

Version 1 Full Script

This extract is from Shakespeare's comedy *Much Ado About Nothing*. Beatrice and Benedick are old friends. They are really in love with each other, but they do not want to admit it. This is the first time we see them both on stage and they are both arguing and flirting. This is the script for this scene. Later in the play their friends trick them into admitting that they love each other and they end up getting married.

Benedick: What, my dear Lady Disdain! Are you yet living?

Beatrice: Is it possible disdain should die, while she hath such meet food to feed it as Signior Benedick? Courtesy itself must convert to disdain, if you come in her presence.

Benedick: Then is courtesy a turncoat. But it is certain I am loved of all ladies, only you excepted: and I would I could find in my heart that I had not a hard heart; for, truly, I love none.

Beatrice: A dear happiness to women: they would else have been troubled with a pernicious suitor. I thank God and my cold blood, I am of your humour for that: I had rather hear my dog bark at a crow than a man swear he loves me.

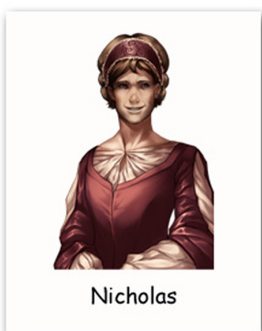
Benedick: God keep your ladyship still in that mind! So some gentleman or other shall 'scape a predestinate scratched face.

Beatrice: Scratching could not make it worse, an 'twere such a face as yours were.

Benedick: Well, you are a rare parrot-teacher!

Beatrice: A bird of my tongue is better than a beast of yours.

Benedick: I would my horse had the speed of your tongue, and so good a continuer. But keep your way, i' God's name; I have done.



Nicholas



Richard Burbage