

JUAN RUIZ DE ALARCÓN

WHAT WE OWE OUR LIES

Translated by the UCLA Working Group on the *Comedia* in Translation and Performance:

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Pronunciation Key

Each vowel in Spanish has just one sound. They are pronounced as follows:

a - AH
e - EH
i - EE
o - OH
u - OO

The underlined syllable in each word is the accented one.

DON DIEGO (DE LUNA): DOHN DEE-EH-GOH (DEH LOO-NAH)

DON JUAN: DOHN HOO-AHN

TEODORA: TEH-OH-DOH-RAH

LEONOR (GIRÓN): LEH-OH-NOHR (HEE-ROHN)

DON SANCHE: DOHN SAHN-CHOH

CAMPANA: CAHM-PAH-NAH

CONSTANZA: COHNS-TAHN-ZAH

INÉS: EE-NEHS

MARQUÉS (DON FADRIQUE): MAHR-KEHS (DOHN FAH-DREE-KEH)

BETIS: BEH-TEES

MANZANARES: MAHN-SAH-NAH-REHS

MADRID: MAH-DRIHD

SAN JERÓNIMO: SAHN HEH-ROH-NEE-MOH

What We Owe Our Lies

Characters

DON DIEGO, *a gentleman*

DON JUAN, *a gentleman and Teodora's brother*

TEODORA, *a lady and Don Juan's sister*

LEONOR, *a lady and Don Sancho's sister*

DON SANCHE, *a gentleman and Leonor's brother*

TWO COURTIERS, *cousins to DON SANCHE*

THE MARQUÉS, DON FADRIQUE

CAMPANA, *servant to Don Diego*

CONSTANZA, *servant to Teodora*

INÉS, *servant to Leonor*

A SERVANT

A GENTLEMAN

ACT I

SCENE 1

A room in LEONOR's house

Enter LEONOR and INÉS

LEONOR	Inés, who is that stranger down there, who makes our street his own with such seeming nonchalance?	
INÉS	Although the first floor of this house, my lady, is the first sphere of Teodora's moon, the second is the fourth sphere of your sun, whose brilliance brings pearly tears to the face of dawn. ¹ He cannot worship the moon once he has seen the sun.	5 10
LEONOR	If only one could know his true intent!	
INÉS	Leonor, is this curiosity, or love?	15
LEONOR	It is curiosity for now, but knowing his intentions could well make it love.	
INÉS	Explain to me how your affection can depend on what you know of what he wants.	20
LEONOR	If you play but one string on an instrument, the others remain mute at its dissonance. But should there be one at the right interval, fully consonant with it, then it will resound without being played,	25

¹ Inés's elaborate reference to the Ptolemaic astronomical system of celestial spheres cannot disguise the inescapable fact that Teodora and Leonor, rivals for the love of Don Diego, live one above the other in the same multi-story house. This domestic proximity gives the play much of its farce-like quality.

	<p>simply from consonance with the first. That is Heaven's lesson in how sympathy works. 30 So is my own passion tuned: if I find out this gallant does not love me, it will be mute, or it will not be. But if he adores me, my own love will resound, 35 strummed only by the breath of his consonant tune.²</p>
INÉS	<p>But if this man plays you so, what shall we do with Don Juan?</p>
LEONOR	<p>Oh, Don Juan! 40 I shall not be sorry to lose what I do not wish to have. My marriage to him was concerted for convenience. There is no pleasure in entertaining him, 45 only profit. And if this stranger loves me and deserves me— noble as he seems— love must trump what's been concerted. 50</p>
INÉS	<p>I will put your mind at rest.</p>
LEONOR	<p>How?</p>
INÉS	<p>The stranger's servant, who is always by his side, has been making signs to me. 55 I just saw him in the street— since you're here alone with me, with your permission, I'd like to call him up.</p>
LEONOR	<p>Good plan. Call him, then. 60 And be on the lookout from that balcony, in case my brother is about.</p>
INÉS	<p>You know how careful I am.</p>

² This may be a reference to the Aeolian harp, an ancient instrument played by the wind, and tuned to different pitches.

INÉS *exits*

LEONOR	Oh Love, you heartless boy, grant me this one chance, and do not deny me joy! Must your golden arrow always give pain in order to bring pleasure?	65
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Enter INÉS

INÉS	I just called him. He's on his way up.	70
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LEONOR	To the balcony, quick! This must be love, a serious case of it— Look at the state I'm in!	
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SCENE 2

LEONOR, *on her balcony, and CAMPANA, on the street below*

CAMPANA	<i>(Aside)</i> A stranger's luck has dealt me this favor. That girl has surrendered to the signs I made her. But what's this? To sink just when I'm reaching safe harbor!	75 80
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LEONOR	Come back, young man!	
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CAMPANA	I was just . . .	
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LEONOR	Don't be alarmed. I had you called.	
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CAMPANA	<i>(Aside)</i> How soon I lost the pleasure I was savoring! <i>(Aloud)</i> Should I not be perturbed, now that I've come? I'm dazzled to find myself face to face with the sun.	85
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LEONOR	What is your name?	90
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CAMPANA	My name is the loudest, brassiest,	
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	that a man might take, though it belongs to woman. Every morning it shakes the sleeping priests awake.	95
LEONOR	Just say what it is.	
CAMPANA	Campana. ³	
LEONOR	And who is that gentleman you serve?	
CAMPANA	Clearly, if I serve him, he must be my master.	100
LEONOR	It's his name I want to know.	
CAMPANA	Don Diego de Luna.	
LEONOR	A fine lineage! ⁴	
CAMPANA	And how! Yet though it might be radiant, good fortune does not shine on him.	105
LEONOR	Since I do not know him, I imagine he is not from here.	
CAMPANA	Well, in the town where he was born, he's just the boy next door.	110
LEONOR	Now you're making me think he hides some greater lineage.	
CAMPANA	And why is that?	
LEONOR	Because great lords often bring a buffoon with them.	115

³ In English, Campana's name could be translated as Bell(e).

⁴ The Spanish term used here—*alcuñā*—has its roots in the Arabic word *kunyah*. The question of Don Diego's origin has to do with the general anxiety about lineage in early modern Spain, where to descend from Muslims or Jews was often to be suspect and barred from social privileges. Hence people often hid their origins, especially when they traveled to a new location. A foreigner with no identifiable place of origin was not a very safe marriage prospect.

CAMPANA	So just when I try to please you, you get upset?	
LEONOR	Yes, for you jest when I speak the honest truth. And in truth I'll tell you why I called you here, since I'd prefer to keep it short. Tell that gentleman that the lady of this house is Doña Leonor Girón, whose blood and reputation rival that of the sun; that I am to marry a man of wealth and quality; that I am of an age and beauty that affects a thousand noble men, and that with his constant attendance on this street and gazing at this house, some may cast aspersions on my honor; that he should announce his importunate fondness to the one whom he courts, for this way he discredits many while obliging none, and that if perchance it is true, as I presume, that it's for the beauty of Teodora that he is here, then he should make that clear. For I warn him, that if he continues to hide what he's about, I will look to my own reputation: I'll tell my brother, call him out, so that he may remedy this affront with his violent fury.	120 125 130 135 140 145
LEONOR	<i>walks away as if to exit from the balcony</i>	
CAMPANA	Listen to me, by God!	150
LEONOR	What is it now?	
CAMPANA	Since you fire away in your blind fury, I must fire back. You've become so truly, truly angry, that I must confess plainly	155

	on the rack of your displeasure.	
LEONOR	<i>(Aside)</i> I've made him tell the truth without revealing a thing.	
CAMPANA	<i>(Aside)</i> This case calls for a lie in order to distract her, a lie that will protect Don Diego's intent. The important thing is to hide that he loves Teodora.	160 165
	<i>(Aloud)</i> Don Diego caught sight of you, my lady, and that's all there is to it. For to say he saw you is to assure that he loved you, and if he has given any sign of loving Doña Teodora, that is merely a pretense, my lady, and not his true concern. Your state is so high, you see, that he doubts himself, and if to love you is daring, not to proclaim it is just due respect.	 170 175
LEONOR	<i>(Aside)</i> My wishes come true!	
CAMPANA	Frankly, I'm surprised, that you, the lovely original, who must have caught a glimpse of your likeness in the glass at some point, would insult Don Diego by doubting his ability to tell a diamond from an amethyst. Despite his suffering, he has not told you of his passion. He may have had the chance, but he has never had the daring. Yet if he has timidly kept quiet, he'll no longer fear your cruelty now, for if you are taken by the parts you've seen, those you haven't await your favor. His excellence and valor, I mean, his intelligence and prudence, which can certainly give his looks a run for their money, and so . . .	180 185 190 195

LEONOR	Stop! You say that I am taken by the parts of him I've seen, and I want to know what makes you think so.	200
CAMPANA	The fact that you had me called in, to ask me who he is, and want to know for whom he burns. All of this suggests some interest, and since you know nothing of him, except the parts you can see, they must be what moves you.	205
LEONOR	All you can infer from what I have said is that I do not look kindly on his presence, not that I am taken by his looks.	210
CAMPANA	If you did not like them, my lady, you would not be troubled by his persistence, nor worried about his suffering. His merits are what cause these effects in you— unworthy subjects merit no such attention.	215
LEONOR	Will you force me to confess that I am in love with him?	220
CAMPANA	I just want you to understand that I infer as much, not to have you confess, for to have ladies announcing their love at the slightest provocation is the work of bad poets, who, however lucky they may get, have no manners when they write— not of those who can tell gold from brass. And so, in order to avoid your shame, I must be off before you reveal all. My lord has not fared too badly so far: now you know that you are the one he loves. But if your love should declare itself so soon, even if it were to his advantage, indiscretion would extinguish	225 230 235

what beauty first lit.

CAMPANA *exits*

SCENE 3

LEONOR *leaves the balcony, followed by INÉS*

LEONOR	How good of him to stop me! For I am in such a state that, had he paused even for a second, I would have had to declare my love.	240
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Enter INÉS from the other balcony

INÉS	So, what happened?	
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LEONOR	I have triumphed. The stranger is mine.	245
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INÉS	So his servant understood how you resonate with love?	
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LEONOR	Although my tongue did its best to hide my state, he heard it from my eyes.	250
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INÉS	Now you'll have to deal with Don Juan and the Marqués getting jealous.	
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LEONOR	We must keep this a secret, Inés, for though Teodora is my friend, she is Don Juan's sister, and tries to keep him happy. It would not do to let her know that I have allowed another suitor.	255
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INÉS	That is true, and it would be good to warn the stranger, and his servant, too.	260
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LEONOR	I hardly think it will be necessary, for one who has hidden his love so well from the one who could satisfy it, will certainly be able to hide it	265
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from those who would get in its way.
 Better safe than sorry, though.
 Take that cloak, Inés—
 I am blinded by love—
 take this opportunity and, 270
 as though it were your idea,
 so as not to offend my decorum,
 let him know that I adore him,
 and offer to persuade me
 to let him speak to me tonight. 275

INÉS I will see to your pleasure
 with no harm to your reputation.

