

# SHAKESPEARE BACHELOR

By Kristen Doherty

“A tale told by an idiot, full of sound and fury, signifying nothing”

William Shakespeare.

## CHARACTERS

OSHER - The incredibly handsome host who has the ability to make the bachelorettes scream at the sight of him.

WILL SHAKESPEARE - The greatest playwright in the history of the (*echo*) world... world... world.

LADY MACBETH (Macbeth) - The psychopathic/paranoid clean freak.

JULIET (Romeo and Juliet) - The ditzy teenager who falls in love way, way too fast.

TITANIA (A Midsummer Night's Dream) - The delusional, flirty, hippy who uses magic to get ahead.

OPHELIA (Hamlet) - The petulant florist and swimmer with trust issues.

BEATRICE (Much Ado About Nothing) - The witty and sassy joker who tells it as it is.

VIOLA (Twelfth Night) - The mega competitive, friend-zoned, tomboy.

TAMORA (Titus Andronicus) - The mean girl with a taste for pie.

CORDELIA (King Lear) - The sweet girl who loves Will as the playwright, no more, nor less.

KATHERINE (Taming of the Shrew) - The shrew who does not want to get married.

CLEOPATRA (Antony and Cleopatra) - QWEEN

SCENE 1 – WELCOME TO SHAKESPEARE BACHELOR.

*SFX - Dramatic, classical Bachelor music plays.*

*The beautiful bachelor garden, there are fake flowers and fairy lights EVERYWHERE.*

*Osher enters.*

**OSHER:** Welcome to the Bachelor. Here in this beautiful mansion, right now, there are ten ladies lining up to meet their bachelor. Bachelorettes who are on a journey to be the best character ever written. Now, our new bachelor is no ordinary man. Oh no. No doubt many of you would have heard of him. He is, in fact, the greatest playwright who ever existed in the history of the world, world, world, world.

*SFX – Echo “world, world, world.*

**OSHER:** Some may say love is written in the stars as tonight, we will meet our bachelor, William Shakespeare.

*SFX - Beautiful, sad music swirls.*

*VFX - Footage of Shakespeare sitting at his desk, looking lonely. He picks up his quill and writes. He shakes his head, scribbles out the writing, and screws up the paper. He sadly puts his head on the desk, a tear escapes his eye.*

**WILL:** *(voice over)* I’ve always had a fascination with writing, I remember plucking the feathers out of my chicken’s butt just to make my own quill when I was a wee lad in Stratford Upon Avon. Now I’m the most popular playwright in London. My plays have graced the stages of the Swan, the Globe, the Curtain and the Theatre, which is called “the Theatre”, many, many, many, many times. But it’s not enough! *(slams fist on the table)* Something is missing. You can’t have a cuddle with an ink and quill.

*VFX - Footage of Shakespeare taking off his shirt. He runs along a beach. He stops, and looks forlornly into the distance.*

**WILL:** *(voice over footage)* For me, the course of true love has not run smooth. It’s not like I haven’t loved before. I have of course. I’m Shakespeare, I kinda invented love. It’s just that there’s never been that *one* who I’ve really... you know, made that connection with. So, I’ve come into the Bachelor Mansion to find her, the one, my ultimate creation. The greatest character I’ve ever written.

*VFX - Film ends.*

*Will and Osher enter from opposite sides, meet centre stage and shake hands.*

**OSHER:** Greetings Will and welcome to the Bachelor Mansion.

**WILL:** Thanks, Osher. It’s great to be here.

**OSHER:** From what anyone can see, you have it all. You are the greatest writer in the history of the world. One may ask, why? Why do you need to look for “the one”?

**WILL:** Ay me! Sad hours seem long. When not having that, which, having, makes them short.

**OSHER:** Love?

**WILL:** Yes Osher, love. I am looking for love. My perfect character. A wise man once said one needs “A heart to love, and in that heart, courage, to make love known”

**OSHER:** Excuse me if I am wrong, Will, but were you that wise man?

**WILL:** Oh ho, ho. How, right you are, my dear fellow. How right you are. I never thought I would seek love, but here I am. So, it seems that when I said I’d die a bachelor, I never thought I’d live to be married.

*They chortle together.*

**OSHER:** But Will, we all know you were once married.

**WILL:** Ahh, yes, dear Anne. But she is gone, and I am abused and my relief must be to lose her. I did leave her my second-best bed, you know.

**OSHER:** I think everyone knows that. *(winks at audience)* Well Will, your life is about to change and it will never be the same. I hope you are ready to fall in love with the greatest character you’ve ever written because the first chariot is coming up the driveway right now.

*Osher shakes Will’s hands, laughs (almost sinisterly) and walks out, leaving Will alone.*

## SCENE 2 – THE BACHELORETTES ENTER THE MANSION.

*Will stands uncomfortably for a moment.*

*SFX - Beautiful depressing music plays.*

*Ophelia enters - speaks direct to audience in frame, she is dripping wet and petulant.*

**OPHELIA:** Hi I’m Ophelia. I’m 26. I’ve had my heart broken by a guy who my dad wanted me to marry. His mum, the Queen, was my dad’s boss and they thought we’d be cute together. Bad choice Dad! This guy, Hamlet, was so moody! Broke up with me with no warning. Told me he loved me and then denied he’d ever said it. I was shook! And when I tried to give him back his letters and stuff, he pretended like he’d never given them to me in the first place. Seriously, what a jerk! So yeah, I was pretty upset to say the least. I tried not to be too grouchy with him cause he was in a pretty dark place; his dad died and then his mum married his gross uncle, like, weeks later. Awkward! So, I guess it was kinda understandable that he was hating on love. But then he stabbed my dad and killed my brother. Yep! Both of them, d.e.a.d. I mean I know he and my bro were having a duel *(rolls eyes)* and

he thought my dad was someone else hiding behind the curtain in the Queens bedroom... Do not ask me what my dad was doing in the Queens bedroom. Ewh! So anyways, obviously I couldn't forgive Hamlet after that. He made me crazy! So, I'm looking forward to meeting Will. I recon we'll have lots in common. I'm a bit of a poet too you know, like me. And I bet his love letters will be better than Hamlet's any day.

*Ophelia walks towards Will. She is very serious. She reaches Will and whips out her ukulele.*

**OPHELIA:** *(Sings)* To-morrow is Saint Valentine's day,  
All in the morning betime,  
And I a maid at your window,  
To be your Valentine.

*Dramatically strums her ukulele. Will claps.*

**WILL:** Oh, that was great.

**OPHELIA:** I have a present for you.

*She pulls a wilted bunch of flowers out of her pocket and hands them to Will as she lists them, he struggles to hold them all.*

**OPHELIA:** *(tragically)* There's rosemary, that's for remembrance; pray,  
love, remember, and there is pansies. That's for thoughts.  
There's fennel for you, and columbines. There's rue for you;  
Oh you must wear your rue with a difference.  
There's a daisy. *(whimpers)* I would give you  
some violets, but they withered all when my father  
died.

*She bursts into loud, ugly crying.*

**WILL:** *(uncomfortable)* Well, that's nice. Um... Thanks, Ophelia is it?

*Ophelia nods through her tears.*

**WILL:** It's been so great meeting you. Be not melancholy, dear lady.

*He pats her cheek. She looks besotted.*

**WILL:** We shall catch up inside.

*Will hands her back the flowers, turns her around and directs her in the way of the mansion. He turns expectantly for his next bachelorette.*

**WILL:** Whomever shall be next, this is such fun!

*SFX - Beautiful fairy music begins.*

*Titania enters - speaks direct to audience in frame.*

**TITANIA:** Hi. I'm Titania and I am ageless. I've not had the best luck when it comes to love. My ex, Oberon, put a spell on me which made me fall in love with a half man-half donkey creature. I know, right?! And then, while I was all drugged out on Donkey-love, that jerk stole my kid and put him in his army. And on top of that, his so called "love juice" wiped all memory I had of my little Indian boy. That's just not cool man. So now I'm ready to meet a man that will treat me with the respect the Queen of the fairies deserves. And because Will is the greatest playwright in the history of the world, he can immortalise me in writing as well. I shall cast my spell upon him and make sure I am forever known as the most beloved of them all.

*Titania crosses the stage towards Will she reaches him and kisses him on the cheek.*

**TITANIA:** Greetings mortal.

**WILL:** Hi. You look great, all shimmery and stuff.

**TITANIA:** Thanks. It's fairy dust. Here have some.

*She blows glitter at Will. Will starts coughing, spluttering, screwing up face.*

**WILL:** Argh! Eyes! You got it in my eyes.

**TITANIA:** Oopsey.

**WILL:** Argh it burns. Cut! Cut! Osher!

*Osher runs on waving*

**OSHER:** *(waves arms)* Cut! Cut!

*Blackout/ Lights up.*

*Osher is wiping Will's eyes with a sponge and bucket. Titania stands by looking concerned.*

**OSHER:** I said cut! Cut!

*Blackout/Lights up*

*Will and Titania stand in their last position before accident.*

*Will is quite red around the eyes, but looks love drunk for Titania.*

*SFX – Twinkling fairy music.*

**WILL:** *(love drunk)* It's lovely to meet you Titania, it's strange, *(hiccup)* it seems that even though you almost blinded me for life, I feel an immediate connection with you. Enchanté, beautiful lady.

*He kisses her hand, entranced.*

**TITANIA:** Will, maybe there is no need for this silly little show as you have already found the one you are looking for.

**WILL:** I think I may have. *(he looks at her lovingly)* Titania, I lov//

**TITANIA:** Oops. You still have some fairy dust on your eyelash.

*She reaches out and wipes it away.*

*Will shakes his head. The spell has come off.*

**WILL:** *(gasps)* Titania! You bewitched me!

**TITANIA:** *(flirty)* Did I?

**WILL:** *(scolds)* Uh, uh, uh. Play fair dear lady.

**TITANIA:** All's fair in love and war.

**WILL:** *(annoyed)* That's not my quote. Hmm...

*He turns her around, annoyed.*

**WILL:** I shall see you inside. If I see fit.

*He pushes her out the door and turns in glee.*

**WILL:** Next!

*SFX - Doom and gloom music*

*Tamora enters - speaks direct to audience in frame.*

**TAMORA:** I am Tamora. It doesn't matter how old I am. My beauty is eternal. Men fall at my feet and will do whatever I say. These other bachelorettes don't have a chance. I have had my fair share of... how would you say? Conquests. *(smiles sinisterly and adds with relish)* Yes, conquests. But here I am now without love in my life. I thrive on a challenge, so I have come to the Bachelor Mansion to win myself another husband. Will shall be my third... Or fourth. I keep losing track. Look, I'll be the first to admit that I've made some mistakes when it comes to keeping a man and most of my relationships have not met good ends. Fools! They should know that it takes a one heck of a man to hold me. No one has measured up thus far. *(dramatic pause)* Except one. There was one man, Titus. He challenged me in a way no one could. Made me believe his lies and no matter what I did. The depths in which I stooped; I could never beat him. In the end he fed me a dirty street pie and I was done. So now I'm looking forward to getting my teeth stuck into a new challenge because I know that success will taste so sweet.

