

# In Love but Discreet

*(La discreta enamorada)*

Translated by Vern G. Williamsen

IN LOVE BUT DISCREET (La discreta enamorada) was first performed at the University of Missouri-Columbia on February 28, 1986.

Directed by Weldon B. Durham  
Scenery and Lighting by Patrick Atkinson  
Costume Design by Jim Miller

The cast was as follows:

**Fenisa** Jennifer Allton **Belisa** Julie Karr **Lucindo** Jeff Portell **Captain** Rob Dillon **Hernando** Trent Kendall **Gerarda** Judy Dickherber **Doristeo** Joe Gately **Finardo** Kirk Wishon **Fulminato** Richard Hinschberger **Beatriz** Tracey Rabus  
**Musicians** Quentin Kuyper Julie Youmans

## CAST

### THE MEN

**LUCINDO** - a young gallant in his mid-twenties

**CAPTAIN** - a widower, forty-six years old

**HERNANDO** - man servant to Lucindo

**DORISTEO** - a young gallant in his mid twenties

**FINARDO** - a young friend of Doristeo

**FULMINATO** - older servant to the Captain

### THE WOMEN

**FENISA** - a young lady, near twenty years old

**BELISA** - her mother, a widow about forty years old

**GERARDA** - a young woman, courtesan of free-living reputation

**BEATRIZ** - maid servant to Fenisa and Belisa, young. A non-speaking role

### MUSICIANS

# ACT I

*Locale 1: A street in the Madrid of 1606*

*BELISA and FENISA, wearing "mantos" 1*

BELISA: Fenisa, get your eyes on the ground!

You don't need to look around.

FENISA: What? Not even at the sky?

BELISA: Don't talk back!

FENISA: I'm not surprised.

If God, with singular insight,

used his limitless, sacred might

to make men that stood up straight

so that they would see the place

they could eventually hope to go,

and animals for the earth below

with eyes directed at the ground,

why must mine look only down?

BELISA: Heaven is seen with the mind alone.

True virtue is found only at home.,

"Modesty in a maiden is treasure divine:

use it and naught but good can derive;

lose it and thousands of evils arise."

If you want, there's plenty of time,

Fenisa, in your room or in mine,

for contemplating the glories of heaven.

FENISA: I'm no nun! Don't waste the sermon.

If your reason for bringing me here

is to torture me, mother dear,

wouldn't your ends be better achieved

leaving me at home, under lock and key?

BELISA: Don't exaggerate.

FENISA: All the time,

you're after me, or after my eyes.

When did they give you reason...?

BELISA: It's because of the Holy Season.

That's reason enough to guard your eyes.

Don't get upset. I know I'm right.

"A beautiful girl is like a babe,

an evil eye sends either to the grave."

Here in Madrid there are lots of young men

whose burning look has deadly effect. 35

FENISA: How?

BELISA: Their fire reaches your heart  
not scorching the gown.

FENISA: I'm too smart  
to be easily fooled that way.

BELISA: As your sainted grandmother used to say: 40

"The maid who ventures out on the street,  
like the doe that hunters happen to meet,  
is lost when she spies  
the glint in their eyes:

one spark and she falls at their feet." 45

FENISA: How can I marry if I'm never seen?

BELISA: Anything is possible.

FENISA: Explain that, please.  
What do you mean?

BELISA: The game is played  
by keeping your virtue and guarding your name.

FENISA: "When a fortune in money of land is lacking 50

it seems that beauty's a girl's true backing."

Men want more now than virtue and health.

BELISA: What more?

FENISA: Good looks and wealth.

***LUCINDO enters with GERARDA, a courtesan, and his servant  
HERNANDO2***

GERARDA: So, I'm your love?

LUCINDO: That you can say.

GERARDA: You do talk big. 55

LUCINDO: Men talk that way.

FENISA: (There's Lucindo).

GERARDA: What a braggart!

LUCINDO: Braggart! Now who's being smart?

FENISA: (Me, love him? How silly of me!

He's not interested; I must be crazy.)

GERARDA: When it comes to a talkative lover, 60

I'm cruel. My taste, you'll discover,

doesn't run to fooling around.

LUCINDO: You make me laugh.

GERARDA: A bucket of frowns  
won't get you one drop of my love.

LUCINDO: Let my devotion calm you, my dove. 65

If my crime is having been nice  
to some woman who was passing by,  
I also said I love you, my dear.  
GERARDA: Take that stuff and get out of here.  
Go to the Indies with your bauble and beads. 70  
Hook someone there, you'll never get me.  
I have to be hit with solid gold,  
anything less won't do, you know.  
FENISA: (Such love for someone I've never met?  
Can it be? Is it possible? Not yet.) 75

***DORISTEO enters with FINARDO. They are opposite LUCINDO  
and GERARDA***

FINARDO: They came this way.  
DORISTEO: What's he like?  
FINARDO: Well-dressed.  
DORISTEO: Is that...?  
FINARDO: It's them, all right.  
GERARDA: Do you see that man coming over there?  
LUCINDO: I do.  
GERARDA: Well, we make a pair.  
My love for you has been a good joke. 80  
Good-bye. He's waiting for me, you know.

***GERARDA moves across to join DORISTEO and FINARDO***

LUCINDO: What happened here?  
HERNANDO: She shot you down.  
LUCINDO: Should I go after her? Tell me how.  
HERNANDO: Do you love her?  
LUCINDO: So much I'm burning.  
HERNANDO: Then we need cold water! There's no earning 85  
the love of that woman.  
GERARDA: (**To Doristeo**) You caught my eye.  
DORISTEO: You tamed my temper. It's just that I  
saw you standing beside that clown  
who's over there strutting about. 90  
you're here. Take my thanks and my arm.  
GERARDA: You come with me.  
DORISTEO: Where to?  
GERARDA: To the park.

*GERARDA, DORISTEO, and FINARDO exit. BELISA and FENISA are to one side; LUCINDO and HERNANDO on the other*

LUCINDO: They've gone!

HERNANDO: In a big hurry.  
she's only teasing you. Don't worry.

LUCINDO: Who's that girl? 95

HERNANDO: She lives across the street  
with her watchdog mother. Getting a peace3  
in Ireland would be easier.

FENISA: (How can I?4  
Love someone who doesn't know I'm alive?)  
LUCINDO: I've never seen her before.

FENISA: (Some way,  
I must resist my feelings. Some day,  
I'll manage to let him see my face. 100

Has any woman ever been so insane?)  
HERNANDO: I give you my word. If you could get  
a good look, I'm sure you'd forget  
Gerarda. Fenisa's sweet, she's nice, 105  
she's wise, but if she's caught the eye  
of your father....

LUCINDO: My father!

HERNANDO: It may be the other.  
It would be more fitting he marry the mother.5  
LUCINDO: At his age? Get married?

HERNANDO: I have observed  
him watching the lady; she's well-preserved... 110

LUCINDO: I'm so jealous I'm pulling my hair.  
So how can you expect me to look elsewhere?

HERNANDO: She is good looking.

LUCINDO: A jealous man  
wants only one woman.

FENISA: (A very good plan!

I KNOW HOW TO START THIS PLAY:  
I'll drop my hanky when we pass his way. 115

When he gives it back, he'll have a chance:  
a real good look. If he'll only glance  
into my eyes and see the love hidden there...)

HERNANDO: Look at those eyes. In love, I'd swear...  
or ready for love at least. 120

BELISA: It's time,

Fenisa. Let's go.

HERNANDO: They're coming by.

Open your eyes, notice her beauty.

LUCINDO: A real angel! Or, so it seems.

*As BELISA and FENISA pass, FENISA drops her hanky*

HERNANDO: Her handkerchief!

LUCINDO: I'll get it for her.

*LUCINDO picks it up and runs after them*

Ladies, please wait.

125

FENISA: Something for you, sir?

LUCINDO: You dropped your 'kerchief.

FENISA: Perhaps, I'll see...

LUCINDO: But...

FENISA: ...if mine is still up my sleeve.<sup>6</sup>

*FENISA removes her "manto" and starts to search her clothing*

BELISA: What are you doing?

FENISA: Not here I see.

BELISA: What is he doing?

FENISA: He's giving it to me.

BELISA: What?

130

LUCINDO: (What a beauty!)

FENISA: I'll soon find out.

It's not here either.

HERNANDO: (Sweet and soft!

Enough to drive a sane man giddy!)

FENISA: I'll look in my purse.<sup>7</sup>

BELISA: Stop!

FENISA: I'll hurry.

Not here.

BELISA: Let's go!

FENISA: Not here either.

BELISA: What's keeping you?

135

FENISA: Is it embroidered?

LUCINDO: Yes.

FENISA: With lace?

LUCINDO: Can't you see?

BELISA: We've been here too long, out on the street.

Anyone could see you as they pass by.

FENISA: You think I should take it if it's not mine?

LUCINDO: I'll trust you with it.

140

FENISA: Is there a place  
with worn embroidery?

LUCINDO: Next to the lace.

FENISA: Which side?

BELISA: Stop fooling.

LUCINDO: I'm sure it's yours.

BELISA: Let's go. Young man, inside the church door,  
there's a place that's near the baptismal font...8

***FENISA takes the handkerchief from LUCINDO***

FENISA: (I hope Cupid sharpened his arrow.)

145

BELISA: Let's go!

FENISA: I'm coming.

***FENISA turns to follow her mother but then turns back***

HERNANDO: Look at her.

LUCINDO: I can't see... My jealousy...

FENISA: Oh, sir!

LUCINDO: What can I do?

FENISA: I wanted to say:

if the real owner shows up some day,  
you may, since I'm not sure it's mine,  
tell her I live on the Street of the Vines...

150

HERNANDO: (How graceful! What a shape! How discreet!)

FENISA: ...near the Captain Bernardo. Across the street.

LUCINDO: That's my father!

FENISA: (Tell me how  
love burns.)

155

BELISA: Are you insane?

FENISA: Just now  
this man was saying he's our neighbor.

BELISA: Let's go.

FENISA: (Dear God, grant me this favor.)

***BELISA and FENISA exit***

HERNANDO: What do you think?

LUCINDO: She's really sweet.

She's beautiful, bewitching, and discreet.  
 But love for Gerarda has me tied down. 160  
 "Jealousy's swampy, treacherous ground.  
 The strongest of men are caught in it's snare."  
 It's a terrible thing when a woman dares  
 to seek revenge, playing up to another.  
 Even if my love had been much smaller, 165  
 seeing her do what it was she did  
 was enough to drive me out of my head.  
 HERNANDO: Loose women, it seems, get the most love;  
 but without honor, they're really lost.  
 "When an honest women suffers disdain, 170  
 her lover won't care if she complains.  
 He already knows she'll stay at home,  
 rotting in her room, but safely alone."  
 These easier women don't fool around.  
 Their lover's foot hardly touches the ground 175  
 when they give consolation a try  
 with any one of a thousand men.  
 LUCINDO: That's why:  
 "Love for a loose woman disappears fast,  
 love for a good one will always last."  
 HERNANDO: "Men still wet behind the ears 180  
 use their swords to calm their fears."<sup>9</sup>  
 But I still have hope for you. Some day,  
 you'll see the truth of what I say.  
 LUCINDO: Gerarda's given me cause to feel...  
 HERNANDO: Any woman, as crazy as she is free, 185  
 is like a monkey who wants to play  
 games with the children every day.  
 Let a man with a big stick<sup>10</sup> come  
 to straighten her out and she's all undone  
 She sits quietly picking at fleas,<sup>11</sup> 190  
 ready to jump if her lord should sneeze.  
 Women love playing around with men  
 who're young and inexperienced  
 but with a mature and able master  
 they do what he says, and they do it faster. 195  
 Gerarda saw that you were hooked  
 but not worn out, and having others to cook,  
 she's letting you play, giving you the line  
 of jealousy on jealousy, time after time.  
 LUCINDO: What can I do? 200

HERNANDO: Try to find  
a beautiful solution.

LUCINDO: Do you have in mind  
a cure for love?

HERNANDO: Certainly!

LUCINDO: What?

HERNANDO: Another love.

LUCINDO: Let's not talk  
about it any more. We'll wait and see  
how it all winds up. 205

HERNANDO: It's clear to me:  
she's using her wiles to make you fall.  
Lucindo, a wise man used to call  
jealousy the finest of fishing fear.  
It can be used any time of the year  
to catch honor, wealth, and fame. 210

I think that you would be ashamed  
that a fishing rod, made from a reed<sup>12</sup>  
weak enough to bend in the breeze,  
could be used to catch you. Your bait  
is wealth; jealousy is your line. Just wait. 215  
Money not youth should hang from your thread.

On women, another wise man once said:  
"The web a woman weaves  
is like that of a spider,  
the victim it deceives 220  
is weaker, not the stronger."  
Tell me, does it bother you when I try  
to teach you about the facts of life?

LUCINDO: Just don't get boring. You think you see  
that I'm caught by love, that I'm not free, 225  
that I'm only a fly caught in her net...

HERNANDO: What kind? A fruit fly?<sup>13</sup>

LUCINDO: You say I'm all wet,  
just a simple fish following her bait.  
Let's go visit, it's not too late.  
I think that she has hooked my heart. 230

HERNANDO: I fear you'll make some trouble.

LUCINDO: As a start!

HERNANDO: God in Heaven! What a stupid waste!

LUCINDO: But what fine bait! What spicy taste!

**LUCINDO and HERNANDO exit****Locale 2: A**

room in BELISA'S house BELISA and FENISA enter removing their clogs<sup>14</sup> and "mantos"

BELISA: Where's your manto? FENISA: Off.

BELISA: Here's mine. Put them both away.

FENISA: I'm surprised that you're so angry.

May God help me! What have I done? How can it be that everything I do is wrong? BELISA:

Don't I know what was going on? But then I'm getting what I deserve. If you were locked up, you might preserve your good name. You'd

have no time to... FENISA: If, by some miracle, I make it through the holidays and your anger with me, I'd really prefer you not let me free.

BELISA: I don't believe you. FENISA: What have I done to make you complain so? BELISA: I can't condone your freedom of action.

FENISA: What freedom? BELISA: Didn't I see? Why didn't you come? FENISA: What young man showing off his wares ever made me the object of his stares? Has even one thrown pebbles at my shutters hoping I'd answer with heart all-aflutter? Have you seen me signal to one in church? Has one come following me in search of love? What is it that you fear? Has any procuress<sup>15</sup> come around here? What love note from some young man have you ever found in my hand? What pen? What ink? Tell me. Do. What gifts do I get from any but you? What clogs? What veil? BELISA: I want to prevent

exactly that... without argument. I'm not complaining about what you've done. FENISA: What then? BELISA: What you've left undone. Guard yourself from the things you've mentioned. You must think of your own protection; new bars on the door, an extra key...