Exeunt

SCENE 4

Enter DON DIEGO, armed, and the MARQUÉS, on the street

MARQUÉS I tell you,
 my cares are all wrapped up in this street.
 And yet, whenever I set foot on it, 280
 I find you here as well.
 I would hate to have to challenge you.
 Since I make the demand,
 I must state my case:
 know that I am mad for 285
 Doña Leonor Girón.
 That is her balcony there,
 which happily rivals the east
 with its rising sun.
 I live and die by her, 290
 she is my guiding light.
 And you, who have been my friend
 since the battlefields of Flanders . . .⁵

DON DIEGO Say no more,
 and leave your cares behind! 295
 I can reassure you,
 as you have reassured me.

⁵ Northern Flanders (present-day Holland) rebelled against Hapsburg rule in 1566, for both religious and economic reasons. Spain spent most of the next 80 years attempting unsuccessfully to suppress the revolt, which eventually culminated in Dutch independence.

	I adore another beauty, Marqués, by whose order I cannot reveal her name.	
MARQUÉS	No need to say who she is. With this, I have satisfaction from you, and am, indeed, much obliged to you.	300
DON DIEGO	You may always trust in my friendship.	
MARQUÉS	God save you.	
<i>Exit the MARQUÉS</i>		
DON DIEGO	<i>(Aside)</i> When the effects of love are so public, how can the cause remain secret? How, Teodora, can one confess to love, and yet deny its object? How can one who adores and suspects not pursue and oblige?	305 310
SCENE 5		
<i>Enter CAMPANA</i>		
CAMPANA	You may congratulate me, master.	
DON DIEGO	On what, Campana?	
CAMPANA	For clearing the way for your love. Doña Leonor Girón noticed you coming by. She called me over, and asked if you were there by chance. I, seizing mine, told her that she was the shining star that guides you on the sea of love.	315 320
DON DIEGO	What! A poor decision on your part.	
CAMPANA	Oh, that's rich!	
DON DIEGO	You've ruined everything for me. There is no way now	325

for my love to prevail.

CAMPANA

Yes, for I have lost Teodora.

DON DIEGO

Let's review and see
how it all adds up.
You say that for now it's best 335
if no one finds out
your heart beats for Teodora,
for you are poor and a stranger here,
and you fear that if her brother, 340
rich and noble as he is,
finds out before you've achieved your heart's desire
with the beautiful Teodora,
he'll bring punishment and revenge
upon the two of you.
And so you've ordered me 345
to act, to scheme, to lie—
anything so as to deny
that you care for Teodora.
Is that so, my lord?

CAMPANA

That is so. 350

DON DIEGO

Listen, then: if you must pursue Teodora,
and yet not let on,
if you must frequent her house night and day,
and there's no way to hide that,
what better plan could there be, 355
than to pretend that Leonor,
who lives in the same house,
is the one you burn for?
You'll deny all suspicions,
and if she lets you into the house, 360
you'll even be able to see Teodora.
If both of them oblige you
for the sake of love—
Leonor deceived, Teodora for real—
you won't run such a risk as you do now. 365

CAMPANA

⁶ The Ottoman empire, or Turkey, was the main imperial rival of Habsburg Spain.

DON DIEGO	And when Leonor realizes that it is Teodora I love, then what? Tell me. There's no way to hide it when they're neighbors.	370
CAMPANA	Ah, but see how easily lies pass for truth, and the truth for lies. She has already assumed as much, and I told her, my lord, that you just pretend to love Teodora, to hide your love for her.	375
DON DIEGO	So she suspects the truth?	
CAMPANA	She stated it so clearly, that had I not distracted her with my lie, I would have given you up for lost by now. Leonor would have told her brother, Don Sancho, who loves Teodora and hopes to marry her, and whose honor is at stake here.	380 385
DON DIEGO	Well said, and well done.	
CAMPANA	Glory be to God! Well, better safe than sorry. If you have a chance to talk to Leonor, you should warn her that you will still pursue this pretend love for Teodora. Since the two of you may give her reason to suspect you here and there, you should reassure her.	390 395
DON DIEGO	Yes, and that's not all. I'm not sure I've convinced the Marqués, Don Fadrique, that I'm not courting Leonor, whom he loves blindly.	400
CAMPANA	That is most important for your purposes: his love will serve you well.	

	When it's time to tell Leonor the truth, you'll blame it, with good reason, on the jealousy of the Marqués. Powerful men always get what they want.	405
DON DIEGO	That's not the problem— I'm just worried about the Marqués.	410
CAMPANA	You mustn't be, my lord, for the truth is on your side, and if you find yourself in a fix, you can always let him in on the secret that you keep. You know what they say in court: until cases sort themselves out, just rob Peter to pay Paul!	415
DON DIEGO	It's what I must do for now. If I disabuse Leonor of my love for her, my love for Teodora will be revealed— that is what I fear.	420
<i>Enter INÉS, in her cloak, with her face veiled and signaling with her head for CAMPANA and DON DIEGO to follow her</i>		
INÉS	They've seen me now.	
CAMPANA	There's a veiled woman over there, calling to us with signs.	425
DON DIEGO	Let's follow her! Love tells me she must be Teodora's messenger.	
CAMPANA	And what if she comes from Leonor?	

Exeunt

SCENE 6

A hall in TEODORA's house on one side, a sitting room in the middle, and a bedroom on the other, with doors between the three rooms. DON SANCHO and CONSTANZA with TEODORA in the sitting room. DON JUAN enters, in traveling clothes

DON JUAN	Sister, Don Sancho will remain here
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	in my place until I return— I cannot put off my departure.	430
DON SANCHO	I will do my best to ensure that Teodora does not miss you too much.	
DON JUAN	I leave her honor in your hands.	435
DON SANCHO	Trust her care and assistance to my unswerving devotion. And where her honor is concerned, her worth will do more than I ever could to make up for your absence.	440
DON JUAN	(<i>Aside to TEODORA</i>) Give me your arms, sister, and remember that my life depends on returning to find that you've given in, and will be Don Sancho's wife. For only in exchange will he agree to my enjoying the beautiful Leonor.	445
TEODORA	May the heavens bring you back safely.	
	<i>She cries</i>	
DON JUAN	God keep you, Don Sancho.	
DON JUAN	<i>exits</i>	
DON SANCHO	And may God give us peace, Don Juan, when you return from the Betis to Manzanares. ⁷ Teodora, don't cry, unless you intend to upstage the dawn with its pearly dew. And do not insult my constant devotion with suffering in vain— surely a lover may stand in for the loss of a brother.	450 455
TEODORA	I esteem the honors you do me as is only fitting. (<i>Aside</i>) But the tears you see	460

⁷ i.e. from Seville to Madrid.

are not for my brother.
I wished Don Juan gone,
so I might speak to Don Diego.

DON SANCHO	(<i>Aside</i>) Is the flame of love not enough to bear?	465
	Is the fury of disdain not enough, oh heavens, but my soul must also burn with jealousy and suspicion?	470
	A thousand times have I found that foreign gallant at these gates! Now Don Juan's absence will embolden him.	
	I must take care now, to be a sentry to Teodora and a spy on the stranger.	475

*Enter CONSTANZA and INÉS*⁸

CONSTANZA Your cousins await you, my lord.

She exits

DON SANCHO	They must be here to keep the books. (<i>Aside</i>) But my love is too jealous at the moment to set it aside—	480
	I will pay more attention to the figures on the street than those in the accounts.	
	(<i>Aloud</i>) Goodbye, Teodora, shed no more pearls while I'm gone; you'll offend my love if I cannot be here to collect them.	485

He exits

SCENE 7

Enter CONSTANZA

TEODORA How tiresome a despised lover can be!
Constanza, I've waited ages

⁸ Although Inés speaks no lines, she appears on stage accompanying her lady. Servants often remain on stage, observing others and later using the information they obtain.

	for this happy moment, for what seems like centuries. Don Diego has had no chance to speak to me since I last saw him when I left Seville.	490 495
CONSTANZA	I'd just like to know, if you were so happy to see your brother leave, how could such tears unsay your heart? I've never seen such contrary effects.	500
TEODORA	Consider this comparison, Constanza, and you will understand. A branch that has not yet lost the verdure of its fertile trunk, if lit at one end, weeps from the other. I was full of displeasure, and so, when pleasure filled my heart, it forced tears from my eyes. We must tell Don Diego that Don Juan is gone.	505 510
CONSTANZA	He moves quickly himself. There is no need to tell him what his love makes clear: today the bright dawn found him weeping on your street. But here comes Leonor.	515
<i>Enter LEONOR</i>		
LEONOR	Teodora, are you not well?	520
TEODORA	Don Juan is both my brother and my best gallant— I weep for those two things.	
LEONOR	Don Sancho has requested I stay by your side, to ease your pain.	525

[illegible]

	Let courtesy, then, get the better of necessity. If our friendship is not enough for you to trust in me, I give you my word I will always be on your side.	570 575
TEODORA	I, Leonor, love another?	
LEONOR	I'm a woman, and so are you. Don't deny it, unless you want an enemy at your side. If you say nothing you're not being honest with me, and if you won't tell a friend, you'll make yourself an enemy.	580
TEODORA	<i>(Aside)</i> What am I to do? Could Leonor be more dangerous if I bind her to me with the truth than if I offend her with my silence? Hasn't she realized I hate her brother? Doesn't she know why? The cat's out of the bag. I've longed for this chance to see Don Diego— shouldn't I seize it when my heart burns with love? If silence means I lose it for good, and speaking only means I might— what then do I have to fear? Silence means I lose for sure, and by speaking there's a chance. And since, no matter what I do, she's bound to find out in the end, better she should be in my debt for telling her myself. <i>(Aloud)</i> My dear Leonor, I can no longer keep my feelings from you, if only to relieve my sorrows, if not to please you. I'm in love with a fine gentleman . . . But that doesn't do it justice!	585 590 595 600 605 610

	<p>Oh, my friend—I die for the most beautiful man ever to steal love's arrows. Yet Don Juan's concern, not to mention Don Sancho's intentions, have kept me from seeing him, and ending this torment. That's why I'm so flustered, and why your brother, you see, attempts in vain to conquer me. That's why I've been reluctant to share my feelings with you, yet now your honorable reassurances have made me open my heart.</p>	<p>615</p> <p>620</p> <p>625</p>
LEONOR	<p>Teodora, I've given my word, and promised you my help. You can't do more for your own love than my loyalty will do.</p>	
TEODORA	<p>God bless you, Leonor, for I trust you greatly, and since I shared my heart with you, I only beg discretion . . . And should Don Sancho, perceiving some sign, suspect this love that burns inside me, please, dear friend, put him off, for surely you can see how dangerous it would be: anything could happen with Don Juan offended, Don Sancho jealous, and my love unaware!</p>	<p>630</p> <p>635</p> <p>640</p> <p>645</p>
LEONOR	<p>Have no fear, and go seek your love. I'll lose my life before I break my word and reveal your secret.</p>	<p>650</p>
TEODORA	<p>You've given me new life, dear friend. Tell me, then, has your brother left the house?</p>	

LEONOR	He's locked himself in his study with my cousins, to go over some accounts.	655
TEODORA	Will that give me a chance to see the one I love, and tame this fire that burns in me?	
LEONOR	Of course, he'll be with them all day.	660
TEODORA	Then call him from that window, Constanza, and if he's in the street, signal to him, but be discreet.	
CONSTANZA	The smallest hint won't be lost on him. His love makes him very keen.	665
CONSTANZA <i>exits</i>		
LEONOR	(<i>Aside</i>) Now things are going my way: with Teodora in my debt, it's safe, I dare say, to share my own feelings with her.	670
CONSTANZA <i>returns</i>		
CONSTANZA	He's coming.	
LEONOR	I want to leave you two alone to enjoy your love.	675
TEODORA	There's no need to leave, Leonor, don't go! I want you to stay, to see how handsome he is, if only as an apology for how I carried on before this.	680
LEONOR	I shall, but it would not do for me to witness all— even a friendly witness constrains pleasure. I'll hide in this room,	685

so I can see him without disturbing you.

