

## Version 4 - Beatrice alone (italics)

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.

This is the script that the actor playing Beatrice would have been given.

*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.

*I love none.*

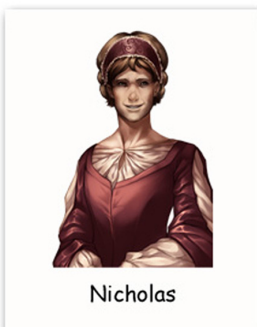
**Beatrice:** A dear happiness to women: they would else have been troubled with a pernicious suitor. I thank God and my cold blood, I am of your humour for that: I had rather hear my dog bark at a crow than a man swear he loves me.

*predestinate scratched face.*

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

*rare parrot-teacher!*

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



Nicholas



Richard Burbage