FENISA: (Does she think that would ever stop me?) BELISA: What are you saying? FENISA: That I'll gladly do just as you wish: not argue with you. When you were young, were you a saint? BELISA: Not even once was there ever a taint of gossip that could be laid at my feet. At home, in the church, and on the street, I kept my eyes under lock and key.<sup>16</sup> FENISA: Then

tell me how you managed to have me? BELISA: Heaven, seeing my virtue, recognized my need. God knows all. FENISA: Your sister told me that you made novenas to St. Anthony. BELISA: Me? For a husband? FENISA: Seeking matrimony! She also said you fasted on Friday just like a hermit, and that was your way of getting the husband you always wanted. BELISA: She's lying! My mind was never haunted by such thoughts. Rather a nun than marry for pleasure as others have done. FENISA: Then why were so jealous of my father? May he rest in peace! BELISA: Dear daughter, because there was no money or jewelry that he wouldn't give to some beauty he found down the block. I wanted to try to save something for you. There is a knock at the door FENISA: A knock, shall I? BELISA: Yes, you go and see who's there. FENISA goes to look out the window FENISA: It's the Captain. BELISA: I think I'm aware of exactly what it is he wants. FENISA: You know already? How could you? BELISA: He's watched the house for days. I think he likes me. I've shown contempt, but you will see. He probably want to ask for my hand. He's rich and well-bred, so it's not all bad. FENISA: Pardon me mother, for wanting to laugh. BELISA: What about? FENISA: How it all came to pass. How you were a saint right here on earth, at home, on the street, and in the church. Please tell me what the Captain has done to give you ideas? (Oh, what fun! I certainly hope I can follow her lead.) BELISA: He's a very rich man and we need a man in the house. He'd be a good father. FENISA: But listen to me. It seems such a bother if it's all for me. BELISA: It's only because a man in the house makes other men pause. FENISA: Well then, let me be the one to marry and the burden would be my man's to carry. BELISA: If there had been a serious offer, I'd have agreed... to guard your honor. FENISA: You could argue that. BELISA: It's

you he'd guard. FENISA: But a husband of my own, even if it's hard, wouldn't he be better protection? BELISA: Certainly, but the Captain has a son. Perhaps we can arrange that, too. FENISA: (Lucindo, my love, let's hope that they do.) The CAPTAIN Bernardo enters with fulminato, he servant CAPTAIN: Since it took so long to answer the door, I didn't wait for permission. What for? I assumed that as your neighbor since coming to Madrid after the war, it was only right we should meet. BELISA: (Think how much he must want me!) We'd have been disturbed, dear sir, if you hadn't come. This house is yours. Bring the chair, Fenisa, please. The CAPTAIN sits 17 and the ladies go off to one side to prepare CAPTAIN: You, go outside and wait for me. FULMINATO exits BELISA: I'm bothered, Fenisa, and unprepared. I wasn't ready. Is my cap on straight? FENISA: You never looked better. BELISA: How's my face? FENISA: Just fine. BELISA: Have my eyes just a trace of the fire inside? FENISA: What a notion! BELISA: How do I look? FENISA: Worthy of devotion. BELISA: I don't hear any love in your voice. FENISA: (Oh, you saints by privation not choice! "Old ladies unable to enjoy what they eat are envious of those who still have their teeth." But I'm not shocked. She is a woman.) BELISA: Today I was careless with my make up. FENISA: Don't flutter about, mother. BELISA: How's that? FENISA: He'll fall asleep waiting. BELISA: Oh, drat! I'm finished and ready to play the game. FENISA: (Your cheeks should be colored...with shame.) BELISA sits near the CAPTAIN BELISA: Now, dear Captain, I'm ready to chat. CAPTAIN: My dear Belisa, I'm glad to hear that. Belisa, having become your neighbor and kept my eye on your house for some time now, I've had reason to learn about your virtues and your worth. I see everything that happens here, day and night. Also, as is usual in one who is about to marry,

I've inquired about you and know all about your family. Because even in someone my age, virtue and beauty can stir up feelings that some people think ought better be put to rest as one gets older, I have come here today with a proposal of marriage. I'm younger than I look, but years of running off to strange places, and even stranger climates, bearing arms, sleeping out-of-doors, walking dusty roads, traveling under sail, experiencing all kinds of military dangers, riding through sleepless nights on rented nags, from Spain to Flanders and back, have worn away the body that I had as a younger man. The Emperor Charles --may the Good Lord keep him--said it all when he said that his travels at sea and on horseback had made him old by the time he was forty-six--my age exactly--.<sup>18</sup> I was born in the sixties and the Duke and Duchess of Alba--may their light eternally dawn over Spain-- were my godparents.<sup>19</sup> Since then I've seen journeys and traveled enough roads that even if I were a man of steel, I'd have been worn out. After all, ladies, we are neighbors and older men are needed to keep a house and fortune in good order. Younger men are like moths in a woolen garment when it comes to money because they are just beginning to get out and around; older men have no need for such nonsense. Yet my age is not so great that it should offend either your values or your virtues. I am still limber and strong. I still eat and sleep well, and I can still manage to mount, and ride a horse. I don't believe I've been ill a day in my life. Only the hand of an enemy has ever taken my blood -- that and a duel I had in Palermo many years ago. The one son I have is well grown now and will soon receive his commission as well as the title I have been negotiating for him. Consequently, he will not be a disturbing factor. FENISA: (Please, God. keep Lucindo here for a while.) CAPTAIN: He'll be leaving soon. Therefore, Belisa, I beg you most humbly to let

me marry your daughter Fenisa. I expect to give her a good marriage settlement. In addition to which she will have the management of the small fortune my sword has earned for me. If she is not repelled at the thought of the great difference in our ages, she will soon enough discover that I'm not completely burned out.

FENISA: My daughter! You want to marry my daughter? CAPTAIN: Give me her hand and I'd be honored.

FENISA: (A sad day for me. I don't understand. I thought it was Mother. He wanted her hand. My hopes for Lucindo were only a dream. The dreams have soured that once were sweet.) BELISA: Weren't you proposing to me? CAPTAIN: Oh, no! BELISA:

I was happy... but now that I know, I'm happier still. You heard what he said? FENISA: (The faith<sup>20</sup> I felt, the life I dreamt, made my heart jump, now it'll break. Such fallacious faith, false faith, fake from the first! Perfidious, fraudulent faith in a dream that was there to be dreamt. I swear that I'll never again have faith.)

Mother, how can this be if he came to ask for you? BELISA: Good Heavens above! That wasn't his intention. FENISA: (Sweet dreams of love! That's all they were! It was all a mistake, only a joke. I might as well say that dreams are only dreams after all.)<sup>21</sup> BELISA: Fenisa,

although I've seen my hopes fall, --I admit I'd hope to marry-- I feel better now since he asked through me for your hand in marriage. You are young, you are discreet. Now that it's done, you can convince yourself to accept. FENISA: At your age a woman is won by wealth, at mine she wants good looks. You elders have had your chance at youthful pleasures and are interested in what money brings: peace and quiet, gifts and things. Envious of youth, you search for these. But, to disobey you would deny my ideals. Right now I'm not well, I need a month's rest.

Will you ask for some time before we are wed?

BELISA: I can do that, and in such a way he'll thank me for the brief delay. BELISA goes to

talk with the CAPTAIN FENISA: (To pretend to accept was really discreet; it will give me the chance to achieve my heart's desire. To refuse right away would make him angry. There'd be no way to see Lucindo. His expectations will give us a means of communication.) CAPTAIN: This all pleases me very much. I understand and I'll wait one month. But let me talk to her alone, I have something to say. FENISA: (I hope...) CAPTAIN: Dear Fenisa, Madrid's never seen anyone more resolute and discreet. The decision, in spite of your age, confirms your virtue and self-control. The terms you have set prove the quality of your honor. Having accepted me you've found a father and a protector. If God give me the strength and vigor, this gray beard will guard your virtue. The snow on my brow and the fire of your youth may not mix well, but the gold on your head and the silver on mine, once we are wed, will provide all the wealth we need. FENISA: Your worth and quality, as we've agreed, are a match for my years. Now, can we stop being so formal? I'm yours, after all. CAPTAIN: Mine, did you say? FENISA: And correctly, too. Having accepted, I belong to you. CAPTAIN: I think this calls for a celebration. All of Madrid... the entire nation... will applaud the games in the main square, if I can get a permit. FENISA: Stop there! Please, let's have no such commotion. CAPTAIN: All right, I'll give in to your notion, but if it weren't... FENISA: I've something to say. CAPTAIN: For you I'm all ears. FENISA: May God keep you safe. Now FENISA adopt the same ponderous tone the CAPTAIN had used Until today, I didn't know that Lucindo, the man who comes to your house from time to time, was your son. My mother was just telling me that when you came in. Since, he's your son, and you're to be my husband, if God grants me the health... CAPTAIN: What flowery words! By the living God! The sun of your sweet smile is melting the

frost on my head. FENISA: I was trying to say, sir, that it's very important for you to stop him from chasing after me. CAPTAIN: My son has been bothering you? FENISA: If only he were doing so properly and discreetly, and with the courtesy due a woman of my station, I would not complain. I don't believe in such hypocrisy. CAPTAIN: What's he been doing? FENISA: He's been writing me love notes delivered by go-betweens, old ladies that he keeps sending to the house on pretended errands. He's gone so far as to try to get my friends to speak for him. And in all that time it doesn't seem that the thought of marriage has ever crossed his mind. CAPTAIN: The boy is mad! I beg you to forgive him. I'll go his bail this time and promise that he won't upset you in the future. FENISA: Now that he's almost my son, I beg you to be careful but still let him know exactly what it is I've complained about. I know I can trust your discretion in the matter. CAPTAIN: Leave your worries to me. Heaven keep you well. Belisa, I was just telling Fenisa of how I want to give her everything. I live only to serve her. May God preserve you until I return. You really must give me permission to do so again soon. BELISA: Heaven keep you too, Captain. The CAPTAIN exits Fenisa, see what good fortune the Lord brought us today! FENISA: Are you all that happy about it? BELISA: Can't you see that I am? FENISA: I think you're covering up your true feelings. BELISA: Why? FENISA: You wanted to marry him yourself. BELISA: Don't be ridiculous. Let's go in. BELISA exits FENISA: Oh, Lucindo, if you don't understand my message, you weren't born in Madrid..., or you lack discretion; but if you do understand and come looking for me, you were indeed, and are discreet. FENISA exits

Locale 3: The street in front of GERARDA'S house LUCINDO and HERNANDO enter LUCINDO: Has he left yet? HERNANDO: He's taking his time. LUCINDO: I'm jealous of that. HERNANDO: He may find

her house a place with much to show. He'll spend two weeks just getting to know his way around. I'd rather be a slave than to work for her even one day. LUCINDO: If he's so lucky as to be aboard Gerarda's galley, dipping his oar...<sup>22</sup> --and he must be he's taking so long-- I'm envious. I hope that I'm wrong. Shall we wait for him to come ashore? How unlucky I am, Hernando. I adore that skillful, sly woman whose vanity seems easy prey for his flattery... and yet, her heart is made of steel.

HERNANDO: It's only right that love makes one reel, but being loved should never raise those spectral bastards: Neglect and Disdain.

LUCINDO: He's leaving now and she has come out. HERNANDO: For one more look at her beau, no doubt. DORISTEO and FINARDO come out of GERARDA'S house onto the street.

GERARDA appears on her balcony

GERARDA: (Lucindo is here!) LUCINDO:

(Bad luck just grows.) DORISTEO: Isn't she

elegant? FINARDO: Extremely so. As discreet

as she is courtly. DORISTEO: And her shape!

Just what I like! FINARDO: You've got it

made, but Lucindo is there. DORISTEO: So he

is. FINARDO: Oh, Lord! I wonder if he came to

try out his sword?<sup>23</sup> DORISTEO: I don't care

why. I know she hates him. GERARDA: (He's

jealous. Let the devil take him! Disdain and

Neglect make a man come around. I'll stick it to

him and pin him to the ground. I'll call Doristeo

even though I can't stand him. Back up and

start over. That ought to do it. I'll get what I

want.) Please, sir. LUCINDO: Who, me?

GERARDA: Not you. DORISTEO: You mean

me? GERARDA: As you can see. LUCINDO:

Got me! HERNANDO; Just being here is a

shame. LUCINDO: Think, Hernando. We must

find a way to convince her I'm here for another

reason. What'll I do? GERARDA: Since this is

the season, I'd like to go for a ride tonight.

DORISTEO: Where? GERARDA: To the

Prado if that's all right. Will you pick me up?

DORISTEO: I'll be here at eight. LUCINDO:  
To go to the Prado! They've made a date!  
HERNANDO: Try to forget her. I do believe  
your jealousy's in need of some relief.  
DORISTEO: Is that all you want? GERARDA:  
Thank you, yes. DORISTEO: Good-bye then.  
FINARDO: Nothing more? DORISTEO: Let's  
go. FINARDO: Oh, yes! DORISTEO and  
FINARDO exit. LUCINDO and HERNANDO  
are in the street. GERARDA is still on the  
balcony LUCINDO: Why didn't I draw my  
sword to stop her from shooting at me? Good  
Lord! I've got to make her jealous of me. That  
might bring her around. You see? it's my bad  
luck that the heavens above won't let me bring  
her to love through love. HERNANDO: But  
what is your plan? LUCINDO: I'd really like to  
take a woman to the Prado tonight. Gerarda  
would see us and... Oh, what a blow!  
HERNANDO: Who would go with you?  
LUCINDO: That I don't know. HERNANDO:  
It'd be hard to find one now. LUCINDO: No  
matter. We'll put a manto on you.  
HERNANDO: I'd rather... You'd have to call  
me Madame the Terrible. LUCINDO: That's  
what I'll do. HERNANDO: You're crazy.  
LUCINDO: It's possible. Why not?  
HERNANDO: Why not? What if we meet Don  
Juan<sup>24</sup> and he acts before he speaks?  
LUCINDO: I'll be there, Hernando. For now,  
you go ask Gerarda if she's seen a lady pass.  
HERNANDO: A good idea! I think that might  
do. You've tried loving, try jealousy too. Miss  
Gerarda! GERARDA: Hernando, is that you?  
HERNANDO: Yes, it is. GERARDA: I have  
some work to do. HERNANDO: Just listen a  
minute. GERARDA: A minute? I'll wait.  
HERNANDO: You show discretion and have  
good taste... GERARDA: Just say what you  
want. HERNANDO: I wanted to know which of  
these houses is... Estefania's home, so that dunce  
of a master won't take away the salary he owes  
me for today. He asked me to follow her and I

lost track when I saw you here. GERARDA:  
Now that's a laugh. You go tell that fool of a  
master such tricks only invite disaster. She  
turns toward LUCINDO Oh, Sir Sombre, why  
the tricks? Throw off the jealousy that's making  
you sick. Try some plain talk. Tell me the truth.  
How can you claim bravery as a virtue if just  
seeing me here has you shaking? Give me your  
wrist to feel the quaking of your pulse. Let me  
touch your brow. Dear Heaven, you're burning!  
What is it now? You, there, bring this man a  
swallow of orange-blossom water.

HERNANDO: That's a low blow. GERARDA:  
Why do you need to make up stories for me?  
Trying to get even with me? With me?

LUCINDO: I'm angry. HERNANDO: Me too.

Do you know a poet? LUCINDO: What for?

HERNANDO: To write a satirical poem that we  
can use, like a prescription against that witch.<sup>25</sup>  
He can put her description into a gossip song.  
We'll hang her in effigy. We'll buy a cowbell to  
use in the revelry. You get the costumes and  
we'll have a feast. By God...! LUCINDO: Be  
quiet, you ignorant beast. My love, my  
Gerarda...

GERARDA: I must go, it's late.

GERARDA exits LUCINDO: What? Where are  
you going? Please wait. Listen to your lover.  
Tell me why you hurt me this way. Why do I...

HERNANDO: Does Estefania live here?

LUCINDO: Stop that! HERNANDO: She went  
that way. She left at last. There's your father.

LUCINDO: Coming this way? The CAPTAIN

enters CAPTAIN: I've looked everywhere for  
you all day. LUCINDO: I can guess why you  
want to see me. You always complain that I'm  
too free, too restless, and stay out too late; but  
really it's all right to chase women at my age; a  
sign of daring that's proper to a man of bearing.  
If it's because she has no honor...<sup>26</sup> CAPTAIN:

No honor? What do you mean? Why for...

