

anguish and humiliation. This also shows her as a woman who is desperate to fit in. Katherina sees through Bianca's public persona and it angers her that men can't see through Bianca's disguise which is her pretty face and her "mild sobriety" (2). This is important because one of the reasons that Katherina is unable to conform is because the men find her physically unattractive. Petruchio's sarcastic remark of her being "like the hazel-twig" (2) suggests even her husband-to-be feels she is unattractive, but he gives her the chance to conform with his proposal of marriage. Her father tells Bianca's suitors that he will "not bestow my youngest daughter, Before I have a husband for the elder" (2). This makes the audience believe that the only way for Katherina to marry is to be used as a bargaining piece in marrying his prized daughter, Bianca.

Another way to look at Katherina is a desperate woman who just wants a voice. In the first scene she pleads with her father "I pray you, sir, is it your will to make a stale of me amongst these mates?" (2). Within this scene her father and two of Bianca's suitors are humiliating Katherina publicly on the street. Katherina feels as though she has no say in the matter and therefore can't even defend herself as her father is letting this happen. Clearly she is a thorn in her own family and it is because of her isolation that she turns to violence and aggression. She tells Petruchio "They call me Katherina that who do talk of me" (2). She is desperate for a voice and wants to show people that she can control her own destiny, whilst still fitting into the expectations of society. Katherina's desire to be her own person would not have been well received within the 16th century, even though to a modern audience she is an early archetype for female independence.

Act 3 scene 2 of the play sees the start of Petruchio's taming of Katherina. This scene contains the wedding of Katherina and Petruchio. The structural placement of Katherina and Petruchio's wedding tells us that issues between them haven't been resolved. The audience are not allowed to enjoy this wedding as there is an understanding that there is conflict to come. When Petruchio fails to show up for the wedding, Katherina doesn't display the expected signs of anger and rage that would be expected of a shrew, but instead informs the audience that it is "No shame but mine" (2). Proving that Katherina, the woman who was previously found to rebel against traditional societal expectations, has now become both subdued and reserved in her answer. This suggests that she wants to conform to societal expectations, shown also in her desire for a traditional wedding. Thus, when Petruchio is late she uses anger by calling him "a frantic fool" (2) using her shrewish