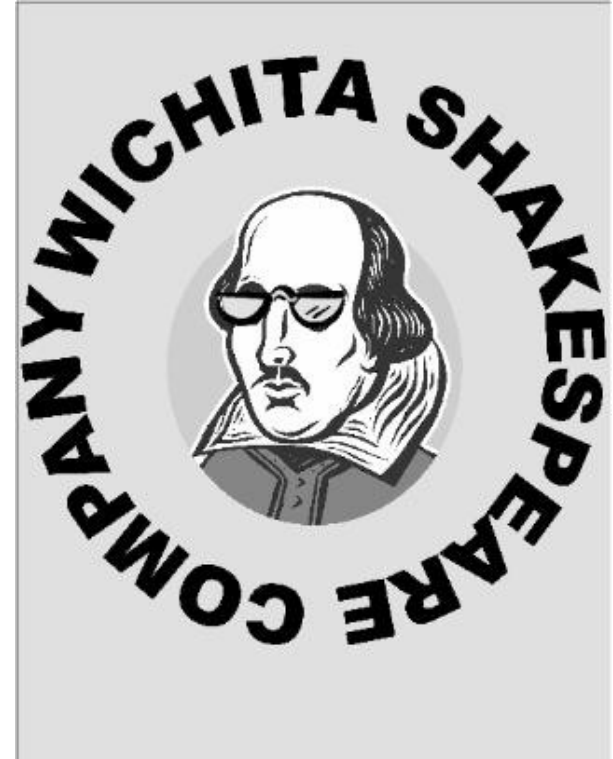


# Pericles

ABRIDGED



William Shakespeare  
(1564-1616)

By  
William Shakespeare





William Shakespeare's

# Pericles

The Wichita Shakespeare Co.

# PERICLES

## Dramatis Personae

Pericles....Prince of Tyre  
Marina....his daughter

### In Antioch

Antiochus....King of Antioch  
Daughter....of Antiochus  
Thaliard....servant to Antiochus  
Headsmen  
Soldier  
3 Women

### In Tyre

Helicanus....trusted friend of Pericles  
Escanes.... a lord of Tyre  
2 Lords  
3 Sailors

### In Tarsus

Cleon....the governor  
Dionyza....his wife  
Philoten....their daughter  
Leonine....a hired murderer  
3 Pirates  
Suitor to Marina

### In Pentapolis

Simonides....king of Pentapolis  
Thaisa....his daughter; wife to Pericles  
3 Fishermen  
3 Knights  
3 Ladies

### At Sea

Lychorida....nurse maid to Marina  
2 Sailors

### In Ephesus

Cerimon....votress in the temple of Diana  
Philemon....her attendant  
2 Gentleman  
Nun

### In Mytilene

Pandar....keeper of the brothel  
Bawd....his wife  
Boult....their servant  
Lysimachus....the governor  
Lord

## PERICLES

Embrace him, dear Thaisa; this is he.  
Now do I long to hear how you were found;  
How possibly preserved; and who to thank,  
Besides the gods, for this great miracle.

### THAISA

Cerimon, my mistress; this woman,  
Through whom the gods have shown their power; that can  
From first to last resolve you.

### PERICLES

Madam,  
The gods can have no mortal officer  
More like a goddess than you. Will you deliver  
How this dead queen re-lives?  
Pure Dian, bless thee for thy vision! I  
Will offer night-oblations to thee. Thaisa,  
This prince, the fair-betrothed of your daughter,  
Shall marry her at Pentapolis.  
Yet there, my queen,

We'll celebrate their nuptials, and ourselves  
Will in that kingdom spend our following days:  
Our son and daughter shall in Tyre reign.  
Cerimon, we do our longing stay  
To hear the rest untold: madam, lead's the way.

### *Exeunt*

### CHORUS

In Antiochus you have heard  
Of monstrous lust the due and just reward:  
In Pericles, his queen and daughter, seen,  
Although assail'd with fortune fierce and keen,  
Virtue preserved from fell destruction's blast,  
Led on by heaven, and crown'd with joy at last:  
In Helicanus may you well descry  
A figure of truth, of faith, of loyalty:  
In reverend Cerimon there well appears  
The worth that learned charity aye wears:  
For wicked Cleon and his wife, when fame  
Had spread their cursed deed,  
To rage the city turn,  
That him and his they in his palace burn;  
So, on your patience evermore attending,  
New joy wait on you! Here our play has ending.

### *Exit*

**PERICLES**

Madam, no;

I threw her overboard with these very arms.

**CERIMON**

Upon this coast, I warrant you.

Early in blustering morn this lady was

Thrown upon this shore. I oped the coffin,

Found there rich jewels; recover'd her, and placed her

Here in Diana's temple.

Look, Thaisa is recovered.

**THAISA**

O, my lord,

Are you not Pericles? Like him you spake,

Like him you are: did you not name a tempest,

A birth, and death?

**PERICLES**

Thaisa!

**THAISA**

That Thaisa am I, supposed dead

And drown'd.

**PERICLES**

No more, you gods! your present kindness

Makes my past miseries sports:

O, come, be buried

A second time within these arms.

**MARINA**

My heart

Leaps to be gone into my mother's bosom.

*Kneels to THAISA*

**PERICLES**

Look, who kneels here! Flesh of thy flesh, Thaisa;

Thy burden at the sea, and call'd Marina

For she was yielded there.

**THAISA**

Blest, and mine own!

**HELICANUS**

Hail, madam, and my queen!

**THAISA**

I know you not.

**PERICLES**

You have heard me say, when I did fly from Tyre,

I left behind an ancient substitute:

Can you remember what I call'd the man?

I have named him oft.

**THAISA**

'Twas Helicanus then.

**PERICLES**

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# ACT I

## SCENE II

### CHORUS

Now our sands are almost run;  
 More a little, and then dumb.  
 That you aptly will suppose  
 What pageantry, what feats, what shows,  
 What minstrelsy, and pretty din,  
 The regent made in Mytilene  
 To greet the king. So he thrived,  
 That he is promised to be wived  
 To fair Marina; but in no wise  
 Till he had done his sacrifice,  
 As Dian bade: whereto being bound,  
 The interim, pray you, all confound.  
 At Ephesus, the temple see,  
 Our king and all his company.

*Exit*

## SCENE III. The temple of Diana at Ephesus

*Enter PERICLES, LYSIMACHUS, HELICANUS, and MARINA*

### PERICLES

Hail, Dian! to perform thy just command,  
 I here confess myself the king of Tyre;  
 Who, frighted from my country, did wed  
 At Pentapolis the fair Thaisa.  
 At sea in childbed died she, but brought forth  
 A maid-child call'd Marina; who, O goddess,  
 Wears yet thy silver livery. She at Tarsus  
 Was nursed with Cleon; who at fourteen years  
 He sought to murder: but her better stars  
 Brought her to Mytilene; 'gainst whose shore  
 Riding, her fortunes brought the maid aboard us,  
 Where, by her own most clear remembrance, she  
 Made known herself my daughter.

### THAISA

You are, you are--O royal Pericles!

*Faints*

### PERICLES

What means the nun? she dies! help, gentlemen!

### CERIMON

Noble sir,  
 If you have told Diana's altar true,  
 This is your wife.

**LYSIMACHUS**

A pillow for his head:

So, leave him.

*Exeunt all but PERICLES*

*DIANA appears to PERICLES as in a vision*

**DIANA**

My temple stands in Ephesus: hie thee thither,  
And do upon mine altar sacrifice.

There, when my maiden priests are met together,  
Before the people all,

Reveal how thou at sea didst lose thy wife:

To mourn thy crosses, with thy daughter's, call

And give them repetition to the life.

Perform my bidding, or thou livest in woe;

Do it, and happy; by my silver bow!

Awake, and tell thy dream.

*Disappears*

**PERICLES**

Celestial Dian, goddess argentine,

I will obey thee. Helicanus!

*Re-enter HELICANUS, LYSIMACHUS, and MARINA*

**HELICANUS**

Sir?

**PERICLES**

My purpose was for Tarsus, there to strike

The inhospitable Cleon; but I am

For other service first: toward Ephesus

Turn our blown sails; eftsoons I'll tell thee why.

*To LYSIMACHUS*

Shall we refresh us, sir, upon your shore,

And give you gold for such provision

As our intents will need?

**LYSIMACHUS**

Sir,

With all my heart; and, when you come ashore,

I have another suit.

**PERICLES**

You shall prevail,

Were it to woo my daughter; for it seems

You have been noble towards her.

**LYSIMACHUS**

Sir, lend me your arm.

**PERICLES**

Come, my Marina.

*Exeunt*

**PROLOGUE****CHORUS**

To sing a song that old was sung,

From ashes ancient our tale is come;

It hath been sung at festivals,

On ember-eves and holy-ales;

And lords and ladies in their lives

Have read it for restoratives:

If you, born in these latter times,

When wit's more ripe, accept our rhymes.

This Antioch, then, Antiochus the Great

Built up, this city, for his chiefest seat:

The fairest in all Syria,

This king unto him took a wife,

Who died and left a female heir,

So buxom, blithe, and full of face,

As heaven had lent her all his grace;

With whom the father liking took,

And her to incest did provoke:

to entice his own

To evil should be done by none:

The beauty of this dame

Made many princes thither frame,

To seek her as a bed-fellow,

In marriage-pleasures play-fellow:

Which to prevent he made a law,

To keep her still, and men in awe,

That whoso ask'd her for his wife,

His riddle told not, lost his life:

So for her many a wight did die,

As yon grim looks do testify.

*Exit*

**SCENE I. Antioch. A room in the palace.**

*Enter ANTIOCHUS, Prince PERICLES, a headsmen, and a soldier*

**ANTIOCHUS**

Young prince of Tyre, you have at large received

The danger of the task you undertake.

**PERICLES**

I have, Antiochus, and, with a soul

Embolden'd with the glory of her praise,

Think death no hazard in this enterprise.

**ANTIOCHUS**

Bring in our daughter!

