

# CORIOLANUS

*By* WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

*Edited by* BARBARA A. MOWAT  
*and* PAUL WERSTINE

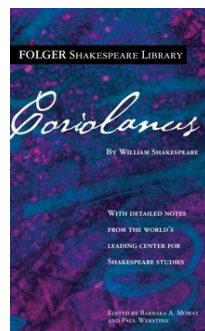
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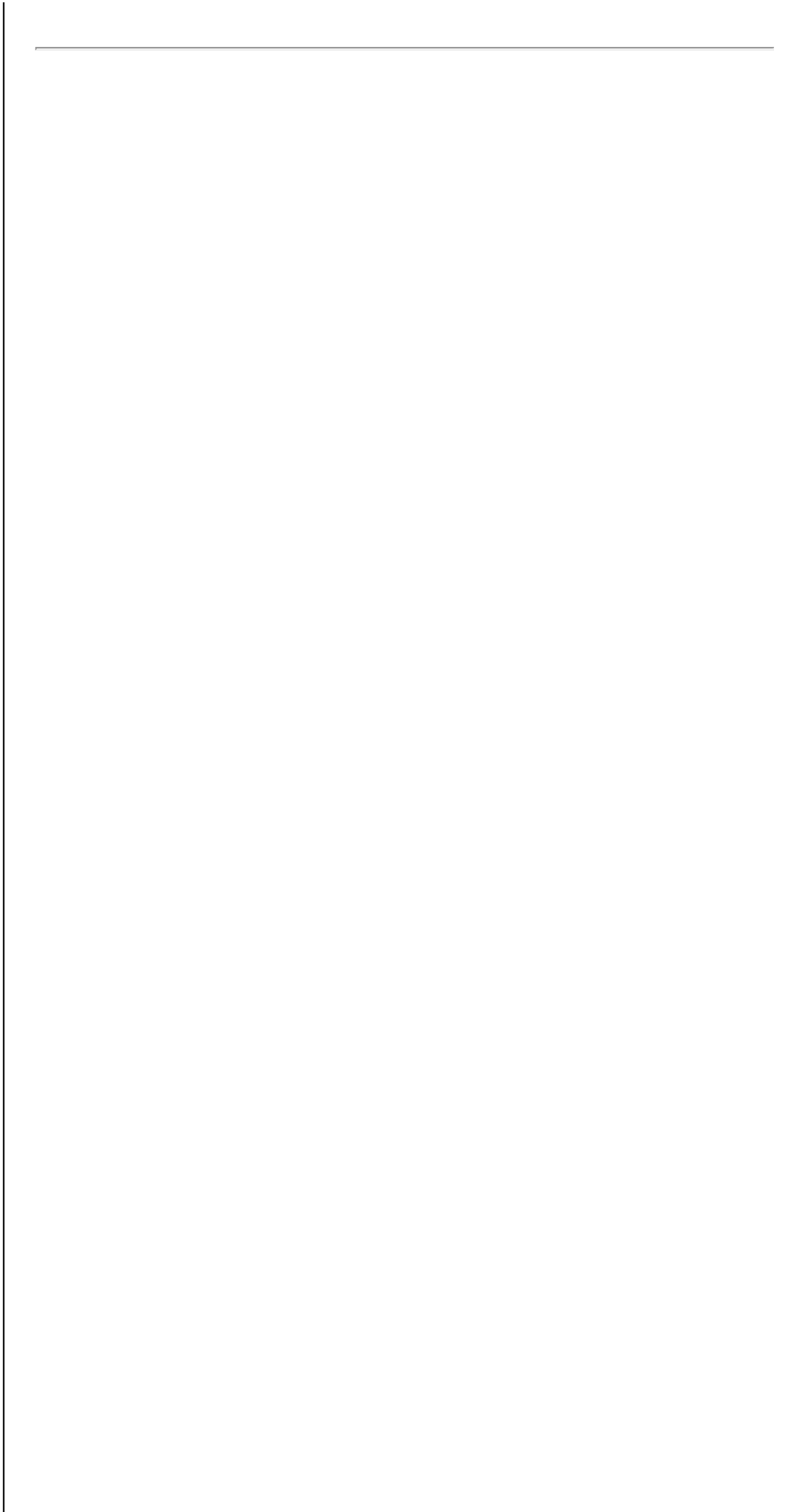
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## From the Director of the Folger Shakespeare Library

It is hard to imagine a world without Shakespeare. Since their composition four hundred years ago, Shakespeare's plays and poems have traveled the globe, inviting those who see and read his works to make them their own.

