

# The Twin Captains

A Commedia

Written by the Golden Stag Players  
based on a Scenario by Flaminio Scala  
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## CHARACTERS IN THE PLAY

### Character

Pantalone, a Venetian  
Flaminia, his daughter  
Columbina, his servant<sup>2</sup>

Doctor Gratiano  
Isabella, his daughter  
Franceschina, his servant

Oratio, a gentleman (ends up with Flaminia)

Fiorinetta, owner of the inn<sup>3</sup>

Captain Spavento  
Trivilino, his servant<sup>4</sup>  
Flavio, his friend<sup>5</sup>

The Stranger-Captain, twin brother of Captain Spavento  
Arlecchino, his servant

(Camilla – the “Placard Lady”)

### Mask<sup>1</sup> Original Cast

\* Seamus Padraig O’Baioigheallain  
Original Nightshade

\* Teresa le Marchant

\* Robyn MacLaren  
Joanna Melissa Ronsivalle  
\* Margrethe Astrid Ravn

Kæll of the Broken Tower

\* Anne of Ockham

\* Juan Santiago  
\* Wulfric of Creigull  
\* Michael of Worcester

\* Iricus le Ferur  
\* Charles Ravenstone (Bonefinder)

Aldith Angharad St. George)

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<sup>1</sup> The decision on which characters get masks comes from a variety of sources. The difficulty only lies in the female zanni, as in some books, descriptions state that they *had* masks, but few books give any examples, and those are usually the “old hag” type characters. We decided to go with fairly generic masks for the female zanni, and for Fiorinetta.

<sup>2</sup> Additional Character – not in original Scenario – no servant for Flaminia? We wanted more catfights, what can I say ...?

<sup>3</sup> Original Character was “Pedrolino” – the GSP has more female actors than there were female roles, so we changed this one. It didn’t hurt the character at all – no love-interest bits in the original scenario (*this changes as you will see in this script ...*).

<sup>4</sup> Additional Character – not in original Scenario – in the case of Trivilino, we felt it added to the “Comedy of Errors” aspect of this scenario to have a servant for Captain Spavento ... (*And boy, do we have fun with the character!*)

<sup>5</sup> We decided to base Flavio on the Brighella character, which gives him a bit more depth than the original scenario gives him ... (*as you will see if you read the script!*)

## PROLOGUE<sup>6</sup>

Greetings, and welcome to the Golden Stag Players' Commedia 2K Project. We have discovered over the years that the Commedia plots are complex enough that it is often difficult for the audience to know who is who ... so, in order to make things a bit more plain, we here introduce the characters to you (*as characters are introduced, they enter from appropriate parts of the stage ...*):

There lived in Rome a certain doctor who was of a noble and wealthy family. He had only one child and heir, a daughter named Isabella. Isabella had a servant named Franceschina. The Dottore wished Isabella, his daughter, to marry a certain Captain before he died.

He believed the Captain would make her a good husband, but things turned out quite differently. At the same time the Captain was born, a twin brother, who looked exactly like him, was also born. They could not be told apart. The Captains both had servants, one Arlecchino by name, the other Trivilino, who by chance looked remarkably like each other.

It happened that the Captain wished to visit his brother, whom he had not seen for a long time, so he left his wife in Rome and went to Naples to find him. In Naples his brother had also become a Captain. From there he went to Sicily, then to Malta, and for six years he did not return to Rome.

Meanwhile, Isabella fell in love with a gentleman named Oratio.

The Captain also had an ... acquaintance in Rome named Flavio, who, as friends go would have made a really good dueling hustler.

Also in Rome, lived a miserly old man by the name of Pantalone. Pantalone's daughter, Flaminia, fell in love with the same gentleman, Oratio. Flaminia's servant is named Columbina.

There also lived in Rome the keeper of the Inn, The Horse and Gate, named Fiorinetta.

When the Captain, after his years of traveling, was unable to find his brother, he decided to return to Rome to find out if his wife remained faithful. On the day of his return, his brother whom he was seeking also arrived in Rome. Because of their remarkable resemblance, many things happened, which this comedy will reveal.

If, after all the help that we are giving you, you are still confused while you watch this play, well ... Cope ...

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<sup>6</sup> The Prologue is based heavily on the Argument for the Scenario we based the script on, we added characters that weren't mentioned in the Argument, and fleshed it out a bit ... performed by Hirsch at 12<sup>th</sup> Night.

## ACT ONE

### THE CITY OF ROME

*(Isabella and Franceschina enter, down left)*

Isabella: Franceschina, is there anyone as wretched as I?

Franceschina: Oh, Signora Isabella, whatever do you mean?

Isabella: I have been neither widowed nor married these last seven years, since my father Gratiano gave me to the Captain.

Franceschina: Neither widowed nor married, do you mean that you have never *(pause, pause)* experienced the joys of marriage?

Isabella: Pardon?

Franceschina: You've never been together as husband and wife?

Isabella: Huh?

Franceschina: Do you mean that you have never shared your marriage bed?

Isabella: Ooooooooooh *(pause – the light dawns)* OOOOH! yes, for six glorious months. My husband was as *(pause)* attentive as any woman could desire.

Franceschina: Oh, I don't know ...

Isabella: But then he left for Naples to seek his long lost brother, and I've heard nothing from him since.

Franceschina: How have you managed all these years, alone?

Isabella: At first it wasn't so bad, but as the years dragged on ... I found myself overcome by melancholy, and a strange longing.

*(Flaminia opens her window and watches/listens ...)*

Franceschina: *(aside)* So, just how strange, and how long?

Isabella: *(aside)* Well, actually, more strange, than long.

Franceschina: So, how did you manage?