*Tamora walks determinedly towards Will. She is holding a pie.*

**TAMORA:** Will? Tamora. I made you a pie. (*holds it out to him*)

**WILL:** Thank you. (*a bit confused*) I shall eat it later.

*Will hands the pie back to her.*

**WILL:** Stick it in the fridge for me.

**TAMORA:** I shall. Until we meet again.

*Will hurries her along.*

**WILL:** Indeed. Indeed.

*Will propels her towards the door. She exits, a bit offended.*

*SFX - Plonk, plonk, funny music.*

*Viola enters - speaks direct to audience in frame.*

**VIOLA:** Hi there, I'm Viola. If a love life could be a status on Facebook, mine would be "it's complicated". Ok here's the story, I hope you're following closely. My brother, my twin, and I got into a bit of trouble when we were young and he took off. I kinda got thrown in the deep end, literally, and started working for this guy, Duke Orsino. Duke. (*sigh*) He was so hot, and I totally fell in love with him, but I was pretending to be something that I wasn't... My brother actually. Yeah, I was pretending to be my brother. Weird I know, but I had to do it for my job cause they didn't hire girls. Sexist right? Anyway, I called myself Cesario and started working for the Duke and for a while it was bliss; me perving on him from afar. But then it all became a big mess because he fell in love with my bestie, Olivia and made me take messages to her. Harsh, right? But then *she* started totally crushing on me. Well, me as Cesario anyway. And so, it became this big love triangle which then turned into, like, a love quadrangle when my brother rocks up and my bestie thinks he's me "Cesario" and hooks up with him instead. Seriously! It was a mess! In the end, Duke and I did end up together, but it was never the same. I think he liked me better as Cesario, or maybe he never got over Olivia? See, I told you. Complicated!

*Viola walks determinedly towards Will. She is wearing a disguise, a man's tunic and hat. She unveils herself revealing a glamorous dress.*

**VIOLA:** Tuh, duh! Presenting me! Viola. Your most versatile character and therefore winner of your heart.

**WILL:** Well, someone's getting a little ahead of themselves, now, aren't they?

**VIOLA:** I can be whomever you want me to be.

**WILL:** Good for you. (*pats her on the head*) Now off you go.

*He spins her around and pushes her to the door.*



*Viola exits feeling rushed.*

*Will claps his hands in glee.*

**WILL:** I am loved of all ladies, oh yes, I am.

*SFX - Evil plotting music*

*Lady Macbeth enters - speaks direct to audience in frame.*

**LADY MACBETH:** My name is Lady Macbeth. You can call me...Lady Macbeth. I am determined to be the last bachelorette standing and I will stop at nothing to win. (*sickly sweet smile*) I mean to win Will's love. To secure my place as his favourite, his number one. These other girls better watch their backs because I don't let anyone get in the way of what I want. I have been married before, but my husband was a weak man. Spineless. No ambition. I had to push him every step of the way in his career. Then the power went to his head... And he lost it. Literally. So now I want a powerful man. A successful man. And you can't get more successful than the greatest playwright whom ever existed. And after this I shall be forever known as his greatest character (*evil laugh*) and I don't mind getting a little blood on my hands to make it happen.

*Lady Macbeth walks toward Will. She is intimidating.*

**WILL:** Lady Macbeth, is it?

*Will sticks his hand out to shake hers, she whips out the hand sanitiser and waits for him to rub it in his hands, he does so. She taps her foot impatiently, then greets him warmly when he's finished.*

**LADY MACBETH:** Ahh Will. What a pleasure it is to meet you. (*she stokes his face*) Your face, my Will, is as a book where bachelorettes will read strange matters.

**WILL:** Ahh yes. Jolly good point. I shall work on my poker face. It has been a pleasure. M'lady.

*He kisses her hand and immediately regrets it.*

**WILL:** (*chokes*) Soap is it?

**LADY MABETH:** (*she rubs her hands*) Bleach. Can't be too careful. Hands are dirty, dirty things, hard to keep clean.

**WILL:** (*He coughs, has trouble breathing, calls off stage*) Osher. Can I get some water?

*Blackout.*

### SCENE 3 – INSIDE THE BACHELOR MANSION

*The bachelorettes are all milling around in awe of the mansion.*

*SFX – Bachelor music plays.*

*Osher enters. Bachelorettes scream*

**BACHELORETTE:** (*overlap*) It's Osher/It's really him/Look at his beautiful hair/I want to touch it/Is it real?/Osher!/Can you believe it? Etc.

**OSHER:** Welcome ladies, to your home for the foreseeable future.

*Bachelorettes are beyond excited. They squeal, cheer.*

**OSHER:** I have someone here who is very excited to get to know you all a little better.

*Bachelorettes are in raptures; they ooh, ah and react during following dialogue.*

**OSHER:** (*announces*) And here is - The author of 37 plays and 154 sonnets and the inventor of over 1700 words, including elbow, lonely, critic, bedroom, uncomfortable, torture, blanket, addiction, anchovy, eyeball, cheap, puppy-dog, puking, advertising, bandit, unreal and of course swagger. The man that epitomises that very word - The lunatic, the lover and the poet, William Shakespeare.

*Bachelorettes all scream.*

*Will enters the mansion, stands there and smiles,*

**OSHER:** Time with Will is important, so my advice is, make the most of it. (*whispers*) Good luck.

*Osher exits. Bachelorettes all look expectantly at Will.*

**WILL:** Thanks, Osher. Ladies it is quite the honour being chosen as television's next bachelor. I can't believe that//

*Tamora stands up.*

**TAMORA:** (*interrupts*) Sorry, Will. Can I steal you away?

**WILL:** Um... I was just...

**TAMORA:** Now?!

**WILL:** (*a bit scared*) Ok.

*Tamora leads Will away from the others.*

**LADY MACBETH:** Can you believe that? How rude. He was just about to ask me for some private time.

**VIOLA:** Yeah, whatever.

**LADY MACBETH:** Excuse me?

**OPHELIA:** *(teary)* This is really overwhelming.

**TITANIA:** Aren't the lights pretty? They're called fairy lights, you know.

**LADY MACBETH:** I've waited long enough. I'm going over.

**VIOLA:** *I was just going to go over.*

**TITANIA:** Hey guys, don't argue. You're ruining the vibe. The chi energy is way off!

*Titania plucks bad energy from the sky.*

*Tamora and Will sit on the Love Couch.*

**TAMORA:** So, I thought it best to tell you straight out, that I always get what I want.

**WILL:** *(uncomfortable)* Err...

*Lady Macbeth and Viola rush toward Will, trying to stop the other one getting there first. Titania follows in hot pursuit, a crying Ophelia trudges behind.*

*SFX – Fairy Magic sound effect.*

*Titania reaches out her arms and casts a spell on Lady Macbeth, Viola and Ophelia, stopping them in their track. She saunters past them. They remain frozen.*

*Titania approaches Will and Tamora.*

*SFX – Bachelor music plays.*

**TITANIA:** Sorry... You don't mind if I interrupt do you?

**TAMORA:** *(angry)* Yes!

**WILL:** No. Not at all.

*Titania sits and Tamora rises, eyeing off Titania.*

**TAMORA:** I'll be waiting for you over there, Will.

*She strides off and sits watching them.*

**TITANIA:** *(to Will)* I have a little present for you.

**WILL:** *(claps hands)* Oh! I love presents.

*Titania reaches into her dress and pulls out a little glittery box.*

**TITANIA:** It's a fairy.

**WILL:** Oh, how wonderful. In here? A real fairy?

*He shakes the box vigorously.*

*SFX - The death rattle of a fairy is heard.*

*Titania horrified, gasps.*

**TITANIA:** Oh no! They are very fragile.

*Will opens the box and they both watch the tiny fairy fall to the ground. Titania is mortified.*

**WILL:** Deary me. Not real sturdy, are they?

*He picks it up between his fingers and puts it back in the box and hands it back to Titania.*

**TITANIA:** *(cries to the box)* Oh, Peaseblossom. I'm sorry.

**WILL:** Never mind. I'd expect you'd have a heap of them being the Queen of fairies and all.

*Titania bursts into tears and rushes out. As she passes Lady Macbeth, Viola and Ophelia the magic comes off them.*

*Lady Macbeth and Viola suddenly continue their race to Will's side, tripping each other, pulling one and other back.*

*In the meantime, Ophelia passes them and reaches Will first.*

**OPHELIA:** Do you mind if I sit here?

**WILL:** Not at all.

*Ophelia sits.*

**WILL:** So, Ophelia, why don't you tell me a bit about yourself?

**OPHELIA:** Well. I'm a florist and I compete in synchronised swimming events, but I'm not very good at it.

*Meanwhile, Lady Macbeth karate chops Viola on the back of the neck.*

*Viola sinks to the ground. Lady Macbeth saunters over to Will and Ophelia.*

**LADY MACBETH:** Sorry. Can I steal you away for a minute, Will?

**WILL:** *(a little afraid)* Sure.

**OPHELIA:** Don't mind me.

*Will stands, Lady Macbeth links arms with him and walks him downstage.*

**OPHELIA:** *(sighs)* O'what a noble mind is here o'ethrown. T'have seen what I have seen, see what I see.

*Ophelia shoves some cheese in her mouth, depressed.*

*Meanwhile, Viola shakes it off her concussion and rises slowly, a bit worse for wear, to her feet.*

**LADY MACBETH:** So, Will, I heard you are looking to fall in love with the greatest character you've ever written. Look, I don't want to sound conceited, but you can stop looking.

*Viola stumbles over. She is still whoosey.*

**VIOLA:** Yes Will, it is me who you are looking for.

*They are joined by the others.*

**LADY MACBETH:** As if! It is obviously me.

**OPHELIA:** Hello! I'm right here.

**TAMORA:** Excuse me, what's going on here?

*Titania pops up from nowhere.*

**TITANIA:** Will... Don't forget what we have.

**WILL:** Ladies, please. There's plenty of me to go around.

*The Bachelorettes start bickering.*

*Osher enters.*

**OSHER:** Good evening, ladies. Will.

**ALL:** Good evening Osher.

**OSHER:** It can never be said that you know what to expect in the Bachelor Mansion. While you have all been getting to know Will, five new bachelorettes have arrived at the mansion. Five more beautiful Shakespearean women, all wanting to win the biggest piece of Will's heart.

**BACHELORETTE:** What!?

**OSHER:** Will, are you ready?

**WILL:** You'd better believe it!

*Will shakes the other bachelorettes off him and happily follows Osher side stage to the meeting spot.*

*SFX – Highly dramatic music.*

**LADY MACBETH:** What is happening?

**TITANIA:** Intruders!

**VIOLA:** You have got to be kidding.

**OPHELIA:** (*cries*) Five more?

**TAMORA:** This is ridiculous.

**TITANIA:** I hope they don't think they're going to get with *our* boyfriend!

**LADY MACBETH:** We have been here for like ten more minutes than they have. How dare they think that they can just come in here and take Will from us!

