

Beatrice's Soliloquy

Much Ado About Nothing

Act 3 Scene 1

Much Ado About Nothing is the original rom-com. Beatrice and Benedick are the archetypal rom-com lovers. They seem to hate each other so much, we know they must really be in love. They claim that they will never marry so loudly that we know they will marry at the end. However, their friends plot to bring them together. Beatrice has just overheard how Benedick is supposed to be madly in love with her but is afraid to reveal his love because Beatrice would only be cruel to him. She has also heard herself criticised for being so proud and rude.

Beatrice:

What fire is in mine ears?

Commentary

Beatrice's shock is conveyed in these two questions. The "fire" is a metaphor for gunfire. Her friends have just attacked her character.

Can this be true?

Stand I condemn'd for pride and scorn so much?

A third question, she is shocked by that her friends could think she could be so cruel.

Contempt, farewell! and maiden pride, adieu!

She decides to change: she says good bye to rudeness and pride.

No glory lives behind the back of such.

She realises you gain nothing by being rude or proud.

And, Benedick, love on; I will requite thee,
Taming my wild heart to thy loving hand:

Now she urges Benedick to love her and have no fear because she has changed. She uses an image from falconry here: she is the wild falcon who will be tamed by Benedick's love.

If thou dost love, my kindness shall incite thee
To bind our loves up in a holy band;

If Benedick does love her she will return his love and they will be married.

For others say thou dost deserve, and I
Believe it better than reportingly.

She says that everyone says that Benedick is a worthy man and now she believes it most sincerely.