TEODORA Go quickly, then, Leonor!
I hear him coming.

LEONOR *(Aside)* When will I have such joy
with my beloved stranger? 690

LEONOR *enters an adjacent room, leaving the door ajar*

TEODORA What sorrow, what pain
 I've suffered for this moment!

SCENE 8

DON DIEGO and CAMPANA, *in the foyer*, TEODORA and CONSTANZA, *in the main room*, LEONOR, *in an adjacent room*

CAMPANA Do you think Leonor
saw you come in? 695

DON DIEGO I spoke to her tonight,
and we agreed,
that I would show love for Teodora.

CAMPANA Still, don't overdo it.
She'll catch on if you do. 700

DON DIEGO *and* CAMPANA *enter the main room, and LEONOR cracks open the door of the adjacent room*

DON DIEGO My lady! To what do I owe
 this great good fortune?

TEODORA If life has brought us to this point,
 I can look death in the eye.

LEONOR (*Aside*) Don Diego is the man she loves? 705

TEODORA To have you here with me!

LEONOR *(Aside)* I thought
Don Diego was just pretending,
and that Teodora didn't love him.

TEODORA	I would give anything for you!	710
DON DIEGO	And how I have suffered for you, my love!	
LEONOR	<i>(Aside)</i> I told him he could pretend, but this is not what I had in mind.	
DON DIEGO	What's wrong? What's going on?	715
TEODORA	There's someone on the stairs! It might be Don Sancho. Constanza . . .	
CONSTANZA	Yes, my lady . . .	
TEODORA	Go close the door to that room, quickly.	720
CONSTANZA	Your warning comes too late. Don Sancho is on the threshold.	
TEODORA	This is the end of me!	
CAMPANA	Didn't I tell you? . . .	725
TEODORA	Get yourselves into this room here, quickly.	
DON DIEGO	Me?	
TEODORA	Just do what I say, please, my honor's at stake!	730
DON DIEGO	I will do as you wish, my lady. For the sake of your honor my courage will do what the threat of death could never force it to.	735
DON DIEGO <i>and</i> LEONOR <i>exit to</i> LEONOR's room		
TEODORA	Oh, how the heavens torment me for every pleasure they grant me.	

SCENE 9

DON SANCHO, TEODORA, *and* CONSTANZA, *in the main room*, LEONOR, DON DIEGO, *and* CAMPANA *in the adjacent room*⁹

DON SANCHO My suspicions were not in vain.
No sooner has Don Juan left,
than you open the door to our dishonor, 740
Teodora?

LEONOR *(In the adjacent room)*
Don Diego, you hypocrite!

DON DIEGO My lady!

CAMPANA *(Aside)* Just what we needed!

DON DIEGO You were here the whole time? 745

LEONOR Yes, you traitor!

DON DIEGO *(Aside)* What could be worse than this?

CAMPANA Don't call him names just because
he knows how to put on an act.

LEONOR You call this putting on an act? 750

DON DIEGO Of course.

CAMPANA Truth and deception
must be cut from the same cloth,
or the seams will show.

DON DIEGO If I didn't court her, 755
how could I deceive her?

LEONOR Either you stop your endearments,
or this plan won't work.

DON DIEGO As you wish, Leonor.

TEODORA Look, Don Sancho . . . 760

⁹ All these conversations are taking place at the same time, but in adjacent rooms.

DON DIEGO	My life is in your hands.	
DON SANCHO	Your brother left me to guard the honor of this house.	765
CONSTANZA	<i>(Aside)</i> Could there be any stranger confusion?	
TEODORA	<i>(Aside)</i> All is lost!	
CAMPANA	<i>(Aside)</i> I've managed to convince her. Not hard to do when she's so full of herself!	770
DON SANCHO	And what about my jealousy?	

SCENE 10

Enter TWO COURTIERS, Don Sancho's cousins, in the foyer

COUSIN 1	Something came over him, he grabbed his sword and ran out.	
COUSIN 2	From the moment I walked in, he seemed distracted and upset, more focused on the street than anything else.	775
COUSIN 1	That's what worried me. He's family— we must see if he needs our help.	780
DON SANCHO	He came in. I saw him, and he hasn't left: You must be hiding him somewhere, which only confirms the affront to me and to your brother.	785

He reaches for his sword

TEODORA	What are you doing? Be careful!
DON SANCHO	By God, I shall avenge us both!

DON SANCHO What are you doing? 815
Out of my way!

DON DIEGO collapses into a chair

DON DIEGO Your concern comes too late, Leonor,
for I am dying.

COUSIN 1 Wouldn't it be better 820
to give Leonor a husband
than to dishonor them both?

LEONOR Don Diego de Luna can well honor me with his hand,
dear brother—he's every bit as good as you.

TEODORA (*Aside*) May heaven keep you, Leonor!
I dare not intervene, 825
for jealousy will do more
to stoke Don Sancho's anger
than any insult he has suffered.

DON SANCHO (*Aside*) If he's her husband,
then Leonor's honor is preserved, 830
and their bond quiets
my jealous rage.
I'll take remedy
over revenge.
(*Aloud*) Is he at death's door, then? 835

CONSTANZA He's still breathing,
however faintly.

DON SANCHO (*To the COUSINS*)
You two, get a surgeon.

COUSIN 1 I'll find the most skilled hands 840
in all Madrid!

COUSIN 1 *exits*

CAMPANA Better get him a priest,
he doesn't have much time left.

COUSIN 2 Right away.

TEODORA	Oh, how terrible!	845
LEONOR	I can't go on!	
DON SANCHO	Take him to my room. As Leonor's husband, that's the proper place for him to recover, and we must keep secret all that has happened here.	850
CAMPANA	I fear it's too late. He's dead weight by now!	
TEODORA	(<i>Aside</i>) He dies of misfortune, and I'll die for love.	855
LEONOR	Easy Campana, be gentle with him, or our efforts to save him will finish him off.	
TEODORA	Leonor, everything you do shows how true your friendship is.	860
LEONOR	(<i>Aside</i>) Oh dear God! True love is what this is.	
DON SANCHO	Teodora, you must forgive my excessive wrath and zeal.	865
TEODORA	He who offends the one he adores cannot expect any mercy.	

ACT II

SCENE 1

A sitting room, in LEONOR's house. Enter INÉS, fleeing from CAMPANA.

CAMPANA Inés!

INÉS You were talking to Constanza,

	you traitor!	870
CAMPANA	I was asking her for . . .	
INÉS	What?	
CAMPANA	For a quick fix.	
INÉS	And why didn't you ask me?	
CAMPANA	Since I care about you, I didn't want you to know, in case you would not want a patchwork lover.	875
INÉS	That's no excuse. I take it for granted that a scoundrel this crooked would be in need of repair.	880
INÉS	<i>exits</i>	
CAMPANA	(<i>Aside</i>) Now she'll pine for me. There's no better remedy for the most skittish heart than to make it jealous.	885
SCENE 2		
<i>Enter DON DIEGO, with a cane but no sword</i>		
CAMPANA	My lord, you're looking better, thank God!	
DON DIEGO	Would that the heavens had made that merciful bed a deathly tomb! Oh Campana, I find myself drowning in a stormy sea of troubles!	890 895
CAMPANA	You must swim to the harbor of your desire with effort and courage	

	while life endures, sir!	
	That is what matters most.	900
	That will wring luck from the most hopeless endeavor and beat fortune at its own game. Life affords all things—	
	in death it's all taken away, and if you're so tired of living, you'll find a way to die.	905
	But live, though you may have no hope of ever defeating fortune, your cruel enemy.	910
	Only cowards seek remedy in death. Take heart: tell me one by one the things that worry you, and you'll see how easily I find an answer for everything.	915
DON DIEGO	I am Don Sancho's guest, and it's clear I must offer my hand to his sister, now that I am in full health.	920
	If my injury has allowed me to avoid that fate so far, now I must either become her husband, or uncover my secret.	
	To marry her is impossible, because then I'll lose Teodora, whom my heart adores, and I'll break my word to the Marqués.	925
	To reveal all and not marry her would be to repay Leonor with great offense and disappointment.	930
	She, who in order to save me, and full of pity, risked life and honor, and called me her husband!	935
	I owe my life to her kindness first, and then to her good care. And everyone now believes that I am her husband, for I have lived in her house.	940
	And all this I owe to a lie. Let's see if you can find a remedy for my turmoil.	