**TAMORA:** Well, they've got another thing coming.

*Bachelorettes all sit on Love Couch to watch the proceedings. They pull out popcorn.*

#### SCENE 4 – THE INTRUDERS ENTER THE MANSION.

*SFX - Cute but sweet music starts*

*Juliet enters - speaks direct to audience in frame.*

**JULIET:** Hi, I'm Juliet. I'm fourteen, but shh, don't tell the producers. I told them I'm old enough, and I am! I totally am. I am so ready to fall in love... again. Confession. I have been married before. And I thought it was like, written in the stars and all, you know? Anyway, it was a disaster! Our parents hated each other! Hated! You have no idea. So, we snuck off together and got married in secret. But then my dad wanted me to hook up with his friend, Paris. Ewh! As if! Anyways (*sigh*) Romeo and I were only together like three days. (*sadly*) Three days and I lost my hubstar, (*a big pout*) but he has made the face of heaven so fine. Sad story, right? (*brightly*) But I'm young and I would totally die if I'm not married before I get all old and saggy, like my mum... She's like 26 or 27. Gross!

*Juliet crosses to Will. She is wearing a wedding dress.*

*SFX - Wedding music plays.*

*Juliet reaches Will.*

**JULIET:** (*gushing*) I do!

**WILL:** Um, so, Juliet, is it?

**JULIET:** Yes, it is, Juliet Montague. Was once Capulet, soon to be Shakespeare though. Mrs Juliet Shakespeare has a nice ring to it, don't you think? Speaking of rings, I have brought one just in case, and I have a friar at the ready. (*turns and calls off*) Friar Lawrence! Do you want to come out?

**WILL:** (*interrupts her*) Oh no, no. Let's not be too hasty.

**JULIET:** Of course, my love. Let's not rush things. I'll have him come back tomorrow, shall I?

**WILL:** You do that.

*Will turns Juliet around and sends her on her way.*

**JULIET:** Good night, good night! A thousand times goodnight. Parting is such sweet sorrow, that I shall say good night till it be morrow.

*She waves enthusiastically and skips off.*

**WILL:** (*shudders*) A man loves the meat in his youth that he cannot endure in his age.

*SFX - Dramatic but playful music starts*

*Katherine is into frame by an outside force. She clearly doesn't want to be there.*

**KATHERINE:** Hi I'm Katherine, and I can't believe they talked me into being on this show. (*yells to off-stage*) You owe me big-time Bianca! (*to audience*) I have always been happy being single, not interested at all in finding a husband, but my dad won't let my (*sarcastic*) poor little sister marry anyone until I have. Well boo-hoo to her because she isn't as sweet and innocent as she makes out to be. She has our dad wrapped around her manipulative little finger. She's his little treasure, but she lies! She's been hooking up with her tutor when she's supposed to be studying. And she made him convince his gold-digging friend Petruchio to seduce me so they can be together. No wonder I have trust issues. Yeah, Petruchio was pretty charming, I guess, and I gave in for a bit. Oh I didn't make it easy for him. Nooo, believe me! (*a big sigh*) But eventually he wormed his way into my affections... But not for long. Pretty soon I was like, Petruchio? More like Petruchi-NO. No way, no-how, not happening not now, not ever! So here I am, single again. Look, It might seem like I'm hard to please, and I admit I can be a bit of a shrew, so I am just trying to turn over a new leaf. Bianca is still my little sister and she's just waiting around to get married and I guess it's about time I moved on, and Will, well Will is a much better match for me than Petruchio ever was. (*sigh*) So here I am. (*she adds, determined*) And by the way, I'm here to win. I hope the other bachelorettes are ready for this, because I am going to bring it. Game on moles!

*Katherine walks determinedly towards Will.*

**WILL:** Hello. I heard Kate is your name.

**KATHERINE:** Well, you must be hard of hearing: They call me Katherine, those that dare talk of me.

**WILL:** Kate. So pleased to meet you.

*Katherine does not take his hand, instead she looks him up and down. She does not like what she sees. She sighs angrily.*

**KATHERINE:** Where can I get a drink?

*Katherine turns and storms off.*

*SFX - Funny, plonk, plonk, music plays.*

*Beatrice enters the flower frame and speaks direct to audience.*

**BEATRICE:** Hi, I'm Beatrice and it's none of your business how old I am. I have been heard to say I'd rather hear a dog bark at a crow than a man say he loves me. I know, harsh, right? But I am here to find love. Believe me, I am as surprised as anyone. But I need someone to bounce off, you know? I enjoy a bit of banter, a bit of "hey nonny, nonny". I have just come out of a really complicated relationship where we kinda hated each other but kinda also secretly loved each other. A bit of a battle of wits, you know? But then our mutual friends totally thought we should be a couple and basically tricked us into getting together. Thank guys, not! Benedick challenged me to no end, he was such a smart-alec. Thought he was funnier than he actually was. Funnier than me. Pft! As if! So, I'm moving on. I don't want to sit in the corner and sing heigh ho for a husband anymore, I am single and I'm ready to mingle.

*Beatrice strides towards Will.*

**WILL:** Greetings. Beatrice, is it?

**BEATRICE:** Pick a hand, any hand.

*She holds two fists up and moves them around rapidly. Will tries to pick one, she puts them behind her back.*

**WILL:** Umm, left?

*She reveals an empty hand*

**BEATRICE:** *(makes error noise)* Eee, oww. Pick again Willy.

*She swaps them around.*

**WILL:** Umm, right?

*She reveals an empty hand*



**BEATRICE:** Wrong again. You're not real great at this are you?

**WILL:** But you swapped it behind your back.

**BEATRICE:** Oh, bit of a sore loser, are you?

**WILL:** I'm not. You cheated!

**BEATRICE:** Says who?

**WILL:** Says me.

*Beatrice turns to leave*

**BEATRICE:** Whatever Trevor.

**WILL:** But what was in your hand?

**BEATRICE:** Find me later and I might give it to you. (*wink, wink*)

*Beatrice exits.*

**WILL:** Why do these things always end in a jade trick?

*SFX - Fabulous music plays.*

*Cleopatra enters the flower frame and speaks direct to audience*

**CLEOPATRA:** Yes, that's right, I am Cleopatra. You probably have heard of me. Most people have. I'm kind of a big deal. I have it all; beauty, obviously, brains and a belief that I will be victorious in this silly little game of love. And that's what love is really, isn't it? A game. My ex, Mark Antony, didn't really understand my sense of humour, my little joke. When I said I would die for him, I didn't really mean it. It was just a game, a test, if you like, to see if he loved me best. Unfortunately, he didn't get the memo. Oopsey. Oh well, once bitten, twice shy. So, I've brought my little friend with me. (*she pulls out a snake*) Little Asp. Isn't she cute? She's also my exit strategy if Will and I don't work out.

*Cleopatra struts towards Will like she's on a catwalk. She poses halfway down. Then strides towards him and hands him a photo card with her signature.*

**CLEOPATRA:** You're welcome.

**WILL:** But I didn't//

*Cleopatra looks around in disdain.*

**CLEOPATRA:** Is this our "mansion"? The famous Bachelor mansion? I was expecting something a bit more regal, luxurious. More to my taste. Oh well, give me some music: music, moody food for us that trade in love.

*She pats him on the cheek. Turns and exits into mansion.*

**WILL:** (*puzzled*) I am amazed and know not what to say.

*SFX - Beautiful music plays.*

*Cordelia enters the frame and speaks direct to audience.*

**CORDELIA:** Hi I'm Cordelia, and I am really excited to be here. I can't believe I am finally about to meet the greatest playwright in history. I have always admired Will. His work is beyond incredible. What he has written has become an integral part of the psyche of the entire world and I am in awe of him. I am not like those other bachelorettes, most of them are not here for the right reasons. They will tell Will that they love him the most just to get his rose, to be known as the best character he's ever written. Those bachelorettes remind me of my two-faced sisters who lied and manipulated my father to get the biggest share of the family inheritance and when I refused to be as fake as them, he kicked *me* out. Well now I refuse to play those games and pretend to be something that I'm not. I am here for the playwright, no more, no less. I am here for his words.

*Cordelia walks towards Will. He looks immediately besotted.*

**CORDELIA:** Hi Will, I'm Cordelia. I am honoured to meet you.

**WILL:** It is I who is honoured to meet you. Hear my soul speak, the very instant that I saw you, did my heart fly to your service.

**CORDELIA:** (*she holds her heart*) Beautiful. Will, you are a poet. (*smiles*) Words, words, incredible words.

*She turns and exits; he watches her go.*

**WILL:** Did my heart love till now? Forswear it, sight, for I ne'er saw true beauty til this night.

*Blackout.*

## SCENE 5 - THE FIRST GROUP DATE

*Original bachelorettes are milling around, the new bachelorettes walk in.*

*SFX - Music - Mexican stand-off.*

*Bachelorettes stand in two rows facing off. Crack necks, punch hands, eye each other off.*

*Osher enters and walks through the middle of them,*

*SFX - Music changes to Bachelor music.*

*Immediately the bachelorettes break into raptures Juliet almost hyperventilates.*

*They all rush to stand together in two rows.*

**OSHER:** Greetings again, ladies.

**BACHELORETTES:** Greetings Osher.

**OSHER:** It's been quite the night. Will has loved meeting you all and is looking forward to getting to know you all a little better. He has sent me to give you something.

*Osher whips out a Date Scroll. There are a few screams.*

**OSHER:** Yes. This is an invitation from Will for all of you to join him on the first group date. They say a man's heart is through his stomach.

**WILL:** *(off stage)* That wasn't my quote!

**OSHER:** And tonight, we shall find out if it's true, as Will will test your culinary skills. Tonight, Will would like to see Elizabethan home cooking at its best.

*The bachelorettes all look at each other excitedly.*

**OSHER:** And may the best woman win.

**WILL:** *(off-stage)* Again, not my quote.

*Blackout.*

*SFX – MasterChef music plays.*

*One at a time the bachelorettes enter with a plate covered in a cloche etc.*

*Will sits with fork, knife and napkin tucked into his shirt. He looks thrilled with all of the options, letting out "Oohs and ahh's" as the bachelorettes present their meals to him.*

**CORDELIA:** Roast Cows Udder.

**VIOLA:** Pig trotters.

**BEATRICE:** Ear of Veal.

**CLEOPATRA:** Whole roast swan.

**JULIET:** Stewed lamb's head.

**LADY MACBETH:** Stewed lamb's heart.

**VIOLA:** Stewed lamb's liver and lungs

**OPHELIA:** Blancmange of chicken brains.

**TITANIA:** Gooducken. Goose stuffed with a duck, stuffed with a chicken. Gooducken.

**WILL:** Oh, delicious. All of my favourites.

*The bachelorettes all stand in a line. Tamora presents her pie under Will's nose. He inhales deeply.*