Where did you get that scorpion tongue? Are  
you worthy to kiss her foot? Even the ground  
she has stepped upon? LUCINDO: I'm annoyed

at what she has done, making me jealous with a man or two she claims to adore. CAPTAIN: What talk from you! About a fine lady! But then I must be the one you're talking about. It's me she loves. LUCINDO: She loves you, too? CAPTAIN: I have what it takes. LUCINDO: (I'm sure you do.) CAPTAIN: Speak up now. LUCINDO: I'm sorry you're here. She must have twenty more, I fear... CAPTAIN: You talk that way because you feel left out knowing she's accepted me. And such a nice lady! If the mourning wouldn't delay our marriage... One warning: I'd run you through. LUCINDO: You? Marry her? You might as well kill me. Just consider... CAPTAIN: What should I consider? Anything more? LUCINDO: She's little better than a common whore! CAPTAIN: (Now that makes me stop and think...but then, he may be trying to provoke me again to stop the wedding. Like a soldier who reflects the sun, aiming a mirror into the eyes of an approaching line, that fool wants to anger me with his advice. I'll go to Fenisa and take her his answer, but I have stopped to think and wonder.) The CAPTAIN exits HERNANDO: What about that? LUCINDO: I'm ready to kill. Break down those doors. LUCINDO pounds on GERARDA's doors HERNANDO: Not now! Be still! LUCINDO: Come out here right now, you witch. HERNANDO: Wait a minute. Calm down a bit. GERARDA comes again onto the balcony GERARDA: Knocking down my house, you silly clown? LUCINDO: What stops me from killing you now? GERARDA: A dagger for me? A very pretty play!<sup>27</sup> LUCINDO: Why did you fool my father that way by saying you'd marry him? GERARDA: That's a good one you're trying to pull. Do you need a reason to come talk to me? LUCINDO: Tell me why I weaken when I see you. Why don't I just kill you right now? My father was here. He told me you'd marry him. How queer! GERARDA: Me? I've never seen him. That boob Hernando made

it all up so you, Lucindo, could come see me.  
HERNANDO: Less contempt! He's telling the truth, not what I dreamt. GERARDA: Not so loud! HERNANDO: If I must whisper my lies, the truth I'll speak out loud. GERARDA: I'm surprised by your gall. LUCINDO: And I by your cheek. When did you see him? Where did you speak? How did he find you? GERARDA: What are you saying? I've never heard such crazy raving. LUCINDO: You've made him forget his graying hair. All women are devils. That I swear. GERARDA: You men are all angels, I suppose? Lucindo, are you afraid to show that you've been hurt by my disdain? Do I know your father? Isn't it plain what it is you're doing? LUCINDO: I pray if you marry you realize your mistake: that the old man lives two thousand years. You got him by fooling his eyes and his ears to get even with me. By God! What curse more inhuman, what oath more perverse, than to hope you awaken each day of the week lying beside that snow-capped peak? What more foul than to find your body beside the aging hulk of your hubby, like ice in the winter, a scarecrow in summer? When you're married, cruel stepmother, I'll kiss your hand, he'll kiss your mouth. What a choice! GERARDA: Hernando, tell me now, is this the truth or one of your plots? HERNANDO: I wish it were. GERARDA: I know your thoughts: when I made a date for the Prado tonight, you heard me and want to stop me. All right! I will have a coach and I will have some fun. We'll hire musicians before we are done. Please take your stunts to Estefania. There! LUCINDO: I'll kill you yet. GERARDA: Oh, I'm really scared! GERARDA exits HERNANDO: She left! LUCINDO: She closed the door, the bitch! Damn this love that makes me twitch! Please open the door, my love. Hernando, are her maids around? Look through the keyhole. HERNANDO: She sure knows how to get under your skin. LUCINDO: And flay me too.

HERNANDO: Her efforts to win the old man were a success. LUCINDO: You can bet her beauty made him easy to get. The CAPTAIN enters CAPTAIN: Are you still here? LUCINDO: What a surprise! This house, these doors today are mine; tomorrow they may be yours. Can I so swiftly leave behind the one who is to be your bride? The woman I adore? CAPTAIN: I think you must have gone insane. You told me several terrible tales about that angel Fenisa. And reporting that made me lose face. I was lucky to get away safe from her mother, Belisa. You traitor! You caused the trouble. My wife-to-be is much more honorable, more virtuous than your mother. LUCINDO: Who is the subject of all this babble? CAPTAIN: Fenisa. LUCINDO: But she's more respectable than almost any other! The woman I was talking about, the strumpet who lives in this house, is Gerarda. CAPTAIN: What does she have to do with Fenisa, you lout? LUCINDO: Well, I was here when you bawled me out about some woman, you see? CAPTAIN: Now that is just another tale that you've invented. All with the aid of your servant buffoon. HERNANDO: Me? A tale? You've made a mistake. Like any man of a certain age, afraid of being fooled. CAPTAIN: Deny your love for Fenisa, now. LUCINDO: My love? CAPTAIN: Can you also disavow your notes and go-betweens? Well, she told me all about how you came last night to stand below her window, trying to see if she would talk. LUCINDO: Me, send notes? Or go-betweens? Me at her window? Hernando... CAPTAIN: A deposition? False eyes, flattering tongue, phony heart and soul! Feigned friend, faked view, forged word and oath!<sup>28</sup> Hear my admonition: By heaven above, if I ever hear that you have even been passing near her house, her window, her door, you will never --and this is clear-- come into my house again. You hear? LUCINDO: But listen to me. CAPTAIN: What

for? LUCINDO: Just one word. CAPTAIN: What word is that? LUCINDO: You can tell her for me she shouldn't act like a stepmother yet. If, before getting married, she began her wicked work... CAPTAIN: Get away, you ass! LUCINDO: Listen! CAPTAIN: That's all, the end! The CAPTAIN exits LUCINDO: What's going on? What's happening to me? Telling lies about me before I've seen or had a look at her face? HERNANDO: Isn't she the very same lady who looked at you so tenderly a little earlier today? LUCINDO: The very same! HERNANDO: Well, I'll be damned if this isn't all part of a plan to get a message to you. She must have fallen for you at that! LUCINDO: How could that have come to pass? HERNANDO: It did! It's God's own truth! I read four lines from the letter she wrote that was addressed to your simple soul and sent with her loving eyes. She tempted you by letting you hold her lace hanky and giving you hope. That is, if my eyes aren't blind. And all that stuff your father says about your writing and bothering ways is to tell you to write, to come to her window and make your claim. LUCINDO: How strange, Hernando! I'm amazed! HERNANDO: What's to lose if you try? LUCINDO: Nothing, Hernando, nothing at all. With her fine face, her bright resolve, her art of being clever, that young lady's just what I want to loosen the bonds and let me fall out of love with the other. We'll go call on her tonight. If it's true and you are right, if it's all a means to bring me there, it's a daring sign of her discretion, a delightful device this world has never seen. HERNANDO: And it's important that she love you. Think of the legacy<sup>29</sup> you stand to lose if your father should remarry. That loss is greater, whatever you do, than losing the love of that lying fool with whom you want to tarry. If he does want to take a new wife, Belisa would give him a more fitting life than would Fenisa, I vow. LUCINDO: If she

loves me, Hernando, I might order new britches for you as a prize. **HERNANDO:** Place the order right now. **LUCINDO:** If she were able to fool those two in spite of their age and experience too; if, with great discretion, she were able to make good use of this opportunity she's run into; if having felt affection for someone she's hardly had time to inspect, she could let him know her soul's intent; if she could also foresee his response, knowing he'd comprehend; in talking of her, it might well be said: she's **IN LOVE BUT DISCREET. END OF ACT ONE**

#### END NOTES

1. Throughout this scene, in spite of the fact that the mother Belisa is remonstrating with her daughter about her desire to see and be seen, she gives Fenisa plenty of opportunity to do as she wishes, underscoring the hypocrisy behind her speeches. Back to document 235
2. At the time the play was written, the ladies of Madrid would not appear in public without a head covering that hid nearly all of their faces, occasionally allowing only one eye to be seen. Gerarda appears on stage with no head covering. The theatrical sign, therefore, implies that she is a courtesan. For a modern audience, another more recognizable sign, might have to be used. Back to document 240  
245
3. The implied pun here replaces another racy pun that was lost elsewhere in the scene, but the translation, as it stands, is direct from the original. Back to document
4. Here we see that Fenisa has really set her cap for Lucindo and that she has been aiming in his direction for some time. Back to document 250
5. An evident forshadowing of what is to come. Back to document
6. These actions, in which the lady searches through her clothing, rearranging things as she goes in order to allow a gallant a good view of what is in store for him, are repeated often in the theater of the Golden Age as was shown in Sturgis Leavitt's article on striptease in the comedia. Back to document 255

7. The purse to which Fenisa refers was carried beneath the lady's skirts and was reached through a slit in the side panels of the skirt. Back to document 260
8. The "lost and found".Back to document
9. An obvious use of phallic imagery to refer to the sexual habits of Lucindo's youth.Back to document 265
10. Phallic imagery again.Back to document
11. Fleas were an all too common problem of the period. Back to document
12. Note that the fishing rod referred to was a cane without anything like a modern reel. Fishermen used to "horse in" their catch. Back to document 270
13. Another reference to Lucindo's lack of maturity. Back to document
14. When ladies went out onto the street in seventeenth-century Madrid, they wore their usual household slippers that were strapped to clogs (chopines) that were enough to lift them and their skirts above the level of the mud and muck. Some of these reached ridiculous heights being as much as sixteen inches high. This gave rise to jokes about their use as weapons with which to beat the head of a too-ardent swain as well as to the fact that the ladies often tripped or fell when using them. Back to document 275
15. The word "procuress" as used here really refers to a "go-between" in the sense that older women and female servants were often used in arranging amorous liaisons. The Spanish is clearly not referring to a marriage broker. Back to document 280
16. Here Belisa's hypocrisy really comes to the fore. Back to document
17. The Spanish ladies of the day did not sit on chairs. Chairs were reserved for men. Women, in part because of the voluminous dresses they wore, usually sat on the floor on cushions, usually on a platform or *estrado* that was designed to lift them above the drafts and cold of a tiled floor. 285

[Back to document](#)

18. And the exact age of Lope de Vega, the author, when he composed this text. [Back to document](#) 295

19. The Dukes of Alba are, to this day, the wealthiest of all Spanish nobility. [Back to document](#)

20. In Spanish, when a woman or a cat is spitting mad, the verb used is afufarse. The poet Lope wrote this passage with a surfeit of alliterated f's to reinforce the situation. Later on it is the Captain who uses this technique when speaking to Lucindo. [Back to document](#) 300

21. The original Spanish is "que los sueños sueños son." This line comes from a popular song of the preceeding century and is found repeatedly in Spanish Golden Age drama, most notably in Calderón's Life is a Dream. [Back to document](#) 305

22. Again phallic imagery. [Back to document](#)

23. Another phallic image. [Back to document](#)

24. The reference is to the public libido of the Spanish male. [Back to document](#)

25. Lope, the poet, was in trouble early in his career for writing just such verse. He satirized the entire family, including ancestors who may or may not have been married, of a young woman who broke off a relationship with him for a wealthier client. As a result he was banished from court for a period of four years and given thirty days to wind up his affairs. During that period he wrote further such satires and his punishment was doubled. [Back to document](#) 310  
315

26. Here begins a long series of "equivocos" or misunderstandings in which each person speaks of what he is thinking to another whose mind is elsewhere. [Back to document](#) 320

27. The first of many self-conscious references to the work that is being presented as being a play. These tend to bring the audience into closer contact with actors as complices in the theatrical endeavor. [Back to document](#)

28. In the original, Lope uses the adjective falso a total of six times. Here, after hearing the lines spoken 325

in English, I chose to replace those with synonyms that retained the alliteration. Back to document

29. The reality of Spanish society of the times was that marriages were, indeed, a way of preserving and increasing wealth rather than satisfying a mutual desire. Back to document 330

## ACT II

*Locale 1: At night on the Prado*  
*1 DORISTEO and FINARDO enter with GERARDA, and FABIO and LISEO, musicians*

DORISTEO: How cool!

FINARDO: And pleasant!

GERARDA: I'm delighted by the fountains.

DORISTEO: No place more alive in all of Spain.

GERARDA: What lovely pools...

DORISTEO: Wonderful! 335

GERARDA: ...greeting us with jewels.

DORISTEO: The water in them is beautifully clear. Are you glad you came?

GERARDA: It's enough, my dear, to be at your side.

DORISTEO: Sit here and rest.

FINARDO: Of all places to be, the Prado's the best.

DORISTEO: So I've heard people say. You two, haven't you tuned up yet? 340

LISEO: I would, but my G-string is loose.

GERARDA: Twist the pin.

DORISTEO: That's what I say.

FABIO: Ready?

DORISTEO: Begin.

FABIO: What shall I sing?

DORISTEO: Lope's new song.

LISEO: "I Sigh With Desire?" 345

FINARDO: That's a good one!

*The MUSICIANS play and sing*

MUSIC: When your beauty stands before me,  
I sigh with love;  
and when you are no longer seen  
I sigh with desire.

When I note the warmth of your fire, 350  
I thrill with love;  
but when icy disdain is in your eyes,  
I sigh and retire.

When your beauty stands before me,  
I sigh with love; 355  
and when you are no longer seen  
I sigh with desire.

***LUCINDO and HERNANDO enter2***

LUCINDO: They said they were going to hire musicians.  
HERNANDO: There's singing over there in that direction.  
LUCINDO: The song's not bad if it's not too long. 360  
HERNANDO: Just like birds, they stop their song  
when anyone approaches.

LUCINDO: Go get a better look.  
HERNANDO: I wish you'd stop acting like a fool.  
LUCINDO: What does it matter? It's only for fun.  
It's not time yet for the other one. 365  
HERNANDO: "Jealousy laughs when lovers cry."  
I'll play my part and pass them by.  
Wait for me here.

LUCINDO: I'll wait.

***HERNANDO covers his face with his cape, passes close by the five  
and returns to LUCINDO***

FINARDO: Look there!  
Why is he coming here to stare?  
DORISTEO: He must be looking for something he's lost, 370  
or someone that got away.

GERARDA: A song?  
LISEO: Another one?  
GERARDA: Yes, but don't stop to tune.  
HERNANDO: I know her voice.

LUCINDO: Is it Gerarda?

HERNANDO: For sure!

LUCINDO: Ohhh!

HERNANDO: Are you hurt?

LUCINDO: And the man?

Is it him? 375

HERNANDO: Yes, it is.

LUCINDO: Oh, damn!

HERNANDO: It hurts like hell to judge from your squeal.

LUCINDO: The more distance between us, the closer I feel.

HERNANDO: If you keep that up, she'll see you. Calm down.

LUCINDO: Is he holding her close?

HERNANDO: And how!

LUCINDO: I know I'm drinking from Jealousy's cup 380  
for inside I feel like I'm burning up.  
The poison's too bitter! It enters the eyes  
and attacks the soul where love resides.  
I wish I'd never come!

HERNANDO: Then leave.

A better angel's waiting, isn't she? 385

LUCINDO: What angel?

HERNANDO: Fenisa.

LUCINDO: I'm in no mood  
to talk to angels.

HERNANDO: But she adores you.

Isn't it right that you return her love?

LUCINDO: There's no danger in putting her off.

This must be a first love for her. 390

Like Hero she'll wait alone in her tower,  
but this one who's in the arms of a lover,  
if I leave her alone, I'll suffer.  
She'll rip my soul to shreds. You brought  
the manto? 395

HERNANDO: I did.

LUCINDO: Then put it on.

HERNANDO: Something could go wrong.

LUCINDO: From your cape,  
you can make a skirt.

HERNANDO: Me, be your date?

A woman?

LUCINDO: In the bushes over there,  
disguise yourself in women's wear.

HERNANDO: I'm going, but I'm afraid. 400

LUCINDO: You sot,  
get going!

HERNANDO: I'm off, but I'll tell you what:  
You're my defense. If you don't come,  
you'll be shocked to smell what I've done.

*HERNANDO exits. LUCINDO is afoot, at a distance from the  
others who are seated*

LUCINDO: Love is never cured with good intentions!  
The mistake is made in treating the hurt 405  
since deep within gray ash, still there burns  
the amber sign of passions's resurrection.

Ardor and Disdain, Anger, Indiscretion,  
the soul at times retains while yet asleep;  
but what lethargic spirit does not leap 410  
wakened by the force of doubt's inventions?

Oh Suspicion! How rightly you've been compared  
to a swarm of gnats drawn to love, whose flames  
provide the fumes in which you are conceived.

What matter, since whenever I'm relieved 415  
by sleep, fatigued by playing love's games,  
Jealousy's trumpet awakens me with its blare?

*HERNANDO enters dressed in manto and cape as a woman*

HERNANDO: How do I look?3

LUCINDO: Good enough I hope  
for it all to work out.

HERNANDO: You think I can cope  
with this skirt? 420

LUCINDO: Well enough.

HERNANDO: And the veil?

LUCINDO: That too.

HERNANDO: How about my...sex appeal?

LUCINDO: Let's start the play.

HERNANDO: Does my slip show?

LUCINDO: Come on!

HERNANDO: You're in love, so I must go.

*LUCINDO and HERNANDO approach the others*

DORISTEO: A lady and her friend are coming this way.