*Enter the Daughter of ANTIOCHUS with three women attending*

**PERICLES**

See where she comes,

You gods that made me man, and sway in love,

That have inflamed desire in my breast

To taste the fruit of yon celestial tree,

Or die in the adventure, be my helps,

As I am son and servant to your will,

To compass such a boundless happiness!

**ANTIOCHUS**

Prince Pericles,--

**PERICLES**

That would be son to great Antiochus.

**ANTIOCHUS**

Yon sometimes famous princes, like thyself,

Drawn by report, adventurous by desire,

Tell thee, with speechless tongues and semblance pale,

That here they stand martyrs, slain in Cupid's wars;

And with dead cheeks advise thee to desist

For going on death's net, whom none resist.

**PERICLES**

Antiochus, I thank thee, who hath taught

My frail mortality to know itself,

And by those fearful objects to prepare

This body, like to them, to what I must;

But my unspotted fire of love to you.

*To the Daughter of ANTIOCHUS*

Thus ready for the way of life or death,

I wait the sharpest blow, Antiochus.

**ANTIOCHUS**

Scorning advice, read the conclusion then:

Which read and not expounded, 'tis decreed,

As these before thee thou thyself shalt bleed.

**Daughter**

Of all say'd yet, mayst thou prove prosperous!

Of all say'd yet, I wish thee happiness!

**PERICLES**

Like a bold champion, I assume the lists,

Nor ask advice of any other thought

But faithfulness and courage.

**Daughter**

*Speaking the riddle*

I am no viper, yet I feed

On mother's flesh which did me breed.

I sought a husband, in which labour

**PERICLES**

I am Pericles of Tyre: but tell me now

My drown'd queen's name, as in the rest you said

Thou hast been godlike perfect,

The heir of kingdoms and another like

To Pericles thy father.

**MARINA**

Is it no more to be your daughter than

To say my mother's name was Thaisa?

Thaisa was my mother, who did end

The minute I began.

**PERICLES**

Now, blessing on thee! thou art my child.

Mine own, Helicanus;

She is not dead at Tarsus, as she should have been,

By savage Cleon: she shall tell thee all;

When thou shalt kneel, and justify in knowledge

She is thy very princess. Who is this?

**HELICANUS**

Sir, 'tis the governor of Mytilene,

Who, hearing of your melancholy state,

Did come to see you.

**PERICLES**

I embrace you.

I am wild in my beholding.

O heavens bless my girl! But, hark, what music?

Tell Helicanus, my Marina, tell him

O'er, point by point, for yet he seems to doubt,

How sure you are my daughter. But, what music?

**HELICANUS**

My lord, I hear none.

**PERICLES**

None!

The music of the spheres! List, my Marina.

**LYSIMACHUS**

It is not good to cross him; give him way.

**PERICLES**

Rarest sounds! Do ye not hear?

**LYSIMACHUS**

My lord, I hear.

**PERICLES**

Most heavenly music!

It nips me unto listening, and thick slumber

Hangs upon mine eyes: let me rest.

*Sleeps*



**MARINA**

The king my father did in Tarsus leave me;  
 Till cruel Cleon, with his wicked wife,  
 Did seek to murder me: and having woo'd  
 A villain to attempt it, who having drawn to do't,  
 A crew of pirates came and rescued me;  
 Brought me to Mytilene. But, good sir,  
 Why do you weep?

It may be,

You think me an impostor: no, good faith;  
 I am the daughter to King Pericles,  
 If good King Pericles be.

**PERICLES**

Ho, Helicanus!

**HELICANUS**

Calls my lord?

**PERICLES**

Thou art a grave and noble counsellor,  
 Most wise in general: tell me, if thou canst,  
 What this maid is, or what is like to be,  
 That thus hath made me weep?

**HELICANUS**

I know not; but

Here is the regent, sir, of Mytilene  
 Speaks nobly of her.

**LYSIMACHUS**

She would never tell

Her parentage; being demanded that,  
 She would sit still and weep.

**PERICLES**

O Helicanus, strike me, honour'd sir;  
 Give me a gash, put me to present pain;  
 Lest this great sea of joys rushing upon me  
 O'erbear the shores of my mortality,  
 And drown me with their sweetness. O, come hither,  
 Thou that beget'st him that did thee beget;  
 Thou that wast born at sea, buried at Tarsus,  
 And found at sea again! O Helicanus,  
 Down on thy knees, thank the holy gods as loud  
 As thunder threatens us: this is Marina.  
 What was thy mother's name? tell me but that,  
 For truth can never be confirm'd enough,  
 Though doubts did ever sleep.

**MARINA**

First, sir, I pray,  
 What is your title?

I found that kindness in a father:  
 He's father, son, and husband mild;  
 I mother, wife, and yet his child.  
 How they may be, and yet in two,  
 As you will live, resolve it you.

**PERICLES**

Sharp physic is the last:

If this be true, which makes me pale to hear it?  
 Fair glass of light, I loved you, and could still,  
 Were not this glorious casket stored with ill:  
 But being play'd upon before your time,  
 Hell only danceth at so harsh a chime.

Good sooth, I care not for you.

**ANTIOCHUS**

Prince Pericles, your time's expired:

Either expound now, or receive your sentence.

**PERICLES**

Great king,

Few love to hear the sins they love to act;  
 'Twould braid yourself too near for me to tell it.

**ANTIOCHUS**

[Aside] Heaven, that I had thy head! he has found  
 the meaning:

But I will gloze with him.--Young prince of Tyre,  
 Though by the tenor of our strict edict,

Your exposition misinterpreting,

We might proceed to cancel of your days;

Yet hope, succeeding from so fair a tree

As your fair self, doth tune us otherwise:

Forty days longer we do respite you;

If by which time our secret be undone,

This mercy shows we'll joy in such a son:

And until then your entertain shall be

As doth befit our honour and your worth.

*Exeunt PERICLES with Daughter and others; ANTIUCHUS left alone*

**ANTIOCHUS**

He hath found the meaning, for which we mean  
 To have his head.

He must not live to trumpet forth my infamy,

Nor tell the world Antiochus doth sin

In such a loathed manner;

And therefore instantly this prince must die:

For by his fall my honour must keep high.

Who attends us there?

*Enter THALIARD*

**THALIARD**

Doth your highness call?

**ANTIOCHUS**

Thaliard,  
 You are of our chamber, and our mind partakes  
 Her private actions to your secrecy;  
 And for your faithfulness we will advance you.  
 Thaliard, behold, here's poison, and here's gold;  
 We hate the prince of Tyre, and thou must kill him:  
 It fits thee not to ask the reason why,  
 Because we bid it. Say, is it done?

**THALIARD**

My lord, tis done.

**ANTIOCHUS**

Enough.

*Enter Daughter*

Let your breath cool yourself, telling your haste.

**Daughter**

My lord, prince Pericles is fled.

**ANTIOCHUS**

As thou

Wilt live, fly after: and like an arrow shot  
 From a well-experienced archer hits the mark  
 His eye doth level at, so thou ne'er return  
 Unless thou say 'Prince Pericles is dead.'

**THALIARD**

My lord,

If I can get him within my pistol's length,  
 I'll make him sure enough: so, farewell to your highness.

**ANTIOCHUS**

Thaliard, adieu!

*Exit THALIARD*

Till Pericles be dead,

My heart can lend no succor to my head.

*Exit ANTIOCHUS and Daughter*

**SCENE II. Tyre. A room in the palace.**

*Enter PERICLES and HELICANUS*

**PERICLES**

Let none disturb us;

The great Antiochus,

'Gainst whom I am too little to contend,

Will think me speaking, though I swear to silence;

Nor boots it me to say I honour him.

If he suspect I may dishonour him:

And what may make him blush in being known,

He'll stop the course by which it might be known;

**PERICLES**

O, I am mock'd,

And thou by some incensed god sent hither

To make the world to laugh at me.

**MARINA**

Patience, good sir,

Or here I'll cease.

**PERICLES**

Nay, I'll be patient.

Thou little know'st how thou dost startle me,

To call thyself Marina.

**MARINA**

The name

Was given me by one that had some power,

My father, and a king.

**PERICLES**

How! a king's daughter?

And call'd Marina?

**MARINA**

You said you would believe me;

But, not to be a troubler of your peace,

I will end here.

**PERICLES**

But are you flesh and blood?

Have you a working pulse? and are no fairy?

Well; speak on. Where were you born?

And wherefore call'd Marina?

**MARINA**

Call'd Marina

For I was born at sea.

**PERICLES**

At sea! what mother?

**MARINA**

My mother was the daughter of a king;

Who died the minute I was born,

As my good nurse Lychorida hath oft

Deliver'd weeping.

**PERICLES**

O, stop there a little!

*Aside*

This is the rarest dream that e'er dull sleep

Did mock sad fools withal: this cannot be:

My daughter's buried.

Yet, give me leave:

How came you in these parts? where were you bred?

**PERICLES**

I do think so. Pray you, turn your eyes upon me.  
You are like something that--What country-woman?  
Here of these shores?

**MARINA**

No, nor of any shores.

**PERICLES**

I am great with woe, and shall deliver weeping.  
My dearest wife was like this maid, and such a one  
My daughter might have been: my queen's square brows;  
Her stature to an inch;  
As silver-voiced; her eyes as jewel-like  
And cased as richly;  
Where do you live?

**MARINA**

Where I am but a stranger: from the deck  
You may discern the place.

**PERICLES**

Where were you bred?  
And how achieved you these endowments, which  
You make more rich to owe?

**MARINA**

If I should tell my history, it would seem  
Like lies disdain'd in the reporting.

**PERICLES**

Prithee, speak:  
Falseness cannot come from thee; I will  
Believe thee,  
For thou look'st  
Like one I loved indeed. What were thy friends?  
Didst thou not say,  
That thou camest  
From good descending?

**MARINA**

So indeed I did.

**PERICLES**

I think thou said'st  
Thou hadst been toss'd from wrong to injury,  
And that thou thought'st thy griefs might equal mine,  
If both were open'd.  
What were thy friends?  
How lost thou them? Thy name, my most kind virgin?  
Recount, I do beseech thee: come, sit by me.

**MARINA**

My name is Marina.