**TAMORA:** Pie. It's a family recipe.

**WILL:** I shall try the pie.

*Tamora is thrilled. The other bachelorettes groan in disappointment.*

**TAMORA:** I'm sure you'll enjoy eating it as much as I enjoyed making it for you.

*Will digs into the pie.*

**WILL:** Oh. Very unusual flavours. I don't think I've tasted this kind of meat before.

**TAMORA:** It's an acquired taste. Believe me, it'll grow on you.

**WILL:** Oh, there's something crunchy in here.

*He pulls a bone out of his mouth.*

**TAMORA:** Oops, missed one.

**WILL:** And what's this?

*Will pulls a ring out of the pie.*

**WILL:** A ring?

**TAMORA:** Umm. *(covering her tracks)* Surprise! I put that in there for you. A little gift, a sign of my affection.

**WILL:** It's quite lovely.

*Will wipes the ring clean and puts it on his finger to admire it.*

**WILL:** It reminds me of the one our producer, Larry always wears. I haven't seen him around for a while//

**TAMORA:** *(changes topic)* It's the latest fashion. Nothing is too good for you Will.

**WILL:** Thank you, Tamora//

*SFX - A loud groaning is heard.*

*Will holds his stomach in obvious discomfort.*

*The bachelorettes look worried.*

**WILL:** Oooh!

*He puts his hand over his mouth.*

*SFX - The groaning sound continues.*

**WILL:** Oooh!

*Will's knees buckle, he holds his backside, a very worried look on his face.*

**WILL:** Ooh dear! Osher!

*Blackout*

*LX - Lights up.*

*Bachelorettes stand in a row; Will and their meals are now gone.*

**OSHER:** *(solemn)* Ladies, unfortunately Will has been taken unwell, so there will be no rose ceremony tonight.

*Osher exits.*

**TAMORA:** Oh no. Poor Will. Maybe it was someone he ate?

**CORDELIA:** Someone?

**TAMORA:** *Something* I said. *Something* he ate. *(smiles sweetly)*

**OSHER:** So, all of you are safe for one more night.

*LX - Blue light*

*SFX - Sinister music plays.*

*The bachelorettes step forward and speak straight to the audience.*

**TAMORA:** *(evilily)* Safe for now.

**LADY MACBETH:** Not if I've got anything to do with it. Screw my courage to the sticking place and I'll not fail.

**KATHERINE:** These bachelorettes don't know what I'm capable of.

**VIOLA:** I'll do anything to win.

**BEATRICE:** I shall be victorious.

**TITANIA:** I will cast my spell on him.

**CLEOPATRA:** Will won't be able to resist my charms.

**OPHELIA:** I won't take no for an answer.

**JULIET:** He will be mine.

*A beat.*

**CORDELIA:** I hope he reads me poetry.

*All of the bachelorettes look at Cordelia in disgust and walk out, leaving her there alone.*

*Blackout*

#### SCENE 6 – THE SINGLE DATE

*SFX - Bachelor music plays.*

*Morning. The bachelorettes are milling around the house, sitting on couches, drinking cups of tea in their gowns.*

*Lady Macbeth is furiously cleaning.*

**TAMORA:** So, girls, are we all excited?

*The bachelorettes all answer enthusiastically.*

**BACHELORETTE:** Sure am/Can't wait/ So excited/Beyond excited, etc.

**TAMORA:** So, *who* do you think it's going to be on the menu for today?

*Bachelorette's look horrified.*

**TAMORA:** Oops! I mean, what! What do you think is going to be on the menu for today?  
Ahem.

**LADY MACBETH:** Have you finished with that?

*Lady Macbeth picks up Tamora's coffee cup and starts furiously wiping down the table.*

**LADY MACBETH:** Out damn spot. Out I say. One, two, three... Oh, will this table ne'er be clean.

*Osher enters, bachelorettes scream.*

**OSHER:** Good morning, ladies.

*Big smiles from the bachelorettes, they are on their best behaviour.*

**BACHELORETTES:** Good morning, Osher.

**OSHER:** Right now, as we speak, Will is preparing himself for the date of a lifetime. I hope you are all ready for a challenge, and willing to do what it takes to win Will's heart. As the man himself has said, "Love goes be haps, some cupid kill with arrows, some with traps"

*Osher whips out a date scroll.*

**OSHER:** (*whispers*) I'll leave you with this date scroll.

*Osher exits.*

*All the bachelorettes go to grab the scroll, they all get it at once. There's a wrestle for it. Titania freezes them and grabs the scroll.*

**TITANIA:** My turn.

*Titania sashays over to the Love Couch, then clicks her fingers, all of the bachelorettes come out of the freeze, and huddle around her.*

**TITANIA:** So! Are any of you getting any vibes, girls? Single or group date?

**BACHELORETTES:** (*various answers*) Single/Group

**TITANIA:** Oh, let's see then, shall we? My guess is a single and I hope he picks me. Oops did I say that out loud? (*she giggles*)

*Titania opens up the date scroll.*

**TITANIA:** It's a single!

*All the bachelorettes react.*

**TITANIA:** Ok. Here's a clue. "If music be the food of love, play on."

**KATHERINE:** Well obviously the date will be listening to music. I have quite the ear for music. It's me.

**CLEOPATRA:** Or dancing. I am an incredible dancer. It has to be me.

**OPHELIA:** Singing! Will knows that I am quite the musician, I sang to him when I met him. It's me, of course.

**TAMORA:** Eating! He said food. Maybe pie could be on the menu? It is obviously me!

**TITANIA:** And the lucky girl is... is... Cordelia. What the?! There must be some kind of mistake.

**BEATRICE:** You can't be serious!

**LADY MACBETH:** She just got here!

**OPHELIA:** This is so unfair!

**JULIET:** It should have been me! *(she bursts into tears)* Why Will, why?

**CORDELIA:** I don't know what to say... I'm so excited.

**VIOLA:** *(through gritted teeth)* Good luck.

**LADY MACBETH:** Have a great time...

**BEATRICE:** But not too great.

*Blackout.*

*Cordelia enters and Will is standing waiting for her. She walks over and embraces him.*

**CORDELIA:** Thank you so much for asking me Will. I'm so happy that you did.

**WILL:** I was unsure as to what we should do today, my love. I could have taken you sky diving from a sea plane or boating on the luxury super yacht. But then I thought no. No! We cannot spend our first date on trifles. Cordelia, you deserve the very best gift I could give you. And that gift would be me, my time, my talent. I gift you with my talent.

**CORDELIA:** That is all I could ever wish for, Will.

**WILL:** Today I will present to you the smorgasbord of Will. I have had to ask a little friend of mine to help. Maybe you know him?

*Osher steps out.*

**OSHER:** Good afternoon, Cordelia.

**CORDELIA:** *(thrilled)* Good afternoon, Osher.

**WILL:** My friend, Osher, and I have prepared a little routine for you. What the hipsters of today call "Modern Dance" It shall be hot and hasty like a Scottish jig.

**CORDELIA:** Oh, how wonderful.

**OSHER:** Cordelia, we shall now perform for you a physical interpretation of one of Will's most famous and let's say universally adored pieces of prose.

**CORDELIA:** But there are so many to choose from.



**WILL:** I know. We could have picked any of my many, many, many, many, many famous...  
Nay, legendary passages.

**OSHER:** "To be or not to be, that is the question."

**CORDELIA:** "This is very midsummer madness."

**WILL:** "Get thee to a nunnery!"

**OSHER:** "All that glitters is not gold."

**CORDELIA:** "Shall I compare thee to a summer's day?"

**WILL:** "I've not slept one wink"

**OSHER:** "Knock, knock, who's there?"

**CORDELIA:** "Vanish into thin air"

**WILL:** "Out of the jaws of death"

**OSHER:** "Fight fire with fire"

**CORDELIA:** "It makes your hair stand on end"

**WILL:** "Break the ice"

**OSHER:** "Off with his head"

**CORDELIA:** "A horse a horse, my kingdom for a horse"

**WILL:** "Some are born great; some achieve greatness, and some have greatness thrust upon them." Just like today, Cordelia, you will have greatness thrust upon you, as we will perform for you my favourite passage.

*They all laugh and applaud each other.*

**CORDELIA:** This is so lovely. I can't believe you set this all up for me.

**OSHER:** Well, in actual fact we'll be using it on a spin off show. Osher and Will's Outback Adventure.

**WILL:** Will and Osher!

**OSHER:** Osher and Will.

**WILL:** Will and Osher (*puts up his hand to silence Osher*) Osher, please. That's not important right now. This moment is all about Cordelia.

**OSHER:** (*whispers*) Of course it is.

**CORDELIA:** Oh, I'm so lucky.

*Will spins Cordelia around and points to the audience.*

**WILL:** So! If you can just go sit over there?

**CORDELIA:** (*confused*) Over there?

**WILL:** No. A few rows back. Maybe a few seats in.

*Cordelia tries to move past audience to get to the seat which Will is directing her to.*

**CORDELIA:** Here?

**WILL:** Nope. Up, up, up. Swap with that guy. (*yells up to audience member*) Come on buddy, give her your seat.

*Cordelia apologises to the audience members she is trying to pass.*

**WILL:** Perfect. Now, can you see my best side?

**CORDELIA:** (*calls back to Will*) Um, I think so.

**WILL:** Shall we proceed?

**OSHER:** Yes Will, let's. Cordelia. Have you guessed Will's favourite passage yet? It starts with a little line, maybe you've heard of it?

**CORDELIA:** (*calls back*) Can I dare to dream?

**WILL:** Yes! Yes, Cordelia you can.

**OSHER/WILL:** All the world's a stage...

**CORDELIA:** (*she claps, excited*) It is! It is! It's my favourite too.

*Osher and Will proceed to perform a ridiculous rap, modern dance, physical interpretation of the below passage, accompanied by music.*

**OSHER/WILL:** All the world's a stage  
And all the men and women merely players;  
They have their exits and their entrances;  
And one man in his time plays many parts,  
His acts being seven ages. At first the infant,  
Mewling and puking in the nurse's arms;  
And then the whining school-boy, with his satchel  
And shining morning face, creeping like snail  
Unwillingly to school. And then the lover,

Sighing like furnace, with a woeful ballad  
Made to his mistress' eyebrow. Then a soldier,  
Full of strange oaths, and bearded like the pard,  
Jealous in honour, sudden and quick in quarrel,  
Seeking the bubble reputation,  
Even in the cannon's mouth. And then the justice,  
In fair round belly with good capon lin'd,  
With eyes severe and beard of formal cut,  
Full of wise saws and modern instances;  
And so he plays his part. The sixth age shifts  
Into the lean and slipper'd pantaloon,  
With spectacles on nose and pouch on side;  
His youthful hose, well sav'd, a world too wide  
For his shrunk shank; and his big manly voice,  
Turning again toward childish treble, pipes  
And whistles in his sound. Last scene of all,  
That ends this strange eventful history,  
Is second childishness and mere oblivion;  
Sans teeth, sans eyes, sans taste, sans everything.

*Cordelia leads the audience in a standing ovation.*

**CORDELIA:** Bravo! Bravo!

*Will puts out his hand.*

**WILL:** Join me?

**OSHER:** (*whispers*) I'll leave you.

*Osher exits.*

*Cordelia squeezes out of her seat in the audience and joins Will on-stage. He leads her to the Cheese Table. They eat some cheese.*

*SFX - Romantic music plays.*

**CORDELIA:** Thanks for such a wonderful afternoon, Will. It was everything I could have hoped for.

**WILL:** Cordelia, I have had the most wonderful time, speaking about myself. Fascinating subject. After all, you can never have too much of a good thing.

