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Tournez la page S.V.P.
[Enter] BOSOLA [with a dark lantern].

BOSOLA Sure I did hear a woman shriek. List! Hah?
And the sound came, if I received it right,
From the Duchess’ lodgings. There’s some stratagem
In the confining all our courtiers
To their several wards. I must have part of it;
My intelligence will freeze else. List, again!
It may be ’twas the melancholy bird,
Best friend of silence and of solitariness,
The owl, that screamed so.

[Enter] ANTONIO [with a horoscope].

Hah! Antonio?

ANTONIO I heard some noise. Who’s there? What art thou?

Speak.

BOSOLA Antonio? Put not your face nor body
To such a forced expression of fear.
I am Bosola, your friend.

ANTONIO Bosola?

[Aside] This mole does undermine me. [Aloud] Heard you not
A noise even now?

BOSOLA From whence?

ANTONIO From the Duchess’ lodging.

BOSOLA Not I. Did you?

ANTONIO I did, or else I dreamed.

BOSOLA Let’s walk towards it.

ANTONIO No. It may be ’twas
But the rising of the wind.

BOSOLA Very likely.

Methinks ’tis very cold, and yet you sweat.
You look wildly.

ANTONIO I have been setting a figure
For the Duchess’ jewels.

BOSOLA Ah—and how falls your question?

Do you find it radical?

ANTONIO What’s that to you?

’Tis rather to be questioned what design,
When all men were commanded to their lodgings,
Makes you a night-walker.

BOSOLA In sooth, I’ll tell you:

Now all the court’s asleep, I thought the devil
Had least to do here; I came to say my prayers—
And if it do offend you I do so,
You are a fine courtier.

ANTONIO [Aside] This fellow will undo me.

[To him] You gave the Duchess apricots today:
Pray heaven they were not poisoned.

BOSOLA Poisoned? A Spanish fig

For the imputation!
ANTONIO  Traitors are ever confident
       Till they are discovered. There were jewels stol’n too.
       In my conceit, none are to be suspected
       More than yourself.
BOSOLA  You are a false steward.
ANTONIO  Saucy slave! I’ll pull thee up by the roots.
BOSOLA  Maybe the ruin will crush you to pieces.
ANTONIO  You are an impudent snake indeed, sir:
       Are you scarce warm, and do you show your sting?
[ BOSOLA ... ]
ANTONIO  You libel well, sir.
BOSOLA  No, sir. Copy it out,
       And I will set my hand to’t.
       [ Takes out handkerchief and drops horoscope. ]
One that were superstitious would count
       This ominous, when it merely comes by chance.
Two letters that are wrought here for my name
       Are drowned in blood!
Mere accident. [To BOSOLA] For you, sir, I’ll take order:
       I’th’morn you shall be safe. [Aside] ’Tis that must color
Her lying-in. [To BOSOLA] Sir, this door you pass not:
       I do not hold it fit that you come near
The Duchess’ lodgings till you have quit yourself.
[Aside] The great are like the base; nay, they are the same,
       When they seek shameful ways to avoid shame.  Exit.

John Webster, The Duchess of Malfi [1613-14], Act II Scene 3, lines 1-52,
INFORMATION AUX CANDIDATS

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