

The Shakespeare Theatre Company
AUDITION SIDES – THE DOG IN THE MANGER

ANARDA

Side 1 of 2

DIANA. Anarda.

ANARDA. My lady.

DIANA. Who was it?

ANARDA. Who?

DIANA. Don't think I don't know your game.

He bribed his way in, to see me.

Who betrayed me?

ANARDA. No one betrayed you.

There's not one of us who would dare.

You don't understand.

DIANA. Understand?

[*silence*] It wasn't me he came to see.

It was one of you!

ANARDA. My lady,

your indignation is proper

and though I am Marcela's friend,

I have to be honest with you.

There is a man in love with her,

and I believe she was with him,

though who he is, I don't know.

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DIANA. You've told me that she stole the sheep.

No point in denying the lamb.

ANARDA. Why torture me for her secret?

Some women may gossip, I don't.

He comes for Marcela, not you,

And it hasn't gone beyond talking.

You can calm down. There's no harm done.

DIANA. No harm done! My reputation?

An affair, going on, under my roof!

I am an unmarried woman!

If my father were still alive,

he'd have his head off his shoulders.

ANARDA. Let me explain, please...he's no stranger...

I mean the man that comes to see her

Doesn't really *come* to see her.

So no one's honour's put at risk.

DIANA. He's a servant, then?

ANARDA. My lady.

DIANA. Who?

ANARDA. Teodoro.

DIANA. That's absurd.

Teodoro's my secretary.

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ANARDA. They talk; that's all I know.

DIANA. They talk...
That's all, Anarda.

ANARDA. My lady,
be calm, I beg you.

DIANA. That will do!

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ANARDA

Side 2 of 2

DIANA. I will not be scolded like this.

ANARDA. With all due respect, my lady,
what you've said, I don't understand.
May I speak?

DIANA. You may.

ANARDA. My lady,
I say this out of love for you.
Your two suitors you've just sent home...
You're colder than Artemis,
more intolerant than Lucretia.
She who disdains ends up disdained.
The Marquis and Count adore you.
Yet you treat them like untouchables.

DIANA. I'm tired of listening to you.

ANARDA. But who are you going to marry?
The Marquis is rich beyond desire,
and a very powerful man.
And Federico, your cousin,
any woman would die for him.
Yet you dismiss them out of hand.

DIANA. One's insane, the other a fool,

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ANARDA. Women love monsters of all kinds:

Pasiphae was in love with a bull;
Semiamis her horse; and others
so beyond belief I dare not say...
What harm's there in loving a man?

DIANA. I fell in love. I can fall out.

And that will be an end to it.

ANARDA. An end? As easily as that?

DIANA. If I turn my mind to it, yes.

I have no wish to be in love.
So I won't.