**CORDELIA:** I do love nothing in the world so well as your words Will. Is that not strange?

**WILL:** As strange as the thing I know not. You really are a woman of exquisite taste, Cordelia.

**CORDELIA:** Why, thank you, kind sir.

**WILL:** But there's one more thing.

*He reaches behind himself and pulls out a rose.*

**WILL:** Cordelia, Will you accept this rose?

**CORDELIA:** Will I, Will? Oh, I will, I will.

*Blackout.*

#### SCENE 7 - BACK AT THE MANSION

*SFX - Bachelor music plays.*

*Bachelorettes are milling around the lounge room.*

**BEATRICE:** So, how do you think Cordelia is going on her date?

**JULIET:** I hope she hasn't kissed him.

**VIOLA:** I can't believe she got the first date.

**LADY MACBETH:** I don't know what Will sees in her. She is dull. Well, I suppose love looks not with the eyes, but with the mind, and therefore is winged Cupid painted blind.

**BEATRICE:** Ha. Judgey much?

**TITANIA:** Dull? She's a woman of conviction.

**BEATRICE:** She has a heart of gold.

**LADY MACBETH:** Yawn. She didn't do anything exciting. She didn't kill the king, or fall in love with a donkey, or eat her sons in a pie.

**TAMORA:** I didn't know they were in there!

**CLEOPATRA:** Lady Macbeth is right! She didn't go crazy or disguise herself as a boy to go on an adventure, or kill herself for love, and she certainly wasn't the queen of Egypt. She was just a brat that wouldn't do what her dad wanted.

**BEATRICE:** O beware, my lord, of jealousy; it is the green-ey'd monster which doth mock the meat it feeds on.

**CLEOPATRA:** Are you calling me jealous?

**BEATRICE:** Are you saying your story is worth more than hers?

*Cordelia enters and interrupts the argument. All the bachelorettes are immediately welcoming and all cheer when she walks in the door.*

**CLEOPATRA:** Oh, here she is. We are so happy that your back, Cordelia. Was it wonderful?

*Cordelia is surrounded by the bachelorettes who pepper her with questions as she makes her way to the couch.*

**JULIET:** Tell us what happened, we've been waiting with bated breath.

**BEATRICE:** What did you do?

**JULIET:** Was it romantic?

**TITANIA:** Was it magical?

**VIOLA:** Was it exciting?

**CORDELIA:** It was the most wonderful date I could have ever wished for.

**JULIET:** Did you kiss him?

**CORDELIA:** No! of course not! That's not why I'm here.

**JULIET:** Why are you here then? Kissing is the best!

**CORDELIA:** I'm here for the right reasons.

**BEATRICE:** Again! What did you do on your date?

**OPHELIA:** Why was it wonderful?

**KATHERINE:** Can you just give us some clues?

**CLEOPATRA:** Why can't you just answer the question?

**JULIET:** You didn't really kiss him, did you?

**BEATRICE:** What's the big secret?

**LADY MACBETH:** Why won't you tell us?

**TAMORA:** Just tell us what happened!

*A beat.*

**CORDELIA:** *(sighs and gladly admits)* He recited his words to me.

**TAMORA:** What?!

**LADY MACBETH:** That's it?

**OPHELIA:** You're kidding?

**VIOLA:** That's all you did?

**CORDELIA:** Yes.

**JULIET:** No kiss?

**CORDELIA:** *(laughs)* No.

**BEATRICE:** He just recited his words?

**KATHERINE:** You didn't do anything exciting?

**OPHELIA:** That was your date?

**CLEOPATRA:** No glitz, no glamour?

**VIOLA:** Just listening to him. Ha! Well ladies, Nothing, to see here.

*LX - Lights change to blue.*

*SFX - Sinister music plays.*

*Bachelorettes step forward, dramatically and speak direct to audience.*

**TITANIA:** Doesn't look like we had anything to worry about.

**OPHELIA:** It seems Cordelia is not the be all and end all...after all.

**VIOLA:** It's still anyone's game.

**CLEOPATRA:** She had her chance, and she blew it.

**JULIET:** If it had been me, we would have kissed for sure.

**KATHERINE:** Cordelia is a fool. I have my eye on the prize.

**TAMORA:** Victory will be mine. I can almost taste it.

**BEATRICE:** Not long now and my name will be at the top.

**LADY MACBETH:** I shall be the greatest Shakespearean character ever written.

*They all look at Cordelia in anticipation.*

**CORDELIA:** *(Shakes her head smiling)* Words, words, words.

*She looks at them in amusement and skips out.*

*Blackout*

SCENE 8 – THE INTRUDERS GROUP DATE

*SFX - Bachelor music plays.*

*Bachelorettes are standing in their rows.*

*Osher enters.*

**OSHER:** Good afternoon, ladies.

**BACHELORETTES:** Good afternoon Osher.

**OSHER:** I come baring gifts. On this date scroll is written the names of ladies or lady whom Will would like to take on a magical adventure.

*Bachelorettes are beyond excited.*

**OSHER:** (*whispers*) I'll leave this with you.

*Osher places the date scroll on the cheese table and exits.*

*As soon as he is out of sight all the bachelorettes scramble for the scroll, pushing and grabbing. It's reminiscent of a rugby game.*

*Cordelia stands back looking concerned. Katherine looks on with disdain.*

*The rest fight for glory.*

*Cleopatra uses her Asp to scare the others away.*

**CLEOPATRA:** (*threatening*) Go back, I warrant thee; but I'll catch thine eyes, though they had wings: slave, soulless villain, dog!

*The bachelorettes back off, terrified. Cleopatra picks up the date scroll.*

**CLEOPATRA:** (*cheerful*) Well...Looks like I'm reading it then. Ok, so it's a group date!

*Bachelorettes all react. Some are excited, some disappointed.*

**CLEOPATRA:** The first name on the scroll is.... Cordelia?!

**TAMORA:** What?!

**LADY MACBETH:** She's already had a date.

**OPHELIA:** She already has a rose!

**VIOLA:** Someone's obviously a favourite.

**CORDELIA:** Me? Oh, how wonderful.

**CLEOPATRA:** Is it? Hmm. Oh, look, the second person on the list is yours truly.

**TITANIA:** Who's Yours Truly? What play is she from?

**KATHERINE:** Idiot. She means herself.

**TITANIA:** I haven't heard of her either. Herself... Is she from one of the history plays?

**CLEOPATRA:** Next. Beatrice.

**BEATRICE:** Yes! Yes! Yes!

*Bachelorettes look at her with disdain.*

**BEATRICE:** There's me one step closer to becoming Will's bride, ladies.

**TAMORA:** Whatever!

**BEATRICE:** What can I say, I'm just lucky. There was a star danced and under that I was born.

**KATHERINE:** Never going to happen.

**BEATRICE:** Oh yeah? Well, we haven't heard your name called yet have we, Kate?

**KATHERINE:** *(getting all in her face)* It's Katherine!

**CLEOPATRA:** *(interrupts)* Yes, it is! Katherine, you're next on the list.

**KATHERINE:** *(aggressive to Beatrice)* In your face!

**BEATRICE:** Bring it!

**JULIET:** Is my name on there? Oh, please let my name be there?

**CLEOPATRA:** *(rolls eyes)* Yeah. You're the last name on the scroll.

*Juliet bursts into tears.*

**JULIET:** Oh, thank you! Thank you!

*Juliet rushes over to Cleopatra and hugs her. Cleopatra is disgusted and stays straight as a board.*

**JULIET:** *(sobs)* I'm so happy.



**LADY MACBETH:** Chill out! He hasn't asked you to marry him.

**JULIET:** Yet. It's only a matter of time and you will all be calling me Mrs Shakespeare.

*Blackout*

*SFX – Medieval fair music plays.*

*Lights up.*

*Cleopatra, Juliet, Katherine, Beatrice and Cordelia stand in a row. Will sits in a throne to watch the proceedings. There is a large wheel of fortune centre stage.*

*Osher enters.*

*The bachelorettes scream.*

**OSHER:** Welcome ladies. It seems a game is afoot. Will has brought you here today to test your mettle with some medieval merriment. Of course, as women in the Elizabethan era you did not have the same access to entertainment as the men did. You would have, of course, been expected stay in the house. There was no school for girls. If you were rich enough to receive an education, you would be tutored at home. You could not be heirs to your family fortune, this would, of course, all go to your brothers, or a distant male relative if you had none. You could be legally married around the age of 12.

**JULIET:** Nothing wrong with that.

**OSHER:** To someone of your fathers choosing.

**JULIET:** Yeah, that sucks.

**OSHER:** And if you were lucky enough not to die in childbirth, you would live a mundane life of servitude to your husband and his family. But never fear, you could break up the tedium of your day by engaging in needlework and of course, on Sunday's, church. But today we will be engaging in some fun activities the *men* got to enjoy. Will, will you take your place as judge for the proceedings?

**WILL:** Indeed.

*Will crosses to Judges chair.*

**OSHER:** Cleopatra, you shall go first.

**CLEOPATRA:** Naturally.

*She steps forward.*

**CLEOPATRA:** Whatever shall my challenge be? Jousting, fencing, archery? As a Queen I do not play by the same rules as these common women folk, so I am practiced in all sport

**OSHER:** Cleopatra, step up and spin the ‘Ye Olde Wheel of Fortune’.

*Cleopatra steps forward. And with much distaste spins the wheel. It stops on ‘Apple Bobbing’*

**CLEOPATRA:** Excuse me? Apple bobbing?

**OSHER:** Yes, the ancient tradition of bobbing for apples dates back to the Roman invasion of Britain. One must dunk their heads into bucket of water and retrieve said apple with their teeth.

**WILL:** This is jolly fun!

**CLEOPATRA:** You’re asking me to stick the royal head into a bucket of water?

**OSHER:** Yes.

**WILL:** (*encouraging*) You can do it!

*Cleopatra suddenly in a rage, beats Osher.*

**CLEOPATRA:** The most infectious pestilence upon thee!

**OSHER:** Good madam, patience.

*Cleopatra strikes Osher as he tries to shield himself.*

**CLEOPATRA:** What say you? Hence! Horrible villain, or I’ll spurn thine eyes like balls before me. I’ll unhair thy head: Thou shalt be whipp’d with wire, and stew’d in brine, smarting in lingering pickle.

**WILL:** Oh, this is gold! Gold! I must jot it all down. Pickle! (*giggles*)

*Will starts madly writing in his notebook.*

**OSHER:** Alright. Alright.

*Osher holds up his hands in defeat, Cleopatra concedes.*

**OSHER:** Shall we move on?

*Osher spins the wheel. It lands on ‘Verse.’*

**OSHER:** The next Elizabethan challenge is one of verse. As you probably have guessed Will is a huge fan of verse, of poetry, of wooing with words. This next challenge will pit Cordelia and Kate//

**KATHERINE:** Katherine.

**OSHER:** Kate, against each other. Ladies step forward. Will, please select the first lady to proclaim her undying love for you.

**WILL:** An easy choice! Cordelia.

*Cordelia tentatively steps forward. Katherine is furious.*

**OSHER:** Cordelia. You now have the privilege of wooing the bard of Strafford Upon Avon. Goodluck!

*Will steps forward and takes Cordelia's hands. The other bachelorettes look on jealously.*

**WILL:** Cordelia, speak low if you speak of love. What say you?

**CORDELIA:** Nothing my lord.

**WILL:** Nothing?

**CORDELIA:** Nothing.

**WILL:** Nothing can come of nothing. Speak again.

**CORDELIA:** Unhappy that I am, I cannot heave my heart into my mouth. I love you Will, as the writer, according to my bond; no more nor less.

