

CLARICE SIDE

BEATRICE

Signora Clarice I Beg-

CLARICE

Stand away from me!

BEATRICE

ok

CLARICE

They may drag me by force to the altar, but you will have only my hand, never my heart.

BEATRICE

You disdain me, but I hope to appease you.

CLARICE

Try your worst, I will hate you til my last breath on earth.

BEATRICE

If you knew me, you would not say so.

CLARICE

I know you well enough; Destroyer of all happiness.

BEATRICE

But I have the means of comforting you.

CLARICE

There is no one but Silvio can comfort me.

BEATRICE

True, I cannot give you what Silvio can, but I can at least contribute to your happiness.

CLARICE

I think it is already enough, sir, that though I speak to you as harshly as possible, you should continue to torture me.

BEATRICE

(Aside) Poor girl. to see her suffer!

CLARICE

(Aside)I'm so angry. I don't care how rude I am

BEATRICE

Signora Clarice, I have a secret to tell you.

CLARICE

You had better not tell it me, for I will not keep it. No secret of yours will please me. You can only make me miserable.

BEATRICE

You have no desire for me, and I no use for you. You have promised your hand to another, I to another have pledged my heart.

CLARICE

Oh! Now you begin to please me.

BEATRICE

Did I not tell you I know how to comfort you?

CLARICE

Ah, I fear you are deceiving me.

BEATRICE

Nay, Madam, I speak truth and if you promise the discretion you previously refused I will confide to you my real secret.

CLARICE

I vow to observe the strictest silence.

BEATRICE

I am not Federigo Rasponi, but his sister Beatrice.

CLARICE

What!?! I am amazed. You a woman?

BEATRICE

I am indeed. My deepest apologies for the deception.

CLARICE

But what news of your brother?

BEATRICE

He died indeed by the sword. A lover of mine was thought to have killed him, and tis' whom I am now seeking in these clothes. I beseech you by all the holy laws of friendship do not betray me.

CLARICE

Won't you let me tell silvio?

BEATRICE

No! on the contrary you mustn't tell a soul.

CLARICE

Well, I will say nothing.

BEATRICE

Remember, I count upon you

CLARICE

You have my promise, I will be silent.

BEATRICE

Now I hope you will treat me more kindly.

CLARICE

Yes, daddy.

BEATRICE

not that kind.

CLARICE

yeah I get excited. I will be your friend indeed; and at your service if needed.

BEATRICE

I too swear eternal friendship to you. Give me your hand.

CLARICE

I don't know-

BEATRICE

Are you afraid I'm not a woman after all? I can give you proof.

CLARICE

No, it just seems like a dream

BEATRICE

Come, I must be going. Let us embrace in a sign of friendship.

They hug

CLARICE

Oh yeah. yep. I doubt you no longer.