



The Fall of the Duchy of Arezzo
A Tragedy in Five Acts (Playtest)
By the Sandown Road Players
1st September 2012

Dramatis Personae:

Lucretia de Arezzo, trusting Daughter
Duke Gianfranco de Arezzo, arrogant Parent
Mercutio de Arezzo, jealous Lover
Grand Duchess of Florence, unfortunate Authority
Alessandro the messenger, ambitious Foil

Kalyn Wilson
Dario Domizioli
Randal Jack
Viv Maslen
Alex Heal

Supporting Cast:

Horatio, a nobleman
Pietro, a soldier
The Duchess' maid
Gossiping Nobles

Viv Maslen
Alex Heal
Kalyn Wilson
Kalyn Wilson, Viv Maslen,
Randal Jack
Alex Heal

A Papal Agent

Setting: A small city-state in 14th Century Italy, the Tuscan countryside.

When widower Duke Arezzo and his daughter Lucretia travelled to their summer home, upstart cousin Mercutio moved into his castle at the head of a small army! Duke Arezzo marshalled his own forces upon his return and has been laying siege to his own home for several months. But now it is nearly time for the harvest, and all will suffer greatly if the matter is not ended. It has now come to the attention of the Grand Duchess of Florence, to whom Arezzo owes fealty, and she has agreed to arrange mediation between the quarrelling family members.

Act I: Duke Arezzo's Encampment

Scene 1: MERCUTIO and his dearest friend HORATIO come to discuss arrangements for the parley with DUKE AREZZO. LUCRETIA worries that her father will be unreasonable, and her fears prove well-founded! DUKE AREZZO refuses to speak directly to his cousin instead requesting the patient ALESSANDRO to relay his words, which the messenger does most tactfully.

Scene 2: While her father and cousin continue to bicker, LUCRETIA strikes up a conversation with HORATIO, soon finding herself charmed by his clever words. However, when DUKE AREZZO notices this he flies into a rage! Embarrassed by her father's rash behaviour, LUCRETIA volunteers herself as a hostage to her cousin until the parley begins.

Scene 3: DUKE AREZZO and MERCUTIO each take the opportunity to beg ALESSANDRO to present his case to the GRAND DUCHESS, offering him gold for fine words. Then HORATIO approaches the messenger, revealing himself to be an agent of the GRAND DUCHESS. He also pays ALESSANDRO to give her a message. Finally, ALESSANDRO has a soliloquy, revealing himself to be the last scion of the noble family once displaced by the Arezzos. He will bend the GRAND DUCHESS' ear to his own purpose—regaining his family's lands for himself.

Act II: The town of Arezzo

Scene 1: ALESSANDRO returns from Florence with news that the GRAND DUCHESS herself rides to Arezzo to pass judgement on the dispute, to be enforced by her personal militia if necessary. Seeking to sow dissent between the friends, ALESSANDRO tells HORATIO that MERCUTIO is in love with LUCRETIA. When HORATIO overhears a conversation between the cousins, seeds of doubt begin to blossom.

Scene 2: The GRAND DUCHESS prepares for a night of rest before meeting with the quarrelsome Arezzos in the morning. She confesses to her MAID that HORATIO is her bastard son, fostered out at birth. She plans to grant a command in the Emperor's military to MERCUTIO, and to betroth HORATIO to LUCRETIA so that he will inherit DUKE AREZZO's lands.

Scene 3: Whilst PIETRO does his best to keep them safe, DUKE AREZZO and LUCRETIA argue their way through the midnight streets of Arezzo. LUCRETIA is furious with her father for 'rescuing' her, revealing her concern for HORATIO, who has been wounded by DUKE AREZZO in LUCRETIA's defence.

Act III: Castle Arezzo

Scene 1: Two servants see to the GRAND DUCHESS' morning needs, until the serving girl reveals herself to be a disguised LUCRETIA. She has fled from her father to report his folly to the GRAND DUCHESS, who reveals her plans to the trusting girl. Thus reassured that all will be well if HORATIO lives, she departs. The other servant begins a soliloquy, revealing himself to be a frustrated ALESSANDRO. He vows to find a way to turn the GRAND DUCHESS back to his side.

Scene 2: Despite MERCUTIO and DUKE AREZZO's impassioned defences of their actions, the GRAND DUCHESS is implacable. MERCUTIO seems content with his fate, but DUKE AREZZO refuses to countenance the marriage of his daughter to a man of unknown family and storms out.

Scene 3: ALESSANDRO pays the Arezzo's gold to the GOSSIPING NOBLES, who tell him of the family's many secrets and promise to ensure that the GRAND DUCHESS and her court hear all about them. When they depart, DUKE AREZZO approaches ALESSANDRO with his troubles, asking the loyal messenger for aid. ALESSANDRO agrees to speed HORATIO to his rest by means of an herb he knows.

As ALESSANDRO approaches HORATIO's bedchamber, he finds MERCUTIO standing outside. MERCUTIO confesses his jealous fury that his best friend has been given all that he desired, while he

will find only death upon the battlefield. ALESSANDRO offers to support MERCUTIO in claiming LUCRETIA after HORATIO's death, and the two men enter the bedchamber together.

Act IV: Castle Arezzo

Scene 1: LUCRETIA grieves for HORATIO. In trying to comfort her and win her heart, MERCUTIO turns her against her father, implicating DUKE AREZZO in HORATIO's death. Frustrated at the control he has over her life and the loss of her love, LUCRETIA agrees to marry MERCUTIO if he will kill her father.

Scene 2: After HORATIO's funeral, LUCRETIA confronts her father and says that she will wed MERCUTIO and join him at his military posting, leaving her father to rot alone in his precious castle. DUKE AREZZO blames ALESSANDRO for HORATIO's death and vows in a soliloquy to kill the man personally in order to cover his own involvement.

Scene 3: ALESSANDRO makes his case before the GRAND DUCHESS and her court, revealing his lineage as MERCUTIO enters. Just as the GRAND DUCHESS offers to restore ALESSANDRO's ancestral lands, DUKE AREZZO bursts in and demands an immediate duel. ALESSANDRO wounds him severely, perhaps by accident.

Act V: Castle Arezzo

Scene 1: Upon seeing her father collapse, LUCRETIA takes up his sword and runs ALESSANDRO through, wounding him severely. MERCUTIO pulls her away as ALESSANDRO continues his verbal assault on the family, revealing MERCUTIO's involvement in HORATIO's death. Furious, the GRAND DUCHESS has MERCUTIO, LUCRETIA, and DUKE AREZZO arrested by her guards.

Scene 2: The GRAND DUCHESS commiserates with the dying ALESSANDRO, revealing HORATIO's lineage. MERCUTIO, struck by the folly of his jealousy, confesses all and kills himself with a dagger. While a broken-hearted and abandoned LUCRETIA weeps, ALESSANDRO tells the GRAND DUCHESS to claim the Arezzo lands as her own.

Scene 3: The dying DUKE AREZZO gives a final soliloquy on the folly of meddling with tradition. The GRAND DUCHESS advises LUCRETIA to get herself to a nunnery, which is agreed by the PAPAL AGENT when he reveals himself. He suggests that the GRAND DUCHESS' indiscretion makes her a poor ally to the Emperor in his political machinations against the Pope. Reluctantly, she agrees to turn over the Arezzo lands to the Church, choosing exile in France over a nunnery for herself.

The PAPAL AGENT gives a final soliloquy revealing the flaws of each of the Dramatis Personae.

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