**WILL:** How, how, Cordelia? Mend your speech a little, lest it may mar your fortunes.

**CORDELIA:** (*tenderly*) Good Will, you are the writer who begot me, created me, loved me; I return those duties back as are right fit. I adore you as the poet you are and that is all.

**WILL:** (*disappointed*) So young, and so untender?

**CORDELIA:** So young, my lord, and true. I am here for the right reasons.

*Will looks hurt, confused.*

**WILL:** Frailty, thy name is woman.

*Katherine steps forward.*

**KATHERINE:** My turn.

*Katherine scolds Cordelia in an obvious attempt to win the challenge. Will watches on, impressed.*

**KATHERINE:** Fie, fie! unknit that threatening unkind brow,  
And dart not scornful glances from those eyes  
To wound thy lord, thy king, thy governor.  
It blots thy beauty as frosts do bite the meads,  
A woman mov'd is like a fountain troubled-

Muddy, ill-seeming, thick, bereft of beauty;  
Thy husband is thy lord, thy life, thy keeper,  
Thy head, thy sovereign; one that cares for thee,  
And craves no other tribute at thy hands  
But love, fair looks, and true obedience-  
Too little payment for so great a debt.  
And when she is froward, peevish, sullen, sour,  
And not obedient to his honest will,  
What is she but a foul contending rebel  
And graceless traitor to her loving lord?  
I am asham'd that women are so simple  
To offer war where they should kneel for peace;  
Or seek for rule, supremacy, and sway,  
When they are bound to serve, love, and obey.  
Then vail your stomachs, for it is no boot,  
And place your hands below your husband's foot;  
In token of which duty, if he please,  
My hand is ready, may it do him ease.

*Katherine places her hand low to the ground and smiles coyly.*

*Will applauds, impressed. Katherine sashays back to the other bachelorettes.*

**KATHERINE:** Beat that!

**WILL:** Bravo! Bravo! There! There is a proclamation of love if ever I heard one.

**CLEOPATRA:** Are you kidding? She lies! She doesn't even believe in marriage whereas I have been married many, many times.

**WILL:** Kate?

*Katherine smiles and blinks innocently.*

*Will pulls out a rose. Katherine gasps.*

**WILL:** Kate, will you accept this rose?

**KATHERINE:** Will I?!

*She snatches the rose and does a full circle swooping it under the other Bachelorette's noses.*

**OSHER:** Next bachelorette, Beatrice.

*Beatrice steps forward.*

**BEATRICE:** This should be easy. Apple bobbing, reciting verse. What's next, fairy floss eating? Needlework? Dancing around the maypole?

*Beatrice spins the wheel - it lands on Bear Baiting.*

**BEATRICE:** Bear baiting?

**OSHER:** Yes, Bear Baiting, a favourite Elizabethan pastime.

**WILL:** It's jolly entertaining.

**BEATRICE:** To bait? As in to tease? To hook one in? Is it a battle of wits? I shall do very well at this. In the last battle I had with Benedick four of his five wits went halting off and now the whole man is governed by one. So, I expect I'll win this battle.

**OSHER:** Umm... Almost. Bear baiting is when a bear is chained up and wild dogs are set upon it to tear the bear apart. Of course, to start with the bear kills the dogs but after a while the dogs start to break down the bear's defences and they are able to maul the poor creature to death.

**WILL:** Jolly good show! Elizabethan entertainment at its best.

*SFX - A huge roar is heard offstage.*

**BEATRICE:** *(suddenly terrified)* What the heck was that?

**OSHER:** I think you know what it was.

*SFX - Another roar.*

**BEATRICE:** A bear?

**OSHER:** Yes. A bear.

**BEATRICE:** And I am supposed to watch this... this, vile attempt of entertainment.

**OSHER:** Of course not!

**BEATRICE:** Thank goodness.

**OSHER:** For the purpose of this challenge, you will become one of the dogs. We have this cute puppy outfit for you to adorn yourself with.

*Osher pulls a dog ears headband out of his pocket.*

**BEATRICE:** You have got to be kidding?

**OSHER:** Not at all.

*SFX – Bear roars/ dogs bark.*

*Osher sticks the dog ears on Beatrice's head and starts pushing her off-stage towards the sound of a roaring bear. She struggles.*

*Osher thrusts Beatrice off-stage and returns to the others wiping his hands and smiling. Suddenly Beatrice returns and runs screaming across the stage.*

**WILL:** *(claps his hands in glee)* Exit! Pursued by a bear. Ho, ho, ho *(calls)* Fare thee well, Beatrice!

**KATHERINE:** She's seen better days.

**CLEOPATRA:** What a sorry sight.

**BACHELORETTES:** Bye, bye Beatrice.

**OSHER:** Ok. Let's move on shall we. The next challenge, Juliet.

*Juliet steps forward, elated.*

**JULIET:** I'm ready. I'm always ready for you Will.

*Juliet winks and blows kisses at Will.*

*Osher spins the wheel – it lands on Torture.*

**OSHER:** Oh dear, Juliet, it seems that you have spun the booby prize. Now this next challenge is not for the faint hearted as you must pick your favourite Elizabethan torture challenge to attempt to endure.

**JULIET:** Of course. As his future bride, I will do anything for Will. Anything!

*Juliet makes love heart gestures at Will.*

**OSHER:** So, you may choose from The Rack, The Scavenger's Daughter, The Collar, The Iron Maiden, Branding Irons, The Wheel or Thumbscrews.

**JULIET:** Hmm. Hard choice. Ok definitely The Iron Maiden. *(bachelorettes gasp)* No! Hang on...The Wheel. *(bachelorettes gasp)* Or maybe The Collar? *(bachelorettes gasp)* Oh, it's such a difficult decision. How about the Scavengers Daughter? *(bachelorettes gasp)*

**OSHER:** Excellent choice. The Scavengers Daughter can be best described as the opposite of the rack where the body is stretched.... In this case the victim or in this case volunteer *(Juliet smiles obligingly)* is strung up on an A frame and the body is compressed from both sides, pushing the knees up and the head in the opposite direction.

**JULIET:** Compressed *(she touches her face)* So like squashed...Hmm, probs not. It'll give me wrinkles. Look, Will, can I actually have a private word with you right now?

**KATHERINE:** She can't do that!

**CLEOPATRA:** Heck no!

**OSHER:** I'll allow it.

*SFX – Romantic music plays.*

*Juliet grabs Will's hand and takes him to the Love Couch. She sits him down.*

**JULIET:** Will, I've been thinking long and hard about this.

**WILL:** Go on.

**JULIET:** *(looks pained)* Two boys and one girl, maybe two, max.

**WILL:** Excuse me?

**JULIET:** How many kids we are going to have, silly. I have been thinking a lot about it and I reckon I am young and perky enough for my body to endure birthing three kids. Maybe four, but that's it! And I am not feeding them myself! No way! Ewh! My wet nurse can do that, she's got a few good years left in her.

**WILL:** *(uncomfortable)* Oh...

**JULIET:** Baxter, Harriet and William Jr and I'm flexible on the fourth. *(she looks at him intently)* I bet you kiss by the book!

*She leans forward, lips puckered, he stops her.*

**WILL:** Juliet. I'm sorry. I have something to say.

**JULIET:** Yes! I will accept your rose.

**WILL:** Alas, this is a rose by another name.

**JULIET:** You don't mean?

**WILL:** Juliet, I think it would be unfair to let you go any further. I'm not at the same stage as you. I do want to get married, but I think this is going too fast. I would need days, maybe weeks, before I'm going to be ready for a lifelong commitment.

**JULIET:** *(shocked)* What are you saying Will?

**WILL:** Farewell. Farewell. Parting is such sweet sorrow. *(calls)* Osher! Get the chariot.

**JULIET:** No!

**WILL:** I'm afraid so.

*Juliet bursts into tears.*

**JULIET:** *(sobs)* Oh! I have bought the mansion of love, but not possessed it.

**WILL:** Chin up, Juliet. One day you will meet someone who will make you a joyful bride.

**JULIET:** (*bawling, stamps her feet*) By Saint Peter's Church and Peter too, he shall not make me a joyful bride.

*She storms off past the others, wailing.*

**CLEOPATRA:** (*smugly*) Good riddance.

*Blackout.*

## SCENE 9 – INTRUDERS ARE BACK

*SFX – Bachelor music plays.*

*The bachelorettes are lounging around, waiting to hear from the Intruders.*

**TITANIA:** I wonder how the intruders are going on their date.

**TAMORA:** Hopefully terribly.

*Bachelorettes all laugh.*

*Cleopatra walks in followed by Cordelia, bachelorettes all squeal and hug them.*

**LADY MACBETH:** How was it?

**VIOLA:** What did you do?

*Suddenly a gloating Katherine enters with a rose. The bachelorettes all gasp.*

**OPHELIA:** You got a rose?

**KATHERINE:** Of course.

**BEATRICE:** How could you? Hang on, where is Juliet?

**VIOLA:** Yeah, and Beatrice? (*gasps*) You don't mean?

**KATHERINE:** Gone!

**TITANIA:** Oh! They were such great girls.

**TAMORA:** The mansion is going to feel really empty without them.

**LADY MACBETH:** I'm really going to miss them.

**KATHERINE:** Well, I'm not, because I'm now one step closer to winning this competition.



**CORDELIA:** Katherine! How can you say that? This is more than a competition. This is for Will. For Shakespeare himself.

*Bachelorettes laugh at her in disdain.*

**VIOLA:** Oh, she's only saying what we are all thinking. We all want to win. We all want to be known as the greatest character he's ever written.

**TAMORA:** You are all wasting your time. The prize is already mine.

**LADY MACBETH:** Fools! I have always been his greatest creation.

**CLEOPATRA:** You girls have no chance! I rule this competition.

*Ophelia puts her hands over her ears.*

**OPHELIA:** *(bawls)* Stop fighting!

**KATHERINE:** You're all just jealous because I got a rose and you didn't.

*Viola bites her thumb at Katherine. Everyone gasps, shocked.*

**KATHERINE:** Do you bite your thumb at me, miss?

**VIOLA:** *(nervous)* I do bite my thumb, miss.

**KATHERINE:** Do you bite your thumb at me, miss?

**VIOLA:** *(aside to Ophelia)* Are the producers on my side, if I say yes?

**OPHELIA:** *(scared)* No.

**VIOLA:** No, miss, I do not bite my thumb at you, miss, but I bite my thumb, miss.

**KATHERINE:** Do you quarrel, miss?

**VIOLA:** Quarrel miss! no, miss.

**KATHERINE:** You lie!

*Katherine grabs Viola and ties her to a chair.*

**TITANIA:** Part, fools! You know not what you do.

**VIOLA:** I do but keep the peace.

**KATHERINE:** Peace! I hate the word, As I hate hell, all bachelorettes, and to be honest, Will.

**CORDELIA:** *(gasps)* But you said...

**KATHERINE:** Oh, for goodness sake, I would have said anything to have won. But it's not worth it! I quit!

*Bachelorettes all gasp.*

**KATHERINE:** What? Will you not suffer me? No, now I see, you all must have a husband and I must dance bare foot on your wedding days. Talk not to me; I will go and sit and weep, til I can find an occasion of revenge.

