

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

when I was only her cousin.

[The Marquis RICARDO and CELIO appear]

FEDERICO. Not Ricardo!

LEONIDO. Yes it is.

FEDERICO. *Quelle surprise.*

LEONIDO. He certainly looks the part today.

FEDERICO. What do you mean?

LEONIDO. He's well turned out.

FEDERICO. You sound more jealous than me.

LEONIDO. You?
You're jealous?

FEDERICO. Yes!

LEONIDO. I didn't know.
Jealous of what? She loves no one.

FEDERICO. Jealous she might go and choose him:
she is a woman after all.

LEONIDO. But so vain she detests you all,
equally.

FEDERICO. Beauty is arrogant!

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LEONIDO. But disdain is its ugly face...

I think that's them coming out now.

FEDERICO. The sun!

LEONIDO. Now's your chance.

FEDERICO. The dawn!

LEONIDO. Say something.

*[Enter DIANA, accompanied by all her servants,
except TRISTAN. She sweeps by]*

FEDERICO. I've been waiting here,
hoping we might happen to meet.

DIANA. Count Federico, how very kind. *[turns to RICARDO]*
Marquis Ricardo.

FEDERICO. There... she's as good as chosen him

LEONIDO. Make her change her mind. Say something!

FEDERICO. Why would a man speak, Leonido,
when he knows no one's listening?

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FEDERICO

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RICARDO. You saw her?

FEDERICO. Yes.

RICARDO. Actually strike him?

FEDERICO. For a lady of her standing
to strike a man in the face,
well, let's say it doesn't quite add up.
And he's been swaggering about
the place lately like a peacock.

RICARDO. She's a woman... but he's a servant.

FEDERICO. Heading for trouble, both of them.
Perhaps I didn't see what I saw.
But he dresses like a gentleman now,
with horses and servants galore.
Diana's given her peacock wings.
He has all the trappings of favour.

RICARDO. Such ostentation comes at a price.
If we choose to stand idly by,
all Naples will be whispering.
It is an offence to your name.
Whether it's true or not, he dies.

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FEDERICO. He must. We've no choice. But how?

RICARDO. Naples isn't short of cut-throats,
vermin who'd kill their mothers for gold.
All we have to do is find one.

FEDERICO. I beg you then, do it quickly!

RICARDO. We shall punish his impudence.
We'll do it today.

FEDERICO. Those men coming...
are they cut-throats?

RICARDO. Absolutely.

FEDERICO. Then the heavens are on our side.