GERARDA: Look at how she moves. What a display! 425  
That has to be seen to be believed.

DORISTEO: What do you mean?

GERARDA: Just what I see,  
and a nice smell, too.

DORISTEO: In leaving the house  
she must have taken a mint.<sup>4</sup>

FINARDO: A trip out  
and to the Prado, with minty breath! 430  
That means she's a lady of...

DORISTEO: ...of that bent!  
FINARDO: Professional!

DORISTEO: She wants to sit next to you.  
GERARDA: How heavy!

FINARDO: She could be sitting for two.  
LUCINDO: Beautiful Estefania, what do you think  
of the breeze out here? 435

***HERNANDO speaks in falsetto when he plays the role of  
ESTEFANIA***

HERNANDO: It seems a sin  
to come without Aunty, but I'd do even more  
if only you'd ask me. It's you I adore.

LUCINDO: Please go on singing.

HERNANDO: Did you stop for me?

***The MUSICIANS repeat their song softly in the background.  
GERARDA gets up and moves off***

GERARDA: (It's Lucindo! Ahh! Now I see.  
It must have been true --without a doubt--. 440  
He was after the lady he asked about.

That reaction I thought he was faking  
turned out to be true. My heart is breaking!  
"Love often comes in flattering shades;  
of Treason and Error its clothes are made." 445

He discovered my trick and learned a lesson).  
HERNANDO: She's disturbed, having tasted the medicine.  
What do you think?

LUCINDO: We might just make it.  
GERARDA: (What fun to dish it out! How awful to take it).  
Doristeo, please bring me some water. 450

DORISTEO: And something to go with it. I never falter  
in trying to please you;. You wait here  
while I go for refreshments.

GERARDA: I wouldn't hear  
of your going by yourself.

FINARDO: Shall I?

GERARDA: Yes, do.  
I'm not alone.

455

DORISTEO: Let's go.

FINARDO: Tootle-oo!

***DORISTEO and FINARDO exit***

GERARDA: (I can't wait for us to be left alone).

LISEO: Shall we sing?

GERARDA: I'd rather you go.

FABIO: She's up to something.

LISEO: She did a good job  
getting rid of the others.

FABIO: Well, I don't want  
to disturb them, Liseo.

460

LISEO: Fabio, let's leave.

***The MUSICIANS leave***

GERARDA: Oh, miss!

HERNANDO: Are you talking to me?

GERARDA: I would like to see and to talk with you, too.

HERNANDO: See and talk to me? Why do you...

GERARDA: Because I'm a neighbor!...5

HERNANDO: For pity's sake,  
what's wrong?

465

GERARDA: Is that all it takes  
to make you cross?

HERNANDO: It's hot around here,  
Lucindo, let's go.

LUCINDO: Calm down, my dear.  
To get so angry is quite severe.

Take off your manto so the lady here  
can see the beauty, by God endowed,  
the radiance that's the talk of the town.

470

Uncover those beautiful eyes, my dove,  
the cause of envy, the cause of love.

HERNANDO: I'm not in the mood. My eyes are all tears,  
a sea of jealousy because it appears 475  
you've been seeing Gerarda. I'm told  
she's generous to a fault.

LUCINDO: Oh, no!  
How could Gerarda make you jealous?  
I don't know how you could be suspicious.

May God never cure the love that's killing me6 480  
if I care for her one whit.  
May God keep us from joining in love's embrace  
if I respect her one bit.  
May God not allow me to taste of your lips  
if I have loved her ever. 485  
May God forbid the two of us to marry  
if I should even see her...

GERARDA: (How can I stand this? Why do I stay?)

HERNANDO: Dear Lord! What curses!

GERARDA: (May they come my way  
if I take any more of this, you louse. 490  
Such nonsense!)

HERNANDO: They say you went to her house  
and that's what got me all unnerved.

LUCINDO: There's really no reason to be concerned,  
so calm yourself, take heart, my dove.  
You're the one that has my love. 495  
GERARDA: Not as long as I'm alive!7

***GERARDA attacks HERNANDO, and LUCINDO steps between  
them***

LUCINDO: What do you think you are doing?

HERNANDO: Why?  
Are you attacking me?

GERARDA: I don't care  
if you are Estefania.

LUCINDO: Don't you dare.  
HERNANDO: A lady like me? 500

GERARDA: I'll kill her!

LUCINDO: You stay!

HERNANDO: She wants to hurt me!

LUCINDO: And you, get away!

*HERNANDO leaves*

GERARDA: Who was that woman?

LUCINDO: One who adores me.

You've made a terrible mistake. Let her be.

She's a lady with powerful friends.

It could cost you plenty in the end. 505

GERARDA: What worse than what she's already done?

Get out of my way!

LUCINDO: I never let anyone  
who hates me order me around that way.

GERARDA: Me? Hate you?

LUCINDO: Do you mean to say  
that you love me? 510

GERARDA: Oh, sweetheart,  
everything I told you was only pretend,  
so was everything you heard me say.  
You, I love; Doristeo, I hate.

Lucindo, I'm yours all over. Take me.

LUCINDO: God in heaven! What's this I see? 515

GERARDA: As proof that I love you alone,  
sweet lover, come with me. Come home.

LUCINDO: Punishment gives you the will to go on.  
Like animals, you women are easily taught.

But it's over now, forevermore. 520

Estefania's the woman that I adore.

GERARDA: Why are you leaving, light of my life?

LUCINDO: Because your day has turned into night.<sup>8</sup>

GERARDA: Come with me. Come on, to my house.

LUCINDO: Not on your life. 525

GERARDA: Why not now?

LUCINDO: Doristeo will be here in due time;  
let him keep you warm if you like.

GERARDA: On bended knee I beg you to come.

I want to explain why I did what I've done,  
to clear up the reasons for my disdain. 530

Nothing but jealousy! Let's leave this place.

Come, Lucindo, come on. You'll see.

LUCINDO: Really and truly? You do love me?

GERARDA: I've always loved only you, my dove.

LUCINDO: Well, that'll cost you a little blood. 535

*LUCINDO draws his dagger just as HERNANDO returns in  
normal dress*

HERNANDO: What sacrifice is this being performed?

LUCINDO: She made me angry with her scorn.

HERNANDO: (If he wants vengeance and is that bold,  
and Gerarda sits there waiting for the blow,  
I must have to play the angel's role).

540

What are you doing, sir?

LUCINDO: Oh, Hernando,  
a good thing you came!

HERNANDO: I've been in the park,  
searching the Prado for you in the dark.  
They found out at home this lady got out,  
and two hours ago...

545

LUCINDO: Not this one, you lout!

HERNANDO: This isn't Estefania?

LUCINDO: For a while here  
we had thunder and lightning.

HERNANDO: Gerarda, I fear.

LUCINDO: Can't you see that it is?

HERNANDO: Leave her alone.  
If it is she, you'd be the one  
to catch the blame.

550

LUCINDO: We'll talk about  
this later, Gerarda.

GERARDA: Listen.

LUCINDO: Not now.

GERARDA: Wait.

HERNANDO: Now that was brave of you.

LUCINDO: Just knowing she loved me cut me loose.

*LUCINDO and HERNANDO exit. DORISTEO and FINARDO  
return DORISTEO: God, what bad luck! A real disgrace!*

Nothing was open, not one place.

FINARDO: We even broke one door down.

555

GERARDA: You two must be all worn out.

DORISTEO: Were you here by yourself?

GERARDA: All alone.

DORISTEO: But the musicians?

GERARDA: They left to go home.

FINARDO: We couldn't find a thing to eat!

And they brag that every street  
in Madrid, all year round, has places  
where those who want can get pastries,  
wines and desserts far into the night.

GERARDA: It's getting late and I don't feel right.

DORISTEO: I wonder if it's not too cool out here.

GERARDA: The trouble was the heat, my dear.

DORISTEO: Can you read the stars?

FINARDO: I only know:

"When the handle of the dipper points its toe,  
it's nearly morning and time to go."

DORISTEO: If what you say is really true,  
it's almost that time. Take a look.

It's already high. Let's go and rest.

What poor friends!

FINARDO: Not the best!

GERARDA: (Lucindo, now that you love me less,  
I love you more. What a mess!)

***DORISTEO, FINARDO, and GERARDA exit together******Locale 2:***  
***The street in front of FENISA'S house***

***LUCINDO and HERNANDO enter***

HERNANDO: You're so calm now, I presume  
you've managed to forget that lady loon.

LUCINDO: You're not just joking.

HERNANDO: What's the cause  
of such a miracle? What has brought  
you to your senses?

LUCINDO: Knowing she loves me.  
God bless the idea, the plan, the jealousy,  
the time, the manto, the Prado, the action,  
and even her unpleasant reaction.

HERNANDO: Why not bless Estefania, too?  
I still have the marks, to tell the truth,  
from when Gerarda slapped my face.

LUCINDO: They've opened the window. We'll stop and wait.

***FENISA appears at her window***

FENISA: Oh, sir...

LUCINDO: Who's calling?

FENISA: A lady. Be quiet.

HERNANDO: (It must be Fenisa who got out of bed).

FENISA: Tell me your name and I'll talk to you. 590

LUCINDO: (See? Coming here was a really good move.

HERNANDO: Everyone in Madrid is now fast asleep.)

LUCINDO: It's Lucindo, dear lady, I came to see  
about your complaint, not just for fun.

You do know I'm Captain Bernardo's son? 595

FENISA: I do.

LUCINDO: If I've never been here before,  
how can you say I came here to court?

Me? Did I ever come looking for you?

Me? Did I write you a love note or two?

Me? At this window, covered with bars,  
talking of love or causing alarm? 600

Me? Out here to keep you awake?

Me? A messenger? For pity's sake!

FENISA: Don't resent my tricks of love.

You never were here. Heavens above! 605

I never saw you here at my window.

My complaints weren't true as you know  
although I did say that earlier today.

Never have you written or given me chase.

What this is about you know, all right. 610

I don't need to say it. You came tonight.

It's been hard for me to find a way  
to let you know my feelings, but today  
you gave me the will, love gave me the plan.

Your father came to ask for my hand, 615

but since my birth I've been marked for you.

With God's help it may all come true.

To use the Captain as my go-between  
shouldn't be seen as insanity.

He's a neighbor, he's old, he's wise. 620

What's more, he loves you as much as I.

I've used this means to let you know  
how much I love you, dear Lucindo.

In return I ask you to appreciate  
my belief in you. If my wealth and face 625

--even though you deserve much more--  
should lead you to...

LUCINDO: So soon, such favor!

Don't just throw it on the street.  
 The street is no fertile field.  
 Such seed is wasted when it is sown 630  
 unless it falls on a loving soul.  
 I have to thank my own good fortune  
 for finding out that I've pleased you.  
 How well I know I've never thought  
 I could ever deserve your love. 635  
 That day, that glorious jubilee,  
 I first saw you and you saw me,  
 I felt a new desire awaken.  
 I've not been able to sleep since then.  
 My own lack of native wit 640  
 seemed to prevent my seeing it;  
 what I hear my father saying.  
 But when he stubbornly kept insisting,  
 I finally came to see what you meant.  
 FENISA: Then you know what it is I dreamt. 645  
 LUCINDO: "A debt acquired is a debt to pay".  
 Once I knew, I looked for a way  
 to pay what I owed. But if they persist  
 in your marriage to my father, can I resist?  
 What will happen to me and to you? 650  
 FENISA: Don't believe in the power of those two,  
 because it's we, their own two children,  
 whose marriage is clearly destined.  
 You've yet to comprehend the wiles  
 of a woman in love, as decided as I. 655  
 LUCINDO: I know that you are discreet and vital.  
 That's obvious from your wit and style.  
 FENISA: I've done nothing yet.  
                   LUCINDO: I can only repeat:  
 Fenisa's a lady IN LOVE BUT DISCREET.  
 FENISA: May your father forgive me for using him so, 660  
 sending word through him to let you know  
 what my mother prefers to keep indoors.  
 What I want to say --that I'll be yours--,  
 I'll say by complaining. Whenever we can,  
 we'll see each other. If you hear I can't stand 665  
 any more, pay attention to the talk.  
 LUCINDO: I say, dear lady, I had the same thought.  
 FENISA: That way you'll know what's going on  
 inside this house. We'll tie the knot

while he's making plans to take a spouse. 670

We'll be wed before he finds out.

LUCINDO: We need all the help we can get

to conceal our reason for worry, and then,

can you plan things so that we can meet?

After all, you're the one who's discreet. 675

FENISA: I have a plan that'll work. I'll plead

with your father to sent you to me

so that I can give you my blessing.

that way you can come without upsetting

my mother. But disillusion me now 680

or tell me I'm standing on solid ground.

LUCINDO: I gave you my soul of my own free will.

It's yours to command.

HERNANDO: Listen! Be still!

Hear the larks singing to the morning;

there, a quail is whistling its warning. 685

The morning star has risen high.

The time for love has passed us by.

FENISA: Go now, my love, the dawn is here.

I don't want my mother to miss me, dear.

LUCINDO: You ask for permission from my father 690

for me to see you.

HERNANDO: It's getting brighter!

LUCINDO: Give me something, if you please,

to take to my bed.

FENISA: I wish it were me!

HERNANDO: Tell her to wind things up. It's late.

FENISA: For this ribbon, what will you trade? 695

LUCINDO: What do you want?

FENISA: Your heart.

HERNANDO: Enough!

LUCINDO: It's already yours.

FENISA: Good night, my love.

***FENISA exits***

LUCINDO: She left!

HERNANDO: At last!

LUCINDO: What luck!

HERNANDO: I see

that you're in love.

LUCINDO: Shouldn't I be?

HERNANDO: And Gerarda?

700

LUCINDO: That's over.

HERNANDO: How come?

LUCINDO: You saw. Fenisa's prettier, she's fun,  
she's noble...

HERNANDO: And has hot Spanish blood!

LUCINDO: This ribbon alone, now that it's won,  
is better than Gerarda when all's said and done.

***HERNANDO and LUCINDO exit***  
***Locale 3: In front of***  
***GERARDA's house***

***DORISTEO and GERARDA enter***

DORISTEO: I'm a man and a good one, too.

705

Speak freely to me; tell me the truth.

Why do you treat me with such contempt?

Do you still love Lucindo?

GERARDA: No, but then  
last night...

DORISTEO: Go on.

GERARDA: It's my bad luck  
that his disdain, it seems, was enough  
to set fire to the snow covering my heart.  
Did you see that woman, that ugly tart,  
who sat next to me?

710

DORISTEO: Then it must have been  
Lucindo who brought her.

GERARDA: So it seems.

DORISTEO: That's all I need to know from you,  
Gerarda. See what jealousy can do!

715

GERARDA: Jealousy's stronger than love as you say.  
It can triumph over disdain.

I swear that I'm as good as dead.

Everything that Lucindo said  
seemed to be already prepared.

720

So did her questions. I was snared.

But then I did find out the lady's name,

Estefania,<sup>9</sup>

and also that she

725

came

from a good family. a footman appeared  
 like greased lightning and I could hear  
 what he said: that there was no doubt,  
 they knew at home that she had gone out. 730  
 DORISTEO: (How could this happen? Is it all a game?)  
 What's that? What was the woman's name?  
 GERARDA: What reason do you have for being so shaken?  
 DORISTEO: I was wondering about the woman  
 you were denouncing. 735  
 GERARDA: Estefania, she said.  
 DORISTEO: Estefania!  
 GERARDA: That's right!  
 DORISTEO: It must be!  
 It would be a way to get even, you see,  
 if because I came to visit your house  
 Lucindo got into mine.  
 GERARDA: But how?  
 DORISTEO: A sister of mine --Don't you see?-- 740  
 is named Estefania.  
 GERARDA: It must be she!  
 DORISTEO: What's to keep me from defending my honor,  
 from seeking revenge on that traitor?  
 GERARDA: He is after her! He said one day  
 he'd get even with you if he found a way.10 745  
 DORISTEO: And he did! She told me last night  
 that she'd been out to see the sights  
 on the Prado. Estefania! My honor is lost!  
 Good night, Gerarda. (At what a cost!)  
 GERARDA: That was more than I wanted to know. 750  
 DORISTEO: He's certainly dishonored my already, so...  
 they'll have to get married.  
 GERARDA: Married!  
 That's not fair. You'll have me buried.  
 DORISTEO: What have I done?  
 GERARDA: You might as well kill me  
 as marry him to another. 755  
 DORISTEO: How else can it be?  
 (Now that's a case!)  
 GERARDA: My heart is broken!  
 DORISTEO: Get out of my way!  
 GERARDA: I shouldn't have spoken.