CAMPANA	See here: since you're besieged on all sides, join the war, go to Flanders, you'll be safer there.	945
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DON DIEGO	Oh, that's great advice! I want to enjoy Teodora's love, yet fulfill my obligations to Leonor. I'm not sure which of the two carries the greater risk. And your only solution is the very shame that I fear? Tell me, would it be fitting for a man such as me to turn my back on everything when I need to answer for myself face to face?	950 955
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CAMPANA	Well, then tell Leonor the truth.	960
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DON DIEGO	I'd love to, but what lips could utter the insults to which my own lies have given rise?
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CAMPANA	As the old saying goes, it's better to be red in the face than black in the heart.	965
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DON DIEGO	My God! I can't believe this hasn't killed me yet. Either I've gone mad, or I don't feel enough, if I can withstand all this suffering.	970
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SCENE 3

Enter LEONOR and INÉS

LEONOR	Don Diego! My lord! What is this?
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DON DIEGO	This storm comes, Leonor, from the cloud of error, that has led me to a dark night.	975
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LEONOR	What night? What error?	
DON DIEGO	If the truth, my lady . . .	
LEONOR	Now I understand you. You're upset and worried knowing that you must tell Teodora the truth . . .	980
CAMPANA	<i>(Aside)</i> God help us!	
LEONOR	Don't fret, I'll do it for you.	
CAMPANA	<i>(Aside)</i> That solves that.	985
DON DIEGO	Listen, my lady, you . . .	
LEONOR	Don't worry about her resenting us— leave it to me.	
CAMPANA	<i>(To DON DIEGO)</i> Where's your honor, my lord? Speak up!	990
DON DIEGO	It's my honor that keeps me silent, Campana.	
INÉS	Here comes Teodora.	
CAMPANA	<i>(Aside)</i> This is it— the game is up, and Troy will burn.	995
DON DIEGO	<i>(Aside)</i> Hanging by a single hair, a thousand knives threaten my poor neck. ¹⁰	1000
<i>Enter TEODORA</i>		
TEODORA	Dear Leonor,	

¹⁰ An allusion to the sword of Damocles, an anecdote in Cicero's *Tusculan Disputations*: a tyrant asks his courtier, Damocles, whether he'd like to experience life as a ruler. Damocles agrees but is dismayed to find a sword suspended above him by a single horse-hair—a symbol of all the forces aligned against those who rule—and chooses to return to a simpler life.

	<p>I want to thank you on behalf of my dear beloved and me. We owe to your loyalty both his life and my honor.</p>	1005
	<p>Don Diego, you look so handsome, my love, that I'd almost swear, you are finer with your wound, and more dashing in your illness.</p>	
	<p>Yet all my care and desire to make you well, what use is it when your own beauty is the best remedy to hold age at bay?</p>	1010
	<p>But what's this, Don Diego? You have nothing to say? So restrained, sad and quiet, so icy to my fire?</p>	1015
DON DIEGO	<p>Oh Teodora, I'm drowning! Oh, amid the shoals my tortured breast touches now the sky, now the sand, and the waves of my sorrows swallow up my words!</p>	1020
TEODORA	<p>My love, if the obstacles in our way are the cause of these storms, know that I am yours, and take heart.</p>	1025
	<p>Come to safe harbor, for even if I must risk my life, the truth will shine its calming rays, and do away with darkness.</p>	1030
	<p>The danger of our predicament and the harshness of our sorrows force us now to release our secret from its chains.</p>	1035
	<p>Don Sancho is noble and wise: let him know the truth.</p>	
	<p>And Leonor, whose friendship and love we can count on, will give her hand to calm my brother's fury when he finds out.</p>	1040
LEONOR	<p>Teodora, Teodora, you should know</p>	

	that luck has now brought us to a very different pass. You can't blame me for preventing Don Diego's death, for saving appearances, for hiding your love, for finding myself locked up with him.	1045 1050
TEODORA	It's true that you had to do those things, and they were not your fault.	
LEONOR	Consider then what I owe to one who has enjoyed the name of husband, in my house and by my side. Consider whether my honor could ever be restored in the general opinion if my brother were disabused.	1055 1060
TEODORA	What do you mean?	
LEONOR	Surely you must see I cannot recover my good name without his giving me his hand.	1065
TEODORA	I'll go mad.	
CAMPANA	<i>(Aside)</i> All hell has broken loose now.	
TEODORA	Is that what you think, such a fine friend as you, Leonor?	
LEONOR	The strongest bonds of friendship cannot oblige me to go against my honor.	1070
TEODORA	Can I really be hearing this and not go mad with jealousy? Is this how friendships are broken? Is this how the heavens are flaunted? How, fiery skies of Etna, ¹¹ do you not reply in kind? Who will you smite with your lightning	1075

¹¹ Volcano in Sicily.

	if not such treacherous friends?	1080
LEONOR	I have neither flaunted the heavens nor betrayed our friendship. Those who do as they must, Teodora, are not at fault.	
TEODORA	That's true. You've done what you must. A just revenge, for on false ground I placed my trust, even though I knew that women are by nature treacherous. Don't try to paint as honor what is clearly love. For your marriage to Don Diego would be a travesty of honor. I will die a thousand deaths before I let you get away with this.	1085 1090 1095
CAMPANA	The righteous can cast bolts, not change fortunes.	
TEODORA	And you, why are your lips sealed? You hear these abuses, yet say nothing? You must love Leonor now. You've forgotten me!	1100
DON DIEGO	This suffering must end. If you doubt my faith, the violence of this torment will make me announce it to the world. My soul is yours, Teodora, and my hand will be as well. Leonor claims in vain what is already yours.	1105 1110
LEONOR	Oh heavens, what are you saying?	
CAMPANA	<i>(Aside)</i> And now, it's Leonor at center stage.	1115
LEONOR	You should have said as much, you traitor, when your lips	

	were full of love for me, which led to all this.	
TEODORA	What?	1120
CAMPANA	<i>(Aside)</i> A cold winds blows.	
INÉS	<i>(Aside)</i> Blue skies ahead!	
TEODORA	Tell me the truth, Leonor.	
LEONOR	He said he was just leading you on . . .	1125
TEODORA	The liar!	
LEONOR	And that his advances toward me were sincere. Even if you won't credit my nobility in this, at least consider my grace in saving his life.	1130
TEODORA	You're right.	
DON DIEGO	I was pretending to love.	1135
LEONOR	You might have pretended to love me, but my favor to you, and the obligation under which it places me are all too real.	
TEODORA	Whether it was real or pretend, you placed Leonor under an obligation to you. You betrayed me with these insults. The denial you spoke was a crime against the faith of love.	1140 1145
DON DIEGO	If you hear my reasons, you'll understand.	
TEODORA	What else is there to hear, when you've already confessed your betrayal?	1150

Even if loving her was a fiction,
not the truth,
how can you justify
hiding it from me?
Your silence is proof enough
that you did me harm.

DON DIEGO I couldn't . . .

TEODORA Silence!

DON DIEGO Let me explain!

TEODORA	I see now that your insincere desire loved the security she gave you. You saw in Leonor a good name, wealth, and beauty, and so, despite my merits, you set out to win her over, too, in case you lost me. And since with that you have won her favor, then satisfy Leonor's honor and reputation. You owe your life to her: pay her back with your hand. And, since the credit I placed in your love is in vain, I intend to give mine to her brother.	1160 1165 1170 1175
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1165

1170

1175

DON DIEGO Wait . . . !

SCENE 4

Enter CONSTANZA

CONSTANZA Your brother is here, my lady. 1180
 Come down at once.

CONSTANZA *exits*

TEODORA Let me go, you liar!

A room in TEODORA's house

DON JUAN, *wearing traveling clothes, and* TEODORA

DON JUAN	I'm dead, Teodora.	1210
TEODORA	Dead tired, you mean?	
DON JUAN	No, even though my fury flew ahead with lightning speed on wings of rage so that every gust of wind helped fan the flames.	1215
	No, what killed me was not the exhaustion of the journey, for that pales in comparison to the sharp edge of jealousy and the bite of nagging doubt	1220
	that make me want to procure an honorable revenge for my jealousy, Teodora, and for your good name.	
	Listen, then, to my sad story, if a cold dead body might yet speak.	1225
	No sooner had I come to Seville, when Don Pedro of Castile hands me a letter from Don Sancho Girón.	1230
	How fast bad news travels: the messenger left after me and still got there first! I open up the letter, and my soul drinks up	1235
	the poison in ten short lines— the story, so terrible for me, of you and Don Diego de Luna together in your room put me in such a state	1240
	that even Death itself left me for dead. Not lightning and thunder, though they seem to split the earth, could leave a man more confused and disturbed—	1245
	a lifeless trunk, a useless lump of clay— than I was after I read that cruel letter. It was a sentence condemning me	

	to a living death.	
	And to make things worse,	1250
	in that terrible state,	
	my anger denied me the comforts of death.	
	Instead, as in a shipwreck,	
	when a man tries to save his life	
	by holding on to a piece of driftwood	1255
	in a turbulent storm,	
	as he drinks in death amid the waves,	
	in this letter, so harmful to me,	
	I read that the marriage must wait	
	until Don Diego recovers.	1260
	So, grasping at straws for dear life,	
	without even taking off my spurs,	
	oars like sails, sails like wings,	
	sent me from Seville,	
	across mountains to that shore	1265
	where the wretched so often drown	
	after swimming the surging gulf.	
	Now I wait to hear from you, Teodora,	
	after such travails,	
	whether that is to be my fate,	1270
	what news you give me,	
	and how my honor stands.	
TEODORA	Brother, catch your breath and calm down.	
	Don Diego and your beloved Leonor	
	have not yet shared the immortal “I do”	1275
	that would bind their souls together.	
DON JUAN	Oh, Teodora!	
	How can I repay you for such news,	
	except to say, if you value your brother’s life,	
	you have earned it with this!	1280
	Tell me more—I won’t be angry.	
	You calm the cruelest fury,	
	and will find me benign	
	when you flatter me with such news.	
TEODORA	<i>(Aside)</i> I will take my revenge!	1285
	May Leonor lose Don Diego,	
	and my brother Don Juan enjoy her,	
	though what I promise now,	
	the force of blind love	
	might never let me keep.	1290
	<i>(Aloud)</i> I would not be noble, Don Juan,	

nor any sister of yours,
 if I risked my good name
 to escape life's dangers.
 If love is a crime, 1295
 I have no fear of punishment,
 since your own must excuse mine.
 Listen to the naked truth,
 and let unspoken shame break through.
 I must not refrain nor limit myself, 1300
 since reputations may suffer more
 from the silence I keep
 than from any actual misdeed.
 Let my maidenly cheeks blush
 for the sake of a heart 1305
 unsullied by dishonor.
 In that noble city by the Betis,
 that Orient where there rise
 rays of silver and gold
 sent to Spain from the Indies 1310
 for the Castilian Jove,
 so that, cast down from his heroic arm,
 they might smite Moors and heretics alike,
 feeding their greed
 (for even his fiercest enemies 1315
 are enriched by his scourge).¹²
 There in that city, Don Juan,
 Don Diego awakened in me
 a love that swiftly stole my heart.
 Blind love's¹³ penetrating arrow 1320
 needs no time to strike its mark,
 as I'm sure you've found out.
 You brought me to this court of Madrid—
 a magnet for the noble and the ambitious.
 As we reached the city, 1325
 and crossed the bridge of Toledo,
 my tears swelled the puny Manzanares,
 attempting in vain to undo the pain
 of exchanging the pure Betis

¹² "that noble city by the Betis": Seville, where the silver and gold brought to Spain from the New World was stored; "the Castilian Jove," i.e. Jupiter, king of the gods, is the king of Spain; Spain was embarked in a long-term struggle against the Ottomans and their client states in the Mediterranean ("Moors"), and against Protestants ("heretics") across Europe, particularly in Flanders, where the Marqués and Don Diego fought. The text in parentheses ironically reflects on the tremendous costs of war, as Spain spent its resources on various battlefronts.