With hostile forces he'll o'erspread the land,  
Our men be vanquish'd ere they do resist,  
And subjects punish'd that ne'er thought offence:  
Which care of them, not pity of myself,  
Makes both my body pine and soul to languish,  
Helicanus, fit counsellor and servant for a prince,  
Who by thy wisdom makest a prince thy servant,  
What wouldst thou have me do?

**HELICANUS**

Well, my lord, since you have given me leave to speak.  
Freely will I speak. Antiochus you fear,  
And justly too, I think,  
Who either by public war or private treason  
Will take away your life.  
Therefore, my lord, go travel for a while,  
Till that his rage and anger be forgot,  
Or till the Destinies do cut his thread of life.  
Your rule direct to any; if to me.  
Day serves not light more faithful than I'll be.

**PERICLES**

I do not doubt thy faith;  
But should he wrong my liberties in my absence?

**HELICANUS**

We'll mingle our bloods together in the earth,  
From whence we had our being and our birth.

**PERICLES**

Tyre, I now look from thee then, and to Tarsus  
Intend my travel, where I'll hear from thee;  
And by whose letters I'll dispose myself.  
The care I had and have of subjects' good  
On thee I lay whose wisdom's strength can bear it.  
I'll take thy word for faith, not ask thine oath.

*Exeunt*

### **SCENE III. Tyre. An ante-chamber in the palace.**

*Enter THALIARD*

**THALIARD**

So, this is Tyre, and this the court. Here must I  
kill King Pericles; and if I do it not, I am sure to  
be hanged at home: 'tis dangerous. Well, I perceive  
he was a wise fellow, and had good discretion, that,  
being bid to ask what he would of the king, desired  
he might know none of his secrets:  
Hush! here come the lords of Tyre.

*Enter HELICANUS and 1<sup>st</sup> Lord of Tyre*

**HELICANUS**

You shall not need, my fellow peers of Tyre,  
Further to question me of your king's departure:  
His seal'd commission, left in trust with me,  
Doth speak sufficiently he's gone to travel.

**THALIARD**

[Aside] How! the king gone!

**HELICANUS**

If further yet you will be satisfied,  
Why he would depart, I'll give some light unto you.  
Being at Antioch--  
Royal Antiochus--on what cause I know not--  
Took some displeasure at him; at least he judged so:  
And doubting lest that he had err'd or sinn'd,  
To show his sorrow, he'd correct himself;  
So puts himself unto the shipman's toil,  
With whom each minute threatens life or death.

**THALIARD**

[Aside] Well, I perceive  
I shall not be hang'd now;  
Since he's gone, the king's seas must please:  
He 'scaped the land, to perish at the sea.  
I'll present myself. Peace to the lords of Tyre!

**HELICANUS**

Lord Thaliard from Antiochus is welcome.

**THALIARD**

From him I come  
With message unto princely Pericles;  
But since my landing I have understood  
Your lord has betook himself to unknown travels,  
My message must return from whence it came.

**HELICANUS**

We have no reason to desire it,  
Commended to our master, not to us:  
Yet, ere you shall depart, this we desire,  
As friends to Antioch, we may feast in Tyre.

*Exeunt*

## **SCENE IV. Tarsus. A room in the Governor's house.**

*Enter CLEON, the governor of Tarsus, with DIONYZA*

**CLEON**

My Dionyza, shall we rest us here,  
And by relating tales of others' griefs,  
See if 'twill teach us to forget our own?

**LYSIMACHUS**

O, here is  
The lady that I sent for. Welcome, fair one!  
Is't not a goodly presence?

**HELICANUS**

She's a gallant lady.

**LYSIMACHUS**

Fair one, all goodness that consists in bounty  
Expect even here, where is a kingly patient:  
If that thy prosperous and artificial feat  
Can draw him but to answer thee in aught,  
Thy sacred physic shall receive such pay  
As thy desires can wish.

**MARINA**

Sir, I will use  
My utmost skill in his recovery.

*Approaches PERICLES*

I am a maid,  
My lord, that ne'er before invited eyes,  
But have been gazed on like a comet: I speak,  
My lord, that, may be, hath endured a grief  
Might equal yours, if both were justly weigh'd.  
Though wayward fortune did malign my state,  
My derivation was from ancestors  
Who stood equivalent with mighty kings:  
But time hath rooted out my parentage,  
And to the world and awkward casualties  
Bound me in servitude.

*MARINA sings*

**LYSIMACHUS**

Mark'd he your music?

**MARINA**

No, nor look'd on me.

**PERICLES**

Hum, ha!

**MARINA**

I will desist;  
But there is something glows upon my cheek,  
And whispers in mine ear, 'Go not till he speak.'

**PERICLES**

My fortunes--parentage--good parentage--  
To equal mine!--was it not thus? what say you?

**MARINA**

I said, my lord, if you did know my parentage,  
You would not do me violence.

**LYSIMACHUS**

You wish me well.

Being on shore, honouring of Neptune's triumphs,  
Seeing this goodly vessel ride before us,  
I made to it, to know of whence you are.

**HELICANUS**

Sir,

Our vessel is of Tyre, in it the king;  
A man who for this three months hath not spoken  
To any one, nor taken sustenance  
But to prorogue his grief.

**LYSIMACHUS**

Upon what ground is his distemperature?

**HELICANUS**

'Twould be too tedious to repeat;  
But the main grief springs from the loss  
Of a beloved daughter and a wife.

**LYSIMACHUS**

May we not see him?

**HELICANUS**

You may;  
But bootless is your sight: he will not speak To any.  
Behold him.

*PERICLES is discovered*

This was a goodly person,  
Till the disaster that, one mortal night,  
Drove him to this.

**LYSIMACHUS**

Sir king, all hail! the gods preserve you!  
Hail, royal sir!

**HELICANUS**

It is in vain; he will not speak to you.

**Lord of Mytilene**

Sir,

We have a maid aboard our vessel, I durst wager,  
Would win some words of him.

**LYSIMACHUS**

'Tis well bethought.

She questionless with her sweet harmony  
And other chosen attractions, would allure,  
And make a battery through his deafen'd parts,  
Which now are midway stopp'd.

*Whispers to Lord, who goes off in the barge of LYSIMACHUS*

**HELICANUS**

Sure, all's effectless; yet nothing we'll omit  
That bears recovery's name.

*Re-enter, from the barge, Lord, with MARINA*

**DIONYZA**

That were to blow at fire in hope to quench it;  
For who digs hills because they do aspire  
Throws down one mountain to cast up a higher.  
O my distressed lord, even such our griefs are;

**CLEON**

This Tarsus, o'er which I have the government,  
A city on whom plenty held full hand,  
For riches strew'd herself even in the streets;  
Whose towers bore heads so high they kiss'd the clouds,  
Whose men and dames so jetted and adorn'd,  
Like one another's glass to trim them by:  
Their tables were stored full, to glad the sight,  
And not so much to feed on as delight;  
All poverty was scorn'd, and pride so great,  
The name of help grew odious to repeat.

**DIONYZA**

O, 'tis too true.

**CLEON**

But see what heaven can do! By this our change,  
These mouths, who but of late, earth, sea, and air,  
Were all too little to content and please,  
They are now starved for want of exercise:  
Those palates who, not yet two summers younger,  
Must have inventions to delight the taste,  
Would now be glad of bread, and beg for it:  
Those mothers who, to nuzzle up their babes,  
are ready now  
To eat those little darlings whom they loved.  
So sharp are hunger's teeth, that man and wife  
Draw lots who first shall die to lengthen life:  
Here stands a lord, and there a lady weeping;  
Here many sink, yet those which see them fall  
Have scarce strength left to give them burial.  
Is not this true?

**DIONYZA**

Our cheeks and hollow eyes do witness it.

**CLEON**

O, let those cities that of plenty's cup  
And her prosperities so largely taste,  
hear these tears!  
The misery of Tarsus may be theirs.

*Enter LEONINE*

**LEONINE**

Where's the lord governor?

**CLEON**

Here.

Speak out thy sorrows which thou bring'st in haste,  
For comfort is too far for us to expect.

**LEONINE**

We have descried, upon our neighbouring shore,  
A portly sail of ships make hitherward.

**CLEON**

I thought as much.

One sorrow never comes but brings an heir,  
some neighbouring nation,  
Taking advantage of our misery,  
Hath stuff'd these hollow vessels with their power,  
To beat us down, the which are down already;  
And make a conquest of unhappy me,  
Whereas no glory's got to overcome.

**LEONINE**

That's the least fear; for, by the semblance  
Of their white flags display'd, they bring us peace,  
And come to us as favourers, not as foes.

**CLEON**

Go tell their general we attend him here,  
To know for what he comes, and whence he comes,  
And what he craves.

**LEONINE**

I go, my lord.

*Exit LEONINE*

**CLEON**

Welcome is peace, if he on peace consist;  
If wars, we are unable to resist.

*Enter PERICLES*

**PERICLES**

Lord governor, for so we hear you are,  
Let not our ships and number of our men  
Be like a beacon fired to amaze your eyes.  
We have heard your miseries as far as Tyre,  
And seen the desolation of your streets:  
Nor come we to add sorrow to your tears,  
But to relieve them of their heavy load;  
And these our ships,  
Are stored with corn to make your needy bread,  
And give them life whom hunger starved half dead.

**DIONYZA**

The gods of Greece protect you!

**PROLOGUE****CHORUS**

Marina thus the brothel 'scapes, and chances  
Into an honest house, our story says.  
She sings like one immortal, and she dances  
As goddess-like to her admired lays;  
Here we her place;  
And to her father turn our thoughts again,  
Where we left him, on the sea. We there him lost;  
Whence, driven before the winds, he is arrived  
Here where his daughter dwells; and on this coast  
Suppose him now at anchor. The city strived  
God Neptune's annual feast to keep: from whence  
Lysimachus our Tyrian ship espies,  
His banners sable, trimm'd with rich expense;  
And to him in his barge with fervor hies.  
In your supposing once more put your sight  
Of heavy Pericles.

