

MEASURE FOR MEASURE

by William Shakespeare

Adapted by Andy Coughlan

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FADE IN:

ACT I

1 EXT. MARS - DAY 1

A small personal spacecraft skims across a barren landscape of red rock, racing away between two vast columns of rock.

2 EXT. MARS - CONTINUOUS 2

The spacecraft rises over a hill and hurtles towards a great city rising out of a vast plain. A giant, shimmering bio-dome covers the city, glinting in the pale Martian sun.

Title: 'VIENNA, MARS - 2132'

3 INT. SPACECRAFT COCKPIT - DAY 3

ANGELO (30s), sits at the controls. His pale, androgynous features are embellished with strange, robotic protrusions around his jaw and forehead.

The city looms large before him.

A message pops up on a Heads Up Display: VIENNA IMMIGRATION CONTROL. PROCESSING...

The message changes to WELCOME HOME, LORD ANGELO.

Angelo stares ahead, his eyes cold and calculating.

4 EXT. CITY OUTSKIRTS - DAY 4

Angelo's craft flies through the bio-dome, causing it to wobble and spark with electricity.

Below him, a shanty town, apparently made up of the spare parts of spacecraft, nestles between huge gun emplacements that encircle the city.

Angelo flies on towards the tower blocks at the centre of the city, where huge billboards publicly advertise various gambling joints and dens of iniquity.

5 INT. SPACECRAFT COCKPIT - DAY 5

Angelo looks out at the signs, a frown on his face.

6 EXT. DUKE'S PALACE - DAY 6

Angelo sets down his craft atop a tall building at the city centre.

7 INT. DUKE'S PALACE - DAY 7

A servant throws open two grand looking doors and enters a large reception room with panoramic views of the city and the red desert beyond.

DUKE VICENTIO (70s), makes conversation with various lords, ladies, priests and attendants.

They all clutch small, elaborate devices, holding them as if they are prized objects. The Duke has two in his hands. He gives one to an older man, ESCALUS (70s), who takes it graciously.

The Duke notices the servant and dismisses the group, who break away into small clusters.

The servant approaches and whispers in the Duke's ear.

DUKE VINCENTIO

Call hither, I say, bid come before  
us Angelo.

The attendant bows and hurries away.

The Duke takes Escalus by the arm.

DUKE VINCENTIO (CONT'D)

Escalus.

ESCALUS

My lord.

DUKE VINCENTIO

We have strict statutes and most  
biting laws. The needful bits and  
curbs to headstrong weeds, which  
for this nineteen years we have let  
slip; like an o'ergrown lion in a  
cave, that goes not out to prey.

(MORE)

DUKE VINCENTIO (CONT'D)

Now, as fond fathers, having bound  
up the threatening twigs of birch,  
only to stick it in their  
children's sight for terror, not to  
use, in time the rod becomes more  
mock'd than fear'd; and liberty  
plucks justice by the nose; the  
baby beats the nurse, and quite  
athwart goes all decorum.

ESCALUS

It rested in your grace to unloose  
this tied-up justice when you  
pleas'd: and it in you more  
dreadful would have seem'd than in  
Lord Angelo.

DUKE VINCENTIO

I do fear, too dreadful: sith 'twas  
my fault to give the people scope,  
'Twould be my tyranny to strike and  
gall them for what I bid them do:  
for we bid this be done, when evil  
deeds have their permissive pass  
and not the punishment. Therefore  
indeed, my cousin, what figure of  
us think you he will bear? For you  
must know, we have with special  
soul elected him our absence to  
supply, lent him our terror,  
dress'd him with our love, and  
given his deputation all the organs  
of our own power: what think you of  
it?

ESCALUS

If any in Vienna be of worth to  
undergo such ample grace and  
honour, it is Lord Angelo.

DUKE VINCENTIO

Look where he comes.

A servant leads Angelo across the room. Escalus eyes Angelo's peculiar gait.

DUKE VINCENTIO (CONT'D)

There is a kind of character in thy life, that to the observer doth thy history fully unfold.

ANGELO

Always obedient to your grace's will, I come to know your pleasure.

DUKE VINCENTIO

Angelo, heaven doth with us as we with torches do, not light them for themselves; for if our virtues did not go forth of us, 'twere all alike as if we had them not. But I do bend my speech to one that can my part in him advertise; hold therefore, Angelo.

He offers Angelo the last of the ornate devices.

DUKE VINCENTIO (CONT'D)

In our remove be thou at full ourself; mortality and mercy in Vienna live in thy tongue and heart. Old Escalus, though first in question, is thy secondary. Take thy commission.

ANGELO

Now, good my lord, let there be some more test made of my mettle, before so noble and so great a figure be stamp'd upon it.

DUKE VINCENTIO

No more evasion: We have with a  
 leaven'd and prepared choice  
 proceeded to you; therefore take  
 your honours.

Angelo takes the device.

DUKE VINCENTIO (CONT'D)

Our haste from hence is of so quick  
 condition that it prefers itself  
 and leaves unquestion'd matters of  
 needful value. We shall write to  
 you, as time and our concernings  
 shall importune, how it goes with  
 us, and do look to know what doth  
 befall you here. So, fare you well;  
 to the hopeful execution do I leave  
 you of your commissions. Your scope  
 is as mine own, so to enforce or  
 qualify the laws as to your soul  
 seems good. Give me your hand: I'll  
 privily away.

ANGELO

The heavens give safety to your  
 purposes!

ESCALUS

Lead forth and bring you back in  
 happiness!

DUKE VINCENTIO

I thank you. Fare you well.

8 EXT. CITY SUBURBS - DAY

8

Unlike the pristine nature of the city centre, the suburbs  
 are a sprawling, dirty mess; full of character and life.  
 Drunks, whores and street peddlers vie for attention among  
 the mass of people roving around.

There are security cameras here too which, unnoticed by the  
 crowds, come to life. Lights flicker on and they start to  
 rove around.

The signs that recently advertised gambling dens, and worse, now proclaim various messages of eco-awareness: 'Save Our Scrap,' 'Waste not, want not,' 'Make the most of your space,' and 'Babies: You DO Have the Right, But NOT the Luxury.'

9 INT. A BROTHEL - DAY

9

A dimly lit den of iniquity, full of darkened recesses and scantily clad whores and rents boys with their well-dressed clientele.

MUSIC blares out.

Three men, LUCIO and TWO GENTLEMEN, dressed in smart attire, drink at a table. They are playing a card game, gambling for money. There are many empty glasses in front of them, and an empty seat next to them.

LUCIO

If the Duke with the other Dukes  
come not to composition with the  
King of Hungary, why then all the  
Dukes fall upon the king.

FIRST GENTLEMAN

Heaven grant us its peace, but not  
the King of Hungary's!

SECOND GENTLEMAN

Amen.

LUCIO

Thou concludest like the  
sanctimonious pirate, that went to  
sea with the Ten Commandments, but  
scraped one out of the table.

SECOND GENTLEMAN

'Thou shalt not steal'?

LUCIO

Ay, that he razed.

## FIRST GENTLEMAN

Why, 'twas a commandment to command  
 the captain and all the rest from  
 their functions: they put forth to  
 steal. There's not a soldier of us  
 all, that, in the thanksgiving  
 before meat, do relish the petition  
 well that prays for peace.

## SECOND GENTLEMAN

I never heard any soldier dislike  
 it.

## LUCIO

I believe thee; for I think thou  
 never wast where grace was said.

They all guffaw at the joke. Lucio plays a winning move, much  
 to the annoyance of his companions, and scoops up his  
 winnings.

Lucio spies the Madame of the establishment, MISTRESS  
 OVERDONE (50's), heading in their direction.

## LUCIO (CONT'D)

Behold, behold, where Madam  
 Mitigation comes! I have purchased  
 as many diseases under her roof as  
 come to --

Mistress Overdone arrives at their table.

## FIRST GENTLEMAN

How now! Which of your hips has the  
 most profound sciatica?

## MISTRESS OVERDONE

Well, well; there's one yonder  
 arrested and carried to prison was  
 worth five thousand of you all.

## SECOND GENTLEMAN

Who's that, I pray thee?



MISTRESS OVERDONE

Marry, sir, that's Claudio, Signior Claudio.

FIRST GENTLEMAN

Claudio to prison? 'tis not so.

MISTRESS OVERDONE

Nay, but I know 'tis so: I saw him arrested, saw him carried away; and, which is more, within these three days his head to be chopped off.

LUCIO

But, after all this fooling, I would not have it so. Art thou sure of this?

MISTRESS OVERDONE

I am too sure of it.

LUCIO

Believe me, this may be: he promised to meet me two hours since, and he was ever precise in promise-keeping. Away! Let's go learn the truth of it.

Lucio puts his winnings into a clutch purse, then he and the two Gentlemen leave Madam Overdone to pick up the half empty glasses.

She looks about at the deserted tables around her.

MISTRESS OVERDONE

Thus, what with the war, what with the sweat, what with the gallows and what with poverty, I am custom-shrunk.

She takes the glasses to the bar, where she finds POMPEY, the tapster.

MISTRESS OVERDONE (CONT'D)

How now! What's the news with you?

POMPEY

You have not heard of the  
proclamation, have you?

MISTRESS OVERDONE

What proclamation, man?

POMPEY

All houses in the suburbs of Vienna  
must be plucked down.

MISTRESS OVERDONE

And what shall become of those in  
the city?

POMPEY

They shall stand for seed: they had  
gone down too, but that a wise  
burgher put in for them.

MISTRESS OVERDONE

But shall all our houses of resort  
in the suburbs be pulled down?

POMPEY

To the ground, mistress.

MISTRESS OVERDONE

Why, here's a change indeed in the  
commonwealth! What shall become of  
me?

POMPEY

Come; fear you not: good  
counsellors lack no clients: though  
you change your place, you need not  
change your trade; I'll be your  
tapster still. Courage! There will  
be pity taken on you: you that have  
worn your eyes almost out in the  
service, you will be considered.

A crowd of people gather round a makeshift executioners stage upon which ABHORSON the executioner, dressed in little more than a loin cloth, prances about in a comic display, whipping the crowd up into a frenzy with his showman's axe, its handle fizzling with electricity.

Next to him, his head on a block, a terrified prisoner awaits his fate. After several mock attempts, and much jeering from the crowd, Abhorson brings down his huge axe upon his victims neck.

As the crowd cheer, the PROVOST (40's, hard looking, but with kind eyes) and his officers lead CLAUDIO, (handsome, early twenties), and several other terrified looking men, through the streets past the grisly display.

People turn to jeer and laugh at them.

Cameras mounted on walls follow them.

CLAUDIO

Fellow, why dost thou show me thus  
to the world? Bear me to prison,  
where I am committed.

The Provost sighs at Abhorson's theatrics and glances up at the camera's.

PROVOST

I do it not in evil disposition,  
but from Lord Angelo by special  
charge.

Lucio catches up with Claudio.

LUCIO

Why, how now, Claudio! Whence comes  
this restraint?

CLAUDIO

From too much liberty, my Lucio,  
liberty: as surfeit is the father  
of much fast, so every scope by the  
immoderate use turns to restraint.  
Our natures do pursue, like rats  
that ravin down their proper bane,  
a thirsty evil; and when we drink  
we die.

LUCIO

If I could speak so wisely under an  
arrest, I would send for certain of  
my creditors! What's thy offence,  
Claudio?

CLAUDIO

What but to speak of would offend  
again.

LUCIO

What, is't murder?

CLAUDIO

No.

LUCIO

Lechery?

CLAUDIO

Call it so.

PROVOST

Away, sir! You must go.

CLAUDIO

(to the Provost)

One word, good friend.

(to Lucio)

Lucio, a word with you.

Lucio offers the Provost a chip of money. The Provost looks  
at the camera's again, then turns so he can take the chip  
unseen.

LUCIO

A hundred, if they'll do you any  
good. Is lechery so look'd after?

CLAUDIO

Thus stands it with me: upon a true  
contract I got possession of  
Julietta's bed: You know the lady;

(MORE)

CLAUDIO (CONT'D)

she is fast my wife, save that we  
do the denunciation lack of outward  
order: this we came not to, only  
for propagation of a dower  
remaining in the coffer of her  
friends, from whom we thought it  
meet to hide our love till time had  
made them for us. But it chances  
the stealth of our most mutual  
entertainment with character too  
gross is writ on Juliet.

As they talk, the Provost inspects the chip of money and deems it insufficient funds. He coughs politely, hinting he wants more. Lucio reluctantly offers more. This activity continues as the scene progresses.

LUCIO

With child, perhaps?

CLAUDIO

Unhappily, even so. And the new  
deputy now for the Duke awakes me  
all the enrolled penalties which  
have, like unscoured armour, hung  
by the wall so long that nineteen  
zodiacs have gone round and none of  
them been worn; and, for a name,  
now puts the drowsy and neglected  
act freshly on me: 'tis surely for  
a name.

LUCIO

I warrant it is: and thy head  
stands so tickle on thy shoulders  
that a milkmaid, if she be in love,  
may sigh it off. Send after the  
Duke and appeal to him.

CLAUDIO

I have done so, but he's not to be  
found.

(MORE)

CLAUDIO (CONT'D)

I prithee, Lucio, do me this kind service: this day my sister should the cloister enter and there receive her approbation: acquaint her with the danger of my state: implore her, in my voice, that she make friends to the strict deputy; bid herself assay him: I have great hope in that; for in her youth there is a prone and speechless dialect, such as move men; beside, she hath prosperous art when she will play with reason and discourse, and well she can persuade.

LUCIO

I pray she may; as well for the encouragement of the like, which else would stand under grievous imposition, as for the enjoying of thy life, who I would be sorry should be thus foolishly lost at a game of tick-tack. I'll to her.

CLAUDIO

I thank you, good friend Lucio.

The Provost leads Claudio away.

