

COMEDIC RE-WRITE (SCENE TRANSLATIONS)

OPTION 1

ACT I, SCENE 2 (MEG, ALICE, QUICKLY, AND NANNETTA)

MEG

Greeting her friend
Alice.

ALICE

Also greeting
Meg.

MEG

Greeting again
Nannetta.

ALICE

To Meg
I must share something amusing with you.

To Mistress Quickly

Good morning, dear.

QUICKLY

May God bless you.

Caressing Nannetta's cheek

Pretty rosebud!

ALICE

Still to Meg
You've come at a good time.
Something incredible has happened to me.

MEG

And to me.

QUICKLY

Who was speaking with Nannetta,
now approaching with curiosity
What?

NANNETTA

Approaching
What?

ALICE

To Meg
You go first.

MEG

You go first.

ALICE

Promise that you won't tell anyone.

MEG

Do you think we would?!

QUICKLY

Dear lord! Of course we wouldn't.

ALICE

So: If I were to give in to the devil's temptation,
then I could be promoted to a gentleman's lady.

MEG

Me too.

ALICE

You're joking.

MEG

Taking a letter out of her pocket
Let's not waste time. I have a letter.

ALICE

Revealing a letter
So do I.

NANNETTA, QUICKLY

Oh!

ALICE

Giving the letter to Meg
Read it.

MEG

Exchanging the letters
Read it.

Reading Alice's letter

"Radiant Alice! I give you my love..."

I don't believe it. What does it say?
Apart from the name, the words are the same.

ALICE

Reading Meg's letter
"Radiant Meg! I give you my love..."

MEG

Continuing to read Alice's letter
"I long for love"

ALICE

Here "Meg," there "Alice."

MEG

They're the same.

Quoting again

"Do not ask why, but tell me ..."

ALICE

Quoting Meg's letter

"That you love me." I've never led him on.

MEG

It's all very strange.

All the women are in a group, comparing the letters and handing them around in curiosity.

QUICKLY

Let's look at them carefully.

MEG

The same verses.

ALICE

The same ink.

QUICKLY

The same handwriting.

ANNE

The same signature.

ALICE, MEG

Reading their own letters

"You are the joyous wife, I am the joyous husband, and together we make quite the couple."

ALICE

Indeed.

NANNETTA

Him, her, you...

QUICKLY

Three's a crowd!

ALICE

"Let's become one in the joyful pairing of a beautiful man and wife..."

ALL

How flashy.

ALICE

"And your face will shine on me like a star in the heavens."

ALL

Laughing

Ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha!

ALICE

Continuing

"Respond to your suitor, John Falstaff, Knight."

QUICKLY

Monster!

ALICE

We need to get back at him.

NANNETTA

And disgrace him.

ALICE

And make a fool of him.

NANNETTA

Oh! Oh! How funny!

QUICKLY

What fun!

MEG

What revenge!

OPTION 2 ACT II, SCENE 1 (FALSTAFF, BARDOLFO, PISTOLA, AND QUICKLY)

BARDOLFO, PISTOLA

Singing together and beating their chests in repentance
We are repentant and contrite.

FALSTAFF

Barely acknowledging them
Man returns to his evil ways like the cat returns to the cream.

BARDOLFO, PISTOLA

And we return to your service.

BARDOLFO

Master, there is a woman outside
who has asked to speak with you.

FALSTAFF

Send her in.

Bardolfo leaves from the left and returns with Mistress Quickly.

QUICKLY

Bowing deeply to Falstaff who is still seated
Your Honor.

FALSTAFF

Good morning, good woman.

QUICKLY

If your Grace accepts, I would like to have
a word with you in secret.

FALSTAFF

I'll grant you an audience.
*To Bardolfo and Pistola, who hover
in the background, spying*
Get out.

They leave, pulling faces at Falstaff

QUICKLY

Bowing again
Your Honor.

In a low voice

Mrs. Alice Ford...

FALSTAFF

Getting up and approaching Quickly thoughtfully
Yes?

QUICKLY

Alas! Poor woman! You are a great seducer!

FALSTAFF

Immediately
I know. Go on.

QUICKLY

Alice is in great distress due to her love for you. She thanks
you for your letter, and wants you to know that her husband
is always out between two and three...

FALSTAFF

Between two and three?

QUICKLY

Your Honor, at that time you will be able to freely enter her
house. The beautiful Alice! Poor woman! What cruel torment
she suffers! She has such a jealous husband!

FALSTAFF

Mulling over Quickly's words
From two to three. Tell her I await the hour impatiently.
I will not fail in my duty.

QUICKLY

Well said. But there is another message for your Honor.

FALSTAFF

Tell me.

QUICKLY

The beautiful Meg (an angel whom anyone would fall in love
with when they saw her) also greets you lovingly. But she says
that her husband is very rarely absent. Poor woman! A real
lily of purity and fidelity. You bewitch them all.

FALSTAFF

There's no witchcraft involved. It's the result of my own
personal charms. Tell me: do the two women know about
each other?

QUICKLY

Dear lord! Women are born cunning. But don't be afraid.

FALSTAFF

Looking in his bag

I will reward you...

QUICKLY

She who sows kindness reaps love.

FALSTAFF

Extracting a coin and handing it to Quickly

Take this, my Mercury woman.

Dismissing her with the gesture

Say hello to your ladies.

QUICKLY

Your Honor.