**GERARDA exits**

DORISTEO: My sister! Who could plan such revenge!  
I must find Finardo so we can challenge  
Lucindo to a duel. He'll come 760  
to settle the matter. Justice will be done.  
He'll die or he'll marry to satisfy me.  
Such a vile sister! How could she?  
But the law that condemns me is very just;  
rather than duty I catered to lust. 765  
"Home fires must be tended with care  
before fanning a new flame anywhere."

**DORISTEO exits**  
**Locale 4: A room in BELISA's house**

**BELISA, the CAPTAIN, FENISA and FULMINATO all enter**

FENISA: Do me a favor and give me great pleasure:  
bring you son here since I'm his mother.  
CAPTAIN: I think you're right. 770  
FENISA: All will be clear  
as soon as we exchange our greeting here.  
BELISA: This house is yours, you should let him come.  
CAPTAIN: He can come now; he knows what I've done.  
Fulminato!  
FULMINATO: Yes sir?  
CAPTAIN: You go and call  
my son the lieutenant. 775  
FULMINATO: Yes sir. I'm off.

**FULMINATO exits**

FENISA: (He has sent for Lucindo. That's good.  
Heaven help me! Before we are through  
these walls will witness my true affections.)  
CAPTAIN: (Although she seems to resent his attentions,  
her wish to see him has aroused my fears. 780  
He's youthful and wise beyond his years.  
His presence, buy contrast, makes me seem senile.  
She might think it better to become his wife.  
Who'd doubt that he's more appealing

or that our marriage would be more distressing. 785  
 Should she be condemned to a man of my age?  
 There's no need for him right away.  
 In the presence of an adult son, I'll appear  
 even older. He must never come here  
 a second time to raise such doubts.) 790

***LUCINDO in fine clothes and FULMINATO enter***

FULMINATO: The Lieutenant is here.  
 LUCINDO: (So this is her house!  
 How could I be so lucky?) You called?  
 CAPTAIN: His appearance offends me.) Where's the ball?  
 LUCINDO: What do you mean?  
 CAPTAIN: To put it simply:  
 you're overdressed and came too quickly. 795  
 LUCINDO: But sir, didn't you ask me to come?  
 CAPTAIN: To greet your mother.  
 LUCINDO: I came.  
 CAPTAIN: And it's done.  
 LUCINDO: But father...  
 FENISA: (He makes me laugh)  
 LUCINDO: He told me  
 I was to greet you as mother-to-be  
 and to kiss your beautiful, white hand. 800  
 CAPTAIN: That's too courteous! It's enough to say "hand".  
 You needn't add "beautiful".  
 LUCINDO: My tongue wants  
 to add the epithet.  
 FENISA: It is more gallant.  
 BELISA: Why does that displease you?  
 CAPTAIN: Get up now.

***LUCINDO remains kneeling before FENISA, holding her hand***

I won't allow any epithets in this house. 805  
 BELISA: Don't be so hard. Let him greet her.  
 LUCINDO: There's no harm since you're my father.  
 CAPTAIN: Don't call me father!  
 LUCINDO: But if I'm to speak  
 to a young woman as mother, tell me  
 what's wrong with "father"? 810  
 CAPTAIN: "Father" sounds fine

when one is younger, but it's very unkind  
to say it to one who is older, unless  
he's a priest or a hermit. Finish that kiss.

FENISA: (I'm happy.)

LUCINDO: I kiss the hand that bestows  
such fortune. (My love, accept this note.)

815

*LUCINDO puts a note into her hand*

FENISA: (I've got it.)

LUCINDO: Now give me a blessing  
as your faithful child.

CAPTAIN: (The child is expecting  
her to buy him a regiment.)

FENISA: (What glory I feel.)  
May God bless you and fill you with cheer.<sup>11</sup>

May God find you a wife you desire,  
exactly the kind you mother would like.

820

May God give you what's now in your heart  
adding his blessing to mine at the start.

May God make you so obedient to my will  
that you never displease me or deny my wish.

825

May God give you peace and understanding  
so you save your father from ever worrying.

May he give you such good sense  
when it come to love and obedience  
that I can give you the very same homage  
I would to a husband...

830

CAPTAIN: What book about marriage,  
what manual, taught you that tripe?  
Stop it!

FENISA: (He's jealous.)

LUCINDO: (I know what it's like.)

*FENISA takes BELISA to one side. The CAPTAIN talks with  
LUCINDO*

FENISA: Mother, may I speak to you alone?

BELISA: What do you want?

835

FENISA: Do you see this note?

BELISA: Yes, I see it.

FENISA: Well, it's a list of the dresses and other

things the Captain has ordered for me. I  
 want to read it over, but I don't want the 840  
 Captain to see me read it because he might  
 think I'm more interested in the presents than  
 in the bridegroom. Please, mother, will you  
 keep him busy for a minute?  
 BELISA: It would make me happy to do so. 845  
 FENISA: (Good heavens! What I have to go through to  
 read the note that Lucindo gave me as he  
 kissed my hand! It might be important and  
 need an immediate answer.)  
 BELISA: Will you lend me your ear for a minute, Captain? 850

***FENISA read the note aside***

FENISA: "My love, my father, who is jealous because  
 of what you told him about me, plans to send  
 me off to Portugal. See if you can do something  
 about this or I'm as good as dead. I wrote  
 this knowing that I'd see you soon. God be 855  
 with you and make you my wife."  
 (What else could possibly go wrong?  
 How crazy and jealous! I hope that God  
 will help me succeed in speaking to him  
 right here and now, in front of them). 860  
 Lucindo, I read your note and I hope  
 that heaven won't mistreat us so  
 as to send you off to Portugal  
 or separate us for even one hour.  
 They say the girls there are made for love, 865  
 and men who go there have lots of fun;  
 have your fun with me, Lucindo, please.  
 When it comes to love, I'm pure Portuguese.  
 LUCINDO: Oh, God! If only we could talk!  
 If I could hold you in my arms! 870  
 FENISA: I know how to manage that trick.  
 LUCINDO: How can you do that?  
 FENISA: By pretending to slip.  
 Then you can come to pick me up.  
 While I'm in your arms, we'll manage a hug.  
 LUCINDO: Are you ready? 875  
 FENISA: Oh, I'm falling! Help!

*FENISA falls and LUCINDO picks her up in his arms*

CAPTAIN: What's going on?

LUCINDO: My mother tripped  
and I am helping her back on her feet.

CAPTAIN: That's my job as you can see.  
Get out of here now, get out of my sight!

LUCINDO: But she was falling and it's only polite... 880

BELISA: Did you hurt yourself, my dear?

CAPTAIN: Clear out of this room, now! Did you hear?

LUCINDO: I'm on my way.

CAPTAIN: Immediately! Go!

LUCINDO; Why are you throwing me out?

CAPTAIN: Hit the road!

LUCINDO: (Oh divine Fenisa, sweet comprehension! 885

Such extremes of heavenly discretion!

You have shown us the marvelous feats

performed by a woman IN LOVE BUT DISCREET.)

*LUCINDO exits*

FENISA: I'm not at all hurt as you can see.

CAPTAIN: Now that I can believe. 890

FENISA: My son has left!

CAPTAIN: He's gone at last.

FENISA: I'm sorry about that.

BELISA: Did you want to see more of him? Beatriz,12  
go quickly and call him. 895

FENISA: No, not on your life.

CAPTAIN: That clumsy ox must have caused your fall.

I won't let him stay around here any longer.

He'll never come into this house again as  
long as I'm alive. 900

BELISA: How little love you must have for your son!

I thought he was a very nice young man. If

I were as young as I was once, I'd certainly

like to have him for a husband.

FENISA: (Opportunity, I've got a hold on you!) 905

CAPTAIN: You liked that idiot?

FENISA: Mother, listen to me for a minute.

BELISA: Since you are a captain, you think everyone's  
after your hide.

*To FENISA*

You're always asking me to listen. 910

*FENISA takes her mother aside to talk with her*

FENISA: The note I told you about... It really had nothing to do with dresses and... the Captain didn't give it to me.

BELISA: What are you saying?

FENISA: It came from Lucindo.

BELISA: He has his nerve, writing to you! 915

FENISA: It's enough to make you want to laugh.

BELISA: Well, don't keep me in suspense.

FENISA: He says that he want to get married.

BELISA: To whom?

FENISA: To you. 920

BELISA: To me? What do you mean?

FENISA: Just what I said. He says that he likes your looks. Your seriousness and wisdom please him more than my qualities do his father.

What's more, if you get married, the property 925

will then all stay in the family and your children will both be rich. If only you could read, you'd see that he says even more. But most important of all, he asks you not to let his father send him off to Portugal. He's 930

sure that he'd be killed.

BELISA: To Portugal? Never! Child, it's clear you know that good, honorable children find their pleasure in pleasing their parents. You also know that I'm not too old. I would be better off with a husband of my own and you certainly have found one for me! One that nearly pulls my eyes out of my head whenever I look at him. How pleasant! How sweet! How gallant! And,... 935

What a body!) 940

FENISA: (That kind of reaction to the hope for a chance! What would she do if it were for real?)

BELISA: What are you saying?

FENISA: You have to keep him from leaving. 945

BELISA: Leaving? What leaving? Just you get Lucindo to come talk to me tonight --but secretly now.

FENISA: You go and let me talk to my husband-to-be.

BELISA: (I wasn't prepared to that, but it doesn't  
matter. I'll take off these widow's weeds. 950  
I'll check myself in the mirror. Oh, Lucindo!  
If only you do love me, you can have all that  
I own.)

***BELISA exits***

CAPTAIN: A real miracle has happened, Fenisa.  
We've been left alone by Belisa. 955  
Since there's nobody here to see,  
sweet, generous Fenisa, please let me  
hold your hand.

FENISA: (That'll be the day!)

You presume too much for a mere fiance.  
CAPTAIN: I'm sorry my jealousy got you upset. 960  
Won't you give me your hand as a friend?

FENISA: Not without witnesses to our vows.

CAPTAIN: We have three of them present right now:  
Jealousy, Love, and Desire are all here.

FENISA: The jealousy's truly warranted, I fear. 965

CAPTAIN: Is Lucindo continuing in his pursuit?

FENISA: And wearing me out.

CAPTAIN: As I presumed.

FENISA: Last night, at my window, I hear a noise.  
I was afraid and lost my poise.  
I got out of bed as best I could. 970  
Without lights I couldn't find my robe,  
but I finally found my manto all right.  
I went to the window and there... but why  
are you trembling so?

CAPTAIN: It's anger, dear wife,  
at my son's indiscretion. 975

FENISA: ...and what did I find  
in the space between the shutters and bars?  
A note!

CAPTAIN: Now that's really going too far.  
I'll have to become a rabid beast  
to deal with him.

FENISA: You catch that disease  
by being a father. Please calm down. 980

CAPTAIN: I can't. I have to go find him now.

*The CAPTAIN exits*

FENISA: How nicely I've succeeded in letting him know  
just where to come and find my note.

I'll take this chance to write a letter  
so he can be warned about my mother,  
how I've managed to get her to say  
that he's to be her husband. That way,  
his planned departure will be delayed.

985

My mother will arrange a trade  
that'll calm the storm, and impede the anger  
that's at the root of his departure.  
Because, if my lover goes away,  
my happiness also swiftly sets sail.

990

*FENISA exits*  
*Locale 5: The street*

*HERNANDO and LUCINDO enter*

HERNANDO: Did all that really happen?

LUCINDO: If you had only seen!

995

I was on my knees  
before Fenisa, and then...

You surely would have said  
it was a pretty sight.

HERNANDO: No doubt I would have died  
from laughing.

1000

LUCINDO: Just reflect  
on Tantalus in chains  
standing in the water.

You should be able to gather  
how we are the same.

1005

He could never reach  
either fruit or water;  
the lips for which I hunger  
were there for me to see  
but not for me to touch.

1010

HERNANDO: But you held her hand!

LUCINDO: My love's fiery blast  
starts to cool somewhat

as her snowy hand  
approaches my eager lips. 1015  
My soul, from deep within,  
arises in eager demand  
of the moisture it needs  
to quench the flames of desire.  
Love's volcano sends its fire 1020  
in search of final peace.  
What do you think occurred  
as my lips touched her fingers?  
HERNANDO: You bit them?  
LUCINDO: How do you figure?  
Don't be completely absurd. 1025  
Ivory from the Indies?  
Or crystal? I should bite?  
It's enough --I'm sure I'm right--  
since this is all an image,  
that we should say "a kiss". 1030  
HERNANDO: Your father is coming here.  
LUCINDO: Be quiet as he comes near.  
He mustn't know about this.

*The CAPTAIN enters*

CAPTAIN: You ought to hang your head when you see  
me! As if you didn't know that I was 1035  
coming.  
LUCINDO: If I thought that I meant that little to  
you..., I'd have gone to Japan rather than  
to Portugal.  
CAPTAIN: I shouldn't wonder, but worse is yet to 1040  
come. Didn't I tell you that Fenisa was  
to be my wife?  
LUCINDO: Didn't you also tell me to kiss her hand,  
to greet her as my mother? Are you still  
upset because I said that her hand was 1045  
beautiful?  
CAPTAIN: You said "beautiful and white!" What a  
sly dandy you've turned out to be!  
LUCINDO: Such little things get you going! It's as  
if you were hunting for a shady spot under 1050  
a twig. Good God! What have I done to offend  
you?

CAPTAIN: Do you think what you've done is nothing?  
Fenisa told me that you were at her window  
last night and that you left a note there for  
her between the bars and the shutters. 1055

LUCINDO: Me?

CAPTAIN: Yes, you!

LUCINDO: Didn't you ask her to let you see it so that  
you would know if it were in my handwriting  
or not? 1060

CAPTAIN: Just stop and think how much worse it would  
be if it weren't.

*HERNANDO and LUCINDO speak aside*

LUCINDO: Hernando!

HERNANDO: Yes sir. 1065

LUCINDO: Did you hear that?

HERNANDO: I understand. Undoubtedly she wants to write  
to you and is letting you know to look between  
the bars and the shutters of her window.

CAPTAIN: Come over here and listen to me. Somebody  
is coming this way and I wouldn't like to  
have my marriage become the subject of gossip  
all over Madrid. 1070

*DORISTEO and FINARDO enter*

DORISTEO: He's talking to his father.

FINARDO: Fine,  
but this is important. Call him aside. 1075

*To LUCINDO*

DORISTEO: I'd like to have a word with you.

LUCINDO: I'm with my father now, but look...

Tell me what it is that brought  
you here in anger, why you sought  
me out as if I were surely to blame. 1080

*To the CAPTAIN*

Later we'll have to find a place  
where we can be alone together

and I can furnish you with my answer.

*LUCINDO goes off to talk with DORISTEO*

CAPTAIN: Hernando, what do those men want?

HERNANDO: They're friends.

1085

CAPTAIN : Could it be he's lost  
at cards?

HERNANDO: That's just what I suspect.

CAPTAIN: No good ever comes of such a debt.

*To LUCINDO*

DORISTEO: I owed you nothing, not even knowing you.

You had just arrived and were quite new.

So having set foot in Gerarda's place,

1090

I felt no need to guard my face.

LUCINDO: If Gerarda's your only complaint,

she's yours alone after today.

DORISTEO: That's not all!

LUCINDO: What do you mean?

Is there another?

1095

DORISTEO: So I believe,

one who means the world to me.

One thing alone keeps me on my leash:

your venerable father standing here.

LUCINDO: You've been tricked by that woman, I fear.

DORISTEO: You were gored when you thought you saw

1100

my love win over yours, and thought

to get revenge attacking my honor.

Then you thought of using my sister

and she, not being overly smart

and still somewhat young, played her part

1105

by going to the Prado with you last night.