Readers of the New Folger Editions are part of this ongoing process of "taking up Shakespeare," finding our own thoughts and feelings in language that strikes us as old or unusual and, for that very reason, new. We still struggle to keep up with a writer who could think a mile a minute, whose words paint pictures that shift like clouds. These expertly edited texts are presented to the public as a resource for study, artistic adaptation, and enjoyment. By making the classic texts of the New Folger Editions available in electronic form as The Folger Shakespeare (formerly Folger Digital Texts), we place a trusted resource in the hands of anyone who wants them.

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I want to express my deep thanks to editors Barbara Mowat and Paul Werstine for creating these indispensable editions of Shakespeare's works, which incorporate the best of textual scholarship with a richness of commentary that is both inspired and engaging. Readers who want to know more about Shakespeare and his plays can follow the paths these distinguished scholars have tread by visiting the Folger either in-person or online, where a range of physical and digital resources exists to supplement the material in these texts. I commend to you these words, and hope that they inspire.

*Michael Witmore*  
Director, Folger Shakespeare Library

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## Textual Introduction

### By Barbara Mowat and Paul Werstine

Until now, with the release of The Folger Shakespeare (formerly Folger Digital Texts), readers in search of a free online text of Shakespeare's plays had to be content primarily with using the Moby™ Text, which reproduces a late-nineteenth century version of the plays. What is the difference? Many ordinary readers assume that there is a single text for the plays: what Shakespeare wrote. But Shakespeare's plays were not published the way modern novels or plays are published today: as a single, authoritative text. In some cases, the plays have come down to us in multiple published versions, represented by various Quartos (Qq) and by the great collection put together by his colleagues in 1623, called the First Folio (F). There are, for example, three very different versions of *Hamlet*, two of *King Lear*, *Henry V*, *Romeo and Juliet*, and others. Editors choose which version to use as their base text, and then amend that text with words, lines or speech prefixes from the other versions that, in their judgment, make for a better or more accurate text.

Other editorial decisions involve choices about whether an unfamiliar word could be understood in light of other writings of the period or whether it should be changed; decisions about words that made it into Shakespeare's text by accident through four hundred years of printings and misprinting; and even decisions based on cultural preference and taste. When the Moby™ Text was created, for example, it was deemed "improper" and "indecent" for Miranda to chastise Caliban for having attempted to rape her. (See *The Tempest*, 1.2: "Abhorred slave,/Which any print of goodness wilt not take,/Being capable of all ill! I pitied thee..."). All Shakespeare editors at the time took the speech away from her and gave it to her father, Prospero.

The editors of the Moby™ Shakespeare produced their text long before scholars fully understood the proper grounds on which to make the thousands of decisions that Shakespeare editors face. The Folger Library Shakespeare Editions, on which the Folger Shakespeare texts depend, make this editorial process as nearly transparent as is possible, in contrast to older texts, like the Moby™, which hide editorial interventions. The reader of the Folger Shakespeare knows where the text has been altered because editorial interventions are signaled by square brackets (for example, from *Othello*: "[If she in chains of magic were not bound,]"), half-square brackets (for example, from *Henry V*: "With [blood] and sword and fire to win your right,"), or angle brackets (for example, from

*Hamlet*: “O farewell, honest (soldier.) Who hath relieved/you?”). At any point in the text, you can hover your cursor over a bracket for more information.

Because the Folger Shakespeare texts are edited in accord with twenty-first century knowledge about Shakespeare’s texts, the Folger here provides them to readers, scholars, teachers, actors, directors, and students, free of charge, confident of their quality as texts of the plays and pleased to be able to make this contribution to the study and enjoyment of Shakespeare.

