

THE TWO GENTLEMEN OF VERONA

1ST CALLBACK SCENES AND MONOLOGUES

Prepare the following callback monologues and scenes.

It is not necessary that you memorize the material. Work for clarity of language, playing clear intentions, transitions and connection.

Take your time with the language.

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JULIA

CHARACTER/SITUATION: Julia has received a love letter from Proteus. Even though Julia is passionately in love with Proteus, she didn't want her friend, Lucetta, to know—so she tore up the letter in front of her. She is now alone with the torn letter and is in great despair for having ripped it up. She is talking to the audience.

O hateful hands, to tear such loving words!
I'll kiss each several paper for amends.
Look, here is writ 'kind Julia.' Unkind Julia!
And here is writ 'love-wounded Proteus.'
Poor wounded name, my bosom as a bed
Shall lodge thee till thy wound be thoroughly healed;
Lo, here in one line is his name twice writ,
'Poor forlorn Proteus', 'passionate Proteus.'
'To the sweet Julia' That I'll tear away;
And yet I will not, since so prettily
He couples it to his complaining names.
Thus will I fold them one upon another;
Now kiss, embrace, contend, do what you will.

SILVIA

CHARACTER/SITUATION: Silvia is desperately in love with Valentine, who has been banished by her father, the Duke. The Duke wants Silvia to marry the vain Turio. In this monologue she pleads with Eglamour, a servant in her father's court, to help her flee her father's house and go to the banished Valentine. Eglamour's wife died some time ago, and appeals to the true love Eglamour still has for his deceased wife.

O Eglamour, thou art a gentleman.
Thyself hast loved, and I have heard thee say
No grief did ever come so near thy heart
As when thy lady and thy true love died
Upon whose grave thou vowed pure chastity.
Sir Eglamour, I would to Valentine,
To Mantua, where I hear he makes abode;
And for the ways are dangerous to pass
I do desire thy worthy company.
Oh, think upon my grief, a lady's grief,
And on the justice of my flying hence
To keep me from a most unholy match.
I do desire thee, even from a heart
As full of sorrows as the sea of sands,
To bear me company and go with me;
If not, to hide what I have said to thee,
That I may venture to depart alone.

LANCE

(Could be played by either a man or a woman)

CHARACTER/SITUATION: Lance is a servant to Proteus. Lance has been sent by Proteus to deliver a present to Silvia. Accompanying Lance is his mischievous dog, Crab. In this monologue, Lance describes how Crab humiliated him while at the court. He is talking to the audience.

I was sent to deliver him as a present to Mistress Silvia from my master, and I came no sooner into the dining-chamber but he thrusts himself under the Duke's table. He had not been there-- bless the mark, a pissing-while but all the chamber smelt him. 'Out with the dog,' says one; 'What cur is that?' says another; 'Whip him out,' says the Duke. I having been acquainted with the smell before, knew it was Crab, and goes me to the fellow that whips the dogs. 'Friend,' quoth I, 'you mean to whip the dog?' 'Ay, marry do I,' quoth he, "'twas I did the thing you wot of' quoth I. He makes me no more ado but whips me out of the chamber. How many masters would do this for his servant? Nay he think'st not of this now.

PROTEUS

CHARACTER/SITUATION: Proteus was broken-hearted when his father made him leave his girlfriend, Julia, to join his friend, Valentine, in Milan. However, after briefly meeting Valentine's girlfriend, Silvia, Proteus has immediately fallen in love with her. In this monologue, he wrestles with whether he should dump Julia and pursue his best friend's girlfriend. He is talking to the audience.

To leave my Julia shall I be forsworn;
To love fair Silvia shall I be forsworn;
To wrong my friend, I shall be much forsworn.
At first I did adore a twinkling star,
But now I worship a celestial sun.
I cannot leave to love, and yet I do;
But there I leave to love where I should love.
Julia I lose, and Valentine I lose;
If I keep them, I needs must lose myself.
If I lose them, thus find I by their loss.
For Valentine, myself, for Julia, Silvia.
And Silvia--witness heaven that made her fair--
Shows Julia nothing but a swarthy wench.
I will forget that Julia is alive,
Remembering that my love to her is dead.
And Valentine I'll hold an enemy,
Aiming at Silvia as a sweeter friend.

VALENTINE

CHARACTER/SITUATION: Valentine has been carrying on a secret romance with Silvia. When her father, the Duke, finds out, he becomes enraged and banishes Valentine from the court, vowing to kill Valentine if he stays. In this monologue, Valentine has just been banished and ponders whether he should stay in the court or leave.

And why not death, rather than living torment?
To die is to be banished from myself,
And Silvia is myself; banished from her
Is self from self—a deadly banishment.
What light is light, if Silvia be not seen?
What joy is joy, if Silvia be not by?
Except I be by Silvia in the night,
There is no music in the nightingale.
Unless I look on Silvia in the day,
There is no day for me to look upon.
She is my essence, and I cease to be
If I be not by her fair influence
Fostered, illumined, cherished, kept alive.
I fly not death to fly his deadly doom;
Tarry I here, I but attend on death,
But fly I hence, I fly away from life.