11 INT. NUNNERY ATRIUM - DAY

11

Isabella stands in the echoing atrium of the nunnery. A sister helps her into the simple robes of a novice. She has a tablet in her hand and tries to read the basic rules of the order while the sister adjusts her new habit.

Another sister, FRANCISCA (60's), stands nearby, waiting for her, while yet another nun bustles about collecting Isabella's civilian clothes and puts them with Isabella's belongings, stashed in two travel bags.

ISABELLA

And have you nuns no farther  
privileges?

FRANCISCA

Are not these large enough?

ISABELLA

Yes, truly; I speak not as desiring  
more; but rather wishing a more  
strict restraint.

They move to go through into the main abbey, but are stopped  
by a banging on the door. The three sisters pause, slightly  
startled.

LUCIO (O.S.)

Ho! Peace be in this place!

ISABELLA

Who's that which calls?

FRANCISCA

It is a man's voice. Gentle Isabel,  
turn you the key, and know his  
business of him; you may, I may  
not; you are yet unsworn. When you  
have vow'd, you must not speak with  
men but in the presence of the  
prioress: then, if you speak, you  
must not show your face, or, if you  
show your face, you must not speak.  
He calls again; I pray you, answer  
him.

Francisca and the sisters hurry away.

ISABELLA

Peace and prosperity! Who is't that  
calls?

Isabella opens the huge doors.

LUCIO

Hail, virgin, if you be, as those  
cheek-roses proclaim you are no  
less! Can you so stead me as bring  
me to the sight of Isabella, a  
novice of this place and the fair  
sister to her unhappy brother  
Claudio?

ISABELLA

Why 'her unhappy brother'? Let me  
ask, the rather for I now must make  
you know I am that Isabella and his  
sister.

LUCIO

Gentle and fair, your brother  
kindly greets you: not to be weary  
with you, he's in prison.

ISABELLA

Woe me! For what?

LUCIO

For that which, if myself might be  
his judge, he should receive his  
punishment in thanks: he hath got  
his friend with child.

ISABELLA

Sir, make me not your story.

LUCIO

It is true. I would not -- though  
'tis my familiar sin with maids to  
seem the lapwing and to jest,  
tongue far from heart -- play with  
all virgins so: I hold you as a  
thing ensky'd and sainted. By your  
renouncement and immortal spirit,  
and to be talk'd with in sincerity,  
as with a saint.



ISABELLA

You do blaspheme the good in  
mocking me.

LUCIO

Do not believe it. Fewness and  
truth, 'tis thus: Your brother and  
his lover have embraced: As those  
that feed grow full, as blossoming  
time that from the seedness the  
bare fallow brings to teeming  
foison, even so her plenteous womb  
expresseth his full tilth and  
husbandry.

ISABELLA

Some one with child by him? My  
cousin Juliet?

LUCIO

Is she your cousin?

ISABELLA

Adoptedly; as school-maids change  
their names by vain though apt  
affection.

LUCIO

She it is.

ISABELLA

O, let him marry her.

LUCIO

This is the point. The Duke is gone  
from hence. Upon his place, and  
with full line of his authority,  
governs Lord Angelo; a man whose  
blood is very snow-broth;

(MORE)

LUCIO (CONT'D)

one who never feels the wanton stings and motions of the sense, but doth rebate and blunt his natural edge with profits of the mind, study and fast. He -- to give fear to use and liberty, which have for long run by the hideous law, as mice by lions -- hath pick'd out an act, under whose heavy sense your brother's life falls into forfeit: he arrests him on it; and follows close the rigour of the statute, to make him an example. All hope is gone, unless you have the grace by your fair prayer to soften Angelo: and that's my pith of business 'twixt you and your poor brother.

ISABELLA

Doth he so seek his life?

LUCIO

Has censured him already; and, as I hear, the Provost hath a warrant for his execution.

ISABELLA

Alas! what poor ability's in me to do him good?

LUCIO

Assay the power you have.

ISABELLA

My power? Alas, I doubt --

LUCIO

Our doubts are traitors and make us lose the good we oft might win by fearing to attempt.

(MORE)

LUCIO (CONT'D)

Go to Lord Angelo, and let him  
learn to know, when maidens sue,  
men give like gods; but when they  
weep and kneel, all their petitions  
are as freely theirs as they  
themselves would owe them.

ACT II

12 INT. DUKE'S PALACE - DAY

12

ANGELO

We must not make a scarecrow of the  
law, setting it up to fear the  
birds of prey, and let it keep one  
shape, till custom make it their  
perch and not their terror.

ESCALUS

Ay, but yet let us be keen, and  
rather cut a little, than fall, and  
bruise to death. Alas, this  
gentleman whom I would save, had a  
most noble father! Let but your  
honour know - whom I believe to be  
most strait in virtue - that, in  
the working of your own affections,  
had time cohered with place or  
place with wishing, or that the  
resolute acting of your blood could  
have attain'd the effect of your  
own purpose, whether you had not  
sometime in your life err'd in this  
point which now you censure him,  
and pull'd the law upon you.

ANGELO

'Tis one thing to be tempted,  
Escalus, another thing to fall.

(MORE)

ANGELO (CONT'D)

I not deny, the jury, passing on the prisoner's life, may in the sworn twelve have a thief or two guiltier than him they try. What's open made to justice, that justice seizes: what know the laws that thieves do pass on thieves? 'Tis very pregnant, the jewel that we find, we stoop and take't because we see it; but what we do not see we tread upon, and never think of it. You may not so extenuate his offence for I have had such faults; but rather tell me, when I, that censure him, do so offend, let mine own judgment pattern out my death, and nothing come in partial. Sir, he must die.

ESCALUS

Be it as your wisdom will.

Angelo strides to a video wall.

ANGELO

Where is the provost?

The wall bursts into life. The Provost steps into view.

PROVOST

Here, if it like your honour.

ANGELO

See that Claudio be executed by nine tomorrow morning: bring him his confessor, let him be prepared; for that's the utmost of his pilgrimage.

The wall returns to looking like a wall.

ELBOW (a constable of the law), with his OFFICERS lead in Pompey the Tapster and another man, FROTH, who looks positively terrified.

ELBOW

Come, bring them away: if these be good people in a commonweal that do nothing but use their abuses in common houses, I know no law: bring them away.

ANGELO

How now, sir! What's your name? And what's the matter?

ELBOW

If it please your honour, I am the poor Duke's constable, and my name is Elbow: I do lean upon justice, sir, and do bring in here before your good honour two notorious benefactors.

ANGELO

Benefactors? Well; what benefactors are they? Are they not malefactors?

ELBOW

If it please your honour, I know not well what they are: but precise villains they are, that I am sure of.

ESCALUS

This comes off well; here's a wise officer.

ANGELO

Go to: what quality are they of?

Elbow gives Angelo a blank look.

ANGELO (CONT'D)

Elbow is your name? Why dost thou not speak, Elbow?

POMPEY

He cannot, sir; he's out at elbow!

Pompey guffaws at his own joke.

ANGELO

What are you, sir?

ELBOW

He, sir! a tapster, sir; parcel-bawd; one that serves a bad woman; whose house, sir, was, as they say, plucked down in the suburbs; and now she professes a hot-house, which, I think, is a very ill house too.

ESCALUS

How know you that?

ELBOW

My wife, sir. And I will detest myself also, as well as she, that this house, if it be not a bawd's house, it is pity of her life, for it is a naughty house. If my wife had been a woman cardinally given, she might have been accused in fornication, adultery, and all uncleanliness there.

POMPEY

Sir, if it please your honour, this is not so.

ELBOW

Prove it before these varlets here, thou honourable man; prove it.

ESCALUS

(to Angelo)

Do you hear how he misplaces?

POMPEY

Sir, she came in great with child;  
and longing, saving your honour's  
reverence, for stewed prunes; Sir,  
we had but two in the house, which  
at that very instant time stood, as  
it were, in a fruit-dish, a dish of  
some three-pence; your honours have  
seen such dishes; they are not  
China dishes, but very  
good dishes, --

ESCALUS

Go to, go to: no matter for the  
dish, sir.

POMPEY

As I say, this Mistress Elbow,  
being, as I say, with child, and  
being great-bellied, and longing,  
as I said, for prunes; and having  
but two in the dish, as I said,  
Master Froth, having eaten the  
rest, as I said, and, as I say,  
paying for them very honestly.

ESCALUS

Come, you are a tedious fool: to  
the purpose. What was done to  
Elbow's wife, that he hath cause to  
complain of?

ANGELO

This will last out a night in  
Russia, when nights are longest  
there: I'll take my leave. And  
leave you to the hearing of the  
cause; hoping you'll find good  
cause to whip them all.

ESCALUS

I think no less. Good morrow to  
your lordship.

Angelo leaves.

ESCALUS (CONT'D)

Now, sir, come on: what was done to  
Elbow's wife, once more?

POMPEY

Once, sir? There was nothing done  
to her once.

ELBOW

Varlet, thou liest; thou liest,  
wicked varlet! The time has yet to  
come that she was ever respected  
with man, woman, or child.

POMPEY

Sir, she was respected with him  
before he married with her.

ESCALUS

Which is the wiser here? Justice or  
Iniquity? Is this true?

ELBOW

O thou caitiff! O thou varlet! O  
thou wicked Hannibal! I respected  
with her before I was married to  
her! If ever I was respected with  
her, or she with me, let not your  
worship think me the poor Duke's  
officer. Prove this, thou wicked  
Hannibal, or I'll have mine action  
of battery on thee.

ESCALUS

If he took you a box o' the ear,  
you might have your action of  
slander too.



ELBOW

Marry, I thank your good worship  
for it. What is't your worship's  
pleasure I shall do with this  
wicked caitiff?

ESCALUS

Truly, officer, because he hath  
some offences in him that thou  
wouldst discover if thou couldst,  
let him continue in his courses  
till thou knowest what they are.

ELBOW

Marry, I thank your worship for it.  
Thou seest, thou wicked varlet,  
now, what's come upon thee: thou  
art to continue now, thou varlet;  
thou art to continue.

ESCALUS

(to Pompey)

So. What trade are you of, sir?

POMPEY

Tapster; a poor widow's tapster.

ESCALUS

Your mistress' name?

POMPEY

Mistress Overdone.

ESCALUS

Hath she had any more than one  
husband?

POMPEY

Nine, sir; Overdone by the last.

ESCALUS

Nine! What's your name, Master  
tapster?

POMPEY

Pompey.

ESCALUS

What else?

POMPEY

Bum, sir.

ESCALUS

Troth, and your bum is the greatest thing about you; so that in the beastliest sense you are Pompey the Great. Pompey, you are partly a bawd, Pompey, howsoever you colour it in being a tapster, are you not?

POMPEY

Truly, sir, I am a poor fellow that would live.

ESCALUS

How would you live, Pompey? By being a bawd? What do you think of the trade, Pompey? Is it a lawful trade?

POMPEY

If the law would allow it, sir.

ESCALUS

But the law will not allow it, Pompey.

POMPEY

Does your worship mean to geld and splay all the youth of the city?

ESCALUS

No, Pompey.

POMPEY

Truly, sir, if your worship will take order for the drabs and the knaves, you need not to fear the bawds.

ESCALUS

There are pretty orders beginning, I can tell you: it is but heading and hanging.

POMPEY

If you head and hang all that offend that way but for ten year together, you'll be glad to give out a commission for more heads: if you live to see this come to pass, say Pompey told you so.

13 INT. PRISON - DAY

13

The prison is a dark and dangerous place. Once it may have been clean and bright, by time has given it's gunmetal grey surfaces a murky sheen.

The Provost does his rounds of the cells. He looks in on a desolate Claudio. He sighs, makes up his mind about something, and turns away.

14 INT. DUKE'S PALACE - LATER

14

Angelo stares out over the city. The video screen nearby lights up with 'Incoming call'. Angelo accepts the call with a wave of his hand. The Provost appears on the screen again.

ANGELO

Now, what's the matter. Provost?

PROVOST

Is it your will Claudio shall die tomorrow?

ANGELO

Did not I tell thee yea? Hadst thou not order? Why dost thou ask again?

PROVOST

Lest I might be too rash: Under  
your good correction, I have seen,  
when, after execution, judgment  
hath repented o'er his doom.

ANGELO

Go to; let that be mine: Do you  
your office, or give up your place,  
and you shall well be spared.

PROVOST

I crave your honour's pardon.  
What shall be done, sir, with the  
groaning Juliet? She's very near  
her hour.

ANGELO

Dispose of her to some more fitter  
place, and that with speed.

A servant enters.

SERVANT

The sister of the man condemn'd  
desires access to you.

ANGELO

Hath he a sister?

PROVOST

Ay, my good lord; a very virtuous  
maid.

ANGELO

Well, let her be admitted.

Exit Servant.

ANGELO (CONT'D)

(to the Provost)

See you the fornicatress be  
removed: let her have needful, but  
not lavish, means; there shall be  
order for't.

The servant leads in Isabella and Lucio.

PROVOST

Save your honour!

ANGELO

Stay a little while.

Angelo approaches Isabella, taking in her innocent beauty.

ANGELO (CONT'D)

You're welcome: what's your will?

ISABELLA

I am a woeful suitor to your  
honour, please but your honour hear  
me.

ANGELO

Well; what's your suit?

ISABELLA

There is a vice that most I do  
abhor, and most desire should meet  
the blow of justice; for which I  
would not plead, but that I must;  
for which I must not plead, but  
that I am at war 'twixt will and  
will not.

ANGELO

Well; the matter?

ISABELLA

I have a brother is condemn'd to  
die: I do beseech you, let it be  
his fault, and not my brother.

ANGELO

Condemn the fault and not the actor  
of it? Why, every fault's condemn'd  
ere it be done: Mine were the very  
cipher of a function, to fine the  
faults whose fine stands in record,  
and let go by the actor.

ISABELLA

O just but severe law! I had a  
brother, then. Heaven keep your  
honour!

