

Katarina: Yes – that’s right, I am the one they are all talking about. ‘She’s ruthless, she’s crazy.’ I am Katarina, daughter of Baptista. You would think being a beautiful woman like myself, I would have been married easily, to a charming man who gave me anything I wanted. But no, my marriage was slow in coming and hard to get used to. **Because I am headstrong and disobedient, men didn’t want to marry me. The great chain of being states I should be submissive, not opinionated, as women are below men. My opinion is that they just can’t handle me or my love. Not even my father loves me!** (1) I hear him talking to his friends. Then this horrid Petruchio approaches my father telling him he shall ‘tame’ me, what does that even mean? I don’t need to be tamed!

‘I tell you, tis incredible to believe how much she loves me. Oh the kindest Kate.’ He wails to anyone who will listen.

He really isn’t so bad. I mean, I get fed and am happy in his company. Marriage really wasn’t so bad after all. But sweet, innocent Bianca, she gets to marry her ‘true love’. “And for I know she taketh most delight in music, instruments and poetry, school masters will I keep within my house” my father would say (2). Of course the best for you, darling. The one thing I could stop her doing was marrying and now I can’t even do that. One day she will realise Lucentio is merely an actor putting on an act, her life being the stage.

My friend Gertrude knows all about marriage and lies. Twice in one family – what’s going on?!

Gertrude: Well, actually, I did nothing wrong! **Although my husband died, there are no rules on who I may remarry! I heard some grounds men saw a figure in the distance that looked like Hamlet sr. It must have been a trick of the light, ghosts don’t exist.** (1)

Oh I do hate liars. Although my husband, Hamlets uncle, seems to be hiding something. I am not a nosey person but it seems to be troubling him so much, he tosses and turns all night long. I must just keep out of his business probably just a bad deal or something... I will admit that Hamlet seems to be targeted by Claudius’ continuous bullying and he is sending him away to college because he is afraid he will overthrow him. **Hah – my son would never do that, never disturb the chain of being or the divine right of kings – but he did put on a merry play for us the other day where two brothers were fighting for the role of king , when one brother (the youngest) poured poison in the eldest boys ear whilst he was sleeping.** (1) I enjoyed it very much. I don’t think the King did though; he rushed out half way through, even missing the ending. **I love the way plays are written in our day, with a rhyming and prose verse.** (3) It makes it very fun to listen to, although only main characters speak with such patterns.

Nothing seems to be going right for Hamlet at the moment. His ‘friend’ Laertes has challenged him to a duel, although he doesn’t know Claudius has poisoned his blade so a simple slice will have him killed. (2) Oh well, I must rush off. The duel will start at any moment. Bye.