- Isabella: First, I tried cucumber pickling, but I soured on that pastime. So then I switched to butter churning, but it didn't last. Finally, I turned my hand to stuffing sausages.
- Franceschina: And that didn't satisfy your needs?
- Isabella: I grew weary of the meat market.
- Franceschina: But was there *nothing* that could ease your frustration?
- Isabella: Well, recently I found one distraction.
- Franceschina: And, his name?
- Isabella: Oratio! (*Clasps hands over mouth -- oops!*)
- (*Flaminia closes window and stomps out the door at the mention of Oratio's name, Columbina (who follows) pulls her upstage into the shadows to listen to the conversation.*)
- Franceschina: Yes, he can be quite ... entertaining. (*Clasps hand over mouth – oops! Isabella misses this ... as she starts dreamily speaking of Oratio ...*)
- Isabella: He speaks with such eloquence!
- Franceschina: (*aside*) That isn't all he can do with his tongue ...
- Isabella: He has the smooth hands of a musician!
- Franceschina: (*aside*) Yes, he certainly knows how to play.
- Isabella: He can continue for hours ... and hours ...
- Franceschina: (*aside, and merge (so both characters are saying it ...) this with above line starting at first ellipsis*) Oh, hours, and hours ...
- Isabella: It is *entirely* due to Oratio that I have found a reason for living.
- Columbina: Signora Flaminia, don't do anything foolish.
- (*Flaminia pulls away toward Isabella ...*)
- Flaminia: Signora Isabella, I advise you for your own good to put all thoughts of Oratio out of your mind.
- Franceschina: (*to Flaminia*) And I advise you to stop listening to private conversations. What's the matter, Columbina, can't you control your mistress?

Flaminia: That may be how things work in Gratiano's household, but in the home of Pantalone, the servants are the ones who obey.

*(Columbina double-take (what planet are you from?))*

Columbina: *(to Flaminia)* Come on, Mistress, we should go *in* now.

Franceschina: Yes, you'd better take her inside, before her mad jealousy consumes her.

Columbina: She would have nothing to be jealous of if *your* mistress kept her skirts down.

Isabella: *(to Flaminia)* It seems your servants don't know their places.

Flaminia: Your place is at home waiting for your husband, *not* in Oratio's bed.

Franceschina: *(aside)* He's got a bed?

Columbina: *(aside)* But, there's more room on the floor!

Flaminia: *(to Franceschina)* You slut!

*(All three of them turn on her!)*

Isabella: Who are you calling a slut?

Flaminia: *(Stops and thinks about it ... looks at audience, almost selects someone in audience ... points to Franceschina)* Her!

**[The Lazzo of Bowling Oratio Over<sup>7</sup>]**

*(Franceschina belts her!)*

*(Columbina tries to pull Franceschina out, massive three way cat fight starts: Flaminia attacks Franceschina, Columbina gets into it, Isabella is in the background ineffectually "attacking". Flaminia gets knocked out of the fight, Isabella pushes her back in.)*

*(Oratio enters, places self under Isabella's window, strikes a pose)*

Oratio: A Sonnet in praise of Isabella!

*(Flaminia gets punched by Franceschina, and knocks Oratio over – he stands up, brushes himself off, looks at cat fight, then at the audience. Flaminia rushes back into the fight.)*

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<sup>7</sup> Lazzi (plural for Lazzo) are the comedic routines performed by the Zanni ('clown' characters). All of the Lazzi in this script except for "The Lazzo of the Macaroni" are ones written by the Golden Stag Players, in some cases, unintentionally – i.e., we weren't specifically trying for Lazzi, but we got 'em anyway ...

Oratio: For me?

*(Oratio heroically wades in, and separates out Isabella and pulls her out of the fight, going around the other three and back down left.)*

Oratio: It distresses me to see you in such disarray.

*(The cat fight stops dead, and all three of the (remaining) combatants stare at him in disbelief)*

Oratio: Now, now, Isabella my dove, there's no need to upset yourself on my account.

Flaminia: Dove? Harpy is more like it! A scavenger that feasts on the remains of another's love.

Columbina: *(To Isabella)* This is why your husband has been gone for so many years!

Isabella: *(To Oratio)* Oh, Oratio, how can you let them speak to me that way?

Oratio: *(Pats her on the hand)* Leave them to me, my sweet.

Flaminia: Foul betrayer, you leave me for a slut!

Oratio: This is hardly proper behavior for a woman of your station.

Franceschina: *(to Flaminia)* How dare you call my mistress a slut, when you flaunt yourself before any sailor in Rome!

Columbina: *(Aside)* Any port in a storm ...

*(Franceschina attacks Flaminia again)*

**[The Lazzo of Bowling Pantalone Over]**

*(Pantalone enters, Flaminia runs from Franceschina straight down right to her father and knocks him over)*

Flaminia: Father, don't just lie there! Protect me from this crazed woman!

Isabella: I'm not crazy! You're the one who's insane with rage and jealousy!

*(Isabella, pushing Pantalone over again (just as he's getting up – she steps over him to get to Flaminia), chases Flaminia. As Flaminia rushes into the house (left), she knocks Pantalone over just as he's starting to get up again, Isabella follows, but rather than knocking Pantalone over, she pauses and steps around him. When Isabella gets to the door, it is slammed in her face. She knocks Pantalone over going to her house (right). Columbina and Franceschina run into Pantalone at the same time just as he's getting up again (from either side) and enter their respective houses ... Oratio starts toward Pantalone, who starts to get up, sees Oratio, shouts in fear and lies down until it's over, Oratio then turns around and exits the other way (without knocking Pantalone over).)*

Pantalone: *(Cautiously looking around, says to the audience) Is it safe yet? (Starts to get up ...)*

*(Gratiano enters, and sees Pantalone lying on the cobblestones, puts his foot on his butt, and proclaims:)*

Gratiano: As the learned physician Galen has told us, “He who lies on the cobblestones gets walked on by the common man.”

Pantalone: *(Getting up ...)* I wouldn't worry about *my* health, you need to get a physician to cure your daughter of her insanity!

Gratiano: What are you talking about? My daughter is as healthy as the day she was born!

Pantalone: Her health may be fine, but her mind is shattered.

*(A small shriek from Isabella and the sound of breaking glass from Gratiano's house ...)*

Gratiano: I would know if my daughter were mad, for did not the great Aristophanes say, “The head of the house knows the health of the body?” Do not fear for my house, look to your own.

*(Franceschina enters, knocking Pantalone aside (not over, just back out of the way) ...)*

Franceschina: Doctor Gratiano, come quickly, your daughter has gone mad - she has smashed all the dishes and glassware.

Gratiano: What about the urn in the great hall?

*(Shriek and smash)*

Franceschina: Gone!

Gratiano: The jade bust in the dining room?

*(Shriek and snap)*

Franceschina: She broke its nose off ...

Gratiano: My library?

*(Both lean in that direction, but no noise)*

Franceschina: She's never been much of a reader ...

Gratiano: The wine?

Franceschina: I don't think she's made it there yet *(shriek and crash)*, you'd better hurry!

