

VALERIO: They're a pair of lovers, that's all,  
as mad as you in their own way.  
Let's get you to the asylum.  
I know the administrator.  
He has a house within the grounds.

### Scene 3

ERIFILA: This is a paradise.

LEONATO: Maybe.

ERIFILA: I feel so free, so fortunate,  
so far away from my father.  
Do you think he'll come after us?

LEONATO: He'll wash his hands of us for ever,  
and do what all gentlefolk do.  
Try to silence the wagging tongues,  
say you're no longer his daughter  
and that his servant betrayed him.

ERIFILA: If he knew how much I loved you,  
then he would say that I was crazed.

*LEONATO reacts angrily to this final word.*

LEONATO: Then perhaps it is a madness.  
You and I lived in different worlds.  
I beg you, choose your words with care,  
for the love that I have for you  
makes me equal to any man.  
I'm not longer just your servant.

ERIFILA: I've never thought of you like that!

LEONATO: Careless words betray a doubting heart.

ERIFILA: Tell me, what have my words betrayed?

LEONATO: Your every word, your silences,  
speak eloquently of regret.

ERIFILA: I've given you my soul, my life,  
the two dearest things I possess,  
I gave them willingly to you.  
How can you take offence from that,  
and how can you talk of madness?

LEONATO: It was you spoke of being crazed.  
The servant and his master's daughter.  
That's not love... it's a laughing stock.

ERIFILA: Have you suddenly become less?  
I fell in love with a servant  
because you were my father's servant.  
But my eyes saw you as you were  
and I love you now as you are.

LEONATO: What could you see? Contempt, disdain...  
all these things are invisible.  
But I lived them, day in, day out.  
Contempt, disdain, in every look,  
in every word that's been uttered.

ERIFILA: You're the one who's crazy.

LEONATO: Crazy?  
Because I stand up for myself?

ERIFILA: Stand up for yourself against what?  
What imaginary offence?  
That it was madness to run away?  
That I was crazed with love for you?

LEONATO: I can hear what's behind those words  
and I can see what's in your heart.

ERIFILA: Who better to read it than you?  
It is yours through love and reason.  
But if all you seek is an excuse  
to leave me here alone, then go.

LEONATO: You pour insult upon insult.  
You call your love 'a mere madness'

and you think me a man of no shame  
 who'd abandon you in this wood.  
 I said choose your words with great care.

ERIFILA: I don't know you, Leonato.  
 Dark thoughts have taken hold of you  
 and blinded you to who I am.

LEONATO: Disdain for disdain, my lady.  
 I've come to my senses at last.

ERIFILA: Did I ever say you'd lost them?

LEONATO: Yes.

ERIFILA: No, I didn't!

LEONATO: Yes, you did!

ERIFILA: Take that back, because it's not true.

LEONATO: What's a servant but a liar.  
 If you had loved me, as you claim,  
 you would have slept and lain with me,  
 not whined on about your honour,  
 about what you call your honour.  
 And my tears and pleas fell like seed  
 on the hard ground of your dead heart.  
 You say you saw me and loved me?  
 You've never looked at anyone  
 in your life; your eyes are as blind  
 as your heart is cold.

ERIFILA: My honour  
 is as precious to me as life,  
 and until you are my husband  
 it remains mine and mine alone.  
 I've given you no excuses  
 and I'll accept no reproaches.  
 What if I had lain down with you?  
 Where would you have been the next day?