

The Changeling by Middleton & Rowley  
M/M BS, SmS, SS, R&D

102 MIDDLETON AND ROWLEY [ACT V  
VERMANDERO  
How now?  
SERVANT All danger's past; you may now take  
Your rests, my lords. The fire is thoroughly quenched.  
Ah, poor gentlewoman, how soon was she stifled! 115  
BEATRICE  
De Flores, what is left of her inter,  
And we as mourners all will follow her.  
I will entreat that honour to my servant  
Ev'n of my lord himself.  
ALSEMERO Command it, sweetness.  
BEATRICE  
Which of you spied the fire first?  
DE FLORES 'Twas I, madam. 120  
BEATRICE  
And took such pains in't too? A double goodness!  
'Twere well he were rewarded.  
VERMANDERO He shall be. –  
De Flores, call upon me.  
ALSEMERO And upon me, sir.  
*Exeunt [all but DE FLORES]*  
DE FLORES  
Rewarded? Precious! Here's a trick beyond me!  
I see in all bouts, both of sport and wit, 125  
Always a woman strives for the last hit. *Exit*

[Act V, Scene ii]

*Enter TOMAZO*

TOMAZO  
I cannot taste the benefits of life  
With the same relish I was wont to do.  
Man I grow weary of, and hold his fellowship  
A treacherous bloody friendship; and because  
I am ignorant in whom my wrath should settle, 5  
I must think all men villains, and the next  
I meet, whoe'er he be, the murderer  
Of my most worthy brother. – Ha! What's he?

*Enter DE FLORES, passes over the stage*

114 *thoroughly* thoroughly

125 *sport* Cf. I. ii. 173; but here chiefly = (1) fencing, (2) amorous sport (PSB); *hit*  
(l. 126) has the subsidiary sense of copulation.

*Scene ii* author: Middleton; place Vermandero's castle

SCENE II] THE CHANGELING 103  
O, the fellow that some call honest De Flores.  
But methinks honesty was hard bested 10  
To come there for a lodging – as if a queen  
Should make her palace of a pest-house.  
I find a contrariety in nature  
Betwixt that face and me; the least occasion  
Would give me game upon him. Yet he's so foul, 15  
One would scarce touch [him] with a sword he loved  
And made account of; so most deadly venomous,  
He would go near to poison any weapon  
That should draw blood on him. One must resolve  
Never to use that sword again in fight, 20  
In way of honest manhood, that strikes him.  
Some river must devour it; 'twere not fit  
That any man should find it. – What, again?

*Enter DE FLORES*

He walks a' purpose by, sure, to choke me up,  
To infect my blood.  
DE FLORES My worthy noble lord! 25  
TOMAZO  
Dost offer to come near and breathe upon me?  
[Strikes him]  
DE FLORES A blow! [Draws his sword]  
TOMAZO Yea, are you so prepared?  
I'll rather like a soldier die by th' sword  
Than like a politician by thy poison. [Draws]  
DE FLORES Hold, my lord, as you are honourable. 30  
TOMAZO  
All slaves that kill by poison are still cowards.  
DE FLORES [Aside]  
I cannot strike: I see his brother's wounds

10 *hard bested* hard put to it ('bestéd')

12 *pest-house* hospital for those suffering from infectious diseases, especially the  
plague

15 *give . . . him* incite me to fight him (Sampson)  
*foul* loathsome (perhaps with reference to disease)

16 *him* Dilke  
*he* i.e., one

22 *it* Dyce ('t Q); cf. metre.