LUCINDO: What a strange story you have devised!

Your sister and I have never met,

nor would I ever make an attempt

to ruin your honor, nor do I know

1110

where you live. Good God! And so...

FINARDO: The source is suspicious. You were deceived,

by God!

DORISTEO: Deceived! What do you mean?

It was my sister Estefania she named,

widow of a soldier killed in New Spain. 1115  
 LUCINDO: Now I understand your mistake.  
 That lady, sir, has a different name.  
 She's the one I'm planning to marry  
 and so we wouldn't have to worry  
 about gossip before the wedding is done, 1120  
 I christened her with the first name to come  
 into my mind. To me it made no difference  
 what she was called in Gerarda's presence:  
 Inez, Francesca, Antonio, or Ruth.  
 As God is my witness, that's the truth. 1125  
 DORISTEO: You have said it, and that is fine;  
 but I'd be more clearly satisfied,  
 I'd be happier, if the truth were known,  
 to hear the name she calls her own.  
 LUCINDO: We're to be wed soon. Fenisa's her name. 1130  
 I love her. She feels the same.  
 We are neighbors on the Street of the Vines.  
 My father is getting restless. It's time  
 for me to join him. Please excuse me.  
 DORISTEO: The demands of honor, as you must agree, 1135  
 force us to make such investigations.  
 My good wishes and congratulations.

*LUCINDO exits*

CAPTAIN: Where's he going?  
 HERNANDO: I don't know.  
 CAPTAIN: Could it be a duel? 1140  
 HERNANDO: You could ask those two.  
 CAPTAIN: Just a minute, gentlemen. If my intuition  
 is telling me the truth, I think you are  
 looking for a fight. You should know that  
 the man who just left here is my son. He's 1145  
 gone off alone and I see that you two are  
 armed and going off after him. I'll join  
 you and we can have at it, two on two. He  
 and I were soldiers together in Flanders.  
 I was Captain and he was my Lieutenant. 1150  
 Let's go.  
 FINARDO: We'd both be happy to serve you, sir, as  
 soldiers who've returned from the field;  
 but from today on we're the best of friends.

We did come to see him on a matter of some importance, but he told us that he wasn't after the lady we had thought. We know now who the lady is that he's courting. He told us that her name is Fenisa. 1155

CAPTAIN: Fenisa? What's that you say? 1160

FINARDO: He said that they love one another and that he wants to marry her.

CAPTAIN: (You'll see him dead at my feet first!)

DORISTEO: Is there anything else we can do for you?

CAPTAIN: That lady is to be my wife, not his. 1165

DORISTEO: The coward lied to us!

FINARDO: It's your fault if he did.

DORISTEO: By heaven above! He is after Estefania.

FINARDO: Let's cover this up and then go after him.

DORISTEO: To think<sup>13</sup> that 1170

a soldier could be such a coward!

FINARDO: To think he's the son of an honorable father!

***DORISTEO and FINARDO exit***

CAPTAIN: To think that the traitor is after my wife! He knew that our marriage had been arranged, and still he's bragging about marrying her himself. 1175

HERNANDO: (To think he said that! How strange!)

CAPTAIN: Right now! You pack his things. He can't stay here even one more day. He's off to Portugal tonight. 1180

HERNANDO: (To think that Lucindo was so indiscreet!)

CAPTAIN: To think that he kept on trying! Bothering her by night at her window! Kissing her hand and saying «mother<sup>14</sup> out loud. I'll bet he was whispering «my love<sup>14</sup>. I can't take it any more.) Hernando, you tell him he's to leave immediately. Get your traveling boots on. 1185

HERNANDO: He can't even stay for your wedding?

CAPTAIN: I don't want to give him any reason for delaying his departure. I want him to serve the King (not Fenisa). He's not to return to Madrid as long as I'm alive. 1190

HERNANDO: Please calm down, for you own sake.

CAPTAIN: Get going or I'll give you a good one. I know how to take care of fools. 1195

## END OF ACT TWO

1. The Prado, in 1608, was located in the outskirts of Madrid, outside the city walls as it were. It formed a long walk or promenade populated with fountains and was the location not only for many love trysts, but a place to see and be seen. Back to document 1200

2. The darkness in which this scene is performed makes the equivocation at its base more believable. Back to document

3. This scene is one of the not too common appearances of the man in womanly disguise for humorous purposes. 1205  
In the Spanish theater of the time actresses, not young men, did play the female roles in contrast with English theatrical practice. This added to the humor inherent in the transvestitism involved here. Back to document

4. Rather than exactly referring to a mint, the Spanish indicates a sweet smelling candy that could be used to cover bad breath. Back to document 1210

5. This line is obviously spoken in an impatient tone because of the reaction it arouses. Back to document

6. Note that there is no danger whatsoever of the punishments invoked becoming true. Lucindo is playing with truth and illusion. Back to document 1215

7. The humor resides in the irony of this scene. Nothing is more likely to arouse a public to laughter than the sight of two women in open battle. The humor is increased because the public is quite aware that one of the ladies is a male in disguise who, by convention, cannot fight back. Back to document 1220

8. Lucindo shows that all he wanted was to win the battle, he cared nothing at all for the reward for having won. Back to document 1225

9. Doristeo must react with shock when he

first hears this name as is clear from what is said below. Back to document

10. Note the emphasis on the double standard involved: not with my sister! Back to document 1230

11. Note the double meaning and ironic content of each of these "blessings." Back to document

12. Here we find more evidence of the presence on stage of a servant in the household of Belisa and Fenisa. Although this is not a speaking role, Beatriz must be present on stage in several scenes as will be noted below. Back to document 1235

13. The anaphora here should be a source of humor. Back to document

## ACT III

*Locale 1: The street near BELISA's house, at night LUCINDO and HERNANDO enter*

LUCINDO: My father told them she was his wife, not mine? 1240

HERNANDO: Why should I tell a lie?  
Wasn't I Estefania?

LUCINDO: His sister's name!  
So that fool thinks I'm to blame.  
HERNANDO: Your father is so mad he's almost blind;  
he's about to disown you. Their minds  
are made up; they're out looking for you. 1245  
They're absolutely sure, those two,  
that you told that story out of fear,  
as a way of escaping the trouble that's near.  
Why did you say Fenisa?

LUCINDO: To reassure the man.  
How he knew the name I didn't understand. 1250  
HERNANDO: Are you that ready to go to Portugal?  
LUCINDO: But Fenisa tells me it's possible  
her mother Belisa will be able to help.  
HERNANDO: You went to her window?

LUCINDO: I did.

HERNANDO: And then?

You found the note? 1255

LUCINDO: It was there.

I found it between the bars, just where  
she told my father it would be  
when she tricked him into telling me.  
I read it quickly. It says that I  
should pretend to love her mother, and why... 1260

HERNANDO: The old lady?

LUCINDO: Exactly!

HERNANDO: That's odd.

LUCINDO: There's more  
she said I must do.

HERNANDO: What?

LUCINDO: Ask for...  
...her hand as my wife.

HERNANDO: Your wife!

LUCINDO: Calm down!

She's almost certain to come out now.  
She'll hear you. 1265

HERNANDO: It was a way to impede  
your departure. The woman is discreet!

LUCINDO: Notably so!

HERNANDO: So you'll talk to her?

LUCINDO: You go in my place; you be the master.  
While you are talking of love with Belisa,  
as the note says, I'll be with Fenisa. 1270

HERNANDO: What will I talk about?

LUCINDO: Life and love.

HERNANDO: She knows too much! Good heaven above!  
Sometimes I wonder. Could she be...

LUCINDO: Who?

HERNANDO: ...the witch of Endor?

LUCINDO: Today will try you.

We'll soon see if you know how to speak. 1275

HERNANDO: After today you can call me unique.<sup>1</sup>

LUCINDO: I'll admit you are smarter than I  
if you manage to succeed in this lie.

HERNANDO: My clothes are really nothing but rags.  
What's the use of being a man 1280  
if you can't dress for the role?

LUCINDO: So?

HERNANDO: Give me your cape. It's edged with gold.

LUCINDO: Hernando, I'd give you a treasure.

Take my hat too.

HERNANDO: You can have the pleasure  
of my hat and cape.

1285

LUCINDO: Don't I look great?

HERNANDO: See how clothes make for worth and shape!

LUCINDO: They're on the balcony. Quiet now, please.

***FENISA and BELISA come out***

BELISA: Fenisa, I want Lucindo to feel free  
to speak his mind, so leave us alone.

FENISA: What has he done to let you know  
he's here?

1290

BELISA: I see two men who've stopped  
to look our way.

FENISA: Yes, they've paused  
to make a sign. Now, I'll go,  
with your permission. You know I hope  
you get your wish. If it's all right,  
I'd like to talk with Hernando a mite.

1295

BELISA: You know he's crazy.

FENISA: That may be,  
but his silliness pleases me.  
I want to give him a message for the Captain.

BELISA: You go to your window.

1300

***FENISA exits***

HERNANDO: They can listen  
from where they are standing.

LUCINDO: Fenisa's not here.

HERNANDO: Belisa sent her off.

BELISA: Lucindo, my dear?

HERNANDO: I don't know who I am, since I made you mine.  
But I have adored you for a very long time.  
Madam, the love you've showered upon me  
has had the effect, as you can see,  
of lifting me above my humble station.  
(How am I doing so far?)

1305

LUCINDO: (Damnation!  
I do believe you speak with discretion!)

HERNANDO: (A Cicero reborn, a great rhetorician.) 1310  
 BELISA: I must admit it doesn't seem right,  
 as Fenisa's mother to make you mine.  
 She's to marry your father; I love you.  
 If you love me as you say you do,  
 I'll confess an attraction to your youth. 1315  
 Can you want me? Please tell me the truth.

***FENISA appears at the street-level window***

FENISA: Psst! Lucindo.  
 LUCINDO: Who's that?  
 FENISA: You know.  
 The one who gave you her heart and soul.  
 You come closer, let Hernando entertain  
 that silly mother of mine. 1320  
 HERNANDO: If indeed,  
 my elderly father can be pleased  
 by Fenisa's tender years and levity,  
 I can certainly adore your gravity,  
 your seriousness...  
 FENISA: (My sides will split.  
 I'll die of laughing just thinking of this!) 1325  
 HERNANDO: That reverend manner of dress;<sup>2</sup>  
 those stupendous widow's weeds;  
 those virile, manly breasts  
 whose form is proof of their deeds;  
 those clogs whose darkened depths 1330  
 know the size of the feet  
 whose greatness is only compared  
 with those of a Belgian mare;  
 that voice, composed and fine;  
 that breath, a spur to love, 1335  
 whose odor is sugar and spice  
 to the rice of the weeds<sup>3</sup> above;  
 those glasses shading the eyes  
 covering what they will become:  
 a home to passions reign 1340  
 once love has set them aflame;  
 that manto within whose folds  
 Cupid consents to be stilled;  
 that ruddy, incarnate nose  
 through which love distills 1345

amber, pitch, and pills,<sup>4</sup>  
 the Arabian myrrh that flows:  
 weeds, feet, nose and dress,  
 voice, clogs, manto and breast  
 I have --as you might say-- 1350  
 collected in a literary way.  
 LUCINDO: Did you hear that?  
     FENISA: I'm almost afraid  
 she's smart enough to understand the play.  
 LUCINDO: If he makes a mistake, I lose;  
 I win if he does it right. You too. 1355  
 But what's to become of our love, sweetheart,  
 if my father succeeds in keeping us apart?  
 Tell me you won't be careless at least.  
 He's really pushing for me to leave.  
 FENISA: Don't worry or let your fears upset you. 1360  
 My silly, vain mother knows what to do.  
 She's so much in love, she'll find a way.  
 LUCINDO: Yes, but I'm threatened by your wedding day.  
 As you can see, it's coming near  
 and if that happens, isn't it clear 1365  
 that I'll have to go, to fight and to die?  
 Even knowing your discretion and wiles,  
 not even you can bring new life  
 to a dead man after he's gone.  
     FENISA: You're right.  
 But I'm all yours, for you I was born. 1370  
 That is true, I'm meant to be yours,  
 and you must be mine We'll find a way out.  
 We should elope.<sup>5</sup> Have no doubts.  
 You've got the money and the friends we'll need.  
 I'll go with you wherever you lead. 1375  
 She's IN LOVE BUT DISCREET,  
 is what I've heard you say about me,  
 but a woman determined's all I want to be.  
 LUCINDO: If you have decided, it's all right with me.  
 I'll arrange things so we can elope, 1380  
 my love. I have what it takes; my hope.  
 You pack your clothes and jewels for tonight.  
 I could even come in broad daylight  
 in spite of how your mother might fume,  
 in spite of my father, though it meant my doom. 1385  
 FENISA: Lucindo, if first you make me your wife,

later my mother can have my life.

BELISA: Has he finally decided to send you away?

HERNANDO: To Portugal he says. He must be insane.

The old man won't let up on the theme 1390

of my love for Fenisa. He says I scheme,

and he complains I'm here all the time;

to keep him from sleeping. He says that I

follow her to church and even write letters.

He's so jealous he'll have me in fetters. 1395

BELISA: Do you love her, my sweet?

HERNANDO: Fenisa? My soul!

May God order the earth to swallow me whole,<sup>6</sup>

or get six villagers to hack me to bits.

--There's no worse death. Just stop to think!--

May He have me shot while cleaning my gun 1400

or fall on my sword (that is if I had one),

if ever I've had the slightest intention

of chasing, loving or paying her attention.

I've never spoken of love, I swear,

nor offered her marriage, nor would I dare. 1405

LUCINDO: He sure knows how to swear an oath!

BELISA: I'm satisfied, my love.

HERNANDO: Let's drop that bone.

Is there anything around for me to eat?

When I swear an oath or anger takes me,

I suffer a hunger that burns like fire. 1410

Right now I feel pregnant with rabid desire.

BELISA: Really, you want to eat?

HERNANDO: I'm starved.

BELISA: There's nothing in the house fit to carve.

Tomorrow I'll cook you something fine.

I'm good at making sweets. What kind 1415

of conserve or dessert do you like most?

My cherry preserves yield a fine compote,<sup>7</sup>

my pears are tasty and easy to take,

and the melon is ready. What shall I make?

HERNANDO: Nothing's as good as a well-cleaned tripe 1420

served with parsley.

BELISA: It's tripe you'd like?

Why mine's the cleanest and tastiest of all.

HERNANDO: Now that we've agreed on what we want,

let's have some in the morning.

LUCINDO: How gross!

BELISA: I'll make some tripe. You'll like it I hope. 1425

HERNANDO: Something to enjoy that won't make you fat!

BELISA: You really eat tripe?

HERNANDO: (No doubt about that.

Anyone who loves a widow is obliged,  
since she comes second-hand, to eat tripe.)

LUCINDO: Psst! They're coming! 1430

BELISA: Who's that?

HERNANDO: Hernando,  
my servant, talking to Fenisa.

BELISA: Ah, so!  
What a rogue!

HERNANDO: Tremendous! Someone's here,  
he says, and so good-bye.

BELISA: My dear.

***BELISA exits***

LUCINDO: People are coming and it's getting late.  
Good-bye. 1435

FENISA: Until tonight. You were great!  
You kept her busy.

***FENISA exits***

HERNANDO: It was a good job!  
LUCINDO: Come on. What did you ask for, you sot?  
HERNANDO: A tripe.

LUCINDO: How gruesome! But I guess it's all  
right.  
HERNANDO: You got the meat, so I settled for tripe.

***LUCINDO and HERNANDO exit***  
***Locale 2: At GERARDA's house***  
***DORISTEO and GERARDA enter***

GERARDA: Calm down! I'll find out if it's true. 1440  
We'll know much more after I do.

DORISTEO: I suspected he was afraid  
of what we might do; so he said  
he'd invented Estefania by chance.  
His father let the cat out of the bag 1445  
when he told me that Fenisa was to be his.

GERARDA: Perhaps the Captain was thinking of him,  
thinking you wanted Fenisa for yourself.

DORISTEO: Me?

GERARDA: And in order to put you on the shelf, 1450  
to save Lucindo from an open fight,  
he told you she was to be his wife.

DORISTEO: I don't understand.

