

Revenge of the Shrew

by

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REVENGE OF THE SHREW

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REVENGE OF THE SHREW

One year after their marriage, Katharina and Petruchio are celebrating their first wedding anniversary but how have they fared since we last saw them? Is Petruchio still the wife-tamer and Katharina still his obedient shrew? Join the party guests for an evening of shocks and surprises when the shrew gets her ultimate revenge.

This is a one-act comedy, with 3 suggested songs.

There is one simple set – a wedding anniversary party.

There are 10 characters: 5 male and 5 female.

Running time is approximately 40 minutes.

Characters (in order of appearance)

Jan	wife to Bob
Bob	friend to Petruchio
Bianca	sister to Katharina
Lucentio	husband to Bianca
Sidi	partner to Tara
Tara	friend to Katharina
Sonny	a wedding singer
Cher	a wedding singer
Katharina	(Kat) wife to Petruchio
Petruchio	(Pet) husband to Katharina

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Scene 1

(The room is set for a wedding anniversary party. There is a table containing nibbles and drinks. There is a large wedding photo of Kat and Pete on an easel – both of them dressed like gypsies. Enter Jan, carrying flowers, and Bob, carrying a large toy pig.)

Jan: I knew it! We're the first ones here!

Bob: Early birds get the worms...

Jan: You're welcome to the worms!

Bob: Look on the bright side...

Jan: What bright side?

Bob: We missed the worst of the traffic...

Jan: We came on the bus!

Bob: And very quick it was too!

Jan: So quick, we arrived before everyone else!

Bob: The rest will be here soon!

Jan: What time is it supposed to start?

Bob: It says seven on the invitation.

Jan: It says seven on **your** invitation.

Bob: What do you mean?

Jan: Seven is ridiculously early!

Bob: Perhaps they changed it...

Jan: You mean **he** changed it!

Bob: Who?

Jan: Petruchio.

Bob: Why would he do that?

Jan: Because he's your best friend.

Bob: Why would he want us to be early?

Jan: Playing one of his silly games.

Bob: What do you mean?

Jan: To embarrass you.

Bob: Why would he do that?

Jan: To humiliate you.

Bob: Why?

Jan: You must have noticed?

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Bob: Not really.

Jan: What have you got under your arm?

Bob: Their anniversary present.

Jan: And what is it?

Bob: What does it look like?

Jan: And how far have you carried it?

Bob: All the way from the bus stop!

Jan: And how many people looked at you?

Bob: They always look at me.

Jan: Or sniggered?

Bob: Perhaps one or two.

Jan: Or made a comment?

Bob: They weren't all rude!

Jan: I rest my case.

Bob: So you think he made me buy this as some sort of joke?

Jan: Of course!

Bob: Well, that's where you're wrong! This present is for both of them!

Jan: Oh, really!

Bob: Yes, really!

Jan: Do you think Kat will be impressed by a pig?

Bob: I don't see why not...

Jan: Do you think she asked for it?

Bob: She might have...

Jan: A **pig**...

Bob: Yes – a pig.

Jan: A **male** pig...

Bob: I didn't look at the sex!

Jan: A male **chauvinist** pig...

Bob: Oh, God!

Jan: To remind her of her husband!

Bob: Do you think so?

Jan: A life-size replica!

Bob: Not quite life-size!

Jan: That **thing** is designed to make her look stupid...

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Bob: I never thought...
Jan: One more nail in her coffin of public humiliation!
Bob: Would he stoop so low?
Jan: One more victory in his campaign to belittle her!
Bob: I didn't realise!
Jan: You just watch his face when you give it to her!
Bob: Do you think I should hide it?
Jan: Where are you going to hide that?
Bob: I could put it under the table.
Jan: And what are we going to give them as a present?
Bob: I'll look in my pocket. See what else I've got...
Jan: A dirty handkerchief?
Bob: I might have some loose change!

(Enter Bianca and Lucentio. Bob tries to hide the pig behind his back.)

Bianca: Jan and Bob...
Lucentio: Lovely to see you!
Bianca: We thought we heard voices...
Lucentio: We weren't expecting anyone yet...
Jan: You know us...
Bob: The bus sailed through the traffic...
Jan: We couldn't wait to get here!

(The two couples kiss, and shake hands, Bob still hiding the pig.)

Jan: I can't believe it's been a year!
Bianca: That's just what we were saying!
Jan: Their first wedding anniversary!
Bianca: Who would have believed it!
Lucentio: It just goes to show...
Bob: There's naught so queer as folk!

(They all look at Bob.)

Bob: So why are **you** early?
Lucentio: To set the place up.
Bianca: Kat wanted everything ready.
Jan: Well, she is your big sister!
Bianca: She still treats me like a slave!

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Jan: It all looks lovely, by the way!

Bianca: Thanks, Jan.

Lucentio: It's all Bianca's hard work!

Bianca: You blew up the balloons.

Lucentio: And you did the photo!

Bob: And very nice it is, too!

(They all look at the wedding photograph.)

Bob: And what time are the happy couple arriving?

Bianca: Whenever Petruchio says so, I expect...

Jan: Do you think they'll make a big entrance?

Bob: Like on their wedding day?

Bianca: I expect they will!

Bob: Accompanied by that awful gypsy folk band?

Bianca: I hope not!

Jan: With all that whooping and shouting...

Bob: Why were they playing so loud?

Jan: And singing in Romanian...

Lucentio: Or was it Bulgarian?

Bob: Nobody understood a word they were saying!

(They all look at the wedding photograph.)

Bianca: Let's pray that Petruchio hasn't hired them again!

Jan: Amen!

Bob: Amen to that!

Lucentio: I see you've brought a friend, Bob!

Bob: What?

Lucentio: Hiding behind your back...

Bob: Oh, this? **(Revealing the pig.)** It's their anniversary present.

Jan: Just a bit of fun...

Bob: Nothing too serious...

Jan: What else do you get for a couple who got married in a farmyard?

Bob: A farmyard absolutely miles from nowhere...

Jan: In the dilapidated remains of an old barn!

Lucentio: We got them a donkey.

Bob: Did you?

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- Lucentio:** The same size as your pig!
- Bianca:** It was Petruchio's idea...
- Jan:** What a surprise!
- Lucentio:** We thought it was strange...
- Bianca:** I didn't know my sister liked animals!
- Jan:** I bet you she doesn't!
- Bianca:** What do you mean?
- Jan:** It's obviously a joke.
- Bianca:** Surely not!
- Jan:** One of Petruchio's little whims.
- Bob:** We said that before you came in.
- Jan:** To remind Kat of her wedding day!
- Bob:** And the farmyard!
- Bianca:** Of course! She arrived on a horse and cart...
- Lucentio:** With two sheep as bridesmaids!
- Bob:** We thought it was odd at the time...
- Jan:** But not as odd as the reception!
- Bob:** With those gypsy folk singers...
- Jan:** Who turned out to be male strippers!
- Lucentio:** The less said about that the better!
- (They all look at the wedding photograph.)**
- Bianca:** We put our donkey under the table...
- Lucentio:** There's plenty of room under there, Bob.
- Jan:** Good idea, Bianca!
- Bob:** The pig can keep it company!
- (Bob shoves his pig under the table.)**
- Bob:** Now, you two behave yourselves under there!