¹³ i.e. Cupid, god of love, often represented as blindfolded to emphasize the arbitrariness of love.

for this sluggish vein of filth.	1330
Don Diego quickly followed suit,	
seeking his shining star	
in the dark night of his love.	
The confused bustle of Madrid	
made it possible for him	1335
to woo me quite discreetly,	
hiding it from your concern.	
Never, not even in secret,	
have I ever received him:	
this you must grant, Don Juan, in me.	1340
Yet we locked eyes and they spoke volumes,	
for in matters of the heart,	
the eyes are like ears.	
Finally, your absence	
spurred my blind affection	1345
to let him cross our threshold just once,	
but my ill fortune made that enough	
to pay the price a thousand times.	
Then followed what I won't repeat,	
as you learned of it, Don Juan,	1350
in the letter that Don Sancho	
sent to you in Seville.	
Instead I will tell you	
what you don't yet know.	
In the fray Don Diego was overcome,	1355
not by greater valor, but by greater numbers.	
His life was saved by that false name	
that Leonor gave him, of husband.	
A fine gesture of friendship, I thought.	
Yet it wasn't that, alas.	1360
but a vile deed born of treacherous love.	
Just today have I come to realize her treachery,	
and the great harm that she's done.	
Today I learned that Don Diego lied	
and secretly courted Leonor all the while.	1365
This, plus his having stayed in her house,	
while everyone thought he was plighted to her,	
has so deeply compromised them	
that now there is no way out,	
except for her to get her way.	1370
Today, Leonor herself gave me	
the reasons you just heard—	
if these insults may be called reasons.	
What a state they left me in!	
Imagine, Don Juan,	1375

a peasant watching his ripe field of wheat
 reduced to smoke by furious fire.
 Imagine a famous captain
 seeing his myriad troops
 pale before an ugly death. 1380
 Imagine a tigress roaring
 and defying the furies of hell
 in search of her lost cubs.
 Imagine yourself when you got the news
 that you had lost your dear Leonor. 1385
 All these can give you but a hint,
 the merest shadow of the inhuman rage,
 the sorrow and distress that overcame me
 when Leonor disabused me,
 and resolved to do me so much harm. 1390
 But as the storm itself
 might wash a sailor on the shore,
 that same outrage, that same anger
 freed my love from one who insulted it so.
 And so, no longer Don Diego's lover, 1395
 but his enemy, instead,
 I have settled on my revenge:
 to do away with all his hopes,
 whether of her or of me,
 so you may win her affection, 1400
 accomplishing the exchange
 you've agreed to with Don Sancho.
 If we tell him what has occurred,
 it will be easy to prevent
 Don Diego from marrying Leonor, 1405
 and, as for me,
 his deceit will make that impossible.
 (*Aside*) If my will conquers my passion!
 (*Aloud*) Thus your honor and my reputation
 will be restored, people's suspicions denied, 1410
 and the fabricated invention revealed,
 Leonor respected, and you, Don Juan, most pleased,
 your longstanding desire achieved,
 Don Sancho rewarded for his constancy,
 Don Diego duly punished, 1415
 and I married.

DON JUAN

Since you had my word, Teodora,
 that I would listen to the truth,
 and since it appears that your love
 has not gone beyond a few glances, 1420

	<p>and because your wildest nonsense finds an excuse and pity in my own, my heart no longer rages with the thought that you have risked our reputation. All the more so as you've confessed, and so have laid my fears to rest. But, ah, poor me! How easy you make it sound! How ready you are to forget honor's demands, when pleasurable ends are at hand. Am I to be husband of one who's called another by that name, one who had of her joy and favor, and in her house did seek the same?</p>	<p>1425</p> <p>1430</p> <p>1435</p>
TEODORA	<p>Yet have we not seen, Don Juan, one gladly wed a lady who, running ahead of her ill fame, was the very first to tell him that she had given another, not just hopes and promises, but the greatest tokens of love that honor could sacrifice to it, her resolution widely praised and celebrated with good cause, so that her story will go down in history to general applause? And you, so very proper here worry just because Leonor called Don Diego husband, and favored him, forgetting that words are a whim: born on the lips, dead in the ear— soon forgotten, they disappear.</p>	<p>1440</p> <p>1445</p> <p>1450</p>
DON JUAN	<p>Yes, such is my misfortune: I am a slave to my scruples, while a happier man may count transgression as a virtue.</p>	<p>1455</p>
TEODORA	<p>These dark times won't last forever. You're at court now— why carry on like some poor small-town nobleman? If favors from eyes and lips, Don Juan, were now considered trespasses, what honest woman would not be</p>	<p>1460</p>

	guilty of such a sin, you see? If this stains reputations, what man would go blameless to his wedding bed?	1465
DON JUAN	At least, for now, while things unfold, show me the right path to take, Teodora. I want to stop Leonor from advancing this new plan she makes, so that, whether or not I get what I want, I'll get my revenge.	1470
DON JUAN <i>exits</i>		
TEODORA	If I can stop Don Diego from marrying Leonor, then my love— if it should prove so brave as to survive the assault of jealousy— will forgive slights for better things. Even if Don Sancho accuses me of the flighty promises I make, words can't be held against a lover.	1475 1480
TEODORA <i>exits</i>		
SCENE 6		
<i>Enter DON DIEGO, with a sash but no sword, and CAMPANA</i>		
CAMPANA	Sir, this star-studded night passes all too quickly: time is running out for you to wed Leonor. Her brother will bring the license, then everything will be set. Will you marry, then?	1485
DON DIEGO	No.	
CAMPANA	Is that so? Then you see, if I were Don Diego de Luna, I'd flee.	1490
DON DIEGO	If I were Campana, I'd run, too.	
CAMPANA	Well,	

	what is more insulting? To raise Leonor's suspicions by running now, or to reject her to her face at the last minute?	1495
DON DIEGO	I would stain her name and break the code of honor if I turned my back on her.	1500
CAMPANA	Well, my lord, what will you do, then? Leonor is determined to wed.	
DON DIEGO	Campana, if I knew what to do, would I curse my luck so? To what an unhappy pass this lie has brought me! Now that I see the harm, I can neither stay nor go, because it would reveal, I fear, <i>what we owe our lies!</i>	1505 1510
SCENE 7		
<i>Enter LEONOR in her wedding dress, handsomely attired, and INÉS</i>		
INÉS	You look so lovely.	
LEONOR	Don Diego's so stern, he'll find some thorn among the blooms.	1515
INÉS	Have no fear; he's head over heels for you because of the way you look at him. If Don Diego did not want the love you offer, he would have already left. He doesn't realize how your concern holds him fast, how your care watches over him like a sentinel at the gates.	1520 1525
LEONOR	That's cold comfort,	

	when he disdains me so openly, so rudely even.	
INÉS	He's just pretending— he disguises his feelings, so as to trick Teodora. That's how he settles whatever he owes her. The case is obvious: his tongue may be sharp, but you've captured his heart.	1530 1535
LEONOR	I want to speak to him.	
INÉS	He adores you! Go to him, rest assured— Teodora stands no chance when compared to you.	1540
CAMPANA	<i>(Aside to DON DIEGO)</i> Here comes Doña Leonor to see you, in her wedding dress.	
DON DIEGO	Her elegant finery will become deepest mourning if not for her dishonor, then for my death.	1545
LEONOR	Don Diego, my lord, my husband . . .	
DON DIEGO	Say no more, Leonor, can't you see it is beneath you, to give me the name of husband when I have warned you: if my disdain isn't enough to dissuade you, you'll have to marry me over my dead body.	1550 1555
LEONOR	I expect more from you, given your noble blood, though you may disdain my love, you should respect my honor.	1560
DON DIEGO	Though you might not be convinced, I've made my case to you. Don't say I didn't warn you	

	if you won't change your ways.	1565
	I am in your debt, I can't deny it,	
	and I'd like to repay you.	
	But it's not possible to love you	
	when I'm mad for Teodora.	
	And since I must love her	1570
	and loathe you,	
	there'd be no joy, only harm,	
	in marrying you.	
	You'd be better served, my lady,	
	to suffer my ingratitude now,	1575
	than a lifetime of sorrows.	
	And so,	
	change your mind.	
	There's no need for your brother—	
	I would rather lose my life,	1580
	than give you my hand.	
LEONOR	If that's how you want it!	
	If my misguided love once kept you alive,	
	my resolve now	
	will be the death of you.	1585
CAMPANA	What do you say to that?	
INÉS	That Don Diego may be a man,	
	but stubbornness	
	will be the end of him.	
CAMPANA	And what will mine do?	1590
INÉS	Why, your name rings a bell!	
	So tiresome!	
	It rings and rings in my ears.	
CAMPANA	A lover must be tireless,	
	or he'll get nowhere.	1595
SCENE 8		
<i>Enter SERVANT of DON DIEGO</i>		
SERVANT	Don Diego, my lord,	
	there's a gentleman here	
	who would speak with you.	

DON DIEGO If Leonor would allow it
in her presence, 1600
then he may come in.

INÉS (*Aside*) He's kept his courtesy,
despite his anger,
and shows the respect
owed Doña Leonor. 1605

LEONOR I shall allow you to deal
 with him.

DON DIEGO Send him in.

The SERVANT exits

LEONOR Inés, listen.

INÉS My lady . . . 1610

Exit INÉS *and* LEONOR

SCENE 9

Enter a GENTLEMAN, with a letter

GENTLEMAN My lord, a message for you.

DON DIEGO Wait.

GENTLEMAN The one who sent it
 instructed me
 to place it in your own hands, 1615
 and not to wait for a reply.