GERARDA: Why not? If he thought  
it was a duel with Lucindo you sought,  
how wise it would be for him to claim 1455  
Fenisa as his own.

DORISTEO: So that was his game!

You are right. But I need some proof.

GERARDA: And my love demands that we know more too.

DORISTEO: That thought leads me from worry to fear.

GERARDA: Don't you agree that the two of us here 1460  
should find out which is to be her spouse?

DORISTEO: I do.

GERARDA: Let's go together to her house.

DORISTEO: Won't the two of us look like fools  
if we come right out and ask for the truth?

GERARDA: Did I say we'd do that? 1465

DORISTEO: What did you say?

GERARDA: I'll rush in like I'm running away.

DORISTEO: From whom?

GERARDA: From you, who are after my life  
as a jealous husband. You pull your knife...

DORISTEO: All right!

GERARDA: They'll try to calm things down. 1470  
I'll stay behind and tell her how  
I fell in love with Lucindo; that's why  
you're out to kill me. And then I'll try  
to get her to help me.

DORISTEO: What a plot!

Only a woman could pull it off.

GERARDA: That's high praise of what women can do. 1475

DORISTEO: You women really are like demons.

GERARDA: That you can say about Spanish women.

DORISTEO: Let's go.

GERARDA: I know she'll tell me the truth.

DORISTEO: "A woman who wants to get something done,  
is as constant in motion as waves on an ocean". 1480

*DORISTEO and GERARDA exit*  
*Locale 3: A room in BELISA's house*  
*The CAPTAIN, FENISA, and BELISA enter*

CAPTAIN: If I had known why he was hanging around,  
I wouldn't have sent him away.

BELISA: But now,  
I've told you about it.

CAPTAIN: I'm very pleased  
about the marriage. Can't you see?  
I'd like to offer congratulations.

1485

BELISA: Instead, you'll offer consolation  
if he's already gone. What did you do?

CAPTAIN: If I'd only known that he loved you,  
--I didn't dream he was ready yet

1490

to settle down-- I'd have tried myself  
to arrange the marriage. Such an exchange  
is welcome, Belisa, as is plain,  
since it would most surely bring  
our families closer by increasing our holdings.

1495

If my son is to marry the mother of my wife,  
as you've told me he would like,  
my son will become my father-in-law;<sup>8</sup>  
stepfather and stepson, if I'm not wrong,  
to your daughter Fenisa. The world will treasure  
the happy exchange of ages and pleasures.

1500

BELISA: I'm truly upset that you sent him away.  
Get word to him now. Please don't delay.  
Bring him back home.

FENISA: You've been too severe.

CAPTAIN: I couldn't help myself.

FENISA: What did you fear?

What was behind it? Jealousy? Good Lord!

1505

CAPTAIN: Worry for his life. I give you my word.  
Two men were after him with blood in their eyes.  
A girl, Estefania,<sup>9</sup> has him so blind  
he didn't see them. It's lucky I was there.

BELISA: He loves another woman?

1510

FENISA: (He wouldn't dare!)

What did I hear?

CAPTAIN: That's what I heard.

It must be a lie. It's too absurd.

I forgot you love him, Belisa.

Pardon me. Excuse me now, Fenisa,  
and I'll go get him. 1515

*The CAPTAIN exits*

BELISA: I'm all confused.  
FENISA: You're thinking the same thing I am too.  
BELISA: If, already, he's showing interest  
in a woman for a little love nest,  
we've let ourselves in for a lot of trouble.  
FENISA: (You don't know the half. My problem is double. 1520  
If he tricked you, he had me fooled,  
pretending to love me and tell me the truth.)<sup>10</sup>

BELISA: What was that you said?  
FENISA: We shouldn't believe  
what the old man said, he's so jealous of me  
that he'd make up a thousand such tales. 1525  
BELISA: Wouldn't that be a very strange way  
for Lucindo to give offense? But how...  
Someone is coming into our house!  
FENISA: The Captain must not have shut the door.  
BELISA: Another woman! And after he swore... 1530

*GERARDA enters fleeing from DORISTEO who has his dagger in  
hand*

GERARDA: Help me! Ladies, help me please!  
That wild man is trying to kill me.  
DORISTEO: Who'd want to help you, you cheating whore?  
BELISA: Stop! Don't kill her. No blood, I implore...  
FENISA: Why are you after her? Calm down, sir. 1535  
GERARDA: Me? A whore?  
BELISA: Don't kill her.  
Please show respect for these widow's weeds.  
DORISTEO: If your noble presence weren't here to see...  
To reclaim my honor, if only in part,  
I'd already have put this through her heart. 1540  
GERARDA: And you'd be killing a part of yourself.  
DORISTEO: Now you talk of love, but then...  
you vile, false, foresworn witch...  
God in heaven!...  
FENISA: Please, just quit!

You're obviously out of control, and it seems 1545  
a green-eyed monster, a real fiend  
has taken charge of your tongue and hands.  
BELISA: You can't stay here and be a man.  
Come to my room and you can speak  
about it and put your mind at ease. 1550  
DORISTEO: I do want to obey you and even to talk  
about it to ease my troubled thoughts.  
BELISA: This lady will stay here with my daughter.  
What is her name?  
DORISTEO: She's called Estefania.11

***BELISA and DORISTEO exit***

FENISA: Heaven delivered you from a very great danger. 1555  
GERARDA: I'm still shivering, I'm trembling all over.  
Where can I go?  
FENISA: Don't be afraid.  
Tell me what's wrong.  
GERARDA: I will if I may.  
Dear lady, I am an unfortunate souls,  
but that is something you already know. 1560  
I was born in the noble city of Burgos.  
My parents, may they rest as suits God's purpose,  
brought me to Madrid while still a babe  
in my nurse's arms. Once here they raised  
me well and took care of all my needs 1565  
until that man whom you have seen,  
taken by my looks and carriage  
insistently asked for my hand in marriage.  
They gave me to him against my wish.  
In marrying me to one I couldn't relish, 1570  
they put a burden on me beyond all measure.  
My life was completely lacking in pleasure,  
so terrible that often I was on the verge  
of suicide.  
FENISA: How dare you say that word?  
GERARDA: Such things do happen. 1575  
FENISA: Nothing's that bad.  
A Christian woman, unless she's mad,  
can't even think of it.  
GERARDA: You lack experience.

You don't know what it is to feel the offense  
 of an enemy at your table in broad daylight,  
 a frightening phantom in your bed at night. 1580  
 My despair was somewhat tempered  
 by the sight of a bright young soldier,  
 a gallant lieutenant<sup>12</sup>  
 whose looks were such  
 my eyes burned as if staring at the sun. 1585  
 It occurred to me to remedy the trouble  
 my husband was giving me, if possible,  
 be getting the lieutenant to take his place.  
 He liked me and my love was repaid  
 in word and deed. We did as we pleased 1590  
 for nearly two years. But whenever he sees  
 Love marching by, Envy beats his drums.  
 My husband heard the resulting commotion  
 and, afraid of damage to his reputation,  
 he became wary. To our consternation 1595  
 he set up an owl to watch over the house,  
 to keep his eyes open and frighten the mouse  
 nibbling away at the master's cheese.  
 To solve the problem, I searched for a key  
 to open the door, or the heart of of neighbor. 1600  
 If a couple wants and is willing to labor,  
 they manage. Things can be arranged.  
 But to shorten my story, there was no way  
 to keep someone from spoiling my hope.  
 The sight of my husband's sword, I was told, 1605  
 had made Lucindo --the lieutenant's name--  
 change his mind about playing the game.  
 I recently heard he was to wed  
 a certain Fenisa whom they have said  
 is beautiful, wealthy, and quite discreet. 1610  
 I lost control and went out to see  
 if I could find the snake. As you saw,  
 my husband found me. I ran off.  
 He followed me here near where she lives.  
 Do you know her house or where she is? 1615  
 Is she at the root of my distress?  
 I hope you can help get me out of this mess.  
 Now that I've taken refuge with you  
 and you've saved my life, what can I do?  
 FENISA: You say that Lucindo loved you well? 1620

GERARDA: You know him?

FENISA: I wish we'd never met.

I wish to God I didn't know him,  
that he didn't know me. I wish...

GERARDA: It's you? How strange, how unexpected  
to find by chance what I'd only suspected. 1625

FENISA: You can't know the trouble you've caused.

I am Fenisa. It's only because

I was not aware of what he had done  
that I was deceived and gave him my love.

That ingrate! I am the one who agreed, 1630  
in secret, to marry him. I didn't believe  
he could be so evil. But I found out,  
in plenty of time.<sup>13</sup>

Believe me now

when I say I'm grateful that you have come. 1635

I'll marry the Captain and not the son.

You can have him. I'll make him feel  
the heat of the fire he set for me.

He's yours, I hope you enjoy him forever.

GERARDA: You did this to me? Well, I never! 1640

It's you who made me want to die?

You are Fenisa?

FENISA: I'm sure that I...

Lucindo's all yours! I want nothing to do...

GERARDA: Let my example be a warning to you.

He's the most treacherous man, I believe, 1645  
the most fickle the world has seen.

FENISA: I don't need more warnings about his game.

Farewell to pleasure! What was your name?

GERARDA: Estefania.

FENISA: (The Captain knew! That's clear!

He told me that before leaving here.) 1650

You were right to worry. Your name I knew.

Now I know the rest of it too.

GERARDA: If you're as smart as you seem to be,  
you'll never see him again. Be discreet.

He'll ruin your reputation for sure. 1655

FENISA: Don't worry about that. I've taken the cure.

GERARDA: I can escape from my husband now.

May I leave to go to my sister's house?

FENISA: Would you like to come back and see me again?

GERARDA: I hope that we can become good friends. 1660

Is there another way out?

FENISA: If you want to play  
with Lucindo, there's always a way.

GERARDA: That's a good one!

FENISA: Come back soon.

GERARDA: (How easy it was to learn what to do!  
How simple to stop his upcoming marriage!  
Beautiful woman! What heart and courage!  
I'm dying of envy. Heaven help Lucindo.  
When I find him, I'll lay him low.)

1665

***GERARDA exits***

FENISA: When love's violent flame finally goes,  
quitting my soul, leaving cold ashes behind,  
it will be as if this verdant hope of mine  
were a tall palm tree under mountain snows.  
It was in full bloom when the wind that blows  
bringing northern cold came to shatter its pride;  
a change in the weather takes so little time  
to turn once glorious hopes to wilted woes.  
No more sweet pleasures. They are the charm  
with which our hearts and our reason are teased.  
My soul must no longer endure their harm.  
Give me no goods for which I pay such a fee!  
But how can I refuse love, in spite of my alarm,  
if Cupid's treasure is enriched by such means?

1670

1675

1680

***LUCINDO enters***

LUCINDO: Now that we have made up our minds,  
Fenisa, you to become my wife,  
and I your husband --Oh, happy  
I having given the promised security,  
have come to your room, leaving the coach  
that I ordered in the street below  
where it will soon become a chamber,  
a nest, molded to fit your figure.  
Come to that coach without delay  
because on this my happiest day  
I want you to become Proserpina  
as I play the role of Pluto. Fenisa,  
what's wrong? Why do you hesitate?<sup>14</sup>

1685

1690

1695

FENISA: Why shouldn't I? What do you mean to say?  
 Are you joking? Who are you talking to?  
 LUCINDO: Sweet heart of my soul, isn't it you?  
 What are you aiming at? Who is here  
 that needs your help? I want to hear. 1700  
 Isn't it time right now that we go  
 as we agreed last night?

FENISA: Oh, so?  
 Tell me who agreed to what.  
 Tell me again. Can't you talk?  
 LUCINDO: Last night, didn't you talk to me? 1705  
 FENISA: Yes.  
 LUCINDO: Then tell me what we agreed.  
 FENISA: That you were to marry my mother  
 since I am the wife of your father.  
 LUCINDO; Your mother? But that was just a pretext! 1710  
 FENISA: No longer. There's no such thing as pretend.  
 There are witnesses to your marriage offer.  
 LUCINDO: Then you were deceiving me about your mother?  
 FENISA: You're the one who was practicing deception.  
 You can't continue your attentions 1715  
 to me since I'm your father's wife;  
 my mother is yours. For your whole life!  
 LUCINDO: How can your mother be my wife?  
 You must be a devil in disguise.  
 Don't you remember you first loved me? 1720  
 You made my father the go-between.  
 He brought me the news at your behest  
 and I came to talk on your request.  
 It was only to achieve our ends  
 that we talked of marriage and pretense. 1725  
 What are you saying now about your mother?  
 FENISA: I am now the wife of your father.  
 I'm sorry but that is the real truth.  
 If my mother isn't pleasing to you,  
 remember, she is more of a lady, 1730  
 much more honorable in every way,  
 than your mistress Estefania!  
 Go look for her and keep on trying.  
 Stolen fruit is so much sweeter.  
 But keep your eyes open if you meet her, 1735  
 her husband is loose and looking for you.

LUCINDO: You sound as if you're jealous, too.  
 Someone deceived you with that silly name.  
 Hernando, my servant, was Estefania. A fake!  
 I took him to the Prado to play that role. 1740  
 My love, don't refuse any longer to show  
 you return my love. I swear it's the truth!  
 If I've seen Estefania or been under her roof,  
 may heaven strike me dead, the sun never shine,  
 may day never come, may I be buried alive, 1745  
 may I lose all hope of gaining your love.  
 They fooled you. You see what they've done?  
 Hernando in disguise is the Estefania I know.  
 FENISA: You're too late. I know you Lucindo.  
 An hour from now, you'll be my stepfather. 1750  
 Don't make me lose the respect or honor  
 I feel I must hold for my mother's spouse.  
 You'll replace my father here in this house.  
 LUCINDO: What are you saying?  
 FENISA: Only the truth!  
 LUCINDO: Have you lost your mind? 1755  
 FENISA: No more than you.  
 LUCINDO: One of us is out of his head. Dear Lord!  
 FENISA: That's it. Stamp your foot and roar.  
 My husband's coming soon.  
 LUCINDO: God help me!  
 FENISA: I hope He can.  
 LUCINDO: I'm dead. Don't you see?  
 FENISA: Don't be foolish. 1760  
 LUCINDO: But what'll I do?  
 FENISA: Get married.  
 LUCINDO: Can't you see that I love you?  
 Can't you see how fickle you are?  
 Can't you see how I came so far,  
 how I did as we had agreed?  
 Can't you see how the woman you used to be 1765  
 was a real woman, but not for me?  
 Can't you see how right we men must be  
 when we say all women are fickle?  
 Can't you see that I've been faithful,  
 prepared, and compliant in our agreement? 1770  
 I hope to God you soon repent,  
 and then your anguish will be my revenge.  
 Since, when it comes to my defense

my life is yours, do as you wish.  
Enjoy my father, enjoy and relish. 1775  
He is my father and, therefore, my better.  
How discreet it is for me to render  
the woman I love to become my mother.  
He's sending me off so I can suffer  
for committing the sin of loving you. 1780  
I'm off to Portugal where, it's true,  
I should regain the freedom I lost.  
I loved you, indeed, but look what it cost!

***LUCINDO exits***

FENISA: Oh, God! Please stop! But no... but no...  
He's the traitor, so let him go. 1785

***HERNANDO enters***

HERNANDO: Psst! Listen.  
FENISA: What do you want?  
HERNANDO: So cold?  
On this occasion? Didn't Lucindo  
come here like he said, to get you?  
Why be that way with me? You two...  
FENISA: Right now we aren't getting along very well. 1790  
HERNANDO: What's that?  
FENISA: He has a married mistress,  
and that doesn't suit my fancy.  
Who is that Estefania he's been seeing?  
HERNANDO: So the plot has come that far?  
FENISA: What plot? 1795  
HERNANDO: I can tell you. In the park,  
I was that lady for just one day.  
FENISA: A lady?  
HERNANDO: In disguise, in skirt and veil,  
I sat beside a woman in the dark  
to make her jealous... Don't repeat this part  
since Lucindo can't know I told about her. 1800  
He loved her... before he met you I swear.  
Since then she's like a dog on his trail;  
following, begging, and wagging her tail.  
FENISA: I'm only sure that someone's been deceiving me.  
HERNANDO: I know there's no one he cares to see 1805

but you, Fenisa. What else can I say?

