

Crispin – a scoundrel, a schemer, a philosopher

CRISPIN tries to convince his co-conspirator to stick to their scheme and marry Sylvia without revealing his true circumstances.

CRISPIN: By the time she finds out, you'll no longer be the man you were: you'll be her husband, her loving husband, as loving, faithful, and noble as you could wish and she could desire...once you're in possession of her love—and her dowry—won't you be the most perfect gentleman? You're not like Mr. Polichinela, who, with all his money, which allows him so many luxuries, has not yet allowed himself the luxury of being honorable...In him, being a scoundrel is second nature; but in you, in you it was merely a result of necessity...And, what's more, if you hadn't had me with you, you would have let yourself die of hunger long ago, just by being so scrupulous. Ah! Do you think that, if I had found a different man in you, I'd have been satisfied merely to set you up as a lover? ...No; I would have dedicated you to politics, and not to Mr. Polichinela's money; the world would have been at our feet. ...But you aren't ambitious, you're contented with being happy...