Isabella turns to leave, but Lucio stops her.

LUCIO

Give't not o'er so: to him again,  
entreat him; kneel down before him,  
hang upon his gown: you are too  
cold; if you should need a pin, you  
could not with more tame a tongue  
desire it: to him, I say!

Isabella turns again to Angelo.

ISABELLA

Must he needs die?

ANGELO

Maiden, no remedy.

ISABELLA

Yes; I do think that you might  
pardon him, and neither heaven nor  
man grieve at the mercy.

ANGELO

I will not do it.

ISABELLA

But can you, if you would?

ANGELO

Look, what I will not, that I  
cannot do.

ISABELLA

But might you do't, and do the  
world no wrong, if so your heart  
were touch'd with that remorse as  
mine is to him?

ANGELO

He's sentenced; 'tis too late.

ISABELLA

Too late? why, no; I, that do speak  
 a word may call it back again.  
 Well, believe this, no ceremony  
 that to great ones 'longs, not the  
 king's crown, nor the deputed  
 sword, the marshal's truncheon, nor  
 the judge's robe, become them with  
 one half so good a grace as mercy  
 does. If he had been as you and you  
 as he, you would have slipt like  
 him; but he, like you, would not  
 have been so stern.

ANGELO

Pray you, be gone.

ISABELLA

I would to heaven I had your  
 potency, and you were Isabel!  
 Should it then be thus? No; I would  
 tell what 'twere to be a judge, and  
 what a prisoner.

ANGELO

Your brother is a forfeit of the  
 law, and you but waste your words.

ISABELLA

Alas, alas! Why, all the souls that  
 were forfeit once; and He that  
 might the vantage best have took  
 found out the remedy. How would you  
 be, if He, which is the top of  
 judgment, should but judge you as  
 you are? O, think on that; and  
 mercy then will breathe within your  
 lips, like man new made.

ANGELO

Be you content, fair maid; It is  
the law, not I, condemn your  
brother: were he my kinsman,  
brother, or my son, it should be  
thus with him: he must die  
tomorrow.

ISABELLA

Tomorrow! O, that's sudden! Spare  
him, spare him! He's not prepared  
for death. Even for our kitchens we  
kill the fowl of season: shall we  
serve heaven with less respect than  
we do minister to our gross selves?  
Good, good my lord, bethink you;  
who is it that hath died for this  
offence? There's many have  
committed it.

ANGELO

The law hath not been dead, though  
it hath slept: those many had not  
dared to do that evil, if the first  
that did the edict infringe had  
answer'd for his deed: now 'tis  
awake takes note of what is done;  
and, like a prophet, looks in a  
glass that shows what future evils,  
either new, or by remissness new-  
conceived, and so in progress to be  
hatch'd and born, are now to have  
no successive degrees, but, ere  
they live, to end.

ISABELLA

Yet show some pity.

ANGELO

I show it most of all when I show  
justice;

(MORE)



ANGELO (CONT'D)

for then I pity those I do not  
know, which a dismiss'd offence  
would after gall; and do him right  
that, answering one foul wrong,  
lives not to act another. Be  
satisfied; your brother dies  
tomorrow; be content.

ISABELLA

So you must be the first that gives  
this sentence, and he, that  
suffers. O, it is excellent to have  
a giant's strength; but it is  
tyrannous to use it like a giant.  
Could great men thunder as Jove  
himself does, Jove would ne'er be  
quiet, for every pelting, petty  
officer would use his heaven for  
thunder; nothing but thunder!  
Merciful Heaven, thou rather with  
thy sharp and sulphurous bolt  
split'st the unwedgeable and  
gnarled oak than the soft myrtle:  
but man, proud man, drest in a  
little brief authority, most  
ignorant of what he's most assured,  
his glassy essence, like an angry  
ape, plays such fantastic tricks  
before high heaven as make the  
angels weep; who, with our spleens,  
would all themselves laugh mortal.

Angelo is somewhat taken aback by Isabella's force.

Lucio and the Provost watch on in awe.

ISABELLA (CONT'D)

We cannot weigh our brother with  
ourselves: great men may jest with  
saints; 'tis wit in them, but in  
the less foul profanation.

(MORE)

ISABELLA (CONT'D)

That in the captain's but a  
choleric word, which in the soldier  
is flat blasphemy.

Angelo, stunned by Isabella's onslaught, turns to the  
Provost. With a flick of the wrist, he ends the call. He then  
turns and moves close to Isabella.

ANGELO

Why do you put these sayings upon  
me?

ISABELLA

Because authority, though it err  
like others, hath yet a kind of  
medicine in itself, that skins the  
vice o' the top. Go to your bosom;  
knock there, and ask your heart  
what it doth know that's like my  
brother's fault: if it confess a  
natural guiltiness such as is his,  
let it not sound a thought upon  
your tongue against my brother's  
life.

Angelo turns away.

ANGELO

(Aside)

She speaks, and 'tis such sense,  
that my sense breeds with it.

(To Isabella)

Fare you well.

ISABELLA

Gentle my lord, turn back.

ANGELO

I will bethink me: come again  
tomorrow.

LUCIO

Go to; 'tis well; away!

ISABELLA

Heaven keep your honour safe!

Isabella leaves, followed by Lucio.

ANGELO

(Aside)

Amen: for I am that way going to  
temptation, where prayers cross.

ISABELLA

(Calls out)

At what hour tomorrow shall I  
attend your lordship?

ANGELO

At any time 'fore noon.

ISABELLA

'Save your honour!

Lucio drags her away.

ANGELO

From thee, even from thy virtue!

Angelo flicks his wrist again. Security camera footage of Isabella and Lucio leaving the building appears. The footage zooms in on Isabella's face.

Angelo stands, dwarfed by Isabella's face, a myriad of emotions coursing through him.

ANGELO (CONT'D)

What's this, what's this? Is this  
her fault or mine? The tempter or  
the tempted, who sins most? Ha! Not  
she: nor doth she tempt: but it is  
I that, lying by the violet in the  
sun, do as the carrion does, not as  
the flower, corrupt with virtuous  
season. Can it be that modesty may  
more betray our sense than woman's  
lightness?

(MORE)

## ANGELO (CONT'D)

Having waste ground enough, shall  
 we desire to raze the sanctuary and  
 pitch our evils there? O, fie, fie,  
 fie! What dost thou, or what art  
 thou, Angelo? Dost thou desire her  
 foully for those things that make  
 her good? O, let her brother live!  
 Thieves for their robbery have  
 authority when judges steal  
 themselves. What, do I love her,  
 that I desire to hear her speak  
 again, and feast upon her eyes?  
 What is't I dream on? O cunning  
 enemy, that, to catch a saint, with  
 saints dost bait thy hook!

On the screen Isabella and Lucio walk through a crowd of scantily clad women, Lucio's eyes wander, he pauses to speak with them, then bids Isabella goodbye.

The image pulls out wider. Angelo's eyes rove across the crowd.

## ANGELO (CONT'D)

Most dangerous is that temptation  
 that doth goad us on to sin in  
 loving virtue: never could the  
 strumpet, with all her double  
 vigour, art and nature, once stir  
 my temper; but this virtuous maid  
 subdues me quite. Even till now,  
 when men were fond, I smiled and  
 wonder'd how.

15 EXT. PRISON - DAY

15

Isabella walks back towards her monastery. She passes a monk who throws a blessing at her.

She bows and hurries away. The monk watches her and lowers his hood.

It's the Duke! He looks up at a drab looking building, the prison.

Glancing around, he pulls up his hood so his face is obscured once more and enters.

16

INT. PRISON - DAY

16

The Provost busies himself at a reception area, behind him banks of monitors show various prisoners in their cells.

The Duke approaches the Provost.

DUKE VINCENTIO

Hail to you, Provost! So I think you are.

PROVOST

I am the Provost. What's your will, good friar?

DUKE VINCENTIO

Bound by my charity and my blest order, I come to visit the afflicted spirits here in the prison. Do me the common right to let me see them and to make me know the nature of their crimes, that I may minister to them accordingly.

PROVOST

I would do more than that, if more were needful.

JULIET (early 20's) enters, distressed and heavily pregnant.

PROVOST (CONT'D)

Look, here comes one: a gentlewoman of mine, who, falling in the flaws of her own youth, hath blister'd her report: she is with child; and he that got it, sentenced; a young man more fit to do another such offence than die for this.

DUKE VINCENTIO

When must he die?

PROVOST

As I do think, tomorrow.

(To Juliet)

I have provided for you: stay  
awhile, and you shall be conducted.

DUKE VINCENTIO

Repent you, fair one, of the sin  
you carry?

JULIET

I do, and bear the shame most  
patiently.

DUKE VINCENTIO

Love you the man that wrong'd you?

JULIET

Yes, as I love the woman that  
wrong'd him.

DUKE VINCENTIO

So then it seems your most  
offenceful act was mutually  
committed?

JULIET

Mutually.

DUKE VINCENTIO

Then was your sin of heavier kind  
than his.

JULIET

I do confess it, and repent it,  
father.

DUKE VINCENTIO

'Tis meet so, daughter: but lest  
you do repent, as that the sin hath  
brought you to this shame, which  
sorrow is always towards ourselves,  
not heaven, showing we would not  
spare heaven as we love it, but as  
we stand in fear --

JULIET

I do repent me, as it is an evil,  
and take the shame with joy.

DUKE VINCENTIO

There rest. Your partner, as I  
hear, must die tomorrow, and I am  
going with instruction to him.  
Grace go with you, Benedicite!

The Duke leaves and heads through into the main prison.

JULIET

Must die to-morrow!? O injurious  
love, that respites me a life,  
whose very comfort is still a dying  
horror!

PROVOST

'Tis a pity of him.

17 INT. DUKE'S PALACE - DAY

17

Angelo stands alone, staring out at the city.

ANGELO

When I would pray and think, I  
think and pray to several subjects.  
Heaven hath my empty words; whilst  
my invention, hearing not my  
tongue, anchors on Isabel: God in  
my mouth, as if I did but only chew  
his name; and in my heart the  
strong and swelling evil of my  
conception. The state, whereon I  
studied is like a good thing, being  
often read, grown fear'd and  
tedious; yea, my gravity, wherein --  
let no man hear me -- I take pride,  
could I with boot change for an  
idle plume, which the air beats for  
vain.

(MORE)

ANGELO (CONT'D)

O place, O form, how often dost  
 thou with thy case, thy habit,  
 wrench awe from fools and tie the  
 wiser souls to thy false seeming!  
 Blood, thou art blood: let's write  
 good angel on the devil's horn:  
 'Tis not the devil's crest.

A servant approaches him.

ANGELO (CONT'D)

How now! Who's there?

SERVANT

One Isabel, a sister, desires  
 access to you.

ANGELO

Teach her the way.

The servant leaves.

ANGELO (CONT'D)

O heavens! Why does my blood thus  
 muster to my heart, making both it  
 unable for itself, and  
 dispossessing all my other parts of  
 necessary fitness? So play the  
 foolish throngs with one that  
 swoons; come all to help him, and  
 so stop the air by which he should  
 revive: and even so he general,  
 subject to a well-wish'd king, quit  
 their own part, and in obsequious  
 fondness crowd to his presence,  
 where their untaught love must  
 needs appear offence.

Isabella enters.

ANGELO (CONT'D)

How now, fair maid?



ISABELLA

I am come to know your pleasure.

ANGELO

(Aside)

That you might know it, would much  
better please me than to demand  
what 'tis.

(To Isabella)

Your brother cannot live.

ISABELLA

Even so. Heaven keep your honour!

Isabella turns to leave.

ANGELO

Yet may he live awhile; and, it may  
be, as long as you or I. Yet he  
must die.

ISABELLA

Under your sentence?

ANGELO

Yea.

ISABELLA

When, I beseech you? That in his  
reprieve, longer or shorter, he may  
be so fitted that his soul sicken  
not.

ANGELO

Ha! fie, these filthy vices! It  
were as good to pardon him that  
hath from nature stolen a man  
already made, as to remit their  
saucy sweetness that do coin  
heaven's image in stamps that are  
forbid: 'tis all as easy falsely to  
take away a life true made as to  
put metal in restrained means to  
make a false one.

ISABELLA

'Tis set down so in heaven, but not  
in earth.

ANGELO

Say you so? Then I shall pose you  
quickly. Which had you rather, that  
the most just law now took your  
brother's life; or, to redeem him,  
give up your body to such sweet  
uncleanness as she that he hath  
stain'd?

ISABELLA

Sir, believe this, I had rather  
give my body than my soul.

ANGELO

I talk not of your soul. Our  
compelled sins stand more for  
number than for account.

ISABELLA

How say you?

ANGELO

I, now the voice of the recorded  
law, pronounce a sentence on your  
brother's life: might there not be  
a charity in sin to save this  
brother's life?

ISABELLA

Please you to do't, I'll take it as  
a peril to my soul, it is no sin at  
all, but charity.

ANGELO

Your sense pursues not mine: either  
you are ignorant, or seem so  
craftily; and that's not good.

ISABELLA

Let me be ignorant, and in nothing good, but graciously to know I am no better.

ANGELO

Thus wisdom wishes to appear most bright when it doth tax itself; as these black masks proclaim an enshield beauty ten times louder than beauty could, display'd. But mark me; to be received plain, I'll speak more gross: your brother is to die.

ISABELLA

So.

ANGELO

And his offence is so, as it appears, accountant to the law upon that pain.

ISABELLA

True.

ANGELO

Admit no other way to save his life, -- as I subscribe not that, nor any other, but in the loss of question, -- that you, his sister, finding yourself desired of such a person, whose credit with the judge, or own great place, could fetch your brother from the manacles of the all-binding law; and that there were no earthly mean to save him, but that either you must lay down the treasures of your body to this supposed, or else to let him suffer; What would you do?

