

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

**LUDOVICO**

Side 1 of 2

CAMILO. I know that this is delicate.

Your estate must be safeguarded,  
and the only way's through an heir.

LUDOVICO. The years, young man, are not our friends,

and with every year that passes,  
I grow less inclined to re-marry.  
Caution, I think, is the better judge.  
What if I were to take a wife  
and not father a son? What then?  
I'd still be married, and an old man  
doesn't lie easy with a young wife,  
like green ivy clinging to an elm  
so while he withers, his wife thrives.  
I had a son and I lost him.  
And not one day has gone by  
without me thinking about him.  
He might be alive and married.  
Or he might be dead and long gone.

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**LUDOVICO**

Side 2 of 2

LUDOVICO. My dear Diana, forgive me  
for bustling into your home like this.  
Our acquaintance is limited,  
a source of constant regret for me,  
but my news won't brook formality.

DIANA. Count Ludovico...

LUDOVICO. Surely you've heard?  
The whole of Naples is agog.

DIANA. Heard?

LUDOVICO. Everyone I saw stopped me.  
I thought I'd never get to see him.

DIANA. See who?

LUDOVICO. My son!

DIANA. Your son!

LUDOVICO. You don't know?  
Have you never heard my story?  
How twenty years ago I sent  
my son, with his uncle to Malta,  
and his ship was taken by Turks?

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DIANA. Count Ludovico, what's happened?

LUDOVICO. Fortune that played so bitter a trick  
has turned her smile on me at last.  
My son has been brought back to me!

DIANA. Thank you for bringing me the news.

LUDOVICO. You may bring me my son, in exchange.  
He's a servant in this household,  
with no knowledge of who he is.  
If only his mother, God rest her,  
were still alive...

DIANA. My servant? Fabio?

LUDOVICO. No, no, not Fabio. Teodoro!

DIANA. Teodoro!

LUDOVICO. Yes, Teodoro.

TEODORO. Me?

DIANA. Teodoro, is this true?

LUDOVICO. That's him?

TEODORO. My lord, I think that...



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DIANA. My lord, may I offer a suggestion?

Perhaps Teodoro should stay here,  
until he's gathered his thoughts.  
He's dressed more like a wayfarer  
than a gentleman of such good name.

LUDOVICO. You are quite right, of course. Thank you.

There are so many people waiting.  
I must go and tell them the news.  
I ask one thing: before nightfall,  
let him come to me. To his home.

DIANA. You have my word.

LUDOVICO.                      Goodbye, Teodoro.  
My son.

TEODORO.        I kiss your feet. My lord.

LUDOVICO. Camilo, were I to die now,  
I'd die happy.

CAMILO.                      He's a fine boy.  
I can see your spirit in him.

LUDOVICO. I'm terrified that I'll wake up.