*(Gratiano hurriedly exits ... Franceschina makes a face at Pantalone and goes into the house.)*

Pantalone: Flaminia? Daughter? Would you tell me what's going on ... this time?

*(Pantalone enters his house ...)*

*(Arlecchino enters from down right)*

Arlecchino: Listen up, pathetic citizens of this tiny nameless hamlet!

Stranger Captain *(from offstage)*:  
Rome!

Arlecchino: What?

Stranger Captain: ROME!

Arlecchino: Oh, ok. *(Starts wandering aimlessly)* Listen up, pathetic citizens of this tiny nameless hamlet!

Stranger Captain: No, the city is called Rome!

Arlecchino: OOOOOH! *(Pause)* What the hell are we doing here?

**[The Lazzo of Using Arlecchino as a Door Knocker]**

Stranger Captain: *(Enters)* Remember *(hits Arlecchino)*, I told you, we're here to look for my brother – he married a Roman woman seven years ago.

Arlecchino: If she's roamin', how does he find her?

*(The Stranger-Captain hits Arlecchino who rolls up to the inn door – the Captain kicks him and his head bangs the door, kicks him again, his head bangs the door. The Captain notices it's an inn ...)*

Stranger Captain: Oh good, you found a place for us to stay!

*(Arlecchino gets up and sits on bench under window, the shutters open, knocking Arlecchino down again.)*

Fiorinetta: Did someone knock? *(Sees the Captain)* Oh, a customer!

*(She closes shutters, Arlecchino stands up, Fiorinetta opens the door -- Arlecchino steps back from it so he doesn't get hit (door opens inward ...) – Fiorinetta comes out.)*

Arlecchino: Greetings oh innkeeper, your mean hovel shall be graced by the mightiest warrior Spain has ever known!

Fiorinetta: *(Looking in the audience)* El Cid is here?

Arlecchino: *(Also looking in the audience ...)* Really?

Stranger Captain: *(Brushes Arlecchino out of the way)* Hardly, it is I, Capitano Rogantino il Vappo!

Fiorinetta: *(Looking him up and down ...)* Who?

Stranger Captain: At the battle of Pavia, I, myself, captured the King of France!

Fiorinetta: I thought that was Captain Calibreise<sup>8</sup>?

Stranger Captain: A common mistake. It was I.

Fiorinetta: So, what brings you to Rome?

Arlecchino: A ship!

Stranger Captain: Do you know of a Captain who was married here in Rome?

Fiorinetta: I don't keep track of ... married men.

Stranger Captain: For a room and a meal, I will tell you more of my exploits in Privia.

Fiorinetta: Cash only. *(The two take a step toward the door)* I thought it was Pavia.

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<sup>8</sup> Pronounced: Cal-ih-bray-see

Stranger Captain: A common mistake.

*(The door gets slammed into Arlecchino's face knocking him over, as Fiorinetta and the Captain enter the inn. Arlecchino, lying on his back ... The Captain opens the door:)*

Stranger Captain: Arlecchino!!

Arlecchino: *(Staring up at the sky ...)* Stars! Look at the stars! There's Gemini! Or something ...

*(The Stranger-Captain picks him up and drags him into the inn and closes the door)*

*(Oratio enters down left with Sonnet in hand and poses)*

Oratio: A Sonnet in praise of Isabella! *(Shriek and crash!)* A Sonnet in praise of Flaminia! I wonder if she's still upset over that Isabella thing? *(To audience)* Wasn't she cute when she was jealous?

*(Franceschina enters)*

Oratio: Oh, Franceschina, my dear. A Sonnet in praise of Franceschina!

Franceschina: There's no time for that now! Isabella's love for you has driven her mad! *(Shriek and crash!)* For the sake of our household's peace *(Shriek and crash)* – make that pieces, only your *(pause, playing suggestively with Oratio's pen)* presence can sooth her.

Oratio: How am I going to get past her father?

Franceschina: You must disguise yourself.

Oratio: And deprive the women of Rome of this?

Franceschina: So, we'll only cover your face.

Oratio: Alright, so ... what shall I be?

Franceschina: A magician!

Oratio: *(Pause, look at audience ... then back)* We tried that the last time<sup>9</sup>, how about a milkmaid?

Franceschina: *(coily)* That's my role. No, a physician. Gratiano will think you're here to cure Isabella and will let you in.

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<sup>9</sup> Historical note: [Flavio, The Fake Magician](#), The Golden Stag Players, January 1998 (West Kingdom 12<sup>th</sup> Night)

- Oratio: That's brilliant. (*Grabs her, starts to kiss her on the lips and moves up to her forehead, and runs off ...*)
- Franceschina: (*Waiting for the better kiss ... it doesn't happen ... opens one eye, and then both, and he's gone -- now she's miffed*) That's it. I'm going to cause some trouble. I know just the two women to start with ...  
  
(*Gratiano enters*)
- Dr. Gratiano: Franceschina, what are you still doing here? Get a physician!
- Franceschina: I ... um ... (*pause*) sent for one.
- Dr. Gratiano: Franceschina, you're a woman (*pause – she looks down her blouse*) what has caused my daughter's madness?
- Franceschina: Her madness is hereditary.  
  
(*Dr. Gratiano looks at her*)
- Franceschina: It comes from her mother. (*Knowing look*) And, she has been too loooong without a husband.  
  
(*Oratio arrives dressed as a physician, poses just like the first entrance*)
- Oratio: A cure for Isabella! (*Unrolling sonnet*)
- Franceschina: Oh look, the physician is here! Signor Gratiano, for a suitable fee he can cure your daughter.  
  
(*Oratio starts to go into the house, is grabbed by Gratiano ...*)
- Dr. Gratiano: As the ancient Dr. Hippocrates said, "The best cure is one that is done for the love of medicine".
- Oratio: Yes, the best cures are those wrought by love!  
  
(*Flaminia opens her window, recognizes Oratio*)
- Flaminia: That looks like Oratio playing Doctor again!  
  
(*Flaminia, closes window, enters, knocks Franceschina out of the way*)
- Flaminia: Signore Gratiano, you're being taken for a fool.
- Dr. Gratiano: That is not possible, as Euripides said "The learned man sees all!"

Flaminia:           *(Looking at audience)* Exactly. *(To Gratiano)* Signore, your daughter and her slut of a servant have conspired to sneak her lover into your house, and to ruin your household reputation.