*Exit*

**SCENE I. On board PERICLES' ship, off Mytilene.**

*Enter HELICANUS; enter 3<sup>rd</sup> Tyrian Sailor*

**Third Tyrian Sailor**

Lord Helicanus?

Sir, there's a barge put off from Mytilene,  
And in it is Lysimachus the governor,  
Who craves to come aboard. What is your will?

**HELICANUS**

That he have his.

I pray ye, greet them fairly.

*Exit 3<sup>rd</sup> Tyrian Sailor*

*Enter, from thence, 3<sup>rd</sup> Tyrian Sailor, LYSIMACHUS, and Lord of Mytilene*

**Third Tyrian Sailor**

Sir,

This is the man that can

Resolve you.

**LYSIMACHUS**

Hail, reverend sir! the gods preserve you!

**HELICANUS**

And you, sir, to outlive the age I am,  
And die as I would do.



# ACT V

**PERICLES**

Arise, I pray you, rise:

We do not look for reverence, but to love,  
And harbourage for ourself, our ships, and men.

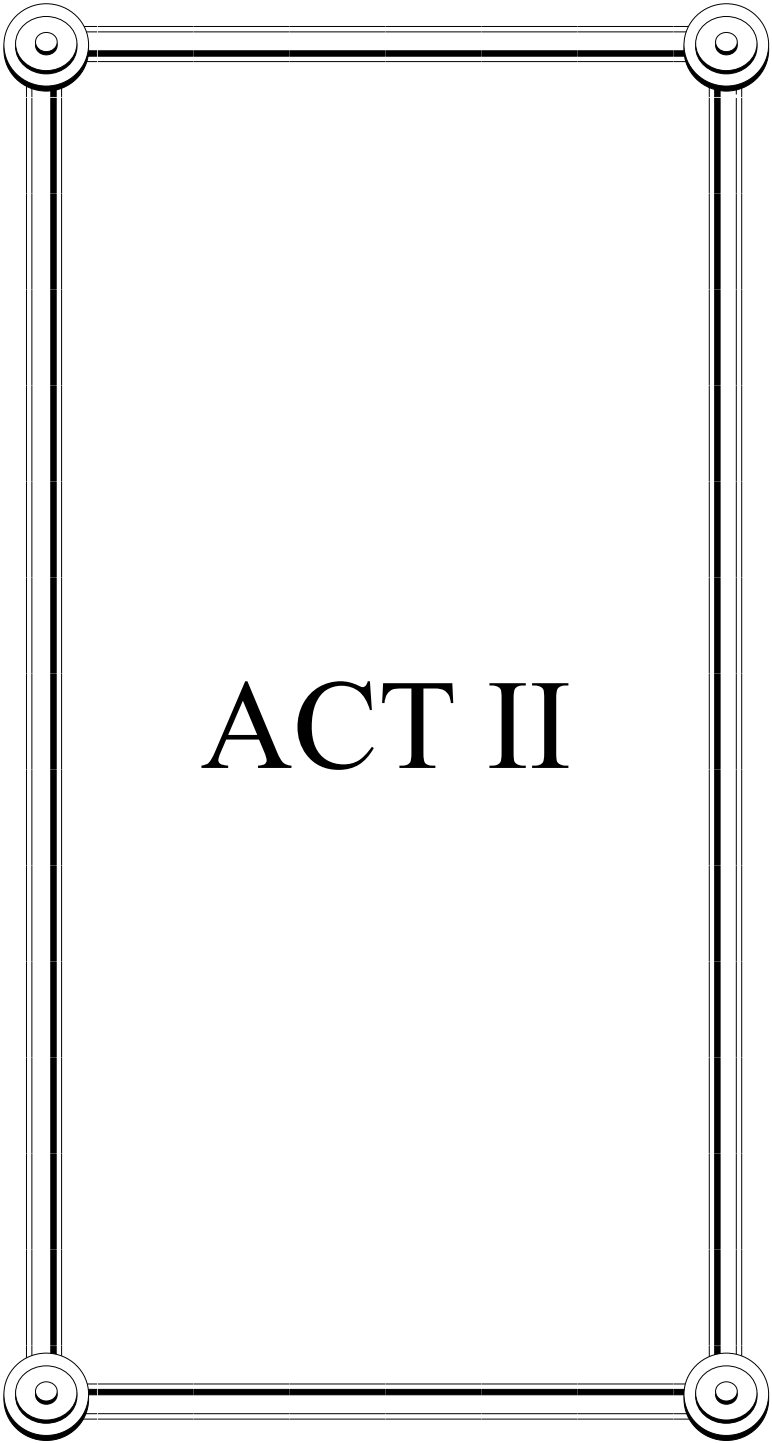
**CLEON**

Your grace is welcome to our town and us.

**PERICLES**

Which welcome we'll accept; feast here awhile,  
Until our stars that frown lend us a smile.

*Exeunt*



# ACT II



**BOULT**

But can you teach all this you speak of?

**MARINA**

Prove that I cannot, take me home again,  
And prostitute me to the basest groom  
That doth frequent your house.

**BOULT**

Well, I will see what I can do for thee: if I can  
place thee, I will.

**MARINA**

But amongst honest women.

**BOULT**

'Faith, my acquaintance lies little amongst them.  
But since my master and mistress have bought you,  
there's no going but by their consent: therefore I  
will make them acquainted with your purpose, and I  
doubt not but I shall find them tractable enough.  
Come, I'll do for thee what I can.

*Exeunt*

**PROLOGUE****CHORUS**

Prince Pericles,  
To whom we give our benison,  
Is still at Tarsus, where each man  
Build his statue to make him glorious:  
But tidings to the contrary  
Are brought your eyes.  
Good Helicane, that stay'd at home,  
Sends word of all that haps in Tyre:  
How Thaliard came full bent with sin  
And had intent to murder him;  
And that in Tarsus was not best  
Longer for him to make his rest.  
He, doing so, put forth to seas,  
Where when men been, there's seldom ease;  
For now the wind begins to blow;  
Thunder above and deeps below  
Make such unquiet, that the ship  
Should house him safe is wreck'd and split;  
And he, good prince, having all lost,  
By waves from coast to coast is tost:  
Till fortune, tired with doing bad,  
Threw him ashore, to give him glad.

**SCENE I. Pentapolis. An open place by the sea  
-side.**

*Enter PERICLES, wet*

**PERICLES**

Yet cease your ire, you angry stars of heaven!  
Wind, rain, and thunder, remember, earthly man  
Is but a substance that must yield to you;  
And I, as fits my nature, do obey you:  
Alas, the sea hath cast me on the rocks,  
Wash'd me from shore to shore, and left my breath  
Nothing to think on but ensuing death:  
Let it suffice the greatness of your powers  
To have bereft a prince of all his fortunes;  
And having thrown him from your watery grave,  
Here to have death in peace is all he'll crave.

*Enter three FISHERMEN*

**First Fisherman**

What, ho, Pilch!

**Second Fisherman**

Ha, come and bring away the nets!

**First Fisherman**

What, Patch-breech, I say!

**Third Fisherman**

What say you, master?

**First Fisherman**

Look how thou stirrest now! come away, or I'll fetch thee with a wanion.

**Third Fisherman**

Faith, master, I am thinking of the poor men that were cast away before us even now.

**First Fisherman**

Alas, poor souls, it grieved my heart to hear what pitiful cries they made to us to help them, when, well-a-day, we could scarce help ourselves.

**PERICLES**

Peace be at your labour, honest fishermen.

A man whom both the waters and the wind,  
In that vast tennis-court, have made the ball  
For them to play upon, entreats you pity him:  
He asks of you, that never used to beg.

**First Fisherman**

No, friend, cannot you beg? Here's them in our country Greece gets more with begging than we can do with working.

**Second Fisherman**

Canst thou catch any fishes, then?

**PERICLES**

I never practised it.

**Second Fisherman**

Nay, then thou wilt starve, sure; for here's nothing to be got now-a-days, unless thou canst fish for't.

**PERICLES**

What I have been I have forgot to know;  
But what I am, want teaches me to think on:  
A man throng'd up with cold: my veins are chill,  
And have no more of life than may suffice  
To give my tongue that heat to ask your help;  
Which if you shall refuse, when I am dead,  
For that I am a man, pray see me buried.

**First Fisherman**

Die quoth-a? Now gods forbid! I have a gown here; come, put it on; keep thee warm. Now, afore me, a handsome fellow!

**Bawd**

She conjures: away with her! Would she had never come within my doors! She's born to undo us.

*Exit*

**BOULT**

Come, mistress; come your ways with me.

**MARINA**

Whither wilt thou have me?

**BOULT**

To take from you the jewel you hold so dear.

**MARINA**

Prithee, tell me one thing first.

**BOULT**

Come now, your one thing.

**MARINA**

What canst thou wish thine enemy to be?

**BOULT**

Why, I could wish him to be my master, or rather, my mistress.

**MARINA**

Neither of these are so bad as thou art,  
Thou hold'st a place, for which the pained'st fiend  
Of hell would not in reputation change:  
Thou art the damned doorkeeper to every  
Coistrel that comes inquiring for his Tib;  
Thy food is such  
As hath been belch'd on by infected lungs.

**BOULT**

What would you have me do? go to the wars, would you? where a man may serve seven years for the loss of a leg, and have not money enough in the end to buy him a wooden one?

**MARINA**

Do any thing but this thou doest. Empty  
Old receptacles, or common shores, of filth;  
Serve by indenture to the common hangman:  
Any of these ways are yet better than this;  
O, that the gods  
Would safely deliver me from this place!  
Here, here's gold for thee.  
If that thy master would gain by thee,  
Proclaim that I can sing, weave, sew, and dance,  
With other virtues, which I'll keep from boast:  
And I will undertake all these to teach.  
I doubt not but this populous city will  
Yield many scholars.

**LYSIMACHUS**

Fare thee well. Thou art a piece of virtue, and  
I doubt not but thy training hath been noble.  
Hold, here's more gold for thee.

A curse upon him, die he like a thief,  
That robs thee of thy goodness! If thou dost  
Hear from me, it shall be for thy good.

*Re-enter BOULT*

**BOULT**

I beseech your honour, one piece for me.