*She exits.*

**CORDELIA:** She lied...

**TAMORA:** (*sarcastic*) Oh, who would have thought that someone would lie to win on a reality TV show? I am shocked!

*Osher enters.*

**OSHER:** Good evening, ladies.

*Bachelorettes all scramble to their rows.*

**BACHELORETTE:** Good evening, Osher.

**OSHER:** Ladies, I am afraid I come baring sad news. Viola, I am sorry, you have broken one of the fundamental rules of Elizabethan polite society. There can be no greater insult than to bite your thumb at someone.

**VIOLA:** I'm so ashamed. I don't know what came over me.

**OSHER:** I'm sorry to say, Viola, that I must send you packing. Your time in the mansion has come to an end.

**VIOLA:** (*nods sadly*) I understand.

*The bachelorettes rush to say goodbye to Viola. She waves and exits.*

## SCENE 10 – THE ROSE CEREMONY.

*SFX – Bachelor music.*

**OSHER:** It's been quite the night. So far, we've had to say goodbye to Beatrice, Juliet, Katherine and Viola. But that's not all. Tonight, ladies, I'm afraid to say we will be still having a rose ceremony.

*Bachelorettes look horrified, some gasp, cry a little.*

**OSHER:** Cordelia already has a rose. and Will only has five roses left. Ladies, there are six of you and I'm afraid one of you is going home.

*Juliet appears from nowhere and stands amongst the bachelorettes.*

**JULIET:** *(a little wave)* Umm, Osher. Seven of us.

**OSHER:** Juliet?

**JULIET:** Yes Osher, I'm ready.

**OSHER:** No, what are you doing here?

**JULIET:** I'm waiting for Will to give me his rose, obviously.

**OSHER:** But you've been eliminated.

**JULIET:** Excuse me?

**OSHER:** Eliminated. Will has already asked you to leave.

**JULIET:** Oh, that? He wasn't serious, was he?

**OSHER:** Deadly serious. What's done is done.

**JULIET:** Oopsie. Me bad?

*Juliet reluctantly goes to leave.*

**JULIET:** Well, I guess I'll just go.... Unless there's a chance, he's changed his mind?

**OSHER:** There's not.

**JULIET:** Jeeze! Chillax Osher. I'm gone. Ok!?

*She exits.*

**OSHER:** Ladies, sorry about that little interruption. *(whispers)* Here's Will.

*Will enters, looking solemn. He stands on the spot and slowly picks up a rose.*

*SFX - Dramatic Music plays.*

*LX - Lights change, blue light.*

*Lady Macbeth steps forward and speaks direct to audience.*

**LADY MACBETH:** I'm quietly confident. Will and I have a great connection.

*She steps back.*

*Ophelia steps forward.*

**OPHELIA:** I hope it's not me going home. I don't feel like I've had enough time with Will.

*She steps back.*

*LX - Lights change back.*

*SFX - Dramatic music - dum dum dum.*

**WILL:** *(sad face, sudden happy face)* Titania

*Titania is thrilled.*

*LX - Lights change, blue light*

*Lady Macbeth steps forward.*

**LADY MACBETH:** Seriously! Her? She's a fool. I cannot understand what Will sees in her.

*She steps back*

*LX - Lights change back.*

*Titania, elated, crosses to Will.*

**WILL:** Titania, will you accept this rose?

**TITANIA:** Yes, Will. I would love to.

*She returns to line, beaming.*

*LX - Lights change, blue light*

*Cleopatra steps forward.*

**CLEOPATRA:** As if he'd pick her before me. That's ok, he'll pick me next. I know he will.

*LX - Lights change back*

*Cleopatra steps back. Plasters smile on her face.*

*SFX - Dramatic music - dum dum dum.*

**WILL:** *(sad face, sudden happy face)* Cleopatra.

*Cleopatra, beaming, pretends to look surprised.*

**WILL:** Cleopatra, will you accept this rose?

**CLEOPATRA:** I thought you'd never ask.

*She returns to line with smug look on her face.*

*LX - Lights change, blue light*

*Ophelia steps forward*

**OPHELIA:** I thought we had a connection but now I'm assuming the worst.

*She steps back into line.*

*Tamora steps forward.*

**TAMORA:** Will had better pick me next if he knows what's good for him.

*She steps back into line*

*Lady Macbeth steps forward.*

**LADY MACBETH:** This is humiliating. I can't believe I might be going home.

*She steps back into line.*

*LX - Lights change back.*

*Will picks up another rose.*

*SX - Dramatic music - dum dum dum.*

**WILL:** *(sad face, sudden happy face)* Tamora.

*Bachelorettes look shocked.*

*Tamora smiles evilly.*

**TAMORA:** *(to herself)* Lucky, Will. Lucky.

*She steps forward.*

**WILL:** Tamora, will you accept this rose?

**TAMORA:** Yes, Will. Anything for you.

*She returns to line with smug look on her face.*

*LX - Lights change, blue light*

*Lady Macbeth steps forward*

**LADY MACBETH:** Bottom two. This is mortifying. I'll never be able to show my face in Scotland again. I'll be the laughingstock of Inverness.

*She steps back into line*

*Ophelia steps forward*

**OPHELIA:** This is it; I'm going home. I know it in my heart of hearts. Ophelia, you unlovable fool.

*She steps back into line.*

*LX - Lights change back.*

**OSHER:** Ladies, Will only has one rose left.

*Ophelia sobs. Lady Macbeth takes a deliberate step away from her and sprays Glen20 disinfectant around herself.*

*Will picks up the rose. The bachelorettes gasp in anticipation.*

*After a long pause.*

*SFX - Dramatic music - dum dum dum.*

**WILL:** *(sad face, sudden happy face)* Lady Macbeth.

*Lady Macbeth elated, turns in fake sympathy to Ophelia who is sobbing.*

**LADY MACBETH:** Awh.

*She gives Ophelia a quick wide arm, no touching hug, turns and struts over to Will, victorious.*

**LADY MACBETH:** Naughty, naughty Will. You shouldn't keep a girl waiting. There's no telling what she might do.

*There's a moment of uncertainty where Will doesn't know if this is a threat.*

**WILL:** Lady Macbeth, umm. Will you accept this rose?

**LADY MACBETH:** Of course I will, you big silly. I'll accept your rose!

*Lady Macbeth whacks Will playfully then violently, with her rose, petals fly. She composes herself and returns to stand with the other bachelorettes.*

*SFX - Sad music soars.*

**OSHER:** *(solemn)* Ophelia. I'm sorry, you did not receive a rose. Take a moment to say your goodbyes.

*The other bachelorettes all rush around her and give her cuddles.*

*Ophelia dries her tears and walks over to Will.*

**OPHELIA:** Will, thank you. I had a wonderful time. I just wanted to tell you before I go. Some of the bachelorettes are not here for the right reasons.

*Will looks shocked.*

*The bachelorettes gasp.*

*Ophelia gloats and exits.*

*Blackout.*

#### SCENE 11 – THE MORNING AFTER

*SFX – Bachelor music plays.*

*The bachelorettes are sitting around drinking cups of tea.*

**LADY MACBETH:** Well girls. Final five.

**TITANIA:** The mansion feels empty.

**CLEOPATRA:** It still feels crowded to me.

**CORDELIA:** I can't believe I made it this far.

**TAMORA:** (*droll*) I can't believe you made it this far either.

*Osher enters. The bachelorettes are excited.*

**OSHER:** Good morning, ladies.

**BACHELORETTE:** Good morning, Osher.

*Juliet appears from nowhere, and sips on her tea.*

**JULIET:** Good morning, Osher.

*Other bachelorettes groan.*

**OSHER:** Juliet!?! Again! What are you doing here? You've been eliminated, twice now.

**JULIET:** (*looks around confused*) I have no idea what you are talking about.

**OSHER:** I've already told you that you need to leave.

**JULIET:** Oh, you did? Silly me. Well, we all make mistakes. But seeing I'm back I might as well stay. I am so excited to be here...again. And I can't wait to see Will.

**OSHER:** Juliet. I'm going to need to call security.

**JULIET:** Come on Oshy, don't be a grouch.

**OSHER:** (*calls out*) Security! Security!

**JULIET:** Ok! Ok! I'm outie. But when Will comes looking for me to be his bride, don't say I didn't tell you so.

**OSHER:** (*yells*) Security!

*Juliet bolts from the room. They all sigh in relief.*

*Juliet ducks back into the room.*

**JULIET:** The future Mrs Shakespeare signing out! (*thuggish*) See ya!

*She exits running.*

*Another sigh of relief.*

*Osher regains his composure.*

**OSHER:** Ladies, in the Shakespeare Bachelor mansion, you never know what will happen next. In this case though, I think you can guess.

**BACHELORETTES:** (*in unison*) Date scroll!

**OSHER:** I've been doing this too long. I'm becoming predictable.

*He exits.*

*Bachelorettes all scramble for the scroll.*

*Lady Macbeth suddenly gasps loudly, points at the table and seems to go into a trance.*

*SFX - Spooky music soars.*

*LX - Creepy lighting change.*

*The other bachelorettes stop in fear. Lady Macbeth goes over the top with her portrayal.*

**LADY MACBETH:** Wait! Is this a dagger that I see before me?  
It's handle toward my hand...  
Come let me clutch thee.  
I have thee not, and yet I see thee still.



Art thou not, fatal vision, sensible  
To feeling as to sight? or art thou but  
A dagger of the mind, a false creation,  
Proceeding from the heat-oppressed brain?  
I see thee yet, in form as palpable  
As this which now I draw.  
Thou marshall'st me the way that I was going;  
And such an instrument I was to use.  
Mine eyes are made the fools o' the other senses,  
Or else worth all the rest; I see thee still,  
And on thy blade and dudgeon gouts of blood,  
Which was not so before.

*The other bachelorettes are terrified. They clutch each other.*

*She grabs the dagger on the table.*

**LADY MACBETH:** *(snaps out of it)* Nope! It's just an envelope opener. Handy.

*LX - Lights return to normal.*

*Lady Macbeth picks up the scroll and slices open the seal with the envelope opener, it unravels.*

*The others are relieved and now excited to hear what the scroll says.*

**LADY MACBETH:** It's a group date. And we're all going. *(miserable)* Great!

*Other bachelorettes cheer.*

*Titania grabs the scroll.*

**TITANIA:** Ok there's a clue here.

“There's no such sport as sport by sport o'erthrown.  
So make theirs ours and ours none but our own:  
So shall we stay, mocking intended game,  
And they, well mock'd, depart away with shame.”

Oh, I wonder what that means?

**CORDELIA:** Well, it speaks of sport so I'm guessing we will be competing in a game.

**CLEOPATRA:** Mocked? Shame? Great! It's probably one of those humiliating challenges where they make us dress in sumo suits or go commando training in the mud. I was expecting to be tasting wine at beautiful vineyards and lying on the deck of a magnificent yacht with *my* bachelor by now.