Oratio:             *(Making sure the beard is in place)* No, my good woman, you have mistaken me for someone else, I am a famous physician.

Flaminia:           Oh, perhaps you're right. *(Saunters over to him, grabs beard (pulling it off) and hits him with it ...)* You faithless cur!

*(Oratio runs off, beard gets thrown after him. Dr. Gratiano runs into the house calling for Isabella.)*

Flaminia:           You round-heeled slattern! You'll swive anything that moves and a few that don't!

Franceschina:      If that's where you itch, scratch it!

*(Both go in and slam their doors ...)*

End of Act I

## ACT TWO

*(Flavio enters down right, hanging around, trimming nails with dagger, foot up on bench under window of Inn ... Trivilino enters)*

Trivilino: Greetings, lowly peons of this obscure village!

Captain Spavento *(from offstage)*  
Home!

Trivilino: Huh?

Captain Spavento: HOME!

Trivilino: Oh, ok. *(hums)* Greetings, *(hum)* lowly peons of this *(hum)* obscure village!

Captain Spavento: No, we're home! In the city of ROME!

Trivilino: Why'd we come back here? Don't you still have gambling debts?

*(Captain Spavento enters, threatens to hit Trivilino, who backs off, Captain beckons him back over ... and hits Trivilino)*

### **[A Variation on the Lazzo of Using Arlecchino as a Door Knocker]**

Captain Spavento: A frequent error. We went to find my long lost brother, but with no success ... As it has been six years since we left, I thought I had better return to see if my wife has remained faithful ...

Trivilino: You take your chances when you marry a Roman woman!

*(Captain hits Trivilino, who rolls back into Flavio who is facing downstage and away from the action ...)*

Flavio: That can only be one person ...

*(Turns around, looks down, grabbing him by the shirt, look in his face, drop him)*

Flavio: Or his servant ... Trivilino, is that you?

Trivilino: Stars ... is that Orion's belt? Or something?

*(Flavio adjusts his belt, kicks Trivilino back toward the Captain, trimming nails)*

Flavio: He doesn't need it anymore ... Capitano, my friend! Where have you been *(threatening with the knife)* and where is the money you owe me?

Captain Spavento: Did you not receive the money I sent you from Malta last year? The Knights of Saint John said that they would take care of it.

Flavio: They said you owed *them* money ...

Captain Spavento: A frequent error! The explanation for our return is quite simple – even a simpleton could explain it. Conveniently, I have a simpleton right here (*points to Trivilino*).

Trivilino: Huh?

*(Spavento smacks Trivilino on back of head)*

Captain Spavento: Explain!

Trivilino: You see, we didn't know she was married at the time ...

*(Capitano him by back of neck)*

Captain Spavento: No, the OTHER “why we're back!”

Trivilino: You mean there's another reason?

*(Captain Spavento throws him to the ground ... Trivilino bounces back up)*

Trivilino: Well, his brother wasn't in Naples, and so we decided to come back.

Flavio: It took you seven years?

Captain Spavento: I let Trivilino use the map.

*(Trivilino proudly holds up the string of paper dolls he made out of the map (pulled from his belt pouch).)*

Captain Spavento: A frequent error. (*Changing the subject*) My good friend, how fairs the loveliest woman in all of Rome?

Flavio: (*Making gestures for each of the women in the next bit, each different, emphasizing different ... er ... feminine attributes ...*) Zerbinette is now married to the Duke of Ostia and is raising what he thinks are lots of little Ostians.

Captain Spavento: No, no, not Zerbinette ....

Flavio: OH! After that nasty escapade with the Cardinal, Sylvia entered the nunnery.

Captain Spavento: No, I meant ...

Flavio: Oh, Camilla – she ran off with that troupe of actors ...

*(Captain looks shocked)*

All: *(From backstage ...)* OOOOH!

Captain Spavento: No, I meant my wife, Isabella!

Trivilino and Flavio:  
OOOOOHHHH!

Captain Spavento: Tell me how she’s pined away for me since I have been gone.

*(Trivilino crosses to Flavio)*

Trivilino: How long after he left did she sleep around?

*(Captain threatens Trivilino ...)*

Flavio: *(Crossing in front of them ...)* I don’t know – I haven’t gotten to the front of the line yet ...

*(Oratio enters, Flavio gestures that they should hide, the Captain, Trivilino, and Flavio slip into the shadows upstage)*

Oratio: A lament for Flaminia! I know very well that you love me, but what can I do if Isabella is also in love with me? Life is so unfair to the women of Rome, would that there were more of me ...

**[The Lazzo of the Macroni<sup>10</sup>]**

*(Fiorinetta enters, carrying a large bowl of macaroni, the Captain starts to lunge for Oratio, Trivilino restrains him, who gets smacked by the Captain, who ends at the feet of Fiorinetta ... she notices him and:)*

Fiorinetta: *(Looks down at Trivilino)* I like a man who knows his place ...

*(She steps over him ...)*

Fiorinetta: *(To Audience)* Oratio! He’ll know! He’s familiar with *all* the married women in Rome! *(Shoving the bowl into Trivilino's hands.)* Hold this; I’m going to need both my hands to deal with Oratio. *(Crosses to Oratio, who’s been standing there working on a sonnet, what else?)*

Trivilino Always glad to be of service. *(Sits on bench with the bowl of macaroni in his lap and begins to eat, listening to Fiorinetta and Oratio talk.)*

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<sup>10</sup> Based on “The Lazzo of Kissing the Hand” from Lazzi: The Comedic Routines of the Commedia dell’Arte, Mel Gordon, Performing Arts Journal Publications, ISBN: 0-933826-69-9, modified by Rose de Le Mans ...