FENISA: I don't know. Here's my mother. Away  
with you.

HERNANDO: I'll get out going this way.

*HERNANDO exits. BELISA enters*

BELISA: Finally, Fenisa, I got rid of that man.

FENISA: How did it go? 1810

BELISA: I don't know if I can,  
without laughing, tell you what happened.

FENISA: Tell me, mother, everything he said.

BELISA: He saw you and fell in love.

FENISA: And then?

BELISA: He said he wanted to marry you.

FENISA: He's already married! 1815

BELISA: A plot by those two.  
The woman planned it.

FENISA: She's jealous I fear.

BELISA: She probably is. He said they came here  
after they had agreed that he'd pretend  
to be her husband.<sup>15</sup>

There was reason to suspect 1820  
a man was after his younger sister,  
the very same man who had tricked her.

FENISA: Who were they after?

BELISA: Lucindo.

FENISA: Do tell!

They were jealous of Lucindo?

BELISA: I am as well.

FENISA: Her jealous feelings were put to rest 1825  
by her truth and by my contempt.

(I lost that chance for a life of pleasure  
but I'll plan another inventive measure.

I'll marry Lucindo with her blessing today,  
right here at home and without delay.) 1830

Pay attention, mother, to what happened here.

After that cunning woman appeared,  
running for her life, and jealous of me,  
to ruin our hopes for a chance to be happy,

Lucindo came to say it's you he adores. 1835

BELISA: Is that true?

FENISA: Such things have happened before.  
But, he tells me that talking to his father  
about you, he felt the Captain was bothered  
by your marriage and so he felt a need  
for a secret wedding. 1840

BELISA: I thought that might be!  
The Captain certainly wouldn't want his son  
to marry me. The gossips would say the one  
he was after had the youth and the beauty,  
and to get you, Lucindo did obnoxious duty.  
Well, Lucindo will be my husband and soon. 1845  
FENISA: He wants to spend the night with you.  
In your room.

BELISA: How do you feel about that?  
FENISA: How do I feel? Do what you can!  
You will be his wife.

BELISA: It's getting dark.  
You work it out. 1850

FENISA: You get ready. (What a lark!)  
BELISA: (My good fortune is driving me mad.  
You'd be envious of the fun I'll have  
if I were to tell you what we'll do.)  
I'll go now and ready the room,  
put on perfume and get done up right. 1855  
FENISA: That's just what you should do. Good night!

***BELISA exits***

Now you'll see how I manage my affairs.  
With a new deception, I'll end my cares.

***The CAPTAIN enters***

CAPTAIN: Is Fenisa in?  
FENISA: Yes, I am here, and at your service. 1860  
Where's Lucindo? My mother wants to settle  
the matter of marriage now.  
CAPTAIN: What marriage?  
FENISA: Yours, mine and theirs.  
CAPTAIN Good! Let's not wait another minute; life 1865  
isn't getting any longer.  
FENISA: You should also know, Captain, I've found  
out that it wasn't Lucindo who was coming

to my window at night.

CAPTAIN: What are you saying? 1870

FENISA: Today I found out that it was a certain friend of his; and so, I would like you to go find Lucindo and ask him to watch our door tonight along with Hernando. Last night, at ten, the friend I was telling you about got in through the garden and knocked on the door of my bedroom. I got up, thinking that it must be my mother coming to talk for a bit. 1875

If I hadn't locked the door, something terrible could have happened. 1880

CAPTAIN: Have you ever heard of such a thing? By God, I'll be the one waiting outside tonight.

FENISA: No, my love, because this time I want you to be inside with me.

CAPTAIN: Where? 1885

FENISA: In my room, but nobody else must know.

CAPTAIN: At last!

FENISA: And I want you to come well prepared. Put on your best clothes and trim your beard. 1890

I don't like it when you wear it so long. You look so much younger when it's properly shaped.

CAPTAIN: Anyone with a chance at such glory would, undoubtedly, come properly prepared in every way. My beard will be trimmed just as you wish. Every new husband must watch his grooming, and I'll soon enough be yours. 1895

FENISA: It's getting late already, so talk to your son.

CAPTAIN: My heaven guard you well.

***The CAPTAIN and FENISA exit Locale 4: A room in the CAPTAIN's house LUCINDO and HERNANDO enter***

LUCINDO: She's changed her mind. 1900

HERNANDO: What's that?

LUCINDO: You heard.

HERNANDO: Don't you believe it.

LUCINDO: Look away and she turns.

HERNANDO: In order to hide something good from me you're using rhetorical colors, I see.

By any chance, did you take her to bed?

You look love-sick. 1905

LUCINDO: I'm really dead  
as you can see.

HERNANDO: Are you telling the truth?

LUCINDO: I went to get her and entered her room.

The way she acted I wanted to scream

so I came back down letting off steam.

I dismissed the coach and my friends went home. 1910

HERNANDO: She's really burned up. Her anger has grown.

I call on my eyes as credible witness.

LUCINDO: What about?

LUCINDO: The woman is savagely jealous.

LUCINDO: Of whom?

HERNANDO: Estefania, of course.

LUCINDO: Is that still going on? Good Lord! 1915

Don't keep picking on me as you usually do.

HERNANDO: Your father...

LUCINDO: No matter, he's jealous too.

*The CAPTAIN enters*

CAPTAIN: You're getting ready to leave?

LUCINDO: Tomorrow

I'm on my way, sir.

CAPTAIN: That's a good one, Lucindo!

Marrying Belisa and taking off so soon? 1920

LUCINDO: That was all a joke, a game for fools.

CAPTAIN: I know your wedding is set for today,  
but be that as it may, I want you to stay.

LUCINDO: Why is that?

CAPTAIN: Because I found out now  
who's bothering Fenisa by hanging around 1925  
and I also learned it's a good friend of yours.

LUCINDO: So they tricked you, too!

CAPTAIN: She told me more.

Fenisa explained it was all her mistake.

Last night someone came, climbed over the gate  
and through the garden to get to her room. 1930

She went to open the door when he knocked,  
and realizing her error, she turned the lock.

LUCINDO: That was an odd mistake to have made!

CAPTAIN: She screamed; he ran. She asked me to say  
that you must guard her house tonight. 1935

Will you do it?

LUCINDO: I will, all right.

It's enough for you to give the command.

CAPTAIN: I'm in an awful rush; but you're a man  
so arm yourself and God keep you well.

*The CAPTAIN enters*

LUCINDO: We're getting married tonight! 1940

HERNANDO: How can you tell?

LUCINDO: I understood Fenisa's suggestion:

I'm to come to her room through the garden.

HERNANDO: You're right! And she'll be waiting for you.

Jealousy spurred her on to the deed.

Today you'll get just what you need. 1945

LUCINDO: The cure for my troubles has been achieved.

But by what strange, roundabout means!

Let's go get our arms, you'll come along too,  
to stand in the garden and guard the room.

HERNANDO: (Beatriz, 17 1950

up to now, has been under cover.

Exactly where I expect to find her.)

*LUCINDO and HERNANDO exit Locale 5: The street in front of  
BELISA's house DORISTEO and FINARDO enter*

FINARDO: I'm not sure it was worthwhile finding out  
about your sister, because I see it turned 1955  
out badly when you fell in love with Fenisa.

DORISTEO: Gerarda planned that plot very well. I went  
in after her, pretending to be her husband;  
but as soon as I saw Fenisa, I was blinded,  
I was set on fire as if by lightning. I went 1960  
off to the other room with her mother and, to  
tell you the truth, I told her what was going  
on. Then I asked for Fenisa's hand in marriage.

FINARDO: These are their windows, so speak softly now.

DORISTEO: Oh, divine, fortunate lodging of that tenth 1965  
muse of Parnassus, the most beautiful woman,  
the most brilliant Phoenix that Apollo ever  
saw flying in swiftest flight.

FINARDO: What's that? Are you still thinking of marriage?

DORISTEO: If she'll have me.

FINARDO: Are they from a good family? 1970

DORISTEO: So virtuous that the younger one is better than any woman around here and, Finardo, the mother is a real saint.

FINARDO: Do they have money?

DORISTEO: Be that as it may, a dowry in virtue is better than most. Their virtue and their carefully guarded reputation is truly the only dowry I want. 1975

*The CAPTAIN enters, trimmed and well-dressed, with  
FULMINATO*

CAPTAIN: You can go home now.

FINARDO: Somebody's coming.

DORISTEO: They don't want to be seen. 1980

FINARDO: They're stopping.

I didn't see them get any closer.

FULMINATO: Shall I wait here, or call the others?

CAPTAIN: No, my guards are over there in the shadows.

I'm going in now, so you can go home.

FULMINATO: Who are they? 1985

CAPTAIN: Lucindo and Hernando.

*The CAPTAIN exits*

FULMINATO: I'll see.

I'll go over to talk.

FINARDO: Who's he?

The first one went in!

DORISTEO: Anything else?

FINARDO: Such virtue! A real saint!

FULMINATO: Do you need a friend?

FINARDO: You can leave.

FULMINATO: Pardon me.

DORISTEO: You're excused. 1990

FULMINATO: I thought I knew you, you see.

*FULMINATO exits*

DORISTEO: Now I'm getting angry. Good Lord!

FINARDO: Great dowry! Virtue is its own reward!

DORISTEO: I really hope God will even the score.

FINARDO: Get quiet!

DORISTEO: What now?

FINARDO: Here come two more!

*LUCINDO and HERNANDO enter*

LUCINDO: Feet, help me to carry out my intention.

1995

DORISTEO: A ladder?

FINARDO: They're already climbing.

DORISTEO: Damnation!

What kind of house is this anyway?

FINARDO: I don't really know. A fort you might say  
since it seems that now it's about to fall  
to enemies who've gone over the wall.

2000

DORISTEO: They both went over!

FINARDO: On the very first try!

DORISTEO: There must be hordes of women inside.

FINARDO: More men are coming now; but then,  
the house must not be glutted yet.

*GERARDA enters dressed as a man*

GERARDA: (I've come to see if my enemy is set  
to hang around here. I've come dressed  
as a man, with love as my only witness.

2005

I don't believe that I'm in error;

that must be he and Hernando over there  
on the corner. I've arrived in time!)

2010

Is that you, you monster, you unkind...

DORISTEO: Who're you?

GERARDA: It's me, Lucindo.

DORISTEO: Who?

GERARDA: It's me.

DORISTEO: Gerarda, my dear!

GERARDA: You fool!

I'm no longer yours. I love Doristeo.

DORISTEO: But I'm Doristeo.

2015

GERARDA: I didn't know.

Why are you here?

DORISTEO: I was looking for you.

GERARDA: For me?

FINARDO: You want the same thing, you two.  
You came looking for Lucindo probably,

and you wanted to see Fenisa.

DORISTEO: Undoubtedly!

GERARDA: You're right.

2020

DORISTEO: Today we've been acting as spies.

But see what happened in front of our eyes:

they've got three men in there.

GERARDA: Three men?

FINARDO: They could be expecting five or ten.

GERARDA: That Fenisa is an honorable woman,  
but what she's done is only human.)

2025

Let's call them out. She's gone too far.

Let's find out just who they are.

FINARDO: A fire! We'll yell their house is on fire.

DORISTEO: And not without reason.

FINARDO: Fire! Fire!

DORISTEO: Fire!

2030

GERARDA: Fire! Fire!

*Voices from offstage*

BELISA: A fire in the house?

Somebody, help!

DORISTEO: A fire!

BELISA: Right now!

Fenisa, get up! Somebody, help!

Fenisa, hurry!

FENISA: Mother, there's a fire!

DORISTEO: The house is on fire!

LUCINDO: Get some light!

*The CAPTAIN, BELISA, LUCINDO, FENISA, HERNANDO and  
BEATRIZ enter*

CAPTAIN: There's a fire in the house?

2035

BELISA: What now?

LUCINDO: A fire in the house?

FENISA: A fire in the house?

HERNANDO: Tell me, sir, where's the fire?

GERARDA: Look around. Do you need to inquire?

Obviously among you, but none can see

since love is blind. Will you tell me

2040

why these two men are in the house

of such an honorable woman?

DORISTEO: Now,  
only two? There are three!

HERNANDO: (What a meat-pie!)

BELISA: This is my husband.

CAPTAIN: She's my wife?

BELISA: But I thought that you... 2045

CAPTAIN: I've been made  
husband to a woman not to my taste.

BELISA: Fenisa, what is all this you've done?

FENISA: I've married Lucindo.

BELISA: How did you come  
to fool me that way? Tell me, don't stall.

But then your smile is telling me all. 2050

CAPTAIN: Tell me, Lucindo, can this be true?  
Do good children now turn parents into fools?

LUCINDO: I adore Fenisa, and she loves me.  
What she said to you, as strange as it seems,

was a ruse she invented to arrange our marriage. 2055

All those present here can manage,  
though they be enemies, to judge our case.

Isn't it better he marry, at his age,  
this honorable lady, the mother of my wife?

She's his equal in quality and in life. 2060

That we marry, too --souls and bodies entwined?  
Forgive me Gerarda and now, speak your mind.

GERARDA: Although I was jealous when I got here, Lucindo,  
together with Doristeo and Finardo,

who came with me as judges to your trial, 2065

you're right, your father is properly styled  
for Belisa, I hope that you and your lady  
enjoy many happy years. Amen.

DORISTEO: And I say:  
A well-delivered sentence and I confirm it.

FINARDO: And I. 2070

LUCINDO: Man and wife!

FENISA: I so affirm it.

CAPTAIN: You can give me your hand, too.

BELISA: It's an honor. Of course I do.

HERNANDO: ("One saddle's as good as any other  
for a horse of his age and condition".)

GERARDA: And you two can come to my house. 2075

DORISTEO: We'll take you there.

CAPTAIN: Hernando, right now,  
warn them at my house we'll eat over there.  
HERNANDO: Congratulations to you all! (But later beware!)  
LUCINDO: I beg you believe, if this farce seems too sweet,  
Fenisa's the one IN LOVE BUT DISCREET. 2080

### *END OF ACT THREE*

#### END NOTES

1. Is this a reference to the unicorn? Back to document
2. Here Hernando is spouting a parody of a common style of love lyric. Such are usually set in a particular poetic strophe and typified by the use of a series of images or metaphors that are recapitulated in a final stanza. The images he uses are parodic. Back to document 2085
3. A reference to the widow's weeds, a white wimple worn by Spanish widows, that Belisa must affect throughout the play. Back to document 2090
4. The Spanish for pills (píldoras) is the same word as is used for English boogers! Back to document
5. Here Fenisa clearly indicates her intention to elope with Lucindo, an intention that is frustrated when she is temporarily fooled by others including the falsified "Estefania." Back to document 2095
6. Hernando again parodies a commonplace, here the oath taken by Lucindo when he fooled Gerarda in the scene on the Prado. Note that again, there is no danger at all of the punishments being received. Back to document 2100
7. The fruits that Belisa offers are often enough used to refer to parts of the female anatomy. Back to document
8. A modern resonance is found in the country-western song "I'm my own grandpa." Back to document
9. Fenisa learns for the first time of a girl named Estefania. Back to document 2105
10. Fenisa is still willing to give Lucindo the edge of doubt. Back to document
11. Estefania again! Back to document

12. Lucindo is just such a lieutenant. Back to document 2110
13. Fenisa has now made up her mind to delay the elopement. Back to document
14. Lucindo cannot figure out why Fenisa has evidently changed her mind. Back to document
15. Belisa confirms what has been earlier said about Estefania. Back to document 2115
16. Older men wore a fuller beard at the time as opposed to the trimmer Van Dyke of the younger men. Fenisa's advice to come with trimmed beard is in keeping with her intent to get the Captain into bed with her mother. Back to document 2120
17. A further reference to the silent maid, Beatriz. Back to document
18. Note that Gerarda easily makes the best of the situation. It is evident that Gerarda is a happy rather than a tragic character. It is equally evident that Lope, in keeping with his own life and habits, avoids any moral judgment in her case. Back to document 2125

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. "In Love but Discreet." Association for Hispanic Classical Theater, 2026.  
<https://www.comedias.org/obras/in-love-but-discreet/>