The GENTLEMAN exits

DON DIEGO *(Reading)* “You have broken your promise
and courted Leonor,
and my honor cannot bear
even the thought of such a slight. 1620
I’ve been waiting for some time
for you to recover.
Now that you’re well, Don Diego,

I shall await you alone in the fields of San Jerónimo.	1625
I trust that you, too, will attend this duel alone, honorable gentleman that you are.”	
Signed: “The Marqués Don Fadrique.”	
He believes, and for good reason	1630

Putting the letter in his pocket

that I’ve broken my promise to him. It’s true that now the word is out that I’m Leonor’s husband. I must meet him in the fields— I have no choice—	1635
for, according to the law of duels, a nobleman, once challenged, with or without good reason, can only give satisfaction by dint of his sword.	1640
This was all I needed: my only choices, kill or be killed. And now to find out <i>what we owe our lies.</i>	

DON DIEGO *exits*

SCENE 13

Enter LEONOR, INÉS, and CAMPANA

CAMPANA	(<i>Aside</i>) Who could that letter be from?	1645
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INÉS	He’s heading back to his room without a word to you.
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LEONOR	(<i>Aside</i>) He’s so silent and taken aback, that letter must be from Teodora. (<i>To INÉS</i>) Go look, Inés, and see if he writes a response.	1650
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INÉS	Yes, my lady!
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She runs to the door and looks inside

	He wants to leave, it's clear. He's asked for his sword, and is strapping it on.	1655
LEONOR	Ah, traitor! He won't get away with such a base intent. Hurry, hurry, close the door!	
<i>INÉS closes the door</i>		
	I don't want him to have to fight my servants!	1660
CAMPANA	What's this? Why are you locking him in?	
<i>DON DIEGO, offstage</i>		
DON DIEGO	Leonor, open this door!	
LEONOR	By no means, not until my brother gets here!	1665
DON DIEGO	My honor depends on my getting out of here!	
LEONOR	And mine on keeping you in! <i>(Aside)</i> This is killing me!	1670
DON DIEGO	<i>(Pounding)</i> I'll break this door down!	
CAMPANA	The door is solid, and he doesn't have his strength, but what is Campana waiting for?	
<i>CAMPANA goes to open the door and LEONOR hits him</i>		
LEONOR	Away, you oaf!	1675
CAMPANA	I've never seen a hand so soft hit so hard.	
INÉS	How is this possible?	
CAMPANA	See, Inés,	

this is what I was afraid of. 1680

Enter TEODORA

TEODORA *(Aside)* All the shouting and noise
gave wings to my feet,
to run up and see what this is about.
(To LEONOR) Leonor, what is going on?

INÉS *(Aside)* The pounding has stopped. 1685

LEONOR How quickly you've come upstairs,
Teodora,
to see the trouble
your note has caused!

TEODORA My note? What note? 1690
What are you talking about?

LEONOR Go, Teodora, go away!
Don't meddle in my affairs,
and don't pretend, either.
I am perfectly capable
without your help— 1695
I'll be fine!

TEODORA Leonor, you are fooling yourself.
But here are your brother and mine,
and soon you'll see, 1700
I'll have my revenge.

CAMPANA *(Aside)* Here we go.
Don Juan and Don Sancho are here—
now there'll be no escape.
They've got him trapped between doors. 1705
But he's so quiet now,
he must have changed his mind.

SCENE 10

Enter DON JUAN and DON SANCHE

DON JUAN That's what's going on.
And since I knew that you
sought a license for the same, 1710

	I sent for you, my friend, so as to spare your name and mine from public shame, in case this issue, in the end, should prevent the wedding.	1715
DON SANCHO	I'm glad you did. For Leonor to be so devious and bold, to risk our honor like this, to save his life! It will drive me mad! Yet if finding out the truth, Don Juan, has put matters to rest for you, my own jealousy is just beginning. Am I to lose Teodora? I'd rather die.	1720 1725
DON JUAN	My sister already knows what she stands to gain. She'll be your wife, and I, Leonor's husband. (<i>Aside</i>) At least as long as the whims of love bring no dishonor, to be sure.	1730
DON SANCHO	What am I waiting for, now that Fortune favors me so? Let us give Don Diego the news: with him out of the way or dead, we'll have no fear for our reputations.	1735
DON JUAN	I am forever in your debt, and ready to do as you wish.	
DON SANCHO	Inés, call Don Diego.	1740
INÉS	(<i>Aside</i>) The plot ends right here.	
INÉS	<i>exits</i>	
DON SANCHO	What are you doing here, my dear Teodora?	
TEODORA	I was chatting with Leonor while we waited for my brother.	
DON SANCHO	He has already told me	1745

	how you reward my loyalty.	
TEODORA	My scorn was but to test the mettle of your love. (<i>Aside</i>) And what is the point?	
DON JUAN	Won't you welcome me, my beautiful Leonor?	1750
LEONOR	No, Don Juan, for you're not at all welcome— such is my luck.	
INÉS <i>returns</i>		
DON SANCHO	Is Don Diego coming?	
INÉS	Sir, there's no use in waiting for him. He has jumped to the street from the balcony.	1755
CAMPANA	For God's sake, it'll be a miracle if he's not dead!	1760
LEONOR	What was he thinking, to attempt such madness?	
TEODORA	(<i>Aside</i>) Oh no! And if that display, Don Diego, has cost you your life?	1765
DON SANCHO	He must have known what awaited him.	
CAMPANA	(<i>Aside to TEODORA</i>) He picked a good moment to flee the scene— if he's still alive, that is. It's more flight than jump, from such a high balcony.	1770
TEODORA	And all the more so in his case, for he's barely regained his strength or recovered from his wound.	1775
CAMPANA	I'm going to look for him. I'm afraid I will find him	

seeing stars.

DON SANCHO	Don Juan, what's left to do but crown our love with joy? Give your hand to Leonor, and I'll give mine to Teodora.	1780
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LEONOR	<i>(Aside)</i> Oh, heavens above!	
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TEODORA	<i>(Aside)</i> What am I to do? Now that Don Diego has reassured me, there's no risk in delaying my brother's wedding in order to postpone mine.	1785
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Whispering in DON JUAN's ear

	It would be crazy to give your hand to Leonor so soon.	1790
--	--	------

DON JUAN	And why is that?	
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TEODORA	You should be wary of what this whole case will do to her reputation.	
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DON JUAN	Oh, heavens!	1795
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SCENE 11

Enter CONSTANZA

CONSTANZA	My lord!	
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DON JUAN	What is it, Constanza?	
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CONSTANZA	They have brought Don Diego in from the street and into the hall. If he's not dead as I speak, he will be very soon.	1800
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TEODORA	<i>(Aside)</i> What?	
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LEONOR	<i>(Aside)</i> It's divine justice.	
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CONSTANZA	The authorities came to see what all the racket was about. Once they started inquiring, two witnesses declared they'd heard him hit the ground, and they're positive, Don Sancho, that he fell to the street from one of your balconies.	1805 1810
DON SANCHO	Wretched fortune, can I not be rid of this Don Diego?	
DON JUAN	(<i>Aside</i>) This puts Leonor's reputation and my plans at greater risk. (<i>Aloud</i>) Don Sancho, let's go downstairs to stave off the harm that this misfortune threatens.	1815 1820
DON JUAN	<i>exits</i>	
DON SANCHO	(<i>Aside</i>) What to do? I am thrown into confusion. If this is made public —as it surely will be— either it will stain Leonor's reputation, or I'll lose Teodora, and with her, my life.	 1825
DON SANCHO	<i>exits</i>	
TEODORA	Constanza, did you see him?	
CONSTANZA	I did, and in such bad shape that I doubt he will live.	1830
CONSTANZA	<i>exits</i>	
TEODORA	I must go down to see him. Who worries about appearances in the face of grief? Oh my love, the price you pay for me! I curse your devotion!	 1835

I would rather endure jealousy
than see you suffer.

TEODORA *exits*

INÉS My lady, what will you do?
Don Diego has paid dearly 1840
for his ingratitude and offense to you.

LEONOR It is my fault, Inés.
The wrongs he did me,
and his fierce disdain
hardened my yielding heart. 1845
Yet its barren waste
still nurtures the fiery seeds of love,
and the blow of his misfortune
has kindled sparks of pity
in my soul. 1850

ACT III

DON DIEGO's room at an inn

Enter DON DIEGO, with cloak and sword, sealing a letter

SCENE 1

DON DIEGO Since fate was cruel enough
to keep me from meeting
the Marqués in the field,
at least this letter
will tell him why, 1855
so he will know
that I respect the laws of dueling
when I am able to do so.
I've let him know
that tonight I'll wait for him, alone. 1860

Enter CAMPANA

CAMPANA My lord.

DON DIEGO So?
What does Teodora say?

to make her think I'd jumped
from that balcony to escape Leonor,
she must have thought
the worst of me.
Oh, Campana,
see how your foolishness makes me look!

CAMPANA

what could I have done?
What would have been smarter,
when I was first at the scene,
and found you near death?

Listen to me, my lord:
once, for some cursed love affair,
I faced a bull. He caught me,
and bounced me like a ball.

As soon as I came to my senses,
I found myself surrounded
by caring rogues,
who claimed a look at the wound
while they emptied my pockets.

I learned my lesson,
and applied it to you,
so I took from yours keys,
money, and letter.

Just then the police came,
and since they wanted to know
your name and all,
I feared that,
if someone had seen me take the letter,
they might bring it
to their attention,
and it might be seized as evidence.

There was the beautiful Teodora,
her rosy cheeks
like a white lily.

She'd rushed downstairs
as soon as she heard of your misfortune,
to see whether,
at the sight of her scorn turned to pity,
the soul you were about
to exhale might yet be stayed,
to drink up the pearls

	<p>shed by those beautiful eyes.¹⁵ I logically assumed the letter was from her, for as soon as you skimmed it, my lord, I must say, you behaved so strangely that, to escape Leonor, you threw yourself from a balcony, So I gave Teodora the letter without any concern. I feared the authorities might read of your love in it, and assumed there was no better person to keep it safe, than she whose honor depended on it. If I was wrong to assume so, it was not my fault, but yours. Had you not concealed from me the mysteries of that letter when you first read it, I would have known what I needed to do.</p>	<p>1950</p> <p>1955</p> <p>1960</p> <p>1965</p>
DON DIEGO	<p>You're right, it is my fault, because I did not tear it up. He who fails to throw in the fire witnesses who might, if they lived, become instruments of his ruin, has only himself to blame. What's done is done. What matters now is that you bring this to the Marqués, Don Fadrique, and place it in his hands.</p>	<p>1970</p> <p>1975</p>
CAMPANA	<p>Why? He'll be here in a moment to see you.</p>	
DON DIEGO	<p>What?</p>	
CAMPANA	<p>As I walked by his door just now, he asked me where you were. I told him at this inn. And he answered: "But why is Leonor's husband at an inn?"</p>	<p>1980</p>

¹⁵ In addition to the Petrarchan description of tears as pearls, pearls were believed in the period to have medicinal properties when ingested.

	So I told him: “That’s all a lie.” And since he still seemed jealous, I wanted to prove it to him, and I told him the truth about all your loves. The Marqués was so happy to hear the truth, that he called for his carriage to come see you at once.	1985 1990
DON DIEGO	You told him everything?	1995
CAMPANA	Not everything. He already knew a part of it.	
DON DIEGO	What did he know?	
CAMPANA	That after you recovered your senses on that sad night when you fell from up in Leonor’s sky like a hasty Lucifer, ¹⁶ the police brought you to your inn to make their inquiries. That’s what the Marqués knew. What I told him, then, was that Don Juan and Don Sancho allowed it because it best suited their jealousy, and concealed the accident, and that you’d declared that falling from the balcony happened by chance, because while standing on it you suffered an epileptic fit. And Don Sancho, realizing how courteous and discreet you’d been, confirmed your story, and the police closed the case.	2000 2005 2010 2015 2020
DON DIEGO	So you told him all the details of my affair?	