**LYSIMACHUS**

Avaunt, thou damned door-keeper!  
Your house, but for this virgin that doth prop it,  
Would sink and overwhelm you. Away!

*Exit*

**BOULT**

How's this? We must take another course with you.  
If your peevish chastity  
shall undo a whole household, let me be gelded like  
a spaniel.  
Come your ways. We'll  
have no more gentlemen driven away. Come your ways, I say.

*Re-enter Bawd*

**Bawd**

How now! what's the matter?

**BOULT**

Worse and worse, mistress; she has here spoken holy  
words to the Lord Lysimachus.

**Bawd**

O abominable!

**BOULT**

She makes our profession as it were to stink afore  
the face of the gods.

**Bawd**

Marry, hang her up for ever!

**BOULT**

The nobleman would have dealt with her like a  
nobleman, and she sent him away as cold as a  
snowball; saying his prayers too.

**Bawd**

Boult, take her away; use her at thy pleasure:  
crack the glass of her virginity, and make the rest malleable.

**MARINA**

Hark, hark, you gods!

**PERICLES**

I thank you, madam.

**First Fisherman**

Hark you, sir, do you know where ye are?

**PERICLES**

Not well.

**First Fisherman**

Why, I'll tell you: this is called Pentapolis, and  
our king the good Simonides.

**PERICLES**

The good King Simonides, do you call him.

**First Fisherman**

Ay, sir; and he deserves so to be called for his  
peaceable reign and good government.

**PERICLES**

He is a happy king, since he gains from his subjects  
the name of good by his government. How far is his  
court distant from this shore?

**First Fisherman**

Marry, sir, half a day's journey: and I'll tell  
you, he hath a fair daughter, and to-morrow is her  
birth-day; and there are princes and knights come  
from all parts of the world to tourney for her love.

**PERICLES**

Were my fortunes equal to my desires, I could wish  
to make one there.

*Re-enter Second and Third Fishermen, drawing up a net*

**Second Fisherman**

Help, master, help! here's a fish hangs in the net,  
like a poor man's right in the law; 'twill hardly  
come out. Ha! bots on't, 'tis come at last, and  
'tis turned to a rusty armour.

**PERICLES**

An armour, friends! I pray you, let me see it.  
Thanks, fortune, yet, that, after all my crosses,  
Thou givest me somewhat to repair myself;

**First Fisherman**

What mean you, sir?

**PERICLES**

To beg of you, kind friends, this coat of worth,  
And that you'd guide me to your sovereign's court,  
Where with it I may appear a gentleman;

**First Fisherman**

Why, wilt thou tourney for the lady?

**PERICLES**

I'll show the virtue I have borne in arms.

**First Fisherman**

Why, do 'e take it, and the gods give thee good on't!

**Second Fisherman**

Ay, but hark you, my friend; 'twas we that made up this garment through the rough seams of the waters: I hope, sir, if you thrive, you'll remember from whence you had it.

**PERICLES**

Believe 't, I will.

*Exeunt*

**SCENE II. The same. The court of Simonides**

*Enter SIMONIDES, THAISA, PERICLES, 3 Knights, and 3 Ladies in Waiting*

**SIMONIDES**

Are the knights ready to begin the triumph?

**Knights**

We are, my liege.

**SIMONIDES**

Our daughter,  
In honour of whose birth these triumphs are,  
Sits here, like beauty's child, whom nature gat  
For men to see, and seeing wonder at.

**THAISA**

It pleaseth you, my royal father, to express  
My commendations great, whose merit's less.

**SIMONIDES**

It's fit it should be so;  
As jewels lose their glory if neglected,  
So princes their renowns if not respected.  
'Tis now your honour, daughter, to explain  
The labour of each knight in his device.

**THAISA**

Which, to preserve mine honour, I'll perform.

**SIMONIDES**

Who is the first that doth prefer himself?

**THAISA**

A knight of Sparta, my renowned father;  
And the device he bears  
Is a black Ethiopie reaching at the sun.

**SIMONIDES**

He loves you well that holds his life of you.  
Who is the second that presents himself?

**MARINA**

Earlier too, sir, if now I be one.

**LYSIMACHUS**

Why, the house you dwell in proclaims you to be a creature of sale.

**MARINA**

Do you know this house to be a place of such resort, and will come into 't? I hear say you are of honourable parts, and are the governor of this place.

**LYSIMACHUS**

Why, hath your principal made known unto you who I am?

**MARINA**

Who is my principal?

**LYSIMACHUS**

Why, your herb-woman; she that sets seeds and roots of shame and iniquity. O, you have heard something of my power, and so stand aloof for more serious wooing. But I protest to thee, pretty one, my authority shall not see thee, or else look friendly upon thee. Come, bring me to some private place: come, come.

**MARINA**

If you were born to honour, show it now;  
O, that the gods

Would set me free from this unhallow'd place.

O, my good Lord, kill me, but not deflower me.

Punish me how you please, so you spare my chastity.

And since it is all the dowry that the Gods have given,

Do not you take it from me.

Make me your servant, I will willingly obey you.

Make me your bondswoman, I will accompt it freedom.

Let me be the worst that is called vile,

So I may still lie honest, I am content.

Or if you think it is too blessed a happiness to have me so,

Let me even now, now in this minute die,

And I'll accompt my death more happy than my birth.

**LYSIMACHUS**

I did not think

Thou couldst have spoke so well; ne'er dream'd thou couldst.

Had I brought hither a corrupted mind,

Thy speech had alter'd it. Hold, here's gold for thee:

Persever in that clear way thou goest,

And the gods strengthen thee!

**MARINA**

The good gods preserve you!

**LYSIMACHUS**

'Faith, she would serve after a long voyage at sea.  
Well, there's for you: leave us.

**Bawd**

I beseech your honour, give me leave: a word, and  
I'll have done presently.

**LYSIMACHUS**

I beseech you, do.

**Bawd**

[To MARINA] First, I would have you note, this is  
an honourable man.

**MARINA**

I desire to find him so, that I may worthily note him.

**Bawd**

Next, he's the governor of this country, and a man  
whom I am bound to.

**MARINA**

If he govern the country, you are bound to him  
indeed; but how honourable he is in that, I know not.

**Bawd**

Pray you, without any more virginal fencing, will  
you use him kindly? He will line your apron with gold.

**MARINA**

What he will do graciously, I will thankfully receive.

**LYSIMACHUS**

Ha' you done?

**Bawd**

My lord, she's not paced yet: you must take some  
pains to work her to your manage. Come, we will  
leave his honour and her together. Go thy ways.

*Exeunt Bawd, Pandar, and BOULT*

**LYSIMACHUS**

Now, pretty one, how long have you been at this trade?

**MARINA**

What trade, sir?

**LYSIMACHUS**

Why, I cannot name't but I shall offend.

**MARINA**

I cannot be offended with my trade. Please you to name it.

**LYSIMACHUS**

How long have you been of this profession?

**MARINA**

E'er since I can remember.

**LYSIMACHUS**

Did you go to 't so young? Were you a gamester at  
five or at seven?

**THAISA**

A prince of Macedon, my royal father;  
And the device he bears  
Is an arm'd knight that's conquer'd by a lady.

**SIMONIDES**

And what's the third?

**THAISA**

The third of Antioch;  
And his device, a wreath of chivalry.

**SIMONIDES**

And what's  
The fourth and last?

**THAISA**

He seems to be a stranger; but his present is  
A wither'd branch, that's only green at top.

**SIMONIDES**

From the dejected state wherein he is,  
He hopes by you his fortunes yet may flourish.

**First Lady in Waiting**

He had need mean better than his outward show  
Can any way speak in his just commend;  
For by his rusty outside he appears  
To have practised more the whipstock than the lance.

**Second Lady in Waiting**

He well may be a stranger, for he comes  
To an honour'd triumph strangely furnished.

**SIMONIDES**

Opinion's but a fool, that makes us scan  
The outward habit by the inward man.  
But stay, the knights are ready.  
*The Knights tourney for THAISA; PERICLES wins*  
Knights,

To say you're welcome were superfluous.  
To place upon the volume of your deeds,  
As in a title-page, your worth in arms.  
Were more than you expect,  
Since every worth in show commends itself.  
Prepare for mirth, for mirth becomes a feast:  
You are princes and my guests.

**THAISA**

But you, my knight and guest;  
To whom this wreath of victory I give,  
And crown you king of this day's happiness.

**PERICLES**

'Tis more by fortune, lady, than by merit.

**SIMONIDES**

Call it by what you will, the day is yours;  
And here, I hope, is none that envies it.

Come, queen o'  
the feast,--

For, daughter, so you are,--here take your place.

**THAISA**

Sir, yonder is your place.

**PERICLES**

Some other is more fit.

**First Knight**

Contend not, sir; for we are gentlemen  
That neither in our hearts nor outward eyes  
Envy the great nor do the low despise.

**PERICLES**

You are right courteous knights.

**Third Lady in Waiting**

Sure, he's a gallant gentleman.

**THAISA**

To me he seems like diamond to glass.

**SIMONIDES**

What, are you merry, knights?

**Second Knight**

Who can be other in this royal presence?

**SIMONIDES**

Here, with a cup that's stored unto the brim,--  
As you do love, fill to your mistress' lips,--  
We drink this health to you.

**Knights**

We thank your grace.

**SIMONIDES**

Yet pause awhile:

Yon knight doth sit too melancholy,  
As if the entertainment in our court  
Had not a show might countervail his worth.  
Note it not you, Thaisa?

**THAISA**

What is it

To me, my father?

**SIMONIDES**

Make his entrance more sweet,  
Here, say we drink this standing-bowl of wine to him.

**THAISA**

Alas, my father, it befits not me  
Unto a stranger knight to be so bold:  
He may my proffer take for an offence,  
Since men take women's gifts for impudence.

**SCENE V. Mytilene. A street before the brothel.**

*Enter, from the brothel, Pandar, Bawd, & BOULT*

**Pandar**

Well, I had rather than twice the worth of her she  
had ne'er come here.