**LADY MACBETH:** Umm, *my* bachelor!

**TAMORA:** I think you'll find he's *my* bachelor.

**LADY MACBETH:** Excuse me?

**TAMORA:** You heard me.

**CLEOPATRA:** Just because you said it, doesn't mean it's true.

**LADY MACBETH:** You have no idea what I'm capable of.

**TAMORA:** Oh, if there is a competition to see who is the most depraved, I think I'd win.

**LADY MACBETH:** Ahh yah. You got it. *(steps back in defeat)*

**TITANIA:** Ladies, fighting over a man, is no way to win him.

*Enter Osher.*

*Bachelorettes immediately run to their line, blinking innocently.*

**OSHER:** Good morning, ladies.

**BACHELORETTES:** Good morning, Osher.

**OSHER:** Ladies today you will be competing to win Will's affections, by fighting over him.

**TITANIA:** *(stunned)* Wait. What?

*Blackout.*

## SCENE 12 – THE INSULT JOUST

*SFX – A bell rings.*

*Osher stands front and centre with Bachelorettes on either side of him. Will is in his judge's chair, holding score signs.*

**OSHER:** Today you will be competing in an 'Insult Joust'. A battle to the end. You will prove your worth by taking down your opponent with Will's weapon of choice - His witty words. Are you ready to rumble?

*SFX – 'Are you Ready to Rumble.' continues to play throughout scene.*

*Bachelorettes pose in fighting stance, except Cordelia who looks very nervous indeed.*

**BACHELORETTES:** *(yell)* Yes, Osher!

*Bachelorettes all limber up ready for battle.*

**OSHER:** Round one. In in the red corner, the self-proclaimed living goddess and undisputed queen of the Nile, CLEOPPATTRAA.

**OSHER:** And in the blue corner, the one, the only, the immortal, Queen of the fairies, TITTANIAAAA.

*SFX – Crowd cheers.*

*Titania waves, and readies herself for battle.*

**OSHER:** Now you two, I want a good clean fight. Nothing below the proverbial belt. Good luck to you both.

*SFX – Bell ringing.*

**OSHER:** And insult!

*Titania and Cleopatra face off.*

**CLEOPATRA:** Titania. You are as a candle.

**TITANIA:** What? A shining light?

**CLEOPATRA:** No, the better burnt out.

*Others react with “ooh’s and ahh’s” and “no you didn’t’s”*

**TITANIA:** The tartness of your face sours ripe grapes.

**CLEOPATRA:** Your brain is as dry as the remainder biscuit after voyage.

**TITANIA:** Thou art the rankest compound of villainous smell that ever offended a nostril.

**CLEOPATRA:** No! More of your conversation would infect my brain.

*All react.*

*Osher comes forward indicates to Titania. Will holds up a sign saying 8.*

*SFX – The crowd cheers.*

*Osher indicates to Cleopatra, Will holds up a sign saying 9.*

*SFX – The Crowd cheers.*

*Osher holds up Cleopatra’s arm in victory, she gloats. They take their place at the side whilst Lady Macbeth and Tamora step up.*

**OSHER:** That was, indeed, a battle of royal proportions. Now, round two. Step up, please ladies.

*Lady Macbeth and Tamora step up.*

**OSHER:** (*hyping the crowd*) Ladies and gentlemen, we have a truly murderous challenge here, and the victor may end up with blood on her hands, because, in the red corner we have the infamous, the villainous, the ruthless//

**LADY MACBETH:** (*flattered*) Oh, Osher! Stop!

**OSHER:** The wicked, LAADDYY MACCBETTHHH!

*SFX – Crowd goes wild.*

**OSHER:** And in the blue corner, The Queen of the Goths, and host of Netflix’s new cooking show. ‘Dining with Family’ TAAMMORRAAA!

*Tamora smiles and waves.*

*Titania and Tamora face off.*

**LADY MACBETH:** Tamora, thou art a damned and luxurious mountain goat.

**TAMORA:** Pft! Away, you three-inch fool!

*Others react with “ooh’s and ahh’s” and “no you didn’t’s”*

**LADY MACBETH:** (*flustered*) Thine face is not worth sunburning.

**TAMORA:** Thou lump of foul deformity.

*Everyone gasps.*

**LADY MACBETH:** There’s no more faith in thee than in a stewed prune.

*SFX – Crickets.*

*Lady Macbeth bursts into tears.*

*Osher re-enters the ring, indicates to Lady Macbeth, Will holds up a 2.*

*Osher indicates to Tamora, will holds up a 10.*

*Osher holds up Tamora’s hand in victory.*

*SFX – The crowd goes wild.*

**OSHER:** Ladies and gentlemen, we will now enter our third and final challenge. TAMMOORRAAAA V COORRDELLIAAA.

*Tamora is cocky, Cordelia nervously steps forward.*

**OSHER:** Cordelia you need to tie with Tamora with a ten to be in the running for some private time with Will.

**CORDELIA:** I understand.

*Tamora and Cordelia face off.*

**TAMORA:** Thou art a boil, a plague sore. Like the toad; ugly and venomous.

*Others react.*

*Cordelia stays silent. She looks terrified.*

*A beat...*

**TAMORA:** A poisonous bunch-backed toad!

**CORDELIA:** (*distressed, quietly to herself*) What shall Cordelia speak? Love, and be silent.

**LADY MACBETH:** Come on Cordelia. Stand up to her!

**CORDELIA:** I can't! I've never been good at standing up to other girls. My sisters walked all over me and I let them.

**CLEOPATRA:** Come on! It's time to prove that your better than that.

**WILL:** Oh, this is getting exciting!

**TITANIA:** Cordelia, you are stronger than you think. Go on, insult her. She can take it.

**TAMORA:** I sure can! Come on! Give me his best.

**TITANIA:** Use Will's words. Make them your own! You can do it!

**CORDELIA:** (*working herself up*) Ok... I'll give it a go. Nothing can come of nothing.

**TAMORA:** Me first! (*with relish*) Thou elvish-mark'd, abortive, rooting hog!

*All react.*

*Cordelia finally works up the courage.*

**CORDELIA:** (*spits out*) Thou art as fat as butter!

*SFX - Music stops abruptly - sound of a record scraping.*

*Everyone stops. Gasps. Shocked.*

*After a moment.*

**LADY MACBETH:** Oh. Now that is going too far.

*Tamora looks wounded. Cordelia's words have hurt her, she finds it hard to even look at her.*

**CORDELIA:** *(confused)* But she just called me an abortive, rooting hog....

**TITANIA:** *(slowly, as if trying to make her understand)* Fat as butter. it's just... a lot. Ok, let's just try one of his really, really mean ones, but not that mean. Do you think you can? Think of your sisters. Imagine their faces on Tamora's.

**CORDELIA:** *(nervously)* I can try. Come what may. *(works herself up and bursts out)* Away! You starveling, you eel-skin, you dried neat's-tongue, you bull's-pizzle, you stock-fish—O for breath to utter what is like thee! - You tailor's-yard, you sheath, you bow-case, you vile standing tuck! You scullion! You rampallian! You fustilarian! I'll tickle your catastrophe!

*Everyone laughs and applauds her. Tamora is shocked but impressed.*

**CORDELIA:** Oh, that felt good!

**OSHER:** Well done Cord//

*Cordelia turns on Osher.*

**CORDELIA:** Osher! Thou art a leathern-jerkin, crystal-button, knot-pated, agatering, puke-stocking, caddis-garter, smooth-tongue, Spanish pouch!

**OSHER:** Ok...

**CORDELIA:** Thou clay-brained guts, thou knotty-pated fool!

**OSHER:** *(offended)* Ok.

**CORDELIA:** Thou whoreson, obscene greasy tallow-catch!

**OSHER:** *(yells)* OK!!

**CORDELIA:** *(giggles, abashed)* Sorry, I got a bit carried away.

**OSHER:** Alright Will, it's your call. What did you score Cordelia?

*Will holds up a 10.*

*SFX – The crowd goes wild.*

**CORDELIA:** *(thrilled)* Thank you Will for giving me the words. And thank you to my friends who showed me that I am strong enough to use them. It seems that words are easy, like the wind, faithful friends are hard to find, and I have found my sisterhood.

*She embraces the other Bachelorettes. They are proud of her.*

**OSHER:** Will, can you join us please?

*SFX – Bachelor music plays.*

*Will crosses from the judge's chair.*

**OSHER:** (*very serious*) You now have a big decision to make... Will it be Tamora or Cordelia who join you for some private time.

*SFX - Jeopardy waiting music plays.*

*Will looks pained, looking from one to the other, finally, he speaks.*

**WILL:**           The time approaches  
                    That will with due decision make us know  
                    What we shall say we have and what we owe.  
                    Though speculative their unsure hopes relate  
                    But certain issue strokes must arbitrate.

**TAMORA:** I don't understand. What's he saying?

**CORDELIA:** We're toast!

*Will whispers in Osher's ear.*

*Osher looks grave. Nods his head solemnly.*

**OSHER:** Ladies, I have an announcement. Will has made a decision. A big decision. In a huge twist, never before seen in Bachelor history, we will be bringing back *all* of the eliminated contestants for the final rose ceremony.

**TAMORA:** What!?

**CLEOPATRA:** You cannot be serious.

**LADY MACBETH:** I can't believe this.

**TITANIA:** That's not fair!

**CORDELIA:** All's fair in love and war.

**WILL:** Again! Not my quote!

*SFX – Rousing music plays.*

**OSHER:** So now, let's welcome back all of the eliminated contestants.

*The eliminated bachelorettes enter to a victorious football game chant, they all wave motion to the crowd.*

**OSHER:** Welcome back, ladies.

**JULIET:** It's like a dream come true. I never imagined I'd be able return here for yet another chance. I am so grateful that you lifted the stalker restraining order so I could come back for the sake of the ratings. Every Shakespearean comedy or Bachelor series should end in a wedding.

*Juliet winks at Will and points back and forward to him and her.*

**BEATRICE:** Thanks, Osher. I am just so thrilled to be here... to be alive, really. That was a close one, I bare-ly got out of there. Get it? Get it? Bare-ly.

*Beatrice laughs at her own joke. The others groan.*

**OPHELIA:** I left here feeling pretty miserable and quite unlovable, but then I remembered the words a wise man once told me. "It is not in the stars to hold our destiny but in ourselves, and this, above all, to thine own self be true. So, I am back. Bring.it.on!"

**KATHERINE:** We're all here for the right reasons, and that is to win.

**VIOLA:** So, we're all back in the game!

*They whoop and holler while the other bachelorettes look annoyed, and Will looks stoked.*

*Blackout.*

### SCENE 13 – THE FINAL COCKTAIL PARTY.

*SFX – Bachelor Music Plays.*

*The bachelorettes are all milling around the garden.*

*Will enters. The girls rush him.*

**\*\*End Preview\*\***

Please contact Kristen at [kristencmdoherty@gmail.com](mailto:kristencmdoherty@gmail.com) to request a full script perusal.

The Dream - Australian Plays - <https://apt.org.au/product/shakespeare-bachelor-2/>