¹⁶ A play on Lucifer as an angel who fell from the heavens.

CAMPANA	Word for word, as they say.	2025
DON DIEGO	I swear to God, either I'll kill you, or I'll kill myself.	
CAMPANA	Again? What's wrong now? Have I sinned in this, as well?	
DON DIEGO	Man or devil, it's hard to say!	2030
CAMPANA	May he take me, then, since I can't serve you right.	
DON DIEGO	Amen.	
CAMPANA	Amen, and one thousand times amen, since I can't please you in anything else.	2035
DON DIEGO	<i>(Aside)</i> The Marqués must think that I just pretended I'd give him satisfaction, and that I'm not brave enough to fight him. Oh heavens! Why do you allow Fortune to thus tarnish a noble sword who was a scourge to so many of your confounded enemies? ¹⁷ <i>(To CAMPANA)</i> And what reason did you give the Marqués for my fall?	2040
CAMPANA	To escape Leonor, I said.	
DON DIEGO	That, too?	
CAMPANA	You blame me for that, too? I can't do anything right.	2050
DON DIEGO	<i>(Aside)</i> He needed to know I jumped off the balcony to answer his challenge,	

¹⁷ An unusual reference to Don Diego's past heroism. Recall that the Marqués claims earlier that he and Don Diego have been friends since Flanders where, presumably, he dispatched Protestants.

	and instead Campana told him it was to escape Leonor! The Marqués will think all the less of me now. Could it be any worse? He denied the truth with a lie! What shall I do, with no luck and no honor? (To CAMPANA) By God, I am . . . !	2055 2060
CAMPANA	Don't be. Here's the Marqués.	2065
DON DIEGO	How can I face him, now?	
SCENE 2		
<i>Enter the MARQUÉS</i>		
MARQUÉS	Don Diego, my friend!	
DON DIEGO	Marqués! How can you give the name of "friend" to one whom you challenge?	2070
MARQUÉS	That's nothing, now that I know the truth. I am here to make you forgive the fault I committed in doubting your good faith.	2075
DON DIEGO	I am satisfied. You were misled; that explains everything. Though I was not at fault, you certainly had reason to think so. But note that Campana was wrong, Marqués, to say that I jumped from the balcony to get away from Leonor.	2080
MARQUÉS	What?	
DON DIEGO	I was on my way to meet you at the designated place. Since my servant knew nothing about that,	2085

	<p>but was aware of the other, he ascribed my bold behavior to the only cause he knew. And to prove as much, here is this letter I wrote you today, in my very own hand. Take a look, Marqués.</p>	2090
MARQUÉS	I am satisfied.	2095
DON DIEGO	You must read it, my honor is at stake.	
MARQUÉS	There is no need, but since you insist.	
<i>He reads silently</i>		
CAMPANA	<p>(<i>Aside</i>) Now I understand why he was so mysteriously annoyed with me. His honor made him keep the duel secret, while I couldn't believe that he would risk the balcony to get away from Leonor when he could have used the door, which was always open.</p>	2100 2105
MARQUÉS	<p>I've read the letter. Who ever doubted that you, now as always, would live up to your good name? But what of your hopes now? I will be by your side, to help or avenge you.</p>	2110 2115
DON DIEGO	<p>May the good heavens keep you now and for a thousand years! Though your favor means so much, it's too late for my love, I fear.</p>	
MARQUÉS	You have so little faith in the beautiful Teodora?	2120
DON DIEGO	With so much reason to be jealous, hers is not a fickle change,	

	and I've not yet been able to dispel her suspicions.	2125
MARQUÉS	Do you hope that, once satisfied, Teodora will love you again?	
DON DIEGO	I would trust in her loyalty to right my wrongs, as long as she finds out what's right before more wrong is done.	2130
MARQUÉS	Don Diego, if the greatest risk is postponing the occasion for offering an explanation, let us go to her right away! Know that I intend to do all I can for you, since that is what it means to call you my friend. (<i>Aside</i>) And revenge on Leonor: to her chagrin, Don Diego will succeed in his love for Teodora.	2135 2140
DON DIEGO	May your coat of arms last through the ages, noble Marqués, to serve as a mirror for other great lords. For the highest glory is not to be born a lord, but to be worthy of that name.	2145 2150
<i>Exeunt the MARQUÉS and DON DIEGO</i>		
CAMPANA	Long may you live if all this comes to pass, longer than a married couple at each other's throats! Longer, Marqués, even than petty theft! Longer than the family shield of a rustic squire obsessed with his lineage! In sum, may you live	2155 2160

longer than that tired minister
whom some unfortunate man
waits impatiently to replace.

2165

CAMPANA *exits*

SCENE 3

A room in TEODORA's house

Enter TEODORA and CONSTANZA

CONSTANZA I hear that Don Diego
 has recovered.

TEODORA I wish that ingrate
 had never recovered the sense
 he lost in offending me!

2170

CONSTANZA So, you're upset at him?

TEODORA Constanza,
 that demonstration
 gave back hope
 to my jealous passion.
 Who would not have thought
 that one who fled
 so determinedly from Leonor
 was in fact seeking Teodora?
 Yet now that I know
 the harm done to me,
 any shadow of a hope
 has melted away
 in the cold light of truth.

2175

2180

CONSTANZA But if he loved Leonor,
 why would he run from her,
 when his happiness
 was within his reach?

2185

TEODORA You tell me why he waited
 until right before he was to marry her
 if he did not love her,
 and I'll tell you why he escaped.
 The truth came out

2190

in the events that followed:
 for according to what 2195
 I heard from Inés,
 no sooner had he received
 that note about the duel,
 which his servant gave me,
 and which Leonor mistook for mine, 2200
 when, in a silent state,
 he entered his room.
 He asked for his sword—
 a sure sign of where his thoughts now lay—
 girded it, and was headed out, 2205
 when Leonor locked the door,
 for she knew of both note and sword.
 And this, my dear Constanza,
 this was the only reason
 he jumped off that balcony. 2210
 He was off to the fields,
 where the Marqués awaited,
 to die for the sake of Leonor.
 Now tell me he doesn't love her,
 when he was willing to die for her. 2215
 I am as determined, Constanza,
 as I am offended,
 and I shall willingly fulfill
 Don Sancho's hopes now.
 I resisted him as one deceived, 2220
 and if that love gives me no joy,
 it will at least satisfy my revenge.
 Given the insult to me,
 either Leonor must not marry
 that deceitful Don Diego, 2225
 or I shall not marry her brother.

CONSTANZA Here comes Don Juan.

SCENE 4

Enter DON JUAN

DON JUAN Ah, Teodora, now all is arranged,
 and my burning desire
 to marry Leonor 2230
 shall at last be fulfilled.
 What happened to Don Diego

no longer stands in my way.
The word is now out in Madrid
that it was an epileptic fit 2235
that made him lose all sense,
so that he fell from the balcony.
And I've added to that story
that Don Sancho nursed him,
as any merciful friend would, 2240
and that it was all a mistake
to think it had occurred
because he'd married Leonor.
With this obstacle now removed,
I am fully determined 2245
to make her my wife today.
For if a woman like Leonor
will take me for her husband,
her favors to Don Diego
cannot have amounted to much. 2250

TEODORA Well said; it would be foolish to assume
that any honorable woman,
even if she were in love,
would ever compromise her virtue
before her wedding night. 2255

And those men who imply
that any noble woman
might beg without being loved,
or, by trusting in empty words,
lose her greatest jewel, 2260

either don't know what honor is,
or assume that the nobler kind
might in fact be led astray
by lowlier example,
and thus, for the sake of pleasure, 2265
cast away their virtue.

DON JUAN Well said.

TEODORA And you are so right
to have made up your mind.

DON JUAN The only condition
 that she gave me is that you,
 Teodora,
 marry her brother.

2270

TEODORA	And my condition, to become his wife was that she marry you.	2275
DON JUAN	Then she is already mine, if you are so determined.	
TEODORA	Yes, I am, brother, and yet I do so little for you, while you've done so much for me. For you have forgiven all the trouble I caused you because of Don Diego.	2280 2285
DON JUAN	Then I shall go at once to find Don Sancho Girón. He is likely at the palace, and in greater leisure than I enjoy, to be sure. Our good fortune need wait no longer than the time it will take to bring him back to you!	2290
DON JUAN <i>exits</i>		
CONSTANZA	It's over.	2295
TEODORA	Yes, Constanza, it's over. Don Diego has lost us both, and I've gotten my revenge. Now lay out my gems and fineries, for I'll gild the wings of my love to hide the pain in my heart. With conspicuous glee, I will reward Don Sancho, settle accounts with Don Juan, and punish Don Diego.	2300 2305
CONSTANZA	I'm going to adorn you, my lady, with such splendid colors that Flora herself will envy your flowery deception.	
TEODORA	I can distract	2310

my unhappy love,
as long as Don Diego and Leonor
don't get what they desire.

SCENE 5

Enter the MARQUÉS, who speaks to DON DIEGO at the door

[illegible]

DON DIEGO *(Aside)* What does a dying man
have left to fear?

The MARQUÉS exits

Enter TEODORA

DON DIEGO Teodora, the most cruel . . .

TEODORA	Don Diego, the most deceitful, the most dishonest, the most fickle, the most ungrateful man to ever walk the earth in the history of time. What do you want? What do you want? Go, go, for you've ruined me already!	2320 2325
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DON DIEGO Listen.

TEODORA

I won't listen.
My mind's made up, you traitor,
I don't want to hear your defense, 2330
nor would it help you to present it.
Don Sancho Girón
has already had a "yes" from my lips,
I await him now to give him my hand,
just as your Leonor waits for Don Juan. 2335
You have lost everything,
because you wanted everything.
What are you waiting for, then?
You're already familiar
with Don Sancho's fierceness, 2340
bloodied and bruised as you were.

If my honor doesn't compel you to leave,
you should do so for your own safety.