**Bawd**

Fie, fie upon her! she's able to freeze the god  
Priapus, and undo a whole generation. We must  
either get her ravished, or be rid of her.

**BOULT**

'Faith, I must ravish her, or she'll disfigure us  
of all our cavaliers, and make our swearers priests.

**Pandar**

Now, the pox upon her green-sickness for me!

**Bawd**

'Faith, there's no way to be rid on't but by the  
way to the pox. Here comes the Lord Lysimachus disguised.

*Enter LYSIMACHUS*

**LYSIMACHUS**

How now! How a dozen of virginities?

**Bawd**

Now, the gods to-bless your honour!

**BOULT**

I am glad to see your honour in good health.

**LYSIMACHUS**

How now!

wholesome iniquity have you that a man may deal  
withal, and defy the surgeon?

**Bawd**

We have here one, sir, if she would--but there never  
came her like in Mytilene.

**LYSIMACHUS**

If she'd do the deed of darkness, thou wouldst say.

**Bawd**

Your honour knows what 'tis to say well enough.

**LYSIMACHUS**

Well, call forth, call forth.

*Exit BOULT*

**Bawd**

Here comes that which grows to the stalk; never  
plucked yet, I can assure you.

*Re-enter BOULT with MARINA*

Is she not a fair creature?

**CLEON**

Thou art like the harpy,  
Which, to betray, dost, with thine angel's face,  
Seize with thine eagle's talons.

**DIONYZA**

You are like one that superstitiously  
Doth swear to the gods that winter kills the flies:  
But yet I know you'll do as I advise.

*Exeunt*

**SCENE IV****CHORUS**

Pericles

Is now again thwarting the wayward seas,  
Attended on by many a lord and knight.  
To see his daughter, all his life's delight.  
Well-sailing ships and bounteous winds have brought  
This king to Tarsus.

See how belief may suffer by foul show!

The epitaph is for Marina writ

By wicked Dionyza.

**DIONYZA**

*Reads the inscription on MARINA's monument*

'The fairest, sweet'st, and best lies here,

Who wither'd in her spring of year.

She was of Tyre the king's daughter,

On whom foul death hath made this slaughter;

Marina was she call'd; and at her birth,

Thetis, being proud, swallow'd some part o' the earth:

Therefore the earth, fearing to be o'erflow'd,

Hath Thetis' birth-child on the heavens bestow'd'

**CHORUS**

Pericles, in sorrow all devour'd,

With sighs shot through, and biggest tears

o'ershower'd,

Leaves Tarsus and again embarks. He swears

Never to wash his face, nor cut his hairs:

He puts on sackcloth, and to sea. He bears

A tempest, which his mortal vessel tears,

And yet he rides it out.

Let Pericles believe his daughter's dead,

And bear his courses to be ordered

By Lady Fortune; while our scene must play

His daughter's woe and heavy well-a-day

In her unholy service. Patience, then,

And think you now are all in Mytilene.

*Exit*

**SIMONIDES**

How!

Do as I bid you, or you'll move me else.

**THAISA**

[Aside] Now, by the gods, he could not please me better.

**SIMONIDES**

And furthermore tell him, we desire to know of him,  
Of whence he is, his name and parentage.

**THAISA**

The king my father, sir, has drunk to you.

**PERICLES**

I thank him.

**THAISA**

Wishing it so much blood unto your life.

**PERICLES**

I thank both him and you, and pledge him freely.

**THAISA**

And further he desires to know of you,

Of whence you are, your name and parentage.

**PERICLES**

A gentleman of Tyre; my name, Pericles;

My education been in arts and arms;

Who, looking for adventures in the world,

Was by the rough seas reft of ships and men,

And after shipwreck driven upon this shore.

**THAISA**

He thanks your grace; names himself Pericles,

A gentleman of Tyre,

Who only by misfortune of the seas

Bereft of ships and men, cast on this shore.

**SIMONIDES**

Now, by the gods, I pity his misfortune,

And will awake him from his melancholy.

Come, gentlemen, we sit too long on trifles,

And waste the time, which looks for other revels.

*The Knights and Ladies dance*

Come, sir;

Here is a lady that wants breathing too:

And I have heard, you knights of Tyre

Are excellent in making ladies trip.

**PERICLES**

In those that practise them they are, my lord.

**SIMONIDES**

*PERICLES and THAISA join the dance*

Thanks, gentlemen, to all; all have done well.

*To PERICLES*

But you the best.

**PERICLES**

I am at your grace's pleasure.

**SIMONIDES**

It is too late to talk of love;

And that's the mark I know you level at:

Therefore each one betake him to his rest;

To-morrow all for speeding do their best.

*Exeunt*

## **SCENE IV. Tyre. A room in the Governor's house.**

*Enter HELICANUS and ESCANES*

**HELICANUS**

No, Escanes, know this of me,

Antiochus from incest lived not free:

For which, the most high gods not minding longer

To withhold the vengeance that they had in store,

Due to this heinous capital offence,

When he was seated in a chariot

Of an inestimable value,

A fire from heaven came and shrivell'd up  
his body.

**ESCANES**

'Twas very strange.

**HELICANUS**

And yet but justice; for though

This king were great, his greatness was no guard

To bar heaven's shaft, but sin had his reward.

**ESCANES**

'Tis very true.

*Enter Second Lord of Tyre*

**Second Lord of Tyre**

Lord Helicane, a word.

Know that our griefs are risen to the top,

And now at length they overflow their banks.

**HELICANUS**

Your griefs! for what? wrong not your prince you love.

**Second Lord of Tyre**

Wrong not yourself, then, noble Helicane;

But if the prince do live, let us salute him,

Or know what ground's made happy by his breath.

If in the world he live, we'll seek him out;

If in his grave he rest, we'll find him there;

And be resolved he lives to govern us,

Or dead, give's cause to mourn his funeral,

And leave us to our free election.

**CLEON**

Were I chief lord of all this spacious world,

I'd give it to undo the deed.

O villain Leonine!

Whom thou hast poison'd too:

If thou hadst drunk to him, 't had been a kindness

Becoming well thy fact: what canst thou say

When noble Pericles shall demand his child?

**DIONYZA**

That she is dead.

She died at night; I'll say so. Who can cross it?

Unless you play the pious innocent,

And for an honest attribute cry out

'She died by foul play.'

**CLEON**

O, go to. Well, well,

Of all the faults beneath the heavens, the gods

Do like this worst.

*Re-enter PHILOTEN listening*

**DIONYZA**

Be it so, then:

Yet none does know, but you, how she came dead,

Nor none can know, Leonine being gone.

She did disdain my child, and stood between

Her and her fortunes: none would look on her,

But cast their gazes on Marina's face;

Whilst ours was blurted at and held a malkin

Not worth the time of day. It pierced me through;

And though you call my course unnatural,

You not your child well loving, yet I find

It greets me as an enterprise of kindness

Perform'd to your sole daughter.

**CLEON**

Heavens forgive it!

**DIONYZA**

And as for Pericles,

What should he say? We wept after her hearse,

And yet we mourn: her monument

Is almost finish'd, and her epitaphs

In glittering golden characters express

A general praise to her, and care in us

At whose expense 'tis done.

*Exit PHILOTEN crying*



**BOULT**

But, mistress, if  
I have bargained for the joint,--

**Bawd**

Thou mayst cut a morsel off the spit.

**BOULT**

I may so.

**Bawd**

Who should deny it? Come, young one, I like the  
manner of your garments well.

**BOULT**

Ay, by my faith, they shall not be changed yet.

**Bawd**

Boult, spend thou that in the town: report what a  
sojourner we have; say what a paragon she is, and thou  
hast the harvest out of thine own report.

**BOULT**

I warrant you, mistress, thunder shall not so awake  
the beds of eels as my giving out her beauty stir up  
the lewdly-inclined. I'll bring home some to-night.

**Bawd**

Come your ways; follow me.

**MARINA**

If fires be hot, knives sharp, or waters deep,  
Untied I still my virgin knot will keep.  
Diana, aid my purpose!

**Bawd**

What have we to do with Diana? Pray you, will you go with us?

*Exeunt*

### **SCENE III. Tarsus. A room in CLEON's house.**

*Enter CLEON and PHILOTEN; DIONYZA enter; exit PHILOTEN*

**DIONYZA**

Why, are you foolish? Can it be undone?

**CLEON**

O Dionyza, such a piece of slaughter  
The sun and moon ne'er look'd upon!

**DIONYZA**

I think  
You'll turn a child again.

**ESCANES**

Whose death indeed's the strongest in our censure:  
And knowing this kingdom is without a head,--  
Like goodly buildings left without a roof  
Soon fall to ruin,--your noble self,  
That best know how to rule and how to reign,  
We thus submit unto,--our sovereign.

**Both**

Live, noble Helicane!

**HELICANUS**

For honour's cause, forbear your suffrages:  
If that you love Prince Pericles, forbear.  
A twelvemonth longer, let me entreat you to  
Forbear the absence of your king:  
If in which time expired, he not return,  
I shall with aged patience bear your yoke.

*Exeunt*

### **SCENE V. Pentapolis. A room in the palace.**

*Enter SIMONIDES, reading a letter*

**SIMONIDES**

Now to my daughter's letter:  
She tells me here, she'd wed the stranger knight,  
Or never more to view nor day nor light.  
'Tis well, mistress; your choice agrees with mine;  
Soft! here he comes.

*Enter PERICLES*

**PERICLES**

All fortune to the good Simonides!

**SIMONIDES**

To you as much, sir! I am beholding to you  
For your sweet music this last night: I do  
Protest my ears were never better fed  
With such delightful pleasing harmony.

**PERICLES**

It is your grace's pleasure to commend;  
Not my desert.

**SIMONIDES**

Sir, you are music's master.

**PERICLES**

The worst of all her scholars, my good lord.

**SIMONIDES**

Let me ask you one thing:  
What do you think of my daughter, sir?

**PERICLES**

A most virtuous princess.

**SIMONIDES**

And she is fair too, is she not?

**PERICLES**

As a fair day in summer, wondrous fair.