- Fiorinetta: Oratio! May I have a ... word with you?
- Oratio: I can do better than that. A sonnet, in praise of Fiorinetta!
- Fiorinetta: *(Aside)* That sonnet has seen a lot of use. *(Back to Oratio.)* Oratio, you are familiar with the Lady Isabella, aren't you?
- Oratio: Oh, yes, quite familiar. She has a little strawberry-shaped birthmark on her cheek.
- Fiorinetta: *(Puts her hand on her left cheek; Trivilino, listening, also places his hand on his left cheek.)* I've never noticed that.
- Oratio: It's not on that cheek. *(Fiorinetta and Trivilino move their hands to their right cheeks.)* Nor on that one. *(Fiorinetta slaps Oratio's hand away as he tries to show her which cheek is marked; Trivilino clues in and spews macaroni toward audience.)*
- Fiorinetta: So, have you met her husband?
- (During this exchange, the Captain is being kept from coming out from the shadows by Flavio ... Who, during the exchange might try to steal something from the Captain's pouch, or not, depending on opportunity ...)*
- Oratio: No. I am told he is a Captain, a vile Spaniard who abandoned sweet Isabella six years ago. The lout hasn't even had the grace to send word, leaving poor Isabella alone and inconsolate.
- Fiorinetta: *(Aside)* So, my guest is quite the sly fellow! He asks after a Spanish captain who is married in Rome, when it is he who is married to Isabella! *(To Oratio.)* The poor woman. Perhaps she should consider doing charitable works to occupy her time.
- Oratio: Believe me, she is quite generous already.
- Fiorinetta: And this poor saint is married to a Spaniard? What a shame!
- Oratio: Truly, it is a shame. I have done my best to ease her *(pause)* mind, but to go so long without word from her husband ...
- Fiorinetta: How fortunate for her then, that her fears will soon be laid to rest! Her husband has not sent word because he is already here!
- Oratio: If that is true, why hasn't he gone to his wife? *(Aside.)* Not that I'm not grateful ...
- Fiorinetta: Perhaps he wants to find out if his wife has been faithful?

Oratio: If the Captain has returned to Rome, where is he now?

*(Fiorinetta looks around and spots Captain Spavento in the shadows (he has turned away from them momentarily). She taps Oratio on the shoulder and points. Oratio sees the Captain and starts to panic. Fiorinetta pushes Oratio into the inn. The Captain and Flavio come out of the shadows and sit on either side of Trivilino.)*

Captain Spavento: *(Grabbing a handful of macaroni and stuffing it into his mouth.)* Oh, great tragedy that has befallen me! How could a woman be unfaithful when she is married to me?

Trivilino: *(Crying and eating)* Poor, wretched Captain!

Flavio: Has she no concern for your reputation?

Captain Spavento: *(Crying and eating)* How could she do this to me? I was gone barely seven years, and she throws herself at another man!

Trivilino: *(Crying and eating)* Sad, pathetic Captain!

Flavio: Has she no regard for your valor and prowess?

Captain Spavento: *(Crying and eating)* She has shamed me before all of Rome!

Trivilino: *(Wailing and eating)* Alas, poor Trivilino!

*(Both Flavio and Captain stare at him for a moment ...)*

Captain Spavento: What do you mean, "poor Trivilino?"

Trivilino: *(To the audience)* I'm out of macaroni.

Captain Spavento: Flavio, my dearest and closest and only true friend ...

Flavio: I'm out of places to bury bodies!

Captain Spavento: Oh, brother of my soul ...

Trivilino: *(aside)* Oh, brother. My stomach!

Captain Spavento: That is not what I was going to ask! I want you to check out my wife.

Flavio: It would be my pleasure! *(Captain glares at him, he gestures "don't worry ...")* Go to my house *(points offstage)* and wait for me, I'll meet you in a few hours.

Trivilino: More like a few minutes ...

*(Flavio goes into the Inn.)*

**[The Lazzo of the Whining Door]**

*(Pantalone opens the door, and Flaminia is whining and crying, Pantalone enters and closes the door, and the whining stops. Pantalone plays with the door ... he opens it and his daughter whines, he closes it and she stops. He repeats this a few times, changing the amount of time the door is open, and his daughter obligingly whines until the door closes. He looks at the audience pointedly, and with a bit of glee, almost opens the door, but doesn't (psych!), then he opens it again, closes it ...)*

*(He starts to wander downstage. Flaminia stops whining and crying, opens the window a crack and overhears the following speech:)*

Pantalone: I'm so confused. My daughter cries, she screams, she wails, but she will not tell me what is going on. And as usual, Columbina won't give me ... anything. Franceschina, however, is usually more forthcoming. I'll go see her and see if I can get some *(pause, stroke nose)* information.

*(Flaminia closes the window and enters ...)*

Flaminia: Father, wait, as your dutiful daughter, I must tell you everything.

Pantalone: Oh, good! Finally!

Flaminia: But first you have to promise not to get mad.

Pantalone: Of course I won't, my dear. *(Patronizingly ...)* How could I ever get angry with you?

Flaminia: Oh, father, against my will I have fallen in love with Oratio! But that horrid – father, what would be the word for a woman who *(interacting with audience, perhaps getting some words from them ...)* ... oh, never mind – Isabella has stolen his affection, and she's a married woman!

Pantalone: WHAT! You're inlove with WHO? He hasn't got any money! That ne'er do well! That poltroon of a poet! Why he can't even finish a sonnet!

Flaminia: But, daddy! You promised you wouldn't get angry! *(Goes back in, crying ... closes the door, opens it, then slams it)*

*(Pantalone gives chase, runs into door, bounces off and into Franceschina as she arrives)*

Pantalone: Franceschina, you're a woman ... *(looks down her blouse)* ...

Franceschina: *(Pushes him back ...)* Still.

Pantalone: I hear that your mistress is in love with another man.

Franceschina: I hear that all the time.

Pantalone: But what about her husband?

*(Arlecchino comes out of the Inn and sees them on stage, and hides in the shadows up stage)*

Franceschina: She's besotted with Oratio. She's quite forgotten the Captain.

*(Arlecchino starts at the reference to the Captain)*

Arlecchino: *(Aside)* The Captain, what's he done now?

Pantalone: So what is Oratio's position in all this?

Franceschina: Well, that depends on the furniture ...

*(They exit down right ...)*

Arlecchino: Why are they talking about my master? He hasn't had time to get in trouble yet. *(Pause -- thinks about it ... starts scratching his back a bit, doing the "dog" reaction to being scratched, reaches his butt ...)* OOOH! I'd better go buy that rose ointment, he's going to need it ...

**[The Lazzo of two Arlecchinos Meeting]**

*(Arlecchino runs down stage to exit and into Trivilino who has just run on stage, they knock each other over, help each other up, stop and stare ... sniff (circling) ... they bark and back off, they threaten and then both reach into a pouch and grab an apple. While they are eating (leaning up against each other), Columbina crosses the stage. They drop what their apples, staring after her, and then start shoving and pushing each other out of the way trying to get to her. They do a double-take, pick up the apples, and then finish chasing her off stage ...)*

*(The Stranger-Captain enters (up right), grimacing, walking bow-legged, rubbing the backside ... exhausted from a long ride. Flavio arrives from down right.)*

Flavio: Capitano, I've been looking for you.