ISABELLA

As much for my poor brother as myself: that is, were I under the terms of death, the impression of keen whips I'd wear as rubies, and strip myself to death, as to a bed that longing have been sick for, ere I'd yield my body up to shame.

ANGELO

Then must your brother die.

ISABELLA

And 'twere the cheaper way: better it were a brother died at once, than that a sister, by redeeming him, should die for ever.

ANGELO

Were not you then as cruel as the sentence that you have slander'd so?

ISABELLA

Ignomy in ransom and free pardon are of two houses: lawful mercy is nothing kin to foul redemption.

ANGELO

You seem'd of late to make the law a tyrant; and rather proved the sliding of your brother a merriment than a vice.

ISABELLA

O, pardon me, my lord; it oft falls out, to have what we would have, we speak not what we mean: I something do excuse the thing I hate, for his advantage that I dearly love.

ANGELO

We are all frail. Nay, women are frail too.

ISABELLA

Ay, as the glasses where they view themselves; which are as easy broke as they make forms.

ANGELO

And from this testimony of your own sex, -- since I suppose we are made to be no stronger than faults may shake our frames, -- let me be bold; I do arrest your words. Be that you are, that is, a woman; if you be more, you're none; if you be one, as you are well express'd by all external warrants, show it now, by putting on the destined livery.

ISABELLA

I have no tongue but one: gentle my lord, let me entreat you speak the former language.

ANGELO

Plainly conceive, I love you.

ISABELLA

My brother did love Juliet, and you tell me that he shall die for it.

ANGELO

He shall not, Isabel, if you give me love.

ISABELLA

I know your virtue hath a licence in't, which seems a little fouler than it is, to pluck on others.

ANGELO

Believe me, on mine honour, my words express my purpose.

ISABELLA

Ha! Little honour to be much believed, and most pernicious purpose! Seeming, seeming! I will proclaim thee, Angelo; look for't: sign me a present pardon for my brother, or with an outstretch'd throat I'll tell the world aloud what man thou art.

ANGELO

Who will believe thee, Isabel? My unsoil'd name, the austereness of my life, my vouch against you, and my place i' the state, will so your accusation overweigh, that you shall stifle in your own report and smell of calumny. I have begun, and now I give my sensual race the rein: fit thy consent to my sharp appetite; lay by all nicety and prolixious blushes, that banish what they sue for; redeem thy brother by yielding up thy body to my will; or else he must not only die the death, but thy unkindness shall his death draw out to lingering sufferance. Answer me tomorrow, or, by the affection that now guides me most, I'll prove a tyrant to him. As for you, say what you can, my false o'erweighs your true.

Isabella turns and runs.

18 EXT. STREETS - DAY

18

Isabella stumbles from the Duke's Palace, distraught. She stumbles down the street, trying to talk to anyone who'll listen. Everyone just brushes her aside.

ISABELLA

To whom should I complain? Did I  
 tell this, who would believe me? O  
 perilous mouths, that bear in them  
 one and the self-same tongue,  
 either of condemnation or approval;  
 Bidding the law make court'sy to  
 their will: hooking both right and  
 wrong to the appetite, to follow as  
 it draws! I'll to my brother:  
 though he hath fallen by prompture  
 of the blood, yet hath he in him  
 such a mind of honour. That, had he  
 twenty heads to tender down on  
 twenty bloody blocks, he'd yield  
 them up, before his sister should  
 her body stoop to such abhorr'd  
 pollution. Then, Isabel, live  
 chaste, and, brother, die: more  
 than our brother is our chastity.  
 I'll tell him yet of Angelo's  
 request, and fit his mind to death,  
 for his soul's rest.

ACT III

19 INT. PRISON - DAY

19

The Duke sits with Claudio in his cell.

DUKE VINCENTIO

So then you hope of pardon from  
 Lord Angelo?

CLAUDIO

The miserable have no other  
medicine but only hope: I've hope  
to live, and am prepared to die.

DUKE VINCENTIO

Be absolute for death; either death  
or life shall thereby be the  
sweeter.

CLAUDIO

I humbly thank you. To sue to live,  
I find I seek to die; and, seeking  
death, find life: let it come on.

The Provost opens the cell door to reveal Isabella. She steps forward and holds Claudio in a deep embrace.

The Duke steps out of the cell.

DUKE VINCENTIO

Provost, bring me to hear them  
speak.

The Provost leads the Duke away.

CLAUDIO

Now, sister, what's the comfort?

ISABELLA

Why, as all comforts are; most  
good, most good indeed. Lord  
Angelo, having affairs to heaven,  
intends you for his swift  
ambassador, where you shall be an  
everlasting leiger: therefore your  
best appointment make with speed;  
tomorrow you set on.

CLAUDIO

Is there no remedy?

ISABELLA

None, but such remedy as, to save a  
head, to cleave a heart in twain.



CLAUDIO

But is there any?

ISABELLA

Yes, brother, you may live: there is a devilish mercy in the judge, if you'll implore it, that will free your life, but fetter you till death.

CLAUDIO

Perpetual durance?

ISABELLA

Ay, just; perpetual durance.

CLAUDIO

But in what nature?

ISABELLA

In such a one as, you consenting to't, would bark your honour from that trunk you bear, and leave you naked.

CLAUDIO

Let me know the point.

ISABELLA

O, I do fear thee, Claudio; and I quake, lest thou a feverous life shouldst entertain, and six or seven winters more respect than a perpetual honour. Darest thou die? The sense of death is most in apprehension; and the poor beetle, that we tread upon, in corporal sufferance finds a pang as great as when a giant dies.

CLAUDIO

Why give you me this shame? Think you I can a resolution fetch from flowery tenderness?

(MORE)

CLAUDIO (CONT'D)

If I must die, I will encounter  
darkness as a bride, and hug it in  
mine arms.

20 INT. PRISON RECEPTION - CONTINUOUS

20

The Duke and the Provost watch Isabella and Claudio on a  
monitor.

ISABELLA

There spake my brother; there my  
father's grave did utter forth a  
voice. Yes, thou must die: thou art  
too noble to conserve a life in  
base appliances. This outward-  
sainted deputy, whose settled  
visage and deliberate word nips  
youth i' the head and follies doth  
emmew as falcon doth the fowl, is  
yet a devil, his filth within being  
cast, he would appear a pond as  
deep as hell.

CLAUDIO

The prenzie Angelo?

The Duke reacts to this.

21 INT. PRISON - CONTINUOUS

21

ISABELLA

O, 'tis the cunning livery of hell,  
the damned'st body to invest and  
cover in prenzie guards! Dost thou  
think, Claudio? If I would yield  
him my virginity, thou mightst be  
freed.

CLAUDIO

O heavens! It cannot be.

ISABELLA

Yes, he would give't thee, from  
this rank offence, so to offend him  
still. This night's the time that I  
should do what I abhor to name, or  
else thou diest tomorrow.

CLAUDIO

Thou shalt not do't.

ISABELLA

O, were it but my life, I'd throw  
it down for your deliverance as  
frankly as a pin.

CLAUDIO

Thanks, dear Isabel.

ISABELLA

Be ready, Claudio, for your death  
tomorrow.

CLAUDIO

Yes. Has he affections in him, that  
thus can make him bite the law by  
the nose, when he would force it?  
Sure, it is no sin, or of the  
deadly seven, it is the least.

ISABELLA

Which is the least?

CLAUDIO

If it were damnable, he being so  
wise, why would he for the  
momentary trick be perdurably  
fined? O Isabel!

ISABELLA

What says my brother?

CLAUDIO

Death is a fearful thing.

ISABELLA

And shamed life a hateful.

CLAUDIO

Ay, but to die, and go we know not where; to lie in cold obstruction and to rot; this sensible warm motion to become a kneaded clod; and the delighted spirit to bathe in fiery floods, or to reside in thrilling region of thick-ribbed ice; to be imprison'd in the viewless winds, and blown with restless violence round about the pendent world; or to be worse than worst of those that lawless and uncertain thought imagine howling: 'tis too horrible! The weariest and most loathed worldly life that age, ache, penury and imprisonment can lay on nature is a paradise to what we fear of death.

ISABELLA

Alas, alas!

CLAUDIO

Sweet sister, let me live: what sin you do to save a brother's life, nature dispenses with the deed so far that it becomes a virtue.

ISABELLA

O you beast! O faithless coward! O dishonest wretch! Wilt thou be made a man out of my vice? Is't not a kind of incest, to take life from thine own sister's shame? What should I think? Heaven shield my mother play'd my father fair!

(MORE)

ISABELLA (CONT'D)

For such a warped slip of  
wilderness ne'er issued from his  
blood. Take my defiance! Die,  
perish! Might but my bending down  
reprieve thee from thy fate, it  
should proceed: I'll pray a  
thousand prayers for thy death, no  
word to save thee.

CLAUDIO

Nay, hear me, Isabel.

ISABELLA

O, fie, fie, fie! Thy sin's not  
accidental, but a trade. Mercy to  
thee would prove itself a bawd:  
'Tis best thou diest quickly.

Isabella storms out of the cell.

CLAUDIO

O hear me, Isabella!

22

INT. PRISON RECEPTION - CONTINUOUS

22

Isabella hurries through the reception, the Duke intercepts her.

DUKE VINCENTIO

Vouchsafe a word, young sister, but  
one word.

ISABELLA

What is your will?

DUKE VINCENTIO

The assault that Angelo hath made  
to you, fortune hath conveyed to my  
understanding; and, but that  
frailty hath examples for his  
falling, I should wonder at Angelo.  
How will you do to content this  
substitute, and to save your  
brother?

ISABELLA

I had rather my brother die by the law than my son should be unlawfully born. But, O, how much is the good Duke deceived in Angelo! If ever he returns and I can speak to him, I will open my lips in vain, or discover his government.

DUKE VINCENTIO

That shall not be much amiss: Yet, as the matter now stands, he will avoid your accusation; he made trial of you only. Therefore fasten your ear on my advisings: to the love I have in doing good a remedy presents itself.

ISABELLA

I have spirit to do anything that appears not foul in the truth of my spirit.

DUKE VINCENTIO

Have you not heard speak of Mariana, the sister of Frederick the great soldier?

ISABELLA

I have heard of the lady.

DUKE VINCENTIO

She should this Angelo have married; was affianced to her by oath, and the nuptial appointed: between which time of the contract and limit of the solemnity, her brother Frederick was wrecked in space, having in that perished vessel the dowry of his sister.

(MORE)

DUKE VINCENTIO (CONT'D)

But mark how heavily this befell to  
the poor gentlewoman: there she  
lost a noble and renowned brother;  
with him, the portion and sinew of  
her fortune, her marriage-dowry;  
with both, her combinate husband,  
this well-seeming Angelo.

ISABELLA

Did Angelo so leave her?

DUKE VINCENTIO

Left her in her tears, and dried  
not one of them with his comfort;  
swallowed his vows whole,  
pretending in her discoveries of  
dishonour.

ISABELLA

But how out of this can she avail?

DUKE VINCENTIO

It is a rupture that you may easily  
heal: and the cure of it not only  
saves your brother, but keeps you  
from dishonour in doing it.

ISABELLA

Show me how, good father.

DUKE VINCENTIO

This forenamed maid hath yet in her  
the continuance of her first  
affection: his unjust unkindness,  
that in all reason should have  
quenched her love, hath made it  
more violent and unruly. Go you to  
Angelo; answer his requiring with a  
plausible obedience;

(MORE)

DUKE VINCENTIO (CONT'D)

only refer yourself to this  
 advantage, first, that your stay  
 with him may not be long; that the  
 time may have all shadow and  
 silence in it; and the place answer  
 to convenience. This being granted  
 in course, -- and now follows all, --  
 -- we shall advise this wronged maid  
 to stand up your appointment, go in  
 your place. What think you of it?

ISABELLA

The image of it gives me content  
 already.

DUKE VINCENTIO

Haste you speedily to Angelo: if  
 for this night he entreat you to  
 his bed, give him promise of  
 satisfaction. I will presently to  
 Saint Luke's: there, at the Moated  
 Grange, resides this dejected  
 Mariana. At that place call upon  
 me; and dispatch with Angelo, that  
 it may be quickly.

ISABELLA

I thank you for this comfort. Fare  
 you well, good father.

23 INT. PRISON - CONTINUOUS

23

Claudio sits in his cell, dejected.

DUKE VINCENTIO

Son, I have overheard what hath  
 passed between you and your sister.  
 Angelo had never the purpose to  
 corrupt her;

(MORE)



DUKE VINCENTIO (CONT'D)

only he hath made an essay of her  
virtue to practise his judgment  
with the disposition of natures:  
she, having the truth of honour in  
her, hath made him that gracious  
denial which he is most glad to  
receive. I am confessor to Angelo,  
and I know this to be true;  
therefore prepare yourself to  
death: do not satisfy your  
resolution with hopes that are  
fallible: tomorrow you must die.

CLAUDIO

Let me ask my sister pardon. I am  
so out of love with life that I  
will sue to be rid of it.

A commotion outside the cell heralds the arrival of Elbow  
with Pompey.

ELBOW (O.S.)

Nay, if there be no remedy for it,  
but that you will needs buy and  
sell men and women like beasts, we  
shall have all the world drink  
brown and white bastard.

DUKE VINCENTIO

O heavens! What stuff is here?

24 INT. PRISON RECEPTION - CONTINUOUS

24

The Duke comes out to investigate.

POMPEY

'Twas never merry world since, of  
two usuries, the merriest was put  
down, and the worsser allowed by  
order of law;

(MORE)

POMPEY (CONT'D)

a furred gown to keep him warm -  
and furred with fox and lamb-skins  
too, to signify that craft, being  
richer than innocency, stands for  
the facing.

ELBOW

Come your way, sir. 'Bless you,  
good father friar.

DUKE VINCENTIO

And you, good brother father. What  
offence hath this man made you,  
sir?

