

# Lysistrata by Aristophanes

M/F UA, QS, Kn, BS

*e now reached their position in the Orchestra,  
and their LEADER advances toward the LEADER OF THE MEN.)*

LEADER OF WOMEN: Hold on there! What's this, you utter 350  
scoundrels? No decent, God-fearing citizens would act like this.

LEADER OF MEN: Oh! Here's something unexpected: a swarm of  
women have come out to attack us.

LEADER OF WOMEN: What, do we frighten you? Surely you don't  
think we're too many for you. And yet there are ten thousand  
times more of us whom you haven't even seen.

LEADER OF MEN: What say, Phaedria? Shall we let these women wag  
their tongues? Shan't we take our sticks and break them over their  
backs?

LEADER OF WOMEN: Let's set our pitchers on the ground; then if any-  
one lays a hand on us, they won't get in our way.

LEADER OF MEN: By God! If someone gave them two or three 360  
smacks on the jaw, like Bupalus, they wouldn't talk so much!

LEADER OF WOMEN: Go on, hit me, somebody! Here's my jaw! But  
no other bitch will bite a piece out of you before me.

LEADER OF MEN: Silence! or I'll knock out your — senility!

LEADER OF WOMEN: Just lay one finger on Stratyllis, I dare you!

LEADER OF MEN: Suppose I dust you off with this fist? What will you  
do?

LEADER OF WOMEN: I'll tear the living guts out of you with my teeth.

LEADER OF MEN: No poet is more clever than Euripides: "There is no  
beast so shameless as a woman."

LEADER OF WOMEN: Let's pick up our jars of water, Rhodippe. 370

LEADER OF MEN: Why have you come here with water, you detestable  
slut?

LEADER OF WOMEN: And why have you come with fire, you funeral  
vault? To cremate yourself?

LEADER OF MEN: To light a fire and singe your friends.

LEADER OF WOMEN: And I've brought water to put out your fire.

LEADER OF MEN: What? You'll put out my fire?

LEADER OF WOMEN: Just try and see!

LEADER OF MEN: I wonder: shall I scorch you with this torch of mine?

LEADER OF WOMEN: If you've got any soap, I'll give you a bath.

LEADER OF MEN: Give me a bath, you stinking hag?

LEADER OF WOMEN: Yes — a bridal bath!

LEADER OF MEN: Just listen to her! What crust!

LEADER OF WOMEN: Well, I'm a free citizen.

LEADER OF MEN: I'll put an end to your bawling.

*(The men pick up their torches.)*

LEADER OF WOMEN: You'll never do jury-duty again. 380

*(The women pick up their pitchers.)*

LEADER OF MEN: Singe her hair for her!

LEADER OF WOMEN: Do your duty, water!

*(The women empty their pitchers on the men.)*

LEADER OF MEN: Owl! Owl! For heaven's sake!

LEADER OF WOMEN: Is it too hot?

LEADER OF MEN: What do you mean "hot"? Stop! What are you  
doing?

LEADER OF WOMEN: I'm watering you, so you'll be fresh and green.

LEADER OF MEN: But I'm all withered up with shaking.

LEADER OF WOMEN: Well, you've got a fire; why don't you dry your-  
self?