Stranger Captain: You have?

Flavio: Have you seen Fiorinetta? She wasn't at the inn, and we must find her before we can discuss our plans.

- Stranger Captain: (*Blustering*) No, I'm sorry I haven't seen her, what plan are you talking about, and who are you?
- Flavio: My friend, what a comedian you are.
- Stranger Captain: Friend, I don't know you! Now stop bothering me.
- Flavio: (*Claps a hand on his shoulder ...*) Enough of this joking, we have plans to discuss.
- Stranger Captain: (*Knocks his hand off, draws his sword ...*) How dare you accost me? Do you not know who I am?
- Flavio: Why of course I know who you are! (*Sarcastically*) You are the brother of my soul!
- Stranger Captain: Why, I should run you through where you stand – (*Flavio pulls out dagger, gestures casually toward him, the Captain touches tip of dagger, puts finger in mouth ... puts sword away, cautiously*) but it would be no challenge.
- (*The Stranger Captain quickly (but with dignity, as it were) exits down left ...*)
- Flavio: Odd fellow ... my soul needs to get some new relatives.
- (*Follows him off stage ... Captain Spavento enters from up left ...*)
- Captain Spavento: I've searched *everywhere* for Flavio, we must set our plan in motion.
- (*Franceschina enters ... doesn't see the Captain ...*)
- Franceschina: Between Flaminia and Isabella I've been beaten black and blue. I'll fix them ... they haven't *seen* trouble ... Isabella won't know what hit her!
- Captain Spavento: (*Reacts to hearing Isabella's name and crosses over to her ...*) I overheard you mention Isabella. Have you seen a Captain who is married to her?
- Franceschina: No, I haven't seen him, he left six years ago, and has yet to return. Isabella, in the meantime with no husband to control her, has made him a cuckold.
- Captain Spavento: How can a man be cuckolded if he doesn't know?
- Franceschina: It doesn't matter if *he* knows or not. If everyone else in the town knows, than he is still wearing horns.

Captain Spavento: (*Drawing sword*) I will not have you talk about me that way! I am the Captain, and I will be treated with respect!

(*Franceschina runs off stage in fright.*)

**[The Lazzo of Arlecchino Confusing the Apothecary's Instructions]**

(*Arlecchino enters with the rose ointment. Doesn't notice the Captain standing there. The Captain is fuming and doesn't hear Arlecchino ... the following speech will need to be handled carefully – the distractions of someone crossing the stage are what cause Arlecchino to lose track, but both he and the person crossing need to wait for laughter to die down or we will lose lines – timing is everything ...*)

Arlecchino: My master will be so happy, I have finally found the rose ointment. What was it the apothecary said? (*Repeating*) Rose Ointment will sooth any sore ass, use once as the cock crows, and once at even song. (*Repeat, changing the lines, pacing ...*) Once as the cock crows, and once at even song. (*Franceschina runs through ...*) Once as the cock sings, and once when you see the crow in the evening. (*Columbina saunters through ...*) Once as the cock sings in the evening. Wait, that's not right. (*Fiorinetta saunters through, waves at him ...*) Once on the cock in the evening! (*Pause*) How is that going to soothe a sore ass? (*Arlecchino imagines applying it, shudders, looks at the audience in fright ...*) I'm not applying it!

Captain Spavento: Servant (*Arlecchino shrieks in surprise, then straightens up*), am I a cuckold?

Arlecchino: Do you have a wife? (*Start crossing, attempting to look scholarly ...*)

Captain Spavento: Yes.

Arlecchino: Do you travel?

Captain Spavento: Yes.

Arlecchino: Is she Roman?

Captain Spavento: Yes.

Arlecchino: Then you are a cuckold.

(*The Captain strikes him, Arlecchino runs off, the Captain chases him off stage ...*)

(*Note: stage hand comes out and sweeps up the "macaroni" so it's not still on stage, before the "Placard Lady" comes out for Act III ...*)

End of Act II

## ACT III

**[The Lazzo of Pinching the Wrong Prospective Mate]**

*(Columbina and Franceschina enter from their respective houses, sweeping the dirt from their porches to the other's ... they see each other, start sweeping their piles more vigorously ... start sweeping each pile into the other's broom, a fight is about to ensue ... Arlecchino and Trivilino come in from opposite sides of the stage eating apples (or whatever), spot Columbina and Franceschina, double-takes ... and start sneaking up toward "their" counterpart (Arlecchino to Columbina, Trivilino to Franceschina) sniffing. The ladies start to notice them, and the ... gentlemen ... look up (you don't see me, 'cause I don't see you ...), the ladies look at the one opposite them, switch sides to look closer, the male servants reach behind to pinch ... and get the wrong ones. They get slapped, and chased off stage. Franceschina, Trivilino and Arlecchino end up off stage. Columbina, in glee, sweeps things into Franceschina's house. Columbina starts to leave, sees Flaminia's entrance (below), crosses and puts broom in house, then comes up behind her.)*

*(Oratio enters)*

Oratio: An ode to the cruel Flaminia. Flaminia, please, hear my ... uh, uh ... pleas!

*(Flaminia enters, Columbina comes up behind her (see above ...))*

Flaminia: Why should I listen to you, you traitor? One moment you say you love me, the next you're sniffing after that virago ...

Oratio: What are you talking about? I wasn't sniffing after her, I was only comforting her during her husband's absence.

Columbina: Comforting? Is that what they're calling it these days?

*(Pantalone enters from up left, sees them talking, hides upstage in shadows ...)*

Oratio: How can I make it up to you? Wait, I know! A sonnet, in praise of Flaminia!

Columbina: *(Weary ...)* Oh, shut up!

Oratio: No, really! I have only ever really loved you! All those *(pointing out over the audience, possibly waving to some particular person)* other women meant nothing to me!

Flaminia: *(Whining)* ALL?

Oratio: Yes, I never even considered marrying any of them!

Flaminia: *(melts)* You want to marry me?