[illegible]

TEODORA	<p>You blame your servant for your fault? You can't remember your own lies! Was I not there when Leonor told you that she drank from your very lips the sweet words that forced her to fall at your feet?</p>	2385
DON DIEGO	<p>That's true, but once Leonor was determined to believe the lie, I decided that continuing the ruse would be the lesser evil. The damage was done, and, if she knew we had tricked her, she would have put two and two together. To reveal that my love for her was untrue would have been to confess I loved you.</p>	2390 2395
TEODORA	<p>That would be a good excuse, if only you had let me know that you were lying to her.</p>	
DON DIEGO	<p>I never had a moment alone with you to tell you about it. From the time I began to pretend, until the unhappy moment when, just as I was getting started, misfortune placed Don Sancho in my way.</p>	2400 2405
TEODORA	<p>Let's talk about that. Why did you remain silent when Leonor claimed to be your wife?</p>	
DON DIEGO	<p>How could I refute her words when they saved my life for you? How could I, when, risking my honor, they shielded it from a ready sword? How could I, when they served so well to deny our love? And finally, how could I, if my blood-stained breast could barely muster a sigh?</p>	2410 2415
TEODORA	<p>Supposing those were the reasons for your silence, then, did the sun not crawl across the sky, day after day, as you recovered,</p>	2420

	and did we not see each other a thousand times? And yet you remained silent. There is no excuse for this, you liar.	
DON DIEGO	Yes, there is.	2425
TEODORA	Well, if there is, Don Diego, I don't want to hear it. Leave! Now!	
DON DIEGO	I already told you, I'm not leaving until I've explained myself.	2430
TEODORA	If that will get you to leave, then let me tell you I'm satisfied. What are you waiting for, now?	
DON DIEGO	What Libyan snake ¹⁸ ever closed its ears to charms with such heartless cruelty as you do to my apologies? What dissembling crocodile ever provoked an inhuman death ¹⁹ with a human voice, as do you? You claim to be satisfied when I can see you're unappeased. Tell me: if I had told you of the plan, when you saw me at Leonor's side, enjoying the benefits of her hospitality and her love, what discomfort, what deliriums, what torments, what fury, what jealousy, what madness would it have caused in you, when I could not avoid them by taking my leave of her, since my cruel destiny had put wounds on my chest to shackle my feet?	2435 2440 2445 2450 2455

¹⁸ Noted for its fury. This may also refer to Lamia, the half-serpent, half-human figure from Greek mythology who devoured children.

¹⁹ The crocodile was associated with dissembling not only for its proverbial tears, but for luring its prey with a human cry (Covarrubias, *Tesoro de la lengua castellana*, s.v. "cocodrilo").

TEODORA	<p>You lie, you traitor! For if that were the case, then having seen Leonor so obstinate, and having recovered from your accident, you would have fled to prevent such insults against me, and her squandering her love on you, and since you did not leave, you must have enjoyed being conquered, for he who won't hide from danger must surely long for death.</p>	<p>2460</p> <p>2465</p>
DON DIEGO	<p>What are you saying? Would it have made sense to flee rashly, and thus risk all I hoped to gain? Would that not have dishonored Leonor? Would that not have offended Don Sancho and Don Juan, and made them my mortal enemies? Would I have been able to see you then? Or, would it have been sound to alert them to our love in that way, exposing you to their displeasure in order to avoid mine? And, finally, the vile act of running as a fugitive— what would that have done to the reputation I cherish, in order to deserve you?</p>	<p>2470</p> <p>2475</p> <p>2480</p> <p>2485</p>
TEODORA	<p>Well, you didn't think about that when you left to duel over Leonor, but only when the time came to be firm with me! See what an advantage Leonor has, you liar, what a difference there is between what you'll do for her and what you'll do for me! Your jealous love for her gave you wings over the precipice of that balcony, while my love kept you shackled at the door.</p>	<p>2490</p> <p>2495</p>

Since at the very same time
you were deceiving Leonor this way,
and were just waiting for that day
when you would give her your hand,
do you think me so foolish that I can't conclude
that your disdain to her was feigned, 2550
worked out and planned with her ahead of time,
and that you did it
just to keep me happy?

DON DIEGO How can my unlucky stars
so mislead a noble heart 2555
to such malicious judgments?
Go on, oh ingrate, oh cruel one!
It's so subtle of you,
to deny your fickleness
by inventing faults for me! 2560
Given that Leonor adores me,
and that Don Sancho wants me
to take her hand in marriage,
who is it up to? Who?
Is it not up to me? 2565
If I loved her,
and just pretended to disdain her for your sake,
what would stop me now,
when I know that you know,
and that I pretend in vain? 2570
Especially when you've so wronged me,
in both word and deed,
that I'd be justified in changing my mind,
and even in taking my revenge.
Would I not be knocking down her door? 2575
Would I not be fulfilling my designs?
Would I be here explaining myself to you?
Would I be hanging on your every whim?
So if I leave her and seek you out,
if I flee her and pursue you, 2580
if I adore you and despise her,
if I beg you and resist her,
how can you not be satisfied?
What other possible crimes
am I accused of 2585
to justify this notorious treatment?
Say that you've changed your mind, you traitor,
say that Don Sancho is richer,
say that I am a poor wretch,

	say that your love was feigned, say that I do not deserve you, but do not deny my devotions, when their strength could have pierced even a heart made of stone!	2590
TEODORA	(<i>Aside</i>) Oh my!	2595
DON DIEGO	Have you nothing to say, Teodora? Are you satisfied? Tell me.	
TEODORA	(<i>Aside</i>) What does it matter if I should now surrender to all his good reasons when Don Juan and I, and Don Sancho, are all otherwise engaged. My “yes” was so decisive that my brother’s gone to call him here. Blame it on my foolishness, for one who jumps to conclusions never lands well!	2600 2605
DON DIEGO	Why so quiet, Teodora? How can you be so aloof and not confess that my love persuades you, when you are in fact convinced? But you know the truth now, and that’s all I care about if I’m not to deserve you. May God be with you, you ingrate. I shall set out for Flanders, and throw myself in danger’s way so that a flying bullet, or a brandished blade, might tear out from my heart a love unrequited by you, and now lamented by me!	2610 2615 2620
DON DIEGO	<i>attempts to leave</i>	
TEODORA	Wait!	
DON DIEGO	Away!	
TEODORA	Will you not listen to me?	2625

DON DIEGO	Let me go, I am no longer yours!	
TEODORA	Hear me for the sake of courtesy, if you refuse me as a lover!	
DON DIEGO	Are you stringing a new arrow, the better to wound me with? Let me go!	2630
TEODORA	I'm satisfied.	
DON DIEGO	Then I will take my leave.	
TEODORA	If you go now, after explaining yourself, I will think that you have done so only to kill me.	2635
DON DIEGO	Well, what do you want?	
TEODORA	Alas! What could I want? I want what I can't have, and it's killing me.	2640
SCENE 6		
<i>Enter CAMPANA</i>		
CAMPANA	What are you doing here, my lord, so confident and carefree? You must try to escape!	2645
DON DIEGO	So, what news?	
CAMPANA	The Marqués, my lord, is down in the street, tired of distracting both Don Sancho and Don Juan	2650
DON DIEGO	What for? Let them come!	
CAMPANA	Oh, they will, any moment now. For despite all the tricks	

	the Marqués has tried to keep them away— they've certainly suspected the cause— the three are almost at the door.	2655
TEODORA	Poor me!	
DON DIEGO	If you are determined, my lady, today you will see the end of our misfortunes, and defeat your harsh fate. Campana, tell the Marqués to let them in, but to follow their footsteps.	2660 2665
CAMPANA	How should I tell him?	
DON DIEGO	The eyes do the talking in cases like these.	
CAMPANA	You're right, I'll signal.	
CAMPANA	<i>exits</i>	
TEODORA	And how should I explain you being here?	2670
DON DIEGO	This will test your mettle, Teodora: for if the nobility and authority of the Marqués cannot oblige them, by God, then the two of us will show them that, if three of them once covered me in blood it was because of their greater numbers, and not their greater valor.	 2675
<i>Enter LEONOR and INÉS</i>		
LEONOR	(<i>Aside</i>) I am avenged: My brother is here to marry my enemy . . . but here is Don Diego. (<i>To DON DIEGO</i>) Is this how you honor your promise to Don Sancho Girón, Teodora? Is this how you honor what you owe my brother, Don Diego?	2680 2685

DON DIEGO Have my disdains not yet
made you abandon your foolish love,
Leonor? 2690

TEODORA (*Aside*) With that,
I am avenged and pleased.
(*To LEONOR*) Do what concerns you,
for what I have promised
is up to me, Leonor. 2695

SCENE 6

Enter the MARQUÉS, DON JUAN, *and* DON SANCHO

DON JUAN Since your lordship wants to honor us,
you could serve as the best man
at our two weddings.

DON SANCHO (*Aside*) Given how he insists,
he must have some hidden intention. 2700

DON JUAN Don Diego? Here?

DON SANCHO *(Aside)* My suspicions
 were not misplaced.

DON JUAN How dare you set foot in this room
in my absence, don Diego? 2705

CAMPANA (*Aside*) Here we go!

DON DIEGO How could I face
the obligations I've contracted
through recent events
if I did not return
to give you satisfaction? 2710

DON SANCHO We would be much more satisfied,
obliged even, Don Diego,
never to see you again,
than to have you continue
to fuel the fire in this way. 2715
I'm still smoldering
from the last incident.

LEONOR	I only fear you shall lose me in this way.	
DON JUAN	<i>(Aside)</i> Heaven knows I will enjoy my revenge for losing you. <i>(To DON DIEGO)</i> Don Diego, we are both satisfied with your intentions. We only wait to hear your thoughts, Teodora. Consider what you owe each of them, and tell us what you will.	2760 2765
MARQUÉS	Don't let fear hold back your tongue, for you see me here— I offer you my protection.	2770
LEONOR	<i>(Aside)</i> With this, the Marqués takes revenge for my harshness!	
TEODORA	The rash words I spoke, were just the blind response to perceived lies, Don Juan, and so they cannot be honored. My first and true promise was to Don Diego, and I must honor it by becoming his wife.	2775 2780
<i>She gives him her hand</i>		
CAMPANA	<i>(Aside)</i> She took the plunge, by God!	
DON JUAN	Must I suffer this?	
DON SANCHO	Ah, fickle Teodora!	
DON DIEGO	Here is my hand, my lady.	
MARQUÉS	And this one will defend both your lives from any harm.	2785
DON JUAN	He who is bound by his word to consent can't very well take revenge.	2790

LEONOR	(<i>Aside</i>) I should be the one to take revenge on the Marqués. Before his very eyes I'll repay Don Juan's devotions. (<i>To DON JUAN</i>) By this action, Don Juan, and in giving you my hand, you'll see I don't deserve to be called deceitful by your lips.	
DON JUAN	(<i>Aside</i>) Since Teodora has now secured her reputation by giving Don Diego her hand, I will fulfill my plan. (<i>To LEONOR</i>) Such coldness, Leonor, tempers my ardor and flatters my feelings.	2800 2805
<i>He gives her his hand</i>		
	Don Sancho, this is the lesser of two evils.	
DON SANCHO	It's much more than that— to marry you is for my sister a great advantage.	
CAMPANA	(<i>Aside</i>) That settles them.	2810
MARQUÉS	(<i>Aside</i>) Leonor took revenge on me.	
CAMPANA	Look, Inés, at how Constanza flirts with me.	
INÉS	Your hopefulness turns my jealousy to love— I am yours.	2815
CAMPANA	And what of the odd men out? What should they do now?	
DON DIEGO	Beg the audience to forgive their faults.	

THE END