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## Synopsis

As *Coriolanus* begins, two Roman patricians, Menenius and Martius, calm a revolt by the city's famished plebians. Martius, who despises the plebians, announces that their petition to be represented by tribunes has been granted. When Volscian invaders attack Roman territories, Martius helps lead the Roman forces, and almost single-handedly conquers the Volscian city of Corioles, winning the name "Coriolanus." The Volscian leader, Aufidius, swears revenge.

Victorious in battle, Coriolanus expects to be made a consul, but by custom he must ask for votes from the plebians. He does this so contemptuously that he is rejected as a consul. The tribunes later charge Coriolanus with treason and banish him from Rome. He seeks his former enemy, Aufidius.

Coriolanus and Aufidius join forces to conquer Rome. On the brink of success, Coriolanus is persuaded by his mother, Volumnia, to spare the city, though he knows it may cost him his life. Aufidius and his fellow conspirators plot Coriolanus's death. Coriolanus returns to Corioles, where he is assassinated. Rome honors Volumnia for saving the city.

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## Characters in the Play

Caius MARTIUS, later Caius Martius CORIOLANUS

VOLUMNIA, his mother

VIRGILIA, his wife

YOUNG MARTIUS, their son

VALERIA, friend to Volumnia and Virgilia

A GENTLEWOMAN, Volumnia's attendant

MENENIUS Agrippa, patrician

COMINIUS, patrician and general

Titus LARTIUS, patrician and military officer

SICINIUS Velutus, tribune

Junius BRUTUS, tribune

Roman SENATORS, PATRICIANS, NOBLES

Roman LIEUTENANT

Roman OFFICERS

Roman AEDILES

Roman HERALD

Roman SOLDIERS

Roman CITIZENS OR PLEBEIANS

Roman MESSENGERS

A ROMAN defector, Nicanor

Tullus AUFIDIUS, general of the Volscians

Volscian CONSPIRATORS of his faction

Three of his SERVINGMEN

Volscian SENATORS, LORDS

Volscian LIEUTENANT

Volscian SOLDIERS

Two of the Volscian WATCH

Volscian PEOPLE

A VOLSCIAN spy, Adrian

CITIZEN of Antium

Roman Lords, Gentry, Captains, Lictors, Trumpeters, Drummers,  
Musicians, Attendants, and Usher

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# ACT 1

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## Scene 1

*Enter a company of mutinous Citizens with staves, clubs, and other weapons.*

FTLN 0001 FIRST CITIZEN Before we proceed any further, hear me  
FTLN 0002 speak.  
FTLN 0003 ALL Speak, speak!  
FTLN 0004 FIRST CITIZEN You are all resolved rather to die than to  
FTLN 0005 famish? 5  
FTLN 0006 ALL Resolved, resolved!  
FTLN 0007 FIRST CITIZEN First, you know Caius Martius is chief  
FTLN 0008 enemy to the people.  
FTLN 0009 ALL We know 't, we know 't!  
FTLN 0010 FIRST CITIZEN Let us kill him, and we'll have corn at 10  
FTLN 0011 our own price. Is 't a verdict?  
FTLN 0012 ALL No more talking on 't; let it be done. Away, away!  
FTLN 0013 SECOND CITIZEN One word, good citizens.  
FTLN 0014 FIRST CITIZEN We are accounted poor citizens, the patricians  
FTLN 0015 good. What authority surfeits on would 15  
FTLN 0016 relieve us. If they would yield us but the superfluity  
FTLN 0017 while it were wholesome, we might guess they  
FTLN 0018 relieved us humanely. But they think we are too  
FTLN 0019 dear. The leanness that afflicts us, the object of our  
FTLN 0020 misery, is as an inventory to particularize their 20  
FTLN 0021 abundance; our sufferance is a gain to them. Let  
FTLN 0022 us revenge this with our pikes ere we become