**SIMONIDES**

Sir, my daughter thinks very well of you;

Ay, so well, that you must be her master,

And she will be your scholar: therefore look to it.

**PERICLES**

I am unworthy for her schoolmaster.

**SIMONIDES**

She thinks not so; peruse this writing else.

**PERICLES**

[Aside] What's here?

A letter, that she loves the knight of Tyre!

**SIMONIDES**

Here comes my daughter, she can witness it.

*Enter THAISA*

Yea, mistress, are you so peremptory?

Will you, having my consent,

Bestow your love and your affections

Upon this stranger knight?

**THAISA**

Yes, if you love me, sir.

**PERICLES**

Even as my life, or blood that fosters it.

**SIMONIDES**

What, are you both agreed?

**Both**

Yes, if it please your majesty.

**SIMONIDES**

It pleaseth me so well, that I will see you wed;

And then with what haste you can get you to bed.

*Exeunt*

**MARINA**

Are you a woman?

**Bawd**

What would you have me be, an I be not a woman?

**MARINA**

An honest woman, or not a woman.

**Bawd**

Marry, whip thee, gosling: I think I shall have something to do with you. Come, you're a young foolish sapling, and must be bowed as I would have you.

**MARINA**

The gods defend me!

**Bawd**

If it please the gods to defend you by men, then men must comfort you, men must feed you, men must stir you up. Boul't's returned.

*Re-enter BOULT*

Now, sir, hast thou cried her through the market?

**BOULT**

I have cried her almost to the number of her hairs; I have drawn her picture with my voice.

**Bawd**

And I prithee tell me, how dost thou find the inclination of the people, especially of the younger sort?

**BOULT**

'Faith, they listened to me as they would have hearkened to their father's testament. There was a Spaniard's mouth so watered, that he went to bed to her very description.

**Bawd**

We shall have him here to-morrow with his best ruff on.

**BOULT**

To-night, to-night.

**Bawd**

[To MARINA] Pray you, come hither awhile. You have fortunes coming upon you.

**MARINA**

I understand you not.

**BOULT**

O, take her home, mistress, take her home: these blushes of hers must be quenched with some present practise.

**Bawd**

Thou sayest true, i' faith, so they must.

**Bawd**

What's her price, Boul't?

**BOULT**

I cannot be bated one doit of a thousand pieces.

**Pandar**

Well, follow me, you shall have your money presently. Wife, take her in; instruct her what she has to do, that she may not be raw in her entertainment.

*Exeunt Pandar and 1<sup>st</sup> Pirate*

**Bawd**

Boul't, take you the marks of her, the colour of her hair, complexion, height, age, with warrant of her virginity; and cry 'He that will give most shall have her first.' Such a maidenhead were no cheap thing, if men were as they have been. Get this done as I command you.

**BOULT**

Performance shall follow.

*Exit*

**MARINA**

Alack that Leonine was so slack, so slow!  
He should have struck, not spoke; or that these pirates,  
Not enough barbarous, had not o'erboard thrown me  
For to seek my mother!

**Bawd**

Why lament you, pretty one?

**MARINA**

That I am pretty.

**Bawd**

Come, the gods have done their part in you.

**MARINA**

I accuse them not.

**Bawd**

You are light into my hands, where you are like to live.

**MARINA**

The more my fault  
To scape his hands where I was like to die.

**Bawd**

Ay, and you shall live in pleasure.

**MARINA**

No.

**Bawd**

Yes, indeed shall you, and taste gentlemen of all fashions: you shall fare well; you shall have the difference of all complexions. What! do you stop your ears?



# ACT III

## SCENE II. Mytilene. A room in a brothel.

*Enter Pandar, Bawd, and BOULT*

**Pandar**

Boult!

**BOULT**

Sir?

**Pandar**

Search the market narrowly; Mytilene is full of gallants. We lost too much money this mart by being too wenchless.

*Exit BOULT*

**Bawd**

We were never so much out of creatures. We have but poor three, and they can do no more than they can do; and they with continual action are even as good as rotten.

**Pandar**

Therefore let's have fresh ones, whate'er we pay for them.

**Bawd**

Thou sayest true;  
The stuff we have, a strong wind  
will blow it to pieces, they are so pitifully sodden.

**Pandar**

They're too unwholesome, o'  
conscience. The poor Transylvanian is dead, that  
lay with the little baggage.

**Bawd**

Ay, she quickly pooped him; she made him roast-meat  
for worms.

**Pandar**

Here comes Boult.

*Re-enter BOULT, with 1<sup>st</sup> Pirate and MARINA*

**BOULT**

[To MARINA] Come your ways. My masters, you say  
she's a virgin?

**First Pirate**

O, sir, we doubt it not.

**BOULT**

Master, I have gone through for this piece, you see:  
if you like her, so; if not, I have lost my earnest.

**Bawd**

Boult, has she any qualities?

**BOULT**

She has a good face, speaks well, and has excellent  
good clothes: there's no further necessity of  
qualities can make her be refused.

**MARINA**

Why would she have me kill'd?  
 Now, as I can remember, by my troth,  
 I never did her hurt in all my life:  
 I never spake bad word, nor did ill turn  
 To any living creature: believe me,  
 I never kill'd a mouse, nor hurt a fly:  
 I trod upon a worm against my will,  
 But I wept for it. How have I offended,  
 Wherein my death might yield her any profit,  
 Or my life imply her any danger?

**LEONINE**

My commission  
 Is not to reason of the deed, but do it.

**MARINA**

You will not do't for all the world, I hope.  
 You are well favour'd, and your looks foreshow  
 You have a gentle heart. I saw you lately,  
 When you caught hurt in parting two that fought:  
 Good sooth, it show'd well in you: do so now:  
 Your lady seeks my life; come you between,  
 And save poor me, the weaker.

**LEONINE**

I am sworn,  
 And will dispatch.

*He seizes her*

*Enter Pirates*

**First Pirate**

Hold, villain!

*LEONINE runs away*

**Second Pirate**

A prize! a prize!

**Third Pirate**

Half-part, mates, half-part.

Come, let's have her aboard suddenly.

*Exeunt Pirates with MARINA*

*Re-enter LEONINE*

**LEONINE**

These roguing thieves serve the great pirate Valdes;  
 And they have seized Marina. Let her go:  
 There's no hope she will return. I'll swear  
 she's dead,  
 And thrown into the sea. But I'll see further:  
 Perhaps they will but please themselves upon her,  
 Not carry her aboard. If she remain,  
 Whom they have ravish'd must by me be slain.

*Exit*

**PROLOGUE****CHORUS**

Now sleep y-slacked hath the rout;  
 No din but snores the house about,  
 Made louder by the o'er-fed breast  
 Of this most pompous marriage-feast.  
 Hymen hath brought the bride to bed.  
 Where, by the loss of maidenhead,  
 A babe is moulded. Be attent,  
 And time that is so briefly spent  
 With your fine fancies quaintly eche:  
 What's dumb in show we'll plain with speech.  
 At last from Tyre,  
 To the court of King Simonides  
 Are letters brought, the tenor these:  
 Antiochus dead;  
 The men of Tyre on the head  
 Of Helicanus would set on  
 The crown of Tyre, but he will none:  
 The mutiny he there hastes t' oppress;  
 Says to 'em, if King Pericles  
 Come not home in twice six moons,  
 He, obedient to their dooms,  
 Will take the crown. The sum of this,  
 Brought hither to Pentapolis,  
 Brief, he must hence depart to Tyre:  
 His queen with child makes her desire--  
 along to go:  
 Lychorida, her nurse, she takes,  
 And so to sea. Their vessel shakes  
 On Neptune's billow;  
 the grisly north  
 Disgorges such a tempest forth,  
 That, as a duck for life that dives,  
 So up and down the poor ship drives:  
 The lady shrieks, and well-a-near  
 Does fall in travail with her fear:  
 And what ensues in this fell storm  
 Shall for itself itself perform.

*Exit*

**SCENE I***Enter PERICLES, on shipboard***PERICLES**

Thou god of this great vast, rebuke these surges,  
 Which wash both heaven and hell; and thou, that hast  
 Upon the winds command, bind them in brass,  
 Having call'd them from the deep! O, how, Lychorida,  
 How does my queen? Thou stormest venomously;  
 Wilt thou spit all thyself?

Unheard. Lychorida!--Lucina, O

Divinest patroness, and midwife gentle  
 To those that cry by night, convey thy deity  
 Aboard our dancing boat; make swift the pangs  
 Of my queen's travails!

*Enter LYCHORIDA, with an Infant*

Now, Lychorida!

**LYCHORIDA**

Here is a thing too young for such a place,  
 Who, if it had conceit, would die, as I  
 Am like to do: take in your arms this piece  
 Of your dead queen.

**PERICLES**

How, how, Lychorida!

**LYCHORIDA**

Patience, good sir; do not assist the storm.  
 Here's all that is left living of your queen,  
 A little daughter: for the sake of it,  
 Be manly, and take comfort.

**PERICLES**

O you gods!

Why do you make us love your goodly gifts,  
 And snatch them straight away?

**LYCHORIDA**

Patience, good sir,  
 Even for this charge.

**PERICLES**

Now, mild may be thy life!  
 For a more blustrous birth had never babe:  
 Quiet and gentle thy conditions! for  
 Thou art the rudeliest welcome to this world  
 That ever was prince's child.

*Enter two Sailors of Pentapolis***First Sailor of Pentapolis**

What courage, sir? God save you!

**MARINA**

Well, I will go;  
 But yet I have no desire to it.

**DIONYZA**

Come, come, I know 'tis good for you.  
 Walk half an hour, Leonine, at the least:  
 Remember what I have said.

**LEONINE**

I warrant you, madam.

**DIONYZA**

I'll leave you, my sweet lady, for a while:  
 Pray, walk softly, do not heat your blood:  
 What! I must have a care of you.

**MARINA**

My thanks, sweet madam.

*Exit DIONYZA*

Is this wind westerly that blows?

**LEONINE**

South-west.

**MARINA**

When I was born, the wind was north.

**LEONINE**

Was't so?