- Oratio:                   (*aside, snaps fingers ...*) Damn.
- Columbina:               (*Twists his arm up behind him*) Try and get out of *this* one ...
- Oratio:                   (*To Flaminia*) I will talk to your father, and seek your hand in marriage.
- Columbina:               (*Extra twist on the arm*) You might want to ask *her* first.
- Flaminia:                What if I don't *want* to marry you?
- Oratio:                   (*Yank arm from Columbina*) As long as your father agrees, what difference does it make?  
  
                              (*Flaminia charges him, stopped by Columbina ...*)
- Columbina:               Do you want to live through the wedding night?  
  
                              (*Franceschina enters and listens*)
- Oratio:                   (*Drops to one knee – reads from scroll*) Oh, most beauteous (*pause*) Flaminia, will you marry me?
- Flaminia:                I really want to, but I'm worried ...  
  
                              (*He stands up*)
- Oratio:                   There, there, my little mouse – nothing could keep us apart now.
- Flaminia:                Not even Isabella?
- Franceschina:           (*Comes forward, laughing*) Signorina, you have nothing to fear – if he were in love with Isabella, he would have to fall out of love – at once – for her husband has returned to Rome!
- Flaminia:                (*Rushes him and pins arms to side*) Oh, my love, let us be married before even song!
- Columbina:               (*Separating them ...*) You should get married before you even ...
- Pantalone:               (*Comes downstage and between Oratio and Flaminia ...*) Daughter, how dare you even think of marrying this penniless wretch? You cannot marry without my consent, and I do not consent! I want you to marry a *rich* (*grabs purse, which is hanging from belt in front of crotch*) husband!
- Flaminia:                But, father, I'm in love with him!
- Pantalone:               What has love got to do with marriage?

Franceschina: But signor, he comes from a good, hard working family.

Columbina: (*Aside*) Look how labored his poetry is.

Pantalone: A good, hard working, *penniless* family.

Oratio: But sir, your daughter will want for nothing.

Pantalone: Nothing is what she's going to get from me.

Oratio: But I'm not interested in her money, I only wish to make her happy.

Pantalone: You're not interested in a dowry?

Oratio: What is earthly money compared to the heavenly riches that are Flaminia's love?

Pantalone: SON! (*opening arms to welcome him, lunging, pin his arms ...*)

(*Franceschina and Columbina gag. The Stranger-Captain enters down left*)

Stranger Captain: Where is my servant to announce my arrival?

Franceschina: Santa Maria, it's the Captain! I must warn my mistress!

(*Franceschina exits*)

Stranger Captain: (*Aside*) That'll do. (*Back to those on stage*) See how they scatter at my arrival!

Oratio: Ah, brave Capitano!

Stranger Captain: But of course.

Pantalone: Welcome back to Rome!

(*The Stranger-Captain laughs, crosses and exits down right ... everyone stares after him, sort of a "what the hell was that about?" look ...*)

Pantalone: Son, take my daughter into the house, and instruct her ladies as to the wedding preparations.

(*Oratio and Flaminia, go in, followed by Columbina ... Captain Spavento enters*)

Captain Spavento: What, no servant to announce my arrival?

*(Exits, grabs Trivilino and throws him on stage ... [dive and roll, stands up] and he does a “proper” announcement)*

Trivilino: Behold the arrival of the famous Capitano Spavento Rigurgimento de Coagulato! Scourge of Antwerp, whose mighty stare alone slew a thousand! *(Aside)* Either that, or it was the garlic.*(Starts to draw a breath for another bit ...)*

*(Captain Spavento enters, slaps him in the stomach ... expected reaction as Trivilino collapses ...)*

Captain Spavento: That will suffice. Churl.

*(Trivilino goes off upstage whining ...)*

Pantalone: No good has come of your remaining hidden, you should have announced yourself as soon as you arrived.

Captain Spavento: What are you talking about? Who told you I was here? Do I even know you?

*(Fiorinetta enters, coins in hand ...)*

Fiorinetta: What are these “Golden Stag” coins? I can’t spend this worthless foreign currency! Are you sure this is even real money?

Captain Spavento: Cope!

Fiorinetta: Cope with *this*, you, you, Spaniard!

*(Throws coins at him, goes back into the Inn – Trivilino and Pantalone scramble to pick them up, fight over one of the coins ...)*

Captain Spavento: Have you seen that over-stuffed, under-educated blowhard ...

Trivilino: *(Looks up ...)* WHAT?

Captain Spavento: Dr. Gratiano?

Pantalone and Trivilino:  
OH!

Captain Spavento: He claims to be a scholar, he claims to be a perceptive man, but he can’t even see what Isabella has done to *me*!

Pantalone: Fear not! Your bride has been as pure as Alpine snow.

- Trivilino:           *(Aside)* She drifted?
- Captain Spavento:   But I have been informed by reliable sources that I have been made a cuckold!
- Pantalone:           There is no woman in Rome more faithful than Isabella!
- Trivilino:           You know, that's probably true.
- (Trivilino gets up and exits up right)*
- Pantalone:           And her father has guarded her virtue night and day, though he scarcely needed to, when she had the memory of such a magnificent husband to console her!
- Captain Spavento:   You seem an honest man, and my fears are assuaged by your wise counsel.
- (Arlecchino comes out of the Inn.)*
- Arlecchino:          The innkeeper took my plate away! She says she won't give me any more food until you pay her some honest money!
- Captain Spavento:   She gave you a plate? Why should I care?
- Arlecchino:          *(Throws arms around his leg ...)* I am your devoted servant! And you've always cared for my well being. And I'd be better if I had some food. *(Humping the Captain's leg ...)*
- Captain Spavento:   Disengage yourself, you dog! *(Arlecchino lies on the ground whimpering ... To Pantalone)*  
Tell me more about myself ...
- (The Captain and Pantalone exit ... Trivilino enters from up right, the Stranger-Captain enters (doesn't see Arlecchino))*
- Stranger Captain:   *(To Trivilino)* Where were you when I needed an introduction? *(Smacks him ... Trivilino rolls back out of the Captain's sight and exits up right, whimpering ...)*
- Arlecchino:          *(Seeing the Stranger-Captain, "accosts" him (ineffectual smacks ...) ...)* You had no reason to beat me like that!
- Stranger Captain:   I don't need a reason, you drunken sot! Fiorinetta! Come out here!
- (Fiorinetta comes out)*
- Stranger Captain:   Fiorinetta, I told you not to give him any wine!
- Fiorinetta:          Wine? I won't even give him a crust of bread, until you've paid me!

Stranger Captain: Very well. Here's some money ...