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FTLN 0023	rakes; for the gods know I speak this in hunger for	
FTLN 0024	bread, not in thirst for revenge.	
FTLN 0025	SECOND CITIZEN Would you proceed especially against	25
FTLN 0026	Caius Martius?	
FTLN 0027	ALL Against him first. He's a very dog to the	
FTLN 0028	commonalty.	
FTLN 0029	SECOND CITIZEN Consider you what services he has	
FTLN 0030	done for his country?	30
FTLN 0031	FIRST CITIZEN Very well, and could be content to give	
FTLN 0032	him good report for 't, but that he pays himself	
FTLN 0033	with being proud.	
FTLN 0034	〔SECOND CITIZEN〕 Nay, but speak not maliciously.	
FTLN 0035	FIRST CITIZEN I say unto you, what he hath done	35
FTLN 0036	famously he did it to that end. Though soft-conscienced	
FTLN 0037	men can be content to say it was for	
FTLN 0038	his country, he did it to please his mother and to be	
FTLN 0039	partly proud, which he is, even to the altitude of	
FTLN 0040	his virtue.	40
FTLN 0041	SECOND CITIZEN What he cannot help in his nature you	
FTLN 0042	account a vice in him. You must in no way say he	
FTLN 0043	is covetous.	
FTLN 0044	FIRST CITIZEN If I must not, I need not be barren of accusations.	
FTLN 0045	He hath faults, with surplus, to tire in	45
FTLN 0046	repetition. ( <i>Shouts within.</i> ) What shouts are these?	
FTLN 0047	The other side o' th' city is risen. Why stay we prating	
FTLN 0048	here? To th' Capitol!	
FTLN 0049	ALL Come, come!	

*Enter Menenius Agrippa.*

FTLN 0050	FIRST CITIZEN Soft, who comes here?	50
FTLN 0051	SECOND CITIZEN Worthy Menenius Agrippa, one that	
FTLN 0052	hath always loved the people.	
FTLN 0053	FIRST CITIZEN He's one honest enough. Would all the	
FTLN 0054	rest were so!	

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	MENENIUS	
FTLN 0055	What work 's, my countrymen, in hand? Where go	55
FTLN 0056	you	
FTLN 0057	With bats and clubs? The matter? Speak, I pray you.	
FTLN 0058	SECOND CITIZEN Our business is not unknown to th'	
FTLN 0059	Senate. They have had inkling this fortnight what	
FTLN 0060	we intend to do, which now we'll show 'em in	60
FTLN 0061	deeds. They say poor suitors have strong breaths;	
FTLN 0062	they shall know we have strong arms too.	
	MENENIUS	
FTLN 0063	Why, masters, my good friends, mine honest	
FTLN 0064	neighbors,	
FTLN 0065	Will you undo yourselves?	65
	SECOND CITIZEN	
FTLN 0066	We cannot, sir; we are undone already.	
	MENENIUS	
FTLN 0067	I tell you, friends, most charitable care	
FTLN 0068	Have the patricians of you. For your wants,	
FTLN 0069	Your suffering in this dearth, you may as well	
FTLN 0070	Strike at the heaven with your staves as lift them	70
FTLN 0071	Against the Roman state, whose course will on	
FTLN 0072	The way it takes, cracking ten thousand curbs	
FTLN 0073	Of more strong link asunder than can ever	
FTLN 0074	Appear in your impediment. For the dearth,	
FTLN 0075	The gods, not the patricians, make it, and	75
FTLN 0076	Your knees to them, not arms, must help. Alack,	
FTLN 0077	You are transported by calamity	
FTLN 0078	Thither where more attends you, and you slander	
FTLN 0079	The helms o' th' state, who care for you like fathers,	
FTLN 0080	When you curse them as enemies.	80
FTLN 0081	SECOND CITIZEN Care for us? True, indeed! They ne'er	
FTLN 0082	cared for us yet. Suffer us to famish, and their	
FTLN 0083	storehouses crammed with grain; make edicts for	
FTLN 0084	usury to support usurers; repeal daily any wholesome	
FTLN 0085	act established against the rich, and provide	85
FTLN 0086	more piercing statutes daily to chain up and restrain	