24 *choke me up* i.e., to suffocate me to death with his contagious presence

29 *politician* schemer

31 *still* always

Fresh bleeding in his eye, as in a crystal.  
 [To TOMAZO] I will not question this: I know y'are  
 noble. [Sheathes his sword] 35  
 I take my injury with thanks given, sir,  
 Like a wise lawyër, and as a favour  
 Will wear it for the worthy hand that gave it.  
 [Aside] Why this from him, that yesterday appeared  
 So strangely loving to me? 40  
 O, but instinct is of a subtler strain!  
 Guilt must not walk so near his lodge again –  
 He came near me now. Exit

TOMAZO  
 All league with mankind I renounce for ever  
 Till I find this murderer. Not so much 45  
 As common courtesy but I'll lock up,  
 For in the state of ignorance I live in  
 A brother may salute his brother's murderer,  
 And wish good speed to th'villain in a greeting.

Enter VERMANDERO, ALIBIUS, and ISABELLA

VERMANDERO  
 Noble Piracquo!  
 TOMAZO Pray keep on your way, sir;  
 I've nothing to say to you. 50  
 VERMANDERO Comforts bless you, sir.  
 TOMAZO  
 I have forsworn compliment; in troth I have, sir.  
 As you are merely man, I have not left  
 A good wish for you, nor [for] any here.

33 *Fresh bleeding* perhaps an allusion to the belief that the victim's wounds started bleeding again if the murderer was near (Bawcutt) as in a crystal clearly, as in a crystal ball

36 *Like . . . lawyër* Cf. 'A good lawyer must be a great liar' (ODEP, p. 447).

38-9 The change in Tomazo's behaviour is indeed odd, but he is a dramatic character, not a real one, and De Flores provides an adequate explanation in l. 40: Tomazo's instinct (intuitive and unconscious) is *subtler* (= more perceptive) than what we usually call reason. His instinct has now revealed to him a truth about De Flores of which he was previously unaware.

41 *his* Tomazo's

42 'He was very near to sensing my guilt just now' (Black).

43 *league* i.e., alliance

44-5 *Not . . . up* i.e., 'I'll display no more than something less than common courtesy'

48 *speed* success

51 *forsworn* (perhaps 'försworn') renounced  
*compliment* formal courtesy (cf. ll. 43-8)

53 *for* Dyce; cf. metre.

VERMANDERO  
 Unless you be so far in love with grief  
 You will not part from't upon any terms, 55  
 We bring that news will make a welcome for us.

TOMAZO  
 What news can that be?

VERMANDERO Throw no scornful smile  
 Upon the zeal I bring you; 'tis worth more, sir.  
 Two of the chiefest men I kept about me  
 I hide not from the law, or your just vengeance. 60

TOMAZO  
 Ha!

VERMANDERO  
 To give your peace more ample satisfaction,  
 Thank these discoverers.

TOMAZO If you bring that calm,  
 Name but the manner I shall ask forgiveness in  
 For that contemptuous smile [I threw] upon you: 65  
 I'll péfect it with reverence that belongs  
 Unto a sacred altar. [Kneels]

VERMANDERO Good sir, rise.  
 Why, now you overdo as much a' this hand,  
 As you fell short a' t' other. – Speak, Alibius.

ALIBIUS  
 'Twas my wife's fortune – as she is most lucky 70  
 At a discovery – to find out lately  
 Within our hospital of fools and madmen  
 Two counterfeits slipped into these disguises;  
 Their names, Franciscus and Antonio.

VERMANDERO  
 Both mine, sir, and I ask no favour for 'em. 75

ALIBIUS  
 Now that which draws suspicion to their habits:  
 The time of their disguisings agrees justly  
 With the day of the murder.

TOMAZO O blest revelation!

56 *will* i.e., that will  
 58 *zeal* (1) good will; (2) zeal in my pursuit  
 60 *or . . . vengeance* Many saw private revenge as a satisfactory substitute for a legal process; Tomazo is offered a choice.  
 63 *discoverers* informants who have found out a secret (Alibius and Isabella)  
 65 *I threw* Dyce; cf. metre and l. 57.  
 73 *these disguises* Presumably Vermandero has them with him as evidence.  
 75 *favour* lenient treatment  
 76 *habits* clothes (of madman and fool)  
 77 *justly* exactly