DUKE

CHARACTER/SITUATION: The Duke has just been told that Valentine is having a secret romance with the Duke's daughter, Silvia. The Duke does not approve. Through a trick, the Duke finds a love letter in Valentine's coat pocket. He is speaking to Valentine.

What letter is this? What's here? 'To Silvia?'

I'll be so bold to break the seal at once.

[Reads] 'My thoughts do harbor with my Silvia nightly,
And slaves they are to me that send them flying.'

What's here?

'Silvia, this night I come to liberate thee.'

(To Valentine) Go, base intruder, overweening slave,
Bestow thy fawning smiles on equal mates,
And think my patience, more than thy desert,
Is privilege for thy departure hence.

But if you linger in my territories

By heaven, my wrath shall far exceed the love
I ever bore my daughter or thyself.

Begone, I will not hear thy vain excuse,

But, as thou lov'st thy life, make speed from hence.

VALENTINE & SILVIA

CHARACTERS/SITUATION: Valentine has been hired as a servant in the Duke's court. Valentine is in love with the Duke's daughter, but has been afraid to tell her. Silvia has ordered him to write a love letter to an unspecified suitor. Silvia is also in love with Valentine but she is playing a game with. She pretends to get upset when Valentine tells her it was hard to write the letter when he did not know to whom the letter was written. But she secretly intends that Valentine be the recipient of the love letter.

VALENTINE: Madam and mistress, a thousand good-morrows.

SILVIA: Sir Valentine and servant, to you two thousand.

VALENTINE: As you enjoined me, I have writ your letter

Unto the secret, nameless friend of yours,
Which I was much unwilling to proceed in,
But for my duty to your ladyship. *(Gives her a letter)*

SILVIA: I thank you, gentle, sir, 'tis very clerkly done.

VALENTINE: Now trust me, madam, it came hardly off,

For being ignorant to whom it goes
I writ at random, very doubtfully.

SILVIA: Perchance you think too much of so much pains?

VALENTINE: No, madam; so it stead you, I will write,

Please you command, a thousand times as much.
And yet— *(Pause)*

SILVIA: And yet I thank you. *(Offers him the letter)*

Meaning henceforth to trouble you no more.

VALENTINE: What means your ladyship? Do you not like it?

SILVIA: Yes, yes, the lines are very quaintly writ.

But, since unwillingly, take them again.
(Offers the letter again.)

Nay, take them.

VALENTINE: Madam, they are for you.

SILVIA: Ay, ay, you writ them, sir, at my request.

But I will none of them. They are for you.

VALENTINE: Please you, I'll write your ladyship another.

SILVIA: And when it's writ, for my sake, read it over,

And if it please you, so. If not, why, so.

VALENTINE: If it please me, madam? What then?

SILVIA: Why, if it please you, take it for your labor.

And so, good morrow. *(Exit SILVIA)*

PROTEUS & JULIA

CHARACTERS/SITUATION: Proteus and Julia are passionately in love. But Proteus's parents are sending him to the Court of Milan to get worldly experience. This scene is their farewell scene.

PROTEUS

Have patience, gentle Julia.

JULIA

I must, where is no remedy.

PROTEUS

When possibly I can, I will return.

JULIA

If you turn not, you will return the sooner.

Keep this remembrance for thy Julia's sake.

(Gives him a ring)

PROTEUS

Why then, we'll make exchange: here, take you this.

(Gives her a ring)

JULIA

And seal this bargain with a holy kiss. *(They kiss)*

PROTEUS

Here is my hand for my true constancy.

And when that hour o'erslips me in the day

Wherein I sigh not, Julia, for thy sake,

The next ensuing hour some foul mischance

Torment me for my love's forgetfulness.

Julia, farewell. *(Exit JULIA)*

What, gone without a word?

Ay, so true love should do: it cannot speak,

For truth hath better deeds than words to grace it.

JULIA & LUCETTA

CHARACTERS/SITUATION: Julia has many suitors, and is asking her best friend, Lucetta, which would make the best boyfriend. After asking about several boys, Julia asks about Proteus. Lucetta is gaga over Proteus, and has been waiting to give Julia a letter from him.

JULIA

What think'st thou of the gentle Proteus?

LUCETTA

Lord, Lord, to see what folly reigns in us!

JULIA

How now? What means this passion at his name?

LUCETTA

Pardon, dear madam, 'tis a passing shame
That I, unworthy body as I am,
Should censure thus on lovely gentlemen.

JULIA

Why not on Proteus, as of all the rest?

LUCETTA

Then thus: of many good, I think him best.

JULIA

Your reason?

LUCETTA

I have no other but a woman's reason:
I think him so because I think him so.

JULIA

Why, he of all the rest hath never wooed me.

LUCETTA

Yet he of all the rest I think best loves ye.

JULIA

His little speaking shows his love but small.

LUCETTA

Fire that's closest kept burns most of all.

JULIA

They do not love that do now show their love.

LUCETTA

O, they love least that let men know their love.

JULIA

I would I knew his mind.