**MARINA**

My father, as nurse said, did never fear,  
 But cried 'Good seaman!' to the sailors, galling  
 His kingly hands, haling ropes;  
 And, clasping to the mast, endured a sea  
 That almost burst the deck.

**LEONINE**

Come, say your prayers.

**MARINA**

What mean you?

**LEONINE**

If you require a little space for prayer,  
 I grant it: pray; but be not tedious,  
 For the gods are quick of ear, and I am sworn  
 To do my work with haste.

**MARINA**

Why will you kill me?

**LEONINE**

To satisfy my lady.

## SCENE I. Tarsus. An open place near the sea-shore.

*Enter DIONYZA and LEONINE*

**DIONYZA**

Thy oath remember; thou hast sworn to do't:  
'Tis but a blow, which never shall be known.  
Thou canst not do a thing in the world so soon,  
To yield thee so much profit. Let not conscience  
Inflame too nicely; nor let pity, which  
Even women have cast off, melt thee, but be  
A soldier to thy purpose.

**LEONINE**

I will do't; but yet she is a goodly creature.

**DIONYZA**

The fitter, then, the gods should have her. Here  
she comes weeping for her only nurse Lychorida's death.  
Thou art resolved?

**LEONINE**

I am resolved.

*Enter MARINA, with a basket of flowers*

**MARINA**

No, I will rob Tellus of her weed,  
To strew thy green with flowers: the yellows, blues,  
The purple violets, and marigolds,  
Shall as a carpet hang upon thy grave,  
While summer-days do last. Ay me! poor maid,  
Born in a tempest, when my mother died,  
This world to me is like a lasting storm,  
Whirring me from my friends.

**DIONYZA**

How now, Marina! why do you keep alone?  
How chance my daughter is not with you? Do not  
Consume your blood with sorrowing: you have  
A nurse of me. Lord, how your favour's changed  
With this unprofitable woe!  
Come, give me your flowers.  
Leonine, take her by the arm, walk with her.

**MARINA**

No, I pray you;  
I'll not bereave you of your servant.

**DIONYZA**

Go, I pray you,  
Walk, and be cheerful once again; reserve  
That excellent complexion, which did steal  
The eyes of young and old. Care not for me  
I can go home alone.

**PERICLES**

Courage enough: I do not fear the flaw;  
It hath done to me the worst. Yet, for the love  
Of this poor infant, this fresh-new sea-farer,  
I would it would be quiet.

**First Sailor of Pentapolis**

Sir, your queen must overboard: the sea works high,  
the wind is loud, and will not lie till the ship be  
cleared of the dead.

**PERICLES**

That's your superstition.

**First Sailor of Pentapolis**

Pardon us, sir; with us at sea it hath been still  
observed: and we are strong in custom. Therefore  
briefly yield her; for she must overboard straight.

**PERICLES**

As you think meet.

**LYCHORIDA**

Here she lies, sir.

**PERICLES**

A terrible childbed hast thou had, my dear;  
No light, no fire: the unfriendly elements  
Forgot thee utterly: nor have I time  
To give thee hallow'd to thy grave, but straight  
Must cast thee, scarcely coffin'd, in the ooze;  
Where, for a monument upon thy bones,  
the belching whale  
And humming water must o'erwhelm thy corpse,  
Lying with simple shells. O Lychorida,  
Bring me spices,  
My casket and my jewels;  
Hie thee, whiles I say  
A priestly farewell to her.

*Exit LYCHORIDA*

**Second Sailor of Pentapolis**

Sir, we have a chest beneath the hatches, caulked  
and bitumed ready.

**PERICLES**

I thank thee. Mariner, say what coast is this?

**Second Sailor of Pentapolis**

We are near Tarsus.

**PERICLES**

Thither, gentle mariner.  
When canst thou reach it?

**Second Sailor of Pentapolis**

By break of day, if the wind cease.

**PERICLES**

O, make for Tarsus!

There will I visit Cleon, for the babe

Cannot hold out to Tyre: there I'll leave it

At careful nursing. Go thy ways, good mariner.

*Exeunt*

## **SCENE II. Ephesus. A room in CERIMON'S house.**

*Enter CERIMON, with PHILEMON and a Nun*

**CERIMON**

'T has been a turbulent and stormy night.

**PHILEMON**

I have been in many; but such a night as this,

Till now, I ne'er endured.

*Enter two Gentlemen of Ephesus*

**First Gentleman of Ephesus**

Good morrow.

**Second Gentleman of Ephesus**

Good morrow to your worship.

**CERIMON**

Gentlemen,

Why do you stir so early?

**First Gentleman of Ephesus**

Madam, even now

Did the sea toss upon our shore this chest:

'Tis of some wreck.

**Second Gentleman of Ephesus**

'Tis like a coffin, madam.

**CERIMON**

How close 'tis caulk'd and bitumed!

Did the sea cast it up?

**First Gentleman of Ephesus**

I never saw so huge a billow, madam,

As toss'd it upon shore.

**CERIMON**

Wrench it open;

Soft! it smells most sweetly in my sense.

**Second Gentleman of Ephesus**

A delicate odour.

**CERIMON**

As ever hit my nostril. So, up with it.

O you most potent gods! what's here? a corse!

## **PROLOGUE**

**CHORUS**

Imagine Pericles arrived at Tyre,

Welcomed and settled to his own desire.

His woeful queen we leave at Ephesus,

Unto Diana there a votaress.

Now to Marina bend your mind,

Whom our fast-growing scene must find

At Tarsus, and by Cleon train'd

In music, letters; who hath gain'd

Of education all the grace,

Which makes her both the heart and place

Of general wonder. But, alack,

That monster envy, oft the wrack

Of earned praise, Marina's life

Seeks to take off by treason's knife.

And in this kind hath our Cleon

One daughter,

Called Philoten: and it is said

For certain in our story, she

Would ever with Marina be:

Marina gets

All praises, which are paid as debts,

And not as given. This so darks

In Philoten all graceful marks,

That Cleon's wife, with envy rare,

A present murderer does prepare

For good Marina, that her daughter

Might stand peerless by this slaughter.

And cursed Dionyza hath

The pregnant instrument of wrath

Prest for this blow. The unborn event

I do commend to your content:

Dionyza does appear,

With Leonine, a murderer.

*Exit*





# ACT IV

**First Gentleman of Ephesus**

Most strange!

**CERIMON**

Shrouded in cloth of state; balm'd and entreaured  
With full bags of spices! A passport too!

*Reads from a scroll*

'Here I give to understand,  
If e'er this coffin drive a-land,  
I, King Pericles, have lost  
This queen, worth all our mundane cost.  
Who finds her, give her burying;  
She was the daughter of a king:  
Besides this treasure for a fee,  
The gods requite his charity!  
If thou livest, Pericles, thou hast a heart  
That even cracks for woe! This chanced tonight.

**Second Gentleman of Ephesus**

Most likely.

**CERIMON**

Nay, certainly to-night;  
For look how fresh she looks! They were too rough  
That threw her in the sea. Make a fire within:  
Fetch hither all my boxes in my closet.

*Exit Nun and PHILEMON*

Death may usurp on nature many hours,  
And yet the fire of life kindle again  
The o'erpress'd spirits. I heard of an Egyptian  
That had nine hours lien dead,  
Who was by good appliance recovered.

*Re-enter Nun and PHILEMON with boxes*

The rough and woeful music that we have,  
Cause it to sound, beseech you.

I pray you, give her air.

Gentlemen,

This queen will live: nature awakes; a warmth  
Breathes out of her; see how she gins to blow  
Into life's flower again!

She is alive; behold,  
Her eyelids, cases to those heavenly jewels  
Which Pericles hath lost,

Begin to part their fringes of bright gold;  
The diamonds of a most praised water  
Do appear, to make the world twice rich. Live,  
And make us weep to hear your fate, fair creature,  
Rare as you seem to be.

*She moves*

**THAISA**

O dear Diana,  
Where am I? Where's my lord? What world is this?

**Second Gentleman of Ephesus**

Is not this strange?

**First Gentleman of Ephesus**

Most rare.

**CERIMON**

Hush, my gentle neighbours!

Lend me your hands.

Madam, this letter, and some certain jewels,

Lay with you in your coffer: which are now

At your command. Know you the character?

**THAISA**

It is my lord's.

That I was shipp'd at sea, I well remember,

Even on my eaning time; but whether there

Deliver'd, by the holy gods,

I cannot rightly say. But since King Pericles,

My wedded lord, I ne'er shall see again,

A vestal livery will I take me to,

And never more have joy.

**CERIMON**

Madam, if this you purpose as ye speak,

Diana's temple is not distant far,

Where you may abide till your date expire.

**THAISA**

My recompense is thanks, that's all;

Yet my good will is great, though the gift small.

*Exeunt*

### **SCENE III. Tarsus. A room in CLEON's house.**

*Enter PERICLES, CLEON, DIONYZA, and LYCHORIDA with MARINA in her arms*

**PERICLES**

Most honour'd Cleon, I must needs be gone;

My twelve months are expired, and Tyre stands

In a litigious peace. You, and your lady,

Take from my heart all thankfulness!

**DIONYZA**

O your sweet queen!

That the strict fates had pleased you had brought her hither,

To have bless'd mine eyes with her!

**PERICLES**

We cannot but obey

The powers above us. Could I rage and roar

As doth the sea she lies in, yet the end

Must be as 'tis. My gentle babe Marina, whom,

For she was born at sea, I have named so, here

I charge your charity withal, leaving her

The infant of your care; beseeching you

To give her princely training, that she may be

Manner'd as she is born.

**CLEON**

Fear not, my lord, but think

Your grace, that fed my country with your corn,

For which the people's prayers still fall upon you,

Must in your child be thought on.

**PERICLES**

I believe you;

Your honour and your goodness teach me to't,

Good madam, make me blessed in your care

In bringing up my child.

**DIONYZA**

I have one myself,

Who shall not be more dear to my respect

Than yours, my lord.

**PERICLES**

My thanks and prayers.

Come, dearest madam. O, no tears,

Lychorida, no tears:

Look to your little mistress, on whose grace

You may depend hereafter. So I take me leave.

*Exeunt*