ELBOW

Marry, sir, he hath offended the  
law: and, sir, we take him to be a  
thief too, sir; for we have found  
upon him, sir, a strange picklock,  
which we have sent to the deputy.

Pompey, frustrated and unseen by Elbow, mimes unpicking a  
chastity belt to the Duke.

DUKE VINCENTIO

Fie, sirrah! A bawd, a wicked bawd!  
The evil that thou causest to be  
done, that is thy means to live. Do  
thou but think what 'tis to cram a  
maw or clothe a back from such a  
filthy vice: say to thyself, from  
their abominable and beastly  
touches I drink, I eat, array  
myself, and live. Canst thou  
believe thy living is a life, so  
stinkingly depending? Go mend, go  
mend.

POMPEY

Indeed, it does stink in some sort,  
sir; but yet, sir, I would prove --

ELBOW

He must before the deputy, sir; he has given him warning: the deputy cannot abide a whoremaster: if he be a whoremonger, and comes before him, he were as good go a mile on his errand.

DUKE VINCENTIO

That we were all, as some would seem to be, free from our faults, as faults from seeming, free!

Lucio staggers in, blind drunk.

POMPEY

I spy comfort; I cry bail. Here's a gentleman and a friend of mine.

LUCIO

How now, noble Pompey! What, at the wheels of Caesar? Art thou led in triumph? How doth my dear morsel, thy mistress? Procures she still, ha?

POMPEY

Troth, sir, she hath eaten up all her beef, and she is herself in the tub.

LUCIO

Why, 'tis good; it is the right of it; it must be so: ever your fresh whore and your powdered bawd: an unshunned consequence; it must be so. Art going to prison, Pompey?

POMPEY

Yes, faith, sir.

LUCIO

Why, 'tis not amiss, Pompey.  
Farewell: go, say I sent thee.

POMPEY

I hope, sir, your good worship will  
be my bail.

LUCIO

No, indeed, will I not, Pompey; it  
is not the wear. I will pray,  
Pompey, to increase your bondage.  
Adieu, trusty Pompey. 'Bless you,  
friar.

DUKE VINCENTIO

And you.

ELBOW

Come your ways, sir; come.

POMPEY

You will not bail me, then, sir?

LUCIO

Then, Pompey, nor now. What news  
abroad, friar? What news?

ELBOW

Come your ways, sir; come.

LUCIO

Go to kennel, Pompey; go.

Elbow throws Pompey into an empty cell.

LUCIO (CONT'D)

What news, friar, of the Duke?

DUKE VINCENTIO

I know none. Can you tell me of  
any?

LUCIO

Some say he is with the Emperor of  
Russia; other some, he is in Rome:  
but where is he, think you?

DUKE VINCENTIO

I know not where; but wheresoever,  
I wish him well.

LUCIO

It was a mad fantastical trick of  
him to steal from the state, and  
usurp the beggary he was never born  
to. Lord Angelo Dukes it well in  
his absence; he puts transgression  
to 't.

DUKE VINCENTIO

He does well in it.

LUCIO

A little more lenity to lechery  
would do no harm in him.

DUKE VINCENTIO

It is too general a vice, and  
severity must cure it.

LUCIO

They say this Angelo was not made  
by man and woman after this  
downright way of creation: is it  
true, think you?

DUKE VINCENTIO

How should he be made, then?

LUCIO

Some report a sea-maid spawned him;  
some, that he was begot between two  
stock-fishes.

(MORE)

LUCIO (CONT'D)

But it is certain that when he makes water his urine is congealed ice; that I know to be true.

DUKE VINCENTIO

You are pleasant, sir, and speak apace.

LUCIO

Why, what a ruthless thing is this in him, for the rebellion of a codpiece to take away the life of a man! Would the Duke that is absent have done this? Ere he would have hanged a man for the getting a hundred bastards, he would have paid for the nursing a thousand: he had some feeling of the sport: he knew the service, and that instructed him to mercy.

DUKE VINCENTIO

I never heard the absent Duke much detected for women; he was not inclined that way.

LUCIO

O, sir, you are deceived.

DUKE VINCENTIO

'Tis not possible.

LUCIO

Who, not the Duke? Yes, your beggar of fifty; and his use was to put a ducat in her clack-dish. He would be drunk too.

DUKE VINCENTIO

You do him wrong, surely.

LUCIO

Sir, I was an inward of his. A shy fellow was the Duke: and I believe I know the cause of his withdrawing.

DUKE VINCENTIO

What, I prithee, might be the cause?

LUCIO

No, pardon; 'tis a secret must be locked within the teeth and the lips: but this I can let you understand, the greater file of the subject held the Duke to be wise.

DUKE VINCENTIO

Wise! Why, no question but he was.

LUCIO

A very superficial, ignorant, unweighing fellow.

DUKE VINCENTIO

Either this is the envy in you, folly, or mistaking: the very stream of his life and the business he hath helmed must upon a warranted need give him a better proclamation. Let him be but testimonied in his own bringings-forth, and he shall appear to the envious a scholar, a statesman and a soldier. Therefore you speak unskilfully: or if your knowledge be more it is much darkened in your malice.

LUCIO

Sir, I know him, and I love him.

DUKE VINCENTIO

Love talks with better knowledge,  
and knowledge with dearer love.

LUCIO

Come, sir, I know what I know.

DUKE VINCENTIO

I can hardly believe that, since  
you know not what you speak. But,  
if ever the Duke return, as our  
prayers are he may, let me desire  
you to make your answer before him.  
If it be honest you have spoke, you  
have courage to maintain it: I am  
bound to call upon you; and, I pray  
you, your name?

LUCIO

Sir, my name is Lucio; well known  
to the Duke.

DUKE VINCENTIO

He shall know you better, sir, if I  
may live to report you.

LUCIO

I fear you not.

DUKE VINCENTIO

O, you hope the Duke will return no  
more; or you imagine me too  
unhurtful an opposite. But indeed I  
can do you little harm; you'll  
forswear this again.

LUCIO

I'll be hanged first: thou art  
deceived in me, friar.

Chaos breaks out as Escalus and some officers lead in  
Mistress Overdone and some of her women and men.



PROVOST

Go; away with her to prison!

Both the Duke and Lucio reacts to their presence.

LUCIO

But no more of this. Farewell.

Lucio scuttles away. The Duke also backs away and watches.

Mistress Overdone tears herself away from the officers and throws herself at Escalus.

MISTRESS OVERDONE

Good my lord, be good to me; your  
honour is accounted a merciful man;  
good my lord.

ESCALUS

Double and treble admonition, and  
still forfeit in the same kind!  
This would make mercy swear and  
play the tyrant.

PROVOST

A bawd of eleven years'  
continuance, may it please your  
honour.

MISTRESS OVERDONE

My lord, this is one Lucio's  
information against me. Mistress  
Kate Keepdown was with child by him  
in the Duke's time; he promised her  
marriage: his child is a year and a  
quarter old: I have kept it myself;  
and see how he goes about to abuse  
me!

ESCALUS

That fellow is a fellow of much  
licence: let him be called before  
us. Away with her to prison! Go to;  
no more words.

The officers take Mistress Overdone away.

ESCALUS (CONT'D)

Provost, my brother Angelo will not be altered; Claudio must die tomorrow: let him be furnished with divines, and have all charitable preparation. If my brother wrought by my pity, it should not be so with him.

PROVOST

So please you, this friar hath been with him, and advised him for the entertainment of death.

ESCALUS

Good even, good father.

DUKE VINCENTIO

Bliss and goodness on you!

ESCALUS

Of whence are you?

DUKE VINCENTIO

Not of this country: I am a brother of gracious order, late come from the see in special business from his holiness. I pray you, sir, of what disposition was the Duke?

ESCALUS

One that, above all other strifes, contended especially to know himself.

DUKE VINCENTIO

What pleasure was he given to?

## ESCALUS

Rather rejoicing to see another merry, than merry at any thing which professed to make him rejoice: a gentleman of all temperance. But leave we him to his events, with a prayer they may prove prosperous; and let me desire to know how you find Claudio prepared?

## DUKE VINCENTIO

He professes to have received no sinister measure from his judge, but most willingly humbles himself to the determination of justice: yet had he framed to himself many deceiving promises of life; which I by my good leisure have discredited to him, and now is he resolved to die.

## ESCALUS

You have paid the heavens your function, and the prisoner the very debt of your calling. I have laboured for the poor gentleman to the extremest shore of my modesty: but my brother-justice have I found so severe, that he hath forced me to tell him he is indeed Justice.

## DUKE VINCENTIO

If his own life answer the straitness of his proceeding, it shall become him well; wherein if he chance to fail, he hath sentenced himself.

## ACT IV

25 EXT. MOATED GRANGE - EVENING 25

The Moated Grange is a burlesque club.

The Duke, still dressed as a monk, approaches the dimly lit club and strolls right up to the VIP entrance, much to the bemusement of the people queueing to get in.

The Duke lowers his hood discretely to the bouncer, who greets him warmly and ushers him through.

26 INT. MOATED GRANGE - EVENING 26

Up on the stage MARIANA (early 30's) plucks at a futuristic looking harp and sings a mournful song. Mariana sports similar technological protrusions and implants around her face to those of Angelo.

She completes her song to polite applause, and leaves the stage.

The Duke approaches her.

MARIANA

I cry you mercy, sir; and well  
could wish you had not found me  
here so musical: let me excuse me,  
and believe me so, my mirth it much  
displeased, but pleased my woe.

DUKE VINCENTIO

'Tis good; though music oft hath  
such a charm to make bad good, and  
good provoke to harm. I pray, you,  
tell me, hath anybody inquired for  
me here to-day? Much upon this time  
have I promised here to meet.

MARIANA

You have not been inquired after: I  
have been here all day.

Isabella arrives.

DUKE VINCENTIO

I do constantly believe you. The time is come even now. I shall crave your forbearance a little: maybe I will call upon you anon, for some advantage to yourself.

MARIANA

I am always bound to you.

Mariana leaves them.

On the stage behind them a burlesque show starts up, much to Isabella's consternation.

DUKE VINCENTIO

Very well met, and well come. What is the news from this good deputy?

ISABELLA

He hath a garden circummured with brick, whose western side is with a vineyard back'd; and to that vineyard is a planced gate, that makes his opening with this bigger key: this other doth command a little door which from the vineyard to the garden leads; there have I made my promise upon the heavy middle of the night to call upon him.

DUKE VINCENTIO

Are there no other tokens between you 'greed concerning her observance?

ISABELLA

No, none, but only a repair i' the dark; and that I have possess'd him my most stay can be but brief;

(MORE)

ISABELLA (CONT'D)

for I have made him know I have a  
servant comes with me along, that  
stays upon me, whose persuasion is  
I come about my brother.

DUKE VINCENTIO

'Tis well borne up. I have not yet  
made known to Mariana a word of  
this. Come forth!

Mariana joins them.

DUKE VINCENTIO (CONT'D)

I pray you, be acquainted with this  
maid; she comes to do you good.

ISABELLA

I do desire the like.

DUKE VINCENTIO

(to Mariana)

Take, then, this your companion by  
the hand, who hath a story ready  
for your ear. I shall attend your  
leisure: but make haste; the  
vaporous night approaches.

Mariana leads Isabella away. The Duke turns to enjoy the  
show.

27 INT. PRISON - DAY

27

Provost calls on Pompey in his cell.

PROVOST

Come hither, sirrah. Can you cut  
off a man's head?

POMPEY

If the man be a bachelor, sir, I  
can; but if he be a married man,  
he's his wife's head, and I can  
never cut off a woman's head.

PROVOST

Come, sir, leave me your snatches,  
and yield me a direct answer.  
Tomorrow morning are to die Claudio  
and Barnardine. Here is in our  
prison a common executioner, who in  
his office lacks a helper: if you  
will take it on you to assist him,  
it shall redeem you from your  
gyves; if not, you shall have your  
full time of imprisonment and your  
deliverance with an unpitied  
whipping, for you have been a  
notorious bawd.

POMPEY

Sir, I have been an unlawful bawd  
time out of mind; but yet I will be  
content to be a lawful hangman. I  
would be glad to receive some  
instruction from my fellow partner.

PROVOST

What, ho! Abhorson! Where's  
Abhorson, there?

Abhorson, the executioner, joins them.

ABHORSON

Do you call, sir?

PROVOST

Sirrah, here's a fellow will help  
you tomorrow in your execution. If  
you think it meet, compound with  
him by the year, and let him abide  
here with you; if not, use him for  
the present and dismiss him. He  
cannot plead his estimation with  
you; he hath been a bawd.

ABHORSON

A bawd, sir? Fie upon him! He will discredit our mystery.

PROVOST

Go to, sir; you weigh equally; a feather will turn the scale.

The Provost leaves them.

POMPEY

Pray, sir, by your good favour,-- for surely, sir, a good favour you have, but that you have a hanging look, -- do you call, sir, your occupation a mystery?

ABHORSON

Ay, sir; a mystery

POMPEY

Painting, sir, I have heard say, is a mystery; and your whores, sir, being members of my occupation, using painting, do prove my occupation a mystery: but what mystery there should be in hanging, if I should be hanged, I cannot imagine.

28 INT. MOATED GRANGE - EVENING

28

The Duke waits patiently, enjoying the show.  
Mariana and Isabella rejoin him.

DUKE VINCENTIO

Welcome, how agreed?

ISABELLA

She'll take the enterprise upon her, father, if you advise it.



DUKE VINCENTIO

It is not my consent, but my  
entreaty too.

ISABELLA

Little have you to say when you  
depart from him, but, soft and low,  
'Remember now my brother.'

MARIANA

Fear me not.

29

INT. PRISON - NIGHT

29

Abhorson and Pompey approach the Provost.

PROVOST

Are you agreed?

POMPEY

Sir, I will serve him; for I do  
find your hangman is a more  
penitent trade than your bawd; he  
doth oftener ask forgiveness.

