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*The
Taming of
the Shrew*

BY WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

WITH DETAILED NOTES

FROM THE WORLD'S

LEADING CENTER FOR

SHAKESPEARE STUDIES

EDITED BY BARBARA A. MOWAT
AND PAUL WERSTINE

「INDUCTION」

Scene 1

Enter Beggar (Christopher Sly) and Hostess.

SLY I'll feeze you, in faith.

HOSTESS A pair of stocks, you rogue!

SLY You're a baggage! The Slys are no rogues. Look
in the chronicles. We came in with Richard Con-
queror. Therefore, *paucas pallabris*, let the world
slide. Sessa! 5

HOSTESS You will not pay for the glasses you have
burst?

SLY No, not a denier. Go, by 「Saint」 Jeronimy! Go to
thy cold bed and warm thee. 「*He lies down.*」 10

HOSTESS I know my remedy. I must go fetch the
headborough. 「*She exits.*」

SLY Third, or fourth, or fifth borough, I'll answer him
by law. I'll not budge an inch, boy. Let him come,
and kindly. *Falls asleep.* 15

*Wind horns 「within.」 Enter a Lord from hunting, with
his train.*

LORD

Huntsman, I charge thee tender well my hounds.
「Breathe」 Merriman (the poor cur is embossed)
And couple Clowder with the deep-mouthed brach.
Saw'st thou not, boy, how Silver made it good
At the hedge corner, in the coldest fault? 20
I would not lose the dog for twenty pound!

FIRST HUNTSMAN

Why, Bellman is as good as he, my lord.
He cried upon it at the merest loss,
And twice today picked out the dullest scent.
Trust me, I take him for the better dog.

25

LORD

Thou art a fool. If Echo were as fleet,
I would esteem him worth a dozen such.
But sup them well, and look unto them all.
Tomorrow I intend to hunt again.

FIRST HUNTSMAN I will, my lord.

30

First Huntsman exits.

LORD, *「noticing Sly」*

What's here? One dead, or drunk? See doth he
breathe.

SECOND HUNTSMAN

He breathes, my lord. Were he not warmed with ale,
This were a bed but cold to sleep so soundly.

LORD

O monstrous beast, how like a swine he lies!
Grim death, how foul and loathsome is thine image!
Sirs, I will practice on this drunken man.
What think you, if he were conveyed to bed,
Wrapped in sweet clothes, rings put upon his
fingers,

35

40

A most delicious banquet by his bed,
And brave attendants near him when he wakes,
Would not the beggar then forget himself?

「THIRD」 HUNTSMAN

Believe me, lord, I think he cannot choose.

SECOND HUNTSMAN

It would seem strange unto him when he waked.

45

LORD

Even as a flatt'ring dream or worthless fancy.
Then take him up, and manage well the jest.

Carry him gently to my fairest chamber,
 And hang it round with all my wanton pictures;
 Balm his foul head in warm distillèd waters, 50
 And burn sweet wood to make the lodging sweet;
 Procure me music ready when he wakes
 To make a dulcet and a heavenly sound.
 And if he chance to speak, be ready straight
 And, with a low, submissive reverence, 55
 Say "What is it your Honor will command?"
 Let one attend him with a silver basin
 Full of rosewater and bestrewed with flowers,
 Another bear the ewer, the third a diaper,
 And say "Will 't please your Lordship cool your 60
 hands?"
 Someone be ready with a costly suit,
 And ask him what apparel he will wear.
 Another tell him of his hounds and horse,
 And that his lady mourns at his disease. 65
 Persuade him that he hath been lunatic,
 And when he says he is, say that he dreams,
 For he is nothing but a mighty lord.
 This do, and do it kindly, gentle sirs.
 It will be pastime passing excellent 70
 If it be husbanded with modesty.

「THIRD」 HUNTSMAN

My lord, I warrant you we will play our part
 As he shall think by our true diligence
 He is no less than what we say he is.

LORD

Take him up gently, and to bed with him, 75
 And each one to his office when he wakes.

「Sly is carried out.」

Sound trumpets 「within.」

Sirrah, go see what trumpet 'tis that sounds.

「Servingman exits.」

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