I know she is an irksome, brawling scold. If that be all, masters, I hear no harm.

GREMIO: No? Sayst me so, friend? What countryman?

PETRUCHIO: Born in Verona, old Antonio's son. My father dead, my fortune lives for me.

GREMIO: Oh, sir, such a life with such a wife were strange. But will you woo this wildcat?

Petruchio to Gremio

Will I live? Why came I hither but to
That intent? What do you think I am? You
Think a little din can daunt mine ears? I
Have heard pow'rful ordnance in the field
And heaven's artillery in the sky.
Now listen men, if you will. Would I yield
To this brawling scold, having in my time
Heard the sea, puffed up with angry winds, whine
Like a boar chafed with sweat? Mine's a tough soul
Having heard lions roar and cats harangue
The moon. Have I not in a pitched battle
Heard loud 'larms, neighing steeds and trumpets clang?
A woman's tongue is not half the crier
As is a chestnut in a farmer's fire.

GREMIO: Hortensio, hark. This gentleman is happily arrived, for his own good and yours.

HORTENSIO: I promised we would be contributors and bear his charge of wooing whatsoever.

GREMIO: And so we will, provided that he win her.