PROVOST

You, sirrah, provide your block and  
your axe tomorrow, four o'clock.

ABHORSON

Come on, bawd; I will instruct thee  
in my trade.

Abhorson leads Pompey away.

POMPEY

I do desire to learn, sir: and I  
hope, if you have occasion to use  
me for your own turn, you shall  
find me yare; for truly, sir, for  
your kindness I owe you a good  
turn.

PROVOST

Call hither Barnardine and Claudio!

An Officer leads Claudio to the Provost.

PROVOST (CONT'D)

Look, here's the warrant, Claudio,  
for thy death: 'tis now dead  
midnight, and by eight to-morrow  
thou must be made immortal. Where's  
Barnardine?

CLAUDIO

As fast lock'd up in sleep as  
guiltless labour when it lies  
starkly in the traveller's bones:  
he will not wake.

The Duke enters, disguised still as the Monk.

PROVOST

Who can do good on him? Well, go,  
prepare yourself.

The Officer leads Claudio away.

PROVOST (CONT'D)

Welcome father.

DUKE VINCENTIO

The best and wholesomest spirits of  
the night envelope you, good  
Provost! Who call'd here of late?

PROVOST

None, since the curfew rung.

DUKE VINCENTIO

Not Isabel?

PROVOST

No.

DUKE VINCENTIO

They will, then, ere't be long.

PROVOST

What comfort is for Claudio?

DUKE VINCENTIO

There's some in hope. Have you no countermand for Claudio yet, but he must die tomorrow?

PROVOST

None, sir, none.

DUKE VINCENTIO

As near the dawning, Provost, as it is, you shall hear more ere morning.

PROVOST

Happily you something know; yet I believe there comes no countermand.

A ping announces the arrival of an incoming video call.

PROVOST (CONT'D)

This is his lordship.

DUKE VINCENTIO

What news?

The Provost flicks his hand and Angelo appears on the monitors. He seems ill at ease.

PROVOST

My Lord?

ANGELO

Whatsoever you may hear to the contrary, let Claudio be executed by four of the clock; and in the afternoon Barnardine: for my better satisfaction, let me have Claudio's head sent me by five. Let this be duly performed; with a thought that more depends on it than we must yet deliver. Thus fail not to do your office, as you will answer it at your peril.

Angelo flicks his hand and the call ends.

PROVOST

What say you to this, sir?

DUKE VINCENTIO

What is that Barnardine who is to be executed in the afternoon?

The Provost leads the Duke to Barnardine's cell.

PROVOST

A Bohemian born, but here nursed up and bred; one that is a prisoner nine years old.

DUKE VINCENTIO

How came it that the absent Duke had not either delivered him to his liberty or executed him? I have heard it was ever his manner to do so.

PROVOST

His friends still wrought reprieves for him: and, indeed, his fact, till now in the government of Lord Angelo, came not to an undoubtful proof.

DUKE VINCENTIO

It is now apparent?

PROVOST

Most manifest, and not denied by himself.

DUKE VINCENTIO

Hath he born himself penitently in prison? How seems he to be touched?

PROVOST

A man that apprehends death no more dreadfully but as a drunken sleep; careless, reckless, and fearless of what's past, present, or to come;

(MORE)

PROVOST (CONT'D)

insensible of mortality, and  
desperately mortal.

DUKE VINCENTIO

He wants advice.

PROVOST

He will hear none: he hath evermore  
had the liberty of the prison; give  
him leave to escape hence, he would  
not.

DUKE VINCENTIO

In the boldness of my cunning, I  
will lay myself in hazard. Claudio,  
whom here you have warrant to  
execute, is no greater forfeit to  
the law than Angelo who hath  
sentenced him. To make you  
understand this in a manifested  
effect, I crave but four days'  
respite; for the which you are to  
do me both a present and a  
dangerous courtesy.

PROVOST

Pray, sir, in what?

DUKE VINCENTIO

In the delaying death.

PROVOST

A lack, how may I do it, having the  
hour limited, and an express  
command, under penalty, to deliver  
his head in the view of Angelo?

DUKE VINCENTIO

By the vow of mine order I warrant  
you, if my instructions may be your  
guide.

(MORE)

DUKE VINCENTIO (CONT'D)

Let this Barnardine be this morning  
executed, and his head born to  
Angelo.

PROVOST

Angelo hath seen them both, and  
will discover the favour.

DUKE VINCENTIO

O, death's a great disguiser; and  
you may add to it. Shave the head,  
and tie the beard; and say it was  
the desire of the penitent to be so  
bared before his death: you know  
the course is common. If any thing  
fall to you upon this, more than  
thanks and good fortune, by the  
saint whom I profess, I will plead  
against it with my life.

PROVOST

Pardon me, good father; it is  
against my oath.

DUKE VINCENTIO

Were you sworn to the Duke, or to  
the deputy?

PROVOST

To him, and to his substitutes.

DUKE VINCENTIO

You will think you have made no  
offence, if the Duke avouch the  
justice of your dealing?

PROVOST

But what likelihood is in that?

DUKE VINCENTIO

Not a resemblance, but a certainty.  
 Yet since I see you fearful, that  
 neither my coat, integrity, nor  
 persuasion can with ease attempt  
 you, I will go further than I  
 meant, to pluck all fears out of  
 you.

He takes from within the folds of his cloak, one of the  
 devices he issued to Angelo and Escalus when he gave them  
 their their commissions.

DUKE VINCENTIO (CONT'D)

Look you, sir, here is the hand and  
 seal of the Duke: you know the  
 character, I doubt not; and the  
 signet is not strange to you.

PROVOST

I know them both.

DUKE VINCENTIO

The contents of this is the return  
 of the Duke: you shall anon over-  
 read it at your pleasure; where you  
 shall find, within these two days  
 he will be here. This is a thing  
 that Angelo knows not; for he this  
 very day receives letters of  
 strange tenor; perchance of the  
 Duke's death; perchance entering  
 into some monastery; but, by  
 chance, nothing of what is writ.  
 Call your executioner, and off with  
 Barnardine's head: I will give him  
 a present shrift and advise him for  
 a better place. Come away; it is  
 almost clear dawn.

Pompey stands before the bank of monitors, staring at the executioners axe. It looks incongruous against the technological surroundings.

Abhorson arrives and wakes him from his reverie.

ABHORSON

Sirrah, bring Barnardine hither.

Pompey walks with two Officers down to Barnardine's cell. The Officers open the cell.

POMPEY

Master Barnardine! you must rise  
and be hanged. Master Barnardine!

BARNARDINE

(Within)

A pox o' your throats! Who makes  
that noise there? What are you?

POMPEY

Your friends, sir; the hangman. You  
must be so good, sir, to rise and  
be put to death.

BARNARDINE

(Within)

Away, you rogue, away! I am sleepy.

ABHORSON

Tell him he must awake, and that  
quickly too.

POMPEY

Pray, Master Barnardine, awake till  
you are executed, and sleep  
afterwards.

ABHORSON

Go in to him, and fetch him out.

POMPEY

He is coming, sir, he is coming.

Barnardine slouches from his cell.



BARNARDINE

How now, Abhorson? What's the news with you?

ABHORSON

Truly, sir, I would desire you to clap into your prayers; for, look you, the warrant's come.

BARNARDINE

You rogue, I have been drinking all night; I am not fitted for 't.

POMPEY

O, the better, sir; for he that drinks all night, and is hanged betimes in the morning, may sleep the sounder all the next day.

ABHORSON

Look you, sir; here comes your ghostly father: do we jest now, think you?

The Duke, dressed as the Monk, enters the cell area.

DUKE VINCENTIO

Sir, induced by my charity, and hearing how hastily you are to depart, I am come to advise you, comfort you and pray with you.

BARNARDINE

Friar, not I. I have been drinking hard all night, and I will have more time to prepare me, or they shall beat out my brains with billets: I will not consent to die this day, that's certain.

DUKE VINCENTIO

O, sir, you must: and therefore I beseech you, look forward on the journey you shall go.

BARNARDINE

I swear I will not die to-day for any man's persuasion.

DUKE VINCENTIO

But hear you.

BARNARDINE

Not a word: if you have any thing to say to me, come to my ward; for thence will not I today.

Barnadine storms back into his cell.

DUKE VINCENTIO

Unfit to live or die: O gravel heart!

The Provost arrives.

PROVOST

Now, sir, how do you find the prisoner?

DUKE VINCENTIO

A creature unprepared, unmeet for death; and to transport him in the mind he is were damnable.

PROVOST

Here in the prison, father, there died this morning of a cruel fever one Ragozine, a most notorious pirate, a man of Claudio's years; his beard and head just of his colour. What if we do omit this reprobate till he were well inclined;

(MORE)

PROVOST (CONT'D)

and satisfy the deputy with the  
visage of Ragozine, more like to  
Claudio?

DUKE VINCENTIO

O, 'tis an accident that heaven  
provides! Dispatch it presently;  
the hour draws on prefix'd by  
Angelo: see this be done, and sent  
according to command; whiles I  
persuade this rude wretch willingly  
to die.

PROVOST

This shall be done, good father,  
presently. But Barnardine must die  
this afternoon: and how shall we  
continue Claudio, to save me from  
the danger that might come if he  
were known alive?

DUKE VINCENTIO

Let this be done. Put them in  
secret holds, both Barnardine and  
Claudio: 'ere twice the sun hath  
made his journal greeting to the  
under generation, you shall find  
your safety manifested. Quick,  
dispatch, and send the head to  
Angelo.

PROVOST

I'll carry it myself.

DUKE VINCENTIO

Make a swift return; for I would  
commune with you of such things  
that want no ear but yours.

PROVOST

I'll make all speed.

31 EXT. NUNNERY - MORNING

31

The sun rises over the city.

DUKE VINCENTIO

Good morning to you, fair and  
gracious daughter.

ISABELLA

The better, given me by so holy a  
man. Hath yet the deputy sent my  
brother's pardon?

DUKE VINCENTIO

He hath released him, Isabel, from  
the world: his head is off and sent  
to Angelo.

ISABELLA

Nay, but it is not so.

DUKE VINCENTIO

It is no other: show your wisdom,  
daughter, in your close patience.

ISABELLA

O, I will to him and pluck out his  
eyes!

DUKE VINCENTIO

You shall not be admitted to his  
sight.

ISABELLA

Unhappy Claudio! Wretched Isabel!  
Injurious world! Most damned  
Angelo!

DUKE VINCENTIO

This nor hurts him nor profits you  
a jot; forbear it therefore; give  
your cause to heaven. Mark what I  
say, which you shall find by every  
syllable a faithful verity: the  
Duke comes home tomorrow;

(MORE)

DUKE VINCENTIO (CONT'D)

nay, dry your eyes; one of our  
convent, and his confessor, gives  
me this instance: already he hath  
carried notice to Escalus and  
Angelo, who do prepare to meet him  
at the gates, there to give up  
their power. If you can, pace your  
wisdom in that good path that I  
would wish it go, and you shall  
have your bosom on this wretch,  
grace of the Duke, revenges to your  
heart, and general honour.

ISABELLA

I am directed by you.

DUKE VINCENTIO

Who's here?

Lucio staggers along the path towards them, still drunk.

LUCIO

Good morn, Friar. O pretty  
Isabella, I am pale at mine heart  
to see thine eyes so red: thou must  
be patient. I am fain to dine and  
sup with water and bran; I dare not  
for my head fill my belly; one  
fruitful meal would set me to 't.  
But they say the Duke will be here  
tomorrow. By my troth, Isabel, I  
loved thy brother: if the old  
fantastical Duke of dark corners  
had been at home, he had lived.

Distraught, Isabella hurries away.

DUKE VINCENTIO

Sir, the Duke is marvellous little  
beholding to your reports; but the  
best is, he lives not in them.

LUCIO

Friar, thou knowest not the Duke so well as I do: he's a better woodman than thou takest him for.

DUKE VINCENTIO

Well, you'll answer this one day.  
Fare ye well.

LUCIO

Nay, tarry; I'll go along with thee I can tell thee pretty tales of the Duke.

DUKE VINCENTIO

You have told me too many of him already, sir, if they be true; if not true, none were enough.

LUCIO

I was once before him for getting a wench with child.

DUKE VINCENTIO

Did you such a thing?

LUCIO

Yes, marry, did I but I was fain to forswear it; they would else have married me to the rotten medlar.

DUKE VINCENTIO

Sir, your company is fairer than honest. Rest you well.

LUCIO

By my troth, I'll go with thee to the lane's end: if bawdy talk offend you, we'll have very little of it. Nay, friar, I am a kind of burr; I shall stick.

Escalus tries to calm a furious Angelo, who's reading messages on a tablet.

ESCALUS

Every letter he hath writ hath  
disvouched other.

ANGELO

In most uneven and distracted  
manner. His actions show much like  
to madness: pray heaven his wisdom  
be not tainted! And why meet him at  
the gates, and redeliver our  
authorities there?

ESCALUS

I guess not.

ANGELO

And why should we proclaim it in an  
hour before his entering that, if  
any crave redress of injustice,  
they should exhibit their petitions  
in the street?

ESCALUS

He shows his reason for that: to  
have a dispatch of complaints, and  
to deliver us from devices  
hereafter, which shall then have no  
power to stand against us.

ANGELO

Well, I beseech you, let it be  
proclaimed betimes i' the morn;  
I'll call you at your house: give  
notice to such men of sort and suit  
as are to meet him.

ESCALUS

I shall, sir. Fare you well.

ANGELO

Good night.

Escalus leaves. Angelo becomes reflective.