LUCETTA

Peruse this paper. *(Gives her a letter)*

SPEED & PROTEUS

CHARACTERS/SITUATION: Speed is Valentine's service. Valentine is about to leave for Milan and Speed is trying to find him. In this exchange, Proteus debate whether or not Speed is Valentine's sheep.

SPEED

Sir Proteus, 'save you. Saw you my master?

PROTEUS

But now he parted hence to embark for Milan.

SPEED

Twenty to one, then, he has shipped already,
And I have played the sheep in losing him.

PROTEUS

Indeed, a sheep doth very often stray,
If when the shepherd be awhile away.

SPEED

You conclude that my master is a shepherd then, and I a sheep?

PROTEUS

I do.

SPEED

Nay, that I can deny by a circumstance.

PROTEUS

It shall go hard but I'll prove it by another.

SPEED

The shepherd seeks the sheep, and not the sheep the shepherd; but I seek my master, and my master seeks not me . Therefore I am not a sheep.

PROTEUS

The sheep for fodder follow the shepherd, the shepherd for food follows not the sheep; thou for wages follows thy master, thy master for wages follows not thee. Therefore thou art a sheep.

SPEED

Such another proof will make me cry 'baa.'"

PANTINA & ANTONIO

CHARACTERS/SITUATION: Antonio and Pantina are the parents of Proteus. In this exchange they discuss sending Proteus away to the Court of Milan, so that Proteus can gain more worldly experience.

ANTONIO

Tell me, Pantina, what sad talk was that
Wherewith my brother held you in the cloister?

PANTINA

'Twas of Proteus, our son.

ANTONIO

Why? What of him?

PANTINA

He wondered that your lordship
Would suffer him to spend his youth at home.
He said that Proteus was grown and ready,
And did request me to importune you
To let our son spend no more time at home,
Which would be great impeachment to his age
In having known no travel in his youth.

ANTONIO

I have considered well his loss of time,
On how he cannot be a perfect man
Not being tried and tutored in the world.
Then tell me, whither were I best to send him?

PANTINA

I think your lordship is not ignorant
How his companion, youthful Valentine,
Attends the Duke of Milan in his royal court.

ANTONIO

I know it well.

PANTINA

'Twere good, I think, your lordship sent him thither.

ANTONIO

I like thy counsel; well hast thou advised.
And that thou mayst perceive how well I like it,
I will dispatch him to the Milanese court.

TURIO, DUKE and PROTEUS

CHARACTERS/SITUATION: Proteus informed the Duke that his daughter, Silvia, and Valentine, Proteus' alleged best friend. Consequently, the Duke has banished Valentine. Proteus actually hopes to win Silvia for himself. The Duke is now seeking Proteus' advice as how to get Silvia to fall in love with Turio, the Duke's preferred choice for Silvia.

DUKE: What might I do to make Silvia forget
The love of Valentine, and love Sir Turio?

PROTEUS: The best way is to slander Valentine
With falsehood, cowardice and poor descent,
Three things that women highly hold in hate.

TURIO: Ay, but she'll think that it is spoke in hate.

PROTEUS: Ay, if his enemy deliver it.
Therefore it must with circumstance be spoken
By one whom she esteemeth as his friend.

DUKE: Then you must undertake to slander him.
Where your good word cannot advantage him,
Your slander never can endamage him;
Therefore the office is indifferent,
Being entreated to it by your friend.

PROTEUS: You have prevailed, my lord.

TURIO: And sir, as you unwind her love from him,
You must be sure to rewind it on me,
Which must be done by praising me as much
As you in worth dispraise Sir Valentine.

PROTEUS: As much as I can do, I will effect.
But you, Sir Turio, are not sharp enough.
You must lay trap to capture her desires.
Visit by night your lady's chamber-window
With some musician. The night's dead silence
Will well become such sweet-complainin grievance.
This, or else nothing, will enrapture her.

DUKE This discipline shows thou hast been in love.

TURIO And thy advice this night I'll put in practice.
I have a sonnet that will serve the turn
to give the onset to thy good advice.

DUKE About it, gentlemen!

OUTLAWS 1, 2, 3 & VALENTINE

1 OUTLAW

Sirs, a word. (*The Outlaws confer in private*)

2 OUTLAW

By the bare scalp of Robin Hood's fat friar,
This fellow were a king for our wild faction.

1 OUTLAW

We'll have him.

3 OUTLAW (*To Valentine*)

Seeing you are beautified with goodly shape;

2 OUTLAW

And a man of such perfection
As we in our profession do much want.

1 OUTLAW

Indeed because you are a banished man,
Therefore we make this heartfelt offer to you:
Are you content to be our general?
And live as we do in this wilderness?

2 OUTLAW

What sayst thou? Wilt thou be of our company?
Say 'Ay,' and be the captain of us all.

3 OUTLAW

We'll do thee homage and be ruled by thee,
Love thee as our commander and our king.

2 OUTLAW

But if thou scorn our courtesy, thou diest.

1 OUTLAW

Thou shalt not live to brag what we have offered.

VALENTINE

I take your offer and will live with you,
Provided that you do no outrages
On innocent women or poor passengers.

3 OUTLAW

No, we detest such vile base practices.

1 OUTLAW

Come, go with us.