*(Fiorinetta bites coins to make sure ...)*

Fiorinetta: That'll do for now. *(To Arlecchino)* Your plate's in the kitchen.

Stranger Captain: *(To Fiorinetta)* You gave him a plate?

*(Fiorinetta and Arlecchino go into the Inn, but Arlecchino gives him a dirty look before exiting (reaction to "You gave him a plate?" line). Dr. Gratiano enters from house. Trivilino enters from up right.)*

Stranger Captain: Signore, I'm a stranger in Rome, do you know anyone here?

Dr. Gratiano: I know no one but you, for as Abulcasem once said, "No man truly knows another until they have dwelt in the same house." Come back with me, sir, you must see to your wife.

Stranger Captain: Wife? No *one* woman is deserving enough of my prowess!

Dr. Gratiano: But my daughter is waiting at my home for you!

Stranger Captain: You are nothing but a pathetic, pompous, pimp!

*(Leaves in a huff, down right ... Captain Spavento enters up left ...)*

Dr. Gratiano: Obviously, he is telling lies to find out if Isabella has been faithful.

Captain Spavento: *(Walking up to Gratiano)* Who was that handsome fellow you were speaking with?

Dr. Gratiano: Enough of your games! You can't fool me, for after all did not Pliny the Third say "To toy with a scholar is to invite ridicule!"

Trivilino: That's for sure ...

Dr. Gratiano: Come sir, you did wrong to desert your wife these six years and more, then return to Rome, and mock me, with no concern for my standing!

Captain Spavento: *(Backing down ...)* All I meant was ...

Dr. Gratiano: I will listen to no more of your ignorant prattle. *(Exits into house.)*

*(Trivilino exits up right, Fiorinetta enters from Inn)*

Fiorinetta: Come, Captain, your hot dish is waiting, and if you don't hurry your servant will get it all!

Captain Spavento: (*Drawing sword, looking around for servant ...*) What! Is my servant dipping his spoon into my potage?

(*Fiorinetta runs off (to Inn), with the Captain chasing ...*)

(*Isabella and Franceschina enter*)

Franceschina: I tell you Mistress, your husband has returned, and has learned of your passion for Oratio.

Isabella: Does that mean I have to give him up?

Franceschina: That is customary ... Husband returns, lover goes away. On the other hand, there are ways to overcome any obstacle.

Isabella: And how do you know this?

Franceschina: Years of experience.

(*The Stranger-Captain enters down left, and poses*)

Stranger Captain: Where is my servant to announce me?

(*Isabella crosses and kneels before the Stranger-Captain*)

Stranger Captain: Good enough.

Isabella: My beloved husband, please forgive me. I waited for your return. As the years passed, and no word arrived, I feared I had lost you forever. (*Sniff*) While no man could ever take your place ...

Stranger Captain: Naturally.

Isabella: I found cold comfort in the arms of another. Can you ever forgive me, for I am but a woman, and therefore weak?

Franceschina: (*Aside*) Not to mention, imaginative.

(*Captain Spavento, Pantalone, Gratiano all enter from different parts of the stage ...*)

Stranger Captain: Of course I will forgive you. Now embrace me, so that I may demonstrate the full extent of my magnanimity.

(*Franceschina gestures to the audience ... 2-3 inches ... The Stranger-Captain pulls Isabella to her feet, Captain Spavento comes up to The Stranger-Captain and:*)

**[The Lazzo of Two Captains Meeting]**

Captain Spavento: Dog, so you are the one who has taken liberties with my wife in my absence.

Stranger Captain: *(to the audience)* He's only upset because I got to the front of the line first!

*(The Captains draw swords ... they look for their servants who aren't there. They snap their fingers and the servants come in between them, do some looking back and forth, get grabbed by the appropriate Captain and yanked behind them. They help the Captains 'warm up' for the fight. The Captains get into an en-garde position, cross swords, back up and the swords touch – they both flinch. The servants then grab the sword arms (from behind), and direct the swords a bit. The fighting happens, the two circle, and realize they are facing away from the audience. Make a big deal of switching to face the audience, switching sword hands, servants reverse, etc. A bit more fighting, Captains close on each other, their noses poke each other in the eye, with an "OH!" they back off. Everyone not already on stage comes out ...)*

Both Captains: Your fighting style reminds me of someone I know ...

*(The next two lines are simultaneous)*

Captain Spavento: A frequent error!

Stranger Captain: A common mistake!

Both Captains: I learned from my father ... Capitano Giangurgulo della Valla Inferno ... BROTHER!

Captain Spavento: I've been looking for you for six years!

Stranger Captain: I left Naples to look for you!

*(Isabella steps between them)*

Isabella: Which one of you is my husband?

Franceschina: There's a difference?

Columbina: Take them both!

*(Comes out and does some looking between the two, possibly plays with the audience asking their opinion ... eventually points to Captain Spavento)*

Dr. Gratiano: Daughter, here is your husband.

*(Isabella grabs Spavento and drags him into the house, Gratiano follows them, saying:)*

- Dr. Gratiano: To quote Herodotus ...
- Oratio: (*Posing*) A wedding oration for Flaminia, on the occasion of her marriage ...  
(*Flaminia grabs him and drags him into the house*)
- Pantalone: I don't care how long-winded he is, as long as he doesn't change his mind about the dowry.  
(*Follows them into the house*)
- Fiorinetta: (*To the Stranger-Captain*) It's time to settle your accounts.
- Stranger Captain: But I don't have any more money!
- Fiorinetta: Don't worry, I'll (*stroking his nose ...*) work it out of you ...  
(*They go into the inn*)
- Columbina: (*To Arlecchino*) If you're interested, I've got an oration for you, too!
- Arlecchino: Oh boy, my mother used to make oration! Can I have it with garlic bread?
- Columbina: I'll find (*pause*) something to spice it up ...  
(*Franceschina looks at Trivilino lustfully*)
- Trivilino: No! I'm allergic to oration! Can you make polenta instead?
- Franceschina: *Can I? No one's ever left my (pause) kitchen unsatisfied!*  
(*The two couples exit to appropriate houses ...*)  
  
(*"Camilla", The "Placard Lady" crosses the stage with the "finis" sign, and Flavio, the only other character left on stage twirls his mustache and follows after her, chasing her lustfully off stage. Thus ends the play. (Followed by the curtain call ...)*)

~ *finis* ~