ANGELO (CONT'D)

This deed unshapes me quite, makes  
me unpregnant and dull to all  
proceedings. A deflower'd maid! And  
by an eminent body that enforced  
the law against it! But that her  
tender shame will not proclaim  
against her maiden loss, how might  
she tongue me! Yet reason dares her  
no; for my authority bears of a  
credent bulk, that no particular  
scandal once can touch but it  
confounds the breather. He should  
have lived, save that riotous  
youth, with dangerous sense, might  
in the times to come have ta'en  
revenge, by so receiving a  
dishonour'd life with ransom of  
such shame. Would yet he had lived!  
A lack, when once our grace we have  
forgot, nothing goes right: we  
would, and we would not.

Angelo stares out at the setting sun, blood red in the  
Martian sky.

33

INT. SPACEPORT - DAY

33

Isabella and Mariana lurk at the entrance to the Spaceport.

ISABELLA

To speak so indirectly I am loath:  
I would say the truth; but to  
accuse him so, that is your part:  
yet I am advised to do it; he says,  
to veil full purpose.



MARIANA

Be ruled by him.

ISABELLA

Besides, he tells me that, if peradventure he speak against me on the adverse side, I should not think it strange; for 'tis a physic that's bitter to sweet end.

MARIANA

I would Friar Lodowick --

ISABELLA

O, peace! The friar is come!

A hooded monk approaches. He pulls down his hood to greet them. It's not the Duke, but Friar Peter.

FRIAR PETER

Come, I have found you out a stand most fit, where you may have such vantage on the Duke, he shall not pass you. Twice have the trumpets sounded; the generous and gravest citizens have hent the gates, and very near upon the Duke is entering: therefore, hence, away!

He leads them away.

ACT V

34

INT. SPACEPORT HANGAR - DAY

34

In a huge hangar, Angelo, Escalus, the Provost, Elbow and various guards and officers await the Duke.

The doors open and the Duke's ship enters the hangar.

The clothes and hair of the assembled dignitaries are blown about by the gale from the ship.

The ship settles down and a gangway slides out.

Angelo and Escalus look on.

The Duke strolls down the gangway.

Angelo and Escalus step forward to greet him.

DUKE VINCENTIO

My very worthy cousin, fairly met!  
Our old and faithful friend, we are  
glad to see you.

ANGELO, ESCALUS

Happy return be to your royal  
grace!

DUKE VINCENTIO

Many and hearty thankings to you  
both. We have made inquiry of you;  
and we hear such goodness of your  
justice, that our soul cannot but  
yield you forth to public thanks,  
forerunning more requital.

ANGELO

You make my bonds still greater.

DUKE VINCENTIO

O, your desert speaks loud; and I  
should wrong it, to lock it in the  
wards of covert bosom, when it  
deserves, with characters of brass,  
a fortified residence 'gainst the  
tooth of time and razure of  
oblivion.

The Duke starts to walk, Escalus and Angelo follow.

INT. SPACEPORT ARRIVALS HALL - DAY

Isabella and Mariana stand waiting with Friar Peter.  
The Duke leads his welcoming party through the doors.

FRIAR PETER

Now is your time: speak loud and  
kneel before him.

Friar Peter pushes Isabella forward.

Isabella kneels before the Duke.

ISABELLA

Justice, O royal Duke! Vail your regard upon a wrong'd, I would fain have said, a maid! O worthy prince, dishonour not your eye by throwing it on any other object till you have heard me in my true complaint and given me justice, justice, justice, justice!

DUKE VINCENTIO

Relate your wrongs; in what? By whom? Be brief. Here is Lord Angelo shall give you justice: reveal yourself to him.

ISABELLA

O worthy Duke, you bid me seek redemption of the devil: hear me yourself; for that which I must speak must either punish me, not being believed, or wring redress from you. Hear me, O hear me, here!

As they speak, a crowd of people starts to form around them.

ANGELO

My lord, her wits, I fear me, are not firm: she hath been a suitor to me for her brother cut off by course of justice,--

ISABELLA

By course of justice!

ANGELO

And she will speak most bitterly and strange.

ISABELLA

Most strange, but yet most truly, will I speak: that Angelo's forsworn; is it not strange?

(MORE)

ISABELLA (CONT'D)

That Angelo's a murderer; is 't not strange? That Angelo is an adulterous thief, an hypocrite, a virgin-violator; is it not strange and strange?

DUKE VINCENTIO

Nay, it is ten times strange.

ISABELLA

It is not truer he is Angelo than this is all as true as it is strange: nay, it is ten times true; for truth is truth to the end of reckoning.

DUKE VINCENTIO

Away with her! Poor soul, she speaks this in the infirmity of sense.

ISABELLA

O prince, I conjure thee, as thou believest there is another comfort than this world, that thou neglect me not, with that opinion that I am touch'd with madness! Make not impossible that which but seems unlike: 'tis not impossible but one, the wicked'st caitiff on the ground, may seem as shy, as grave, as just, as absolute as Angelo; even so may Angelo, in all his dressings, characts, titles, forms, be an arch-villain; believe it, royal prince: if he be less, he's nothing; but he's more, had I more name for badness.

DUKE VINCENTIO

By mine honesty, if she be mad, --  
as I believe no other, -- her  
madness hath the oddest frame of  
sense, such a dependency of thing  
on thing, as e'er I heard in  
madness.

ISABELLA

O gracious Duke, harp not on that,  
nor do not banish reason for  
inequality; but let your reason  
serve to make the truth appear  
where it seems hid, and hide the  
false seems true.

DUKE VINCENTIO

Many that are not mad have, sure,  
more lack of reason. What would you  
say?

ISABELLA

I am the sister of one Claudio,  
condemn'd upon the act of  
fornication to lose his head;  
condemn'd by Angelo: I, in  
probation of a sisterhood, was sent  
to by my brother; one Lucio as then  
the messenger,--

Lucio steps forward out of the crowd.

LUCIO

That's I, an't like your grace:  
I came to her from Claudio, and  
desired her to try her gracious  
fortune with Lord Angelo for her  
poor brother's pardon.

DUKE VINCENTIO

You were not bid to speak.

LUCIO

No, my good lord; nor wish'd to  
hold my peace.

DUKE VINCENTIO

I wish you now, then; pray you,  
take note of it: and when you have  
a business for yourself, pray  
heaven you then be perfect.

LUCIO

I warrant your honour.

DUKE VINCENTIO

The warrants for yourself; take  
heed to't.

ISABELLA

This gentleman told somewhat of my  
tale, --

LUCIO

Right.

DUKE VINCENTIO

It may be right; but you are i' the  
wrong to speak before your time.  
Proceed.

ISABELLA

I went to this pernicious caitiff  
deputy, --

DUKE VINCENTIO

That's somewhat madly spoken.

ISABELLA

Pardon it; the phrase is to the  
matter.

DUKE VINCENTIO

Mended again. The matter; proceed.

## ISABELLA

In brief, to set the needless process by, how I persuaded, how I pray'd, and kneel'd, how he refell'd me, and how I replied, -- for this was of much length, -- the vile conclusion I now begin with grief and shame to utter: he would not, but by gift of my chaste body to his concupiscible intemperate lust, release my brother; and, after much debatement, my sisterly remorse confutes mine honour, and I did yield to him: but the next morn betimes, his purpose surfeiting, he sends a warrant for my poor brother's head.

## DUKE VINCENTIO

This is most likely!

## ISABELLA

O, that it were as like as it is true!

## DUKE VINCENTIO

By heaven, fond wretch, thou knowist not what thou speak'st, or else thou art suborn'd against his honour in hateful practise. First, his integrity stands without blemish. Next, it imports no reason that with such vehemency he should pursue faults proper to himself: if he had so offended, he would have weigh'd thy brother by himself and not have cut him off. Some one hath set you on: confess the truth, and say by whose advice thou camest here to complain.

ISABELLA

And is this all? Then, O you  
blessed ministers above, keep me in  
patience, and with ripen'd time  
unfold the evil which is here wrapt  
up in countenance! Heaven shield  
your grace from woe, as I, thus  
wrong'd, hence unbelieved go!

DUKE VINCENTIO

I know you'd fain be gone. An  
officer to prison with her! Shall  
we thus permit a blasting and a  
scandalous breath to fall on him so  
near us? This needs must be a  
practise. Who knew of your intent  
and coming hither?

ISABELLA

One that I would were here, Friar  
Lodowick.

With a dismissive flick of the Dukes hand, Elbow leads  
Isabella away.

DUKE VINCENTIO

A ghostly father, belike. Who knows  
that Lodowick?

LUCIO

My lord, I know him; 'tis a  
meddling friar; I do not like the  
man: had he been lay, my lord for  
certain words he spake against your  
grace in your retirement, I had  
swinged him soundly.

DUKE VINCENTIO

Words against me? This is a good  
friar, belike! And to set on this  
wretched woman here against our  
substitute! Let this friar be  
found.



LUCIO

But yesternight, my lord, she and that friar, I saw them: a saucy friar, a very scurvy fellow.

FRIAR PETER

Blessed be your royal grace! I have stood by, my lord, and I have heard your royal ear abused. First, hath this woman most wrongfully accused your substitute, who is as free from touch or soil with her as she from one ungot.

DUKE VINCENTIO

We did believe no less. Know you that Friar Lodowick that she speaks of?

FRIAR PETER

I know him for a man divine and holy; not scurvy, nor a temporary meddler, as he's reported by this gentleman; and, on my trust, a man that never yet did, as he vouches, misreport your grace.

LUCIO

My lord, most villanously; believe it.

FRIAR PETER

Well, he in time may come to clear himself; but at this instant he is sick my lord, of a strange fever. Upon his mere request, being come to knowledge that there was complaint intended 'gainst Lord Angelo, came I hither, to speak, as from his mouth, what he doth know is true and false;

(MORE)

FRIAR PETER (CONT'D)

and what he with his oath and all probation will make up full clear, whensoever he's convented. First, for this woman. To justify this worthy nobleman, so vulgarly and personally accused, her shall you hear disproved to her eyes, till she herself confess it.

DUKE VINCENTIO

Good friar, let's hear it.

Mariana steps forward.

DUKE VINCENTIO (CONT'D)

Do you not smile at this, Lord Angelo? O heaven, the vanity of wretched fools! Give us some seats. Come, cousin Angelo; In this I'll be impartial; be you judge of your own cause. Is this the witness, friar? First, let her show her face, and after speak.

They are passed some seats to sit on.

MARIANA

Pardon, my lord; I will not show my face until my husband bid me.

DUKE VINCENTIO

What, are you married?

MARIANA

No, my lord.

DUKE VINCENTIO

Are you a maid?

MARIANA

No, my lord.

DUKE VINCENTIO

A widow, then?

MARIANA

Neither, my lord.

DUKE VINCENTIO

Why, you are nothing then: neither  
maid, widow, nor wife?

LUCIO

My lord, she may be a punk; for  
many of them are neither maid,  
widow, nor wife.

DUKE VINCENTIO

Silence that fellow: I would he had  
some cause to prattle for himself.

MARIANA

My lord; I do confess I ne'er was  
married; and I confess besides I am  
no maid: I have known my husband;  
yet my husband knows not that ever  
he knew me.

LUCIO

He was drunk then, my lord: it can  
be no better.

DUKE VINCENTIO

For the benefit of silence, would  
thou wert so too! This is no  
witness for Lord Angelo.

MARIANA

Now I come to't my lord, she that  
accuses him of fornication, in self-  
same manner doth accuse my husband,  
and charges him my lord, with such  
a time when I'll depose I had him  
in mine arms with all the effect of  
love.

ANGELO

Charges she more than me?

MARIANA

Not that I know.

DUKE VINCENTIO

No? You say your husband.

MARIANA

Why, just, my lord, and that is Angelo, who thinks he knows that he ne'er knew my body, but knows he thinks that he knows Isabel's.

ANGELO

This is a strange abuse. Let's see thy face.

MARIANA

My husband bids me; now I will unmask.

She raises her veil.

MARIANA (CONT'D)

This is that face, thou cruel Angelo, which once thou swore'st was worth the looking on; this is the hand which, with a vow'd contract, was fast belock'd in thine; this is the body that took away the match from Isabel, and did supply thee at thy garden-house in her imagined person.

DUKE VINCENTIO

Know you this woman?

LUCIO

Carnally, she says.

DUKE VINCENTIO

Sirrah, no more!

## ANGELO

My lord, I must confess I know this woman: and five years since there was some speech of marriage betwixt myself and her; which was broke off, partly for that her promised proportions came short of composition, but in chief for that her reputation was disvalued in levity: since which time of five years I never spake with her, saw her, nor heard from her, upon my faith and honour.

## MARIANA

Noble prince, as there comes light from heaven and words from breath, as there is sense in truth and truth in virtue, I am affianced this man's wife as strongly as words could make up vows: and, my good lord, but Tuesday night last gone in's garden-house he knew me as a wife. As this is true, let me in safety raise me from my knees or else for ever be confixed here, a marble monument!

## ANGELO

I did but smile till now: now, good my lord, give me the scope of justice my patience here is touch'd. I do perceive these poor informal women are no more but instruments of some more mightier member that sets them on: let me have way, my lord, to find this practise out.

## DUKE VINCENTIO

Ay, with my heart, and punish them to your height of pleasure. Thou foolish friar, and thou pernicious woman, compact with her that's gone, think'st thou thy oaths, though they would swear down each particular saint, were testimonies against his worth and credit that's seal'd in approbation? You, Lord Escalus, sit with my cousin; lend him your kind pains to find out this abuse, whence 'tis derived. There is another friar that set them on; let him be sent for.

## FRIAR PETER

Would he were here, my lord! For he indeed hath set the women on to this complaint: your provost knows the place where he abides and he may fetch him.

## DUKE VINCENTIO

Go do it instantly.

The Provost bows and leaves.

## DUKE VINCENTIO (CONT'D)

And you, my noble and well-warranted cousin, whom it concerns to hear this matter forth, do with your injuries as seems you best, in any chastisement: I for a while will leave you; but stir not you till you have well determined upon these slanderers.

The Duke hurries away through the crowd.

ESCALUS

My lord, we'll do it thoroughly.  
Call that same Isabel here once  
again; I would speak with her.

An Officer turns away and talks into a radio in his lapel.

ESCALUS (CONT'D)

Pray you, my lord, give me leave to  
question; you shall see how I'll  
handle her.

LUCIO

Not better than he, by her own  
report.

ESCALUS

Say you?

LUCIO

Marry, sir, I think, if you handled  
her privately, she would sooner  
confess: perchance, publicly,  
she'll be ashamed.

ESCALUS

I will go darkly to work with her.

LUCIO

That's the way; for women are light  
at midnight.

Elbow leads Isabella back.

ESCALUS

Come on, mistress: here's a  
gentlewoman denies all that you  
have said.

LUCIO

My lord, here comes the rascal I  
spoke of; here with the provost.

The Provost leads the Duke in his friar's habit.

ESCALUS

In very good time: speak not you to him till we call upon you.

LUCIO

Mum.

ESCALUS

Come, sir: did you set these women on to slander Lord Angelo? They have confessed you did.

DUKE VINCENTIO

'Tis false.

ESCALUS

How! Know you where you are?

DUKE VINCENTIO

Where is the Duke? 'Tis he should hear me speak.

ESCALUS

The Duke's in us; and we will hear you speak: look you speak justly.

DUKE VINCENTIO

Is the Duke gone? Then is your cause gone too. The Duke's unjust, thus to retort your manifest appeal, and put your trial in the villain's mouth which here you come to accuse.

ESCALUS

Why, thou unreverend and unhallow'd friar, is't not enough thou hast suborn'd these women to accuse this worthy man, but, in foul mouth and in the witness of his proper ear, to call him villain? And then to glance from him to the Duke himself, to tax him with injustice? Take him hence;

(MORE)



ESCALUS (CONT'D)

to the rack with him! We'll touse  
you joint by joint, but we will  
know his purpose. What 'unjust'!

DUKE VINCENTIO

Be not so hot; the Duke dare no  
more stretch this finger of mine  
than he dare rack his own: his  
subject am I not, nor here  
provincial. My business in this  
state made me a looker on here in  
Vienna, where I have seen  
corruption boil and bubble till it  
o'er-run the stew!

ESCALUS

Slander to the state! Away with him  
to prison!

ANGELO

What can you vouch against him,  
Signior Lucio? Is this the man that  
you did tell us of?

LUCIO

'Tis he, my lord. Come hither,  
goodman baldpate: do you know me?

DUKE VINCENTIO

I remember you, sir, by the sound  
of your voice.

LUCIO

And do you remember what you said  
of the Duke?

DUKE VINCENTIO

Most notedly, sir.

LUCIO

Do you so, sir? And was the Duke a  
fleshmonger, a fool, and a coward,  
as you then reported him to be?

DUKE VINCENTIO

You must, sir, change persons with me, ere you make that my report: you, indeed, spoke so of him; and much more, much worse.

LUCIO

O thou damnable fellow! Did not I pluck thee by the nose for thy speeches?

The crowd are on Lucio's side, cheering him along.

DUKE VINCENTIO

I protest I love the Duke as I love myself.

ANGELO

Hark, how the villain would close now, after his treasonable abuses!

ESCALUS

Such a fellow is not to be talked withal. Away with him to prison! Where is the Provost? Away with him to prison! Lay bolts enough upon him: let him speak no more. Away with those giglots too, and with the other confederate companion!

DUKE VINCENTIO

(To Provost)

Stay, sir; stay awhile.

ANGELO

What, resists he? Help him, Lucio.

LUCIO

Come, sir; come, sir; come, sir; foh, sir! Why, you bald-pated, lying rascal, you must be hooded, must you?

(MORE)

LUCIO (CONT'D)

Show your knave's visage, with a  
pox to you! Show your sheep-biting  
face, and be hanged an hour! Will't  
not off?

He pulls off the monk's hood, and discovers the Duke.

The crowd, gasp and fall silent.

DUKE VINCENTIO

Thou art the first knave that e'er  
madest a Duke. First, Provost, let  
me bail these gentle three.

Lucio tries to sneak away.

DUKE VINCENTIO (CONT'D)

Sneak not away, sir; for the friar  
and you must have a word anon. Lay  
hold on him.

Guards grab Lucio.

LUCIO

This may prove worse than hanging.

DUKE VINCENTIO

(To ESCALUS)

What you have spoke I pardon: sit  
you down: we'll borrow place of  
him.

(To ANGELO)

Sir, by your leave.

He takes Angelo's seat.

DUKE VINCENTIO (CONT'D)

(Still to Angelo)

Hast thou or word, or wit, or  
impudence, that yet can do thee  
office? If thou hast, rely upon it  
till my tale be heard, and hold no  
longer out.

ANGELO

O my dread lord, I should be  
 guiltier than my guiltiness, to  
 think I can be undiscernible, when  
 I perceive your grace, like power  
 divine, hath look'd upon my passes.  
 Then, good prince, no longer  
 session hold upon my shame, but let  
 my trial be mine own confession:  
 Immediate sentence then and sequent  
 death is all the grace I beg.

DUKE VINCENTIO

Come hither, Mariana. Say, wast  
 thou e'er contracted to this woman?

ANGELO

I was, my lord.

DUKE VINCENTIO

Go take her hence, and marry her  
 instantly.

(to Friar Peter)

Do you the office, friar; which  
 consummate, return him here again.  
 Go with him, Provost.

The Provost leads Angelo, Mariana and the Friar away.

ESCALUS

My lord, I am more amazed at his  
 dishonour than at the strangeness  
 of it.

DUKE VINCENTIO

Come hither, Isabel. Your friar is  
 now your prince: as I was then  
 advertising and holy to your  
 business, not changing heart with  
 habit, I am still attorney'd at  
 your service.

ISABELLA

O, give me pardon, that I, your  
vassal, have employ'd and pain'd  
your unknown sovereignty!

DUKE VINCENTIO

You are pardon'd, Isabel: and now,  
dear maid, be you as free to us.  
Your brother's death, I know, sits  
at your heart; and you may marvel  
why I obscured myself, labouring to  
save his life, and would not rather  
make rash remonstrance of my hidden  
power than let him so be lost. O  
most kind maid, it was the swift  
celerity of his death, which I did  
think with slower foot came on,  
that brain'd my purpose. But, peace  
be with him! That life is better  
life, past fearing death, than that  
which lives to fear: make it your  
comfort, so happy is your brother.

ISABELLA

I do, my lord.

The Provost leads the wedding party back into the arrivals  
area.

## DUKE VINCENTIO

For this new-married man  
 approaching here, whose salt  
 imagination yet hath wrong'd your  
 well defended honour, you must  
 pardon for Mariana's sake: but as  
 he adjudged your brother, -- being  
 criminal, in double violation of  
 sacred chastity and of promise -  
 breach thereon dependent, for your  
 brother's life, -- the very mercy  
 of the law cries out most audible,  
 even from his proper tongue, 'An  
 Angelo for Claudio, death for  
 death!' Haste still pays haste, and  
 leisure answers leisure; Like doth  
 quit like, and measure still for  
 measure. Then, Angelo, thy fault's  
 thus manifested; which, though thou  
 wouldst deny, denies thee vantage.  
 We do condemn thee to the very  
 block where Claudio stoop'd to  
 death, and with like haste. Away  
 with him!

## MARIANA

O my most gracious lord, I hope you  
 will not mock me with a husband.

## DUKE VINCENTIO

It is your husband mock'd you with  
 a husband. Consenting to the  
 safeguard of your honour, I thought  
 your marriage fit; else imputation,  
 for that he knew you, might  
 reproach your life and choke your  
 good to come;

(MORE)

DUKE VINCENTIO (CONT'D)

for his possessions, although by  
confiscation they are ours, we do  
instate and widow you withal, to  
buy you a better husband.

MARIANA

O my dear lord, I crave no other,  
nor no better man.

DUKE VINCENTIO

Never crave him; we are definitive.

MARIANA

Gentle my liege,--

Mariana kneels before him.

DUKE VINCENTIO

You do but lose your labour. Away  
with him to death!

(To Lucio)

Now, sir, to you.

MARIANA

O my good lord! Sweet Isabel, take  
my part; lend me your knees, and  
all my life to come I'll lend you  
all my life to do you service.

DUKE VINCENTIO

Against all sense you do importune  
her: should she kneel down in mercy  
of this fact, her brother's ghost  
his paved bed would break, and take  
her hence in horror.

MARIANA

Isabel, sweet Isabel, do yet but  
kneel by me; hold up your hands,  
say nothing; I'll speak all. O  
Isabel, will you not lend a knee?

DUKE VINCENTIO

He dies for Claudio's death.

ISABELLA

Most bounteous sir,

(Kneeling next to Mariana)

Look, if it please you, on this man  
condemn'd, as if my brother lived:  
I partly think a due sincerity  
govern'd his deeds, till he did  
look on me: since it is so, let him  
not die. My brother had but  
justice, in that he did the thing  
for which he died: For Angelo, his  
act did not o'ertake his bad  
intent, and must be buried but as  
an intent that perish'd by the way:  
thoughts are no subjects; intents  
but merely thoughts.

MARIANA

Merely, my lord.

DUKE VINCENTIO

Your suit's unprofitable; stand up,  
I say. I have bethought me of  
another fault. Provost, how came it  
Claudio was beheaded at an unusual  
hour?

PROVOST

It was commanded so.

DUKE VINCENTIO

Had you a special warrant for the  
deed?

PROVOST

No, my good lord; it was by private  
message.

DUKE VINCENTIO

For which I do discharge you of  
your office: give up your keys.



PROVOST

Pardon me, noble lord: I thought it was a fault, but knew it not; yet did repent me, after more advice; for testimony whereof, one in the prison, that should by private order else have died, I have reserved alive.

DUKE VINCENTIO

What's he?

PROVOST

His name is Barnardine.

DUKE VINCENTIO

I would thou hadst done so by Claudio. Go fetch him hither; let me look upon him.

The Provost hurries away making calls on his radio.

ESCALUS

I am sorry, one so learned and so wise as you, Lord Angelo, have still appear'd, should slip so grossly, both in the heat of blood. and lack of temper'd judgment afterward.

ANGELO

I am sorry that such sorrow I procure: and so deep sticks it in my penitent heart that I crave death more willingly than mercy; 'Tis my deserving, and I do entreat it.

The Provost returns with Claudio and Barnardine, both are hooded.

DUKE VINCENTIO

Which is that Barnardine?

PROVOST

This, my lord.

DUKE VINCENTIO

There was a friar told me of this man. Sirrah, thou art said to have a stubborn soul. That apprehends no further than this world, and squarest thy life according. Thou'rt condemn'd: but, for those earthly faults, I quit them all; and pray thee take this mercy to provide for better times to come. Friar, advise him; I leave him to your hand. What muffled fellow's that?

PROVOST

This is another prisoner that I saved. Who should have died when Claudio lost his head; as like almost to Claudio as himself.

The Provost unmuffles Claudio. Isabella gasps and rushes forward to hug him.

DUKE VINCENTIO

(To Isabella)

If he be like your brother, for his sake is he pardon'd. By this Lord Angelo perceives he's safe; methinks I see a quickening in his eye. Well, Angelo, your evil quits you well: look that you love your wife; her worth worth yours. I find an apt remission in myself; and yet here's one in place I cannot pardon.

(To Lucio)

You, sirrah, that knew me for a fool, a coward, one all of luxury, an ass, a madman;

(MORE)

DUKE VINCENTIO (CONT'D)

wherein have I so deserved of you,  
what you extol me thus?

LUCIO

'Faith, my lord. I spoke it but  
according to the trick. If you will  
hang me for it, you may; but I had  
rather it would please you I might  
be whipt.

DUKE VINCENTIO

Whipt first, sir, and hanged after.  
Proclaim it, Provost, round about  
the city. Is any woman wrong'd by  
this lewd fellow, as I have heard  
him swear himself there's one whom  
he begot with child, let her  
appear, and he shall marry her: the  
nuptial finish'd, let him be whipt  
and hang'd.

LUCIO

I beseech your highness, do not  
marry me to a whore. Your highness  
said even now, I made you a Duke:  
good my lord, do not recompense me  
in making me a cuckold.

DUKE VINCENTIO

Upon mine honour, thou shalt marry  
her. Thy slanders I forgive; and  
therewithal remit thy other  
forfeits. Take him to prison; and  
see our pleasure herein executed.

LUCIO

Marrying a punk, my lord, is  
pressing to death, whipping, and  
hanging.

DUKE VINCENTIO

Slandering a prince deserves it.

Elbow and his Officers drag Lucio away.

The Duke nods to Juliet, who steps forward and shows Claudio their baby.

DUKE VINCENTIO (CONT'D)

She, Claudio, that you wrong'd,  
 look you restore. Joy to you,  
 Mariana! Love her, Angelo: I have  
 confess'd her and I know her  
 virtue. Thanks, good friend  
 Escalus, for thy much goodness:  
 there's more behind that is more  
 grate. Thanks, Provost, for thy  
 care and secrecy: We shall employ  
 thee in a worthier place. Forgive  
 him, Angelo, that brought you home  
 the head of Ragozine for Claudio's:  
 the offence pardons itself. Dear  
 Isabel, I have a motion much  
 imports your good; whereto if  
 you'll a willing ear incline,  
 what's mine is yours and what is  
 yours is mine.

Isabella pauses for a moment. She glances across at Angelo, then back at the Duke.

The Duke motions that everything, the people, the city are hers.

She smiles and steps forward to take his hand, to cries of delight and applause from the watching crowds.

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DUKE VINCENTIO

So, bring us to our palace; where  
 we'll show what's yet behind,  
 that's meet you all should know.

As the Duke sweeps Isabella away, she glances across at Angelo, a faint smile of triumph playing across her lips.

Angelo watches her, forlorn.

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FADE OUT. 37