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FTLN 0087	the poor. If the wars eat us not up, they will;	
FTLN 0088	and there's all the love they bear us.	
	MENENIUS	
FTLN 0089	Either you must confess yourselves wondrous	
FTLN 0090	malicious	90
FTLN 0091	Or be accused of folly. I shall tell you	
FTLN 0092	A pretty tale. It may be you have heard it,	
FTLN 0093	But since it serves my purpose, I will venture	
FTLN 0094	To 'stale' 't a little more.	
FTLN 0095	SECOND CITIZEN Well, I'll hear it, sir; yet you must not	95
FTLN 0096	think to fob off our disgrace with a tale. But, an 't	
FTLN 0097	please you, deliver.	
	MENENIUS	
FTLN 0098	There was a time when all the body's members	
FTLN 0099	Rebelle'd against the belly, thus accused it:	
FTLN 0100	That only like a gulf it did remain	100
FTLN 0101	I' th' midst o' th' body, idle and unactive,	
FTLN 0102	Still cupboarding the viand, never bearing	
FTLN 0103	Like labor with the rest, where th' other instruments	
FTLN 0104	Did see and hear, devise, instruct, walk, feel,	
FTLN 0105	And, mutually participate, did minister	105
FTLN 0106	Unto the appetite and affection common	
FTLN 0107	Of the whole body. The belly answered—	
FTLN 0108	SECOND CITIZEN Well, sir, what answer made the belly?	
	MENENIUS	
FTLN 0109	Sir, I shall tell you. With a kind of smile,	
FTLN 0110	Which ne'er came from the lungs, but even thus—	110
FTLN 0111	For, look you, I may make the belly smile	
FTLN 0112	As well as speak—it 'tauntingly' replied	
FTLN 0113	To th' discontented members, the mutinous parts	
FTLN 0114	That envied his receipt; even so most fitly	
FTLN 0115	As you malign our senators for that	115
FTLN 0116	They are not such as you.	
FTLN 0117	SECOND CITIZEN Your belly's answer—what?	
FTLN 0118	The kingly crownèd head, the vigilant eye,	
FTLN 0119	The counselor heart, the arm our soldier,	

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FTLN 0120	Our steed the leg, the tongue our trumpeter,	120
FTLN 0121	With other muniments and petty helps	
FTLN 0122	In this our fabric, if that they—	
FTLN 0123	MENENIUS	What then?
FTLN 0124	'Fore me, this fellow speaks. What then? What then?	
	SECOND CITIZEN	
FTLN 0125	Should by the cormorant belly be restrained,	125
FTLN 0126	Who is the sink o' th' body—	
FTLN 0127	MENENIUS	Well, what then?
	SECOND CITIZEN	
FTLN 0128	The former agents, if they did complain,	
FTLN 0129	What could the belly answer?	
FTLN 0130	MENENIUS	I will tell you,
FTLN 0131	If you'll bestow a small—of what you have little—	130
FTLN 0132	Patience awhile, you'st hear the belly's answer.	
	SECOND CITIZEN	
FTLN 0133	You're long about it.	
FTLN 0134	MENENIUS	Note me this, good friend;
FTLN 0135	Your most grave belly was deliberate,	135
FTLN 0136	Not rash like his accusers, and thus answered:	
FTLN 0137	“True is it, my incorporate friends,” quoth he,	
FTLN 0138	“That I receive the general food at first	
FTLN 0139	Which you do live upon; and fit it is,	
FTLN 0140	Because I am the storehouse and the shop	140
FTLN 0141	Of the whole body. But, if you do remember,	
FTLN 0142	I send it through the rivers of your blood	
FTLN 0143	Even to the court, the heart, to th' seat o' th' brain;	
FTLN 0144	And, through the cranks and offices of man,	
FTLN 0145	The strongest nerves and small inferior veins	145
FTLN 0146	From me receive that natural competency	
FTLN 0147	Whereby they live. And though that all at once,	
FTLN 0148	You, my good friends”—this says the belly, mark	
FTLN 0149	me—	
	SECOND CITIZEN	
FTLN 0150	Ay, sir, well, well.	150

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FTLN 0151	MENENIUS	“Though all at once cannot	
FTLN 0152		See what I do deliver out to each,	
FTLN 0153		Yet I can make my audit up, that all	
FTLN 0154		From me do back receive the flour of all,	
FTLN 0155		And leave me but the bran.” What say you to ’t?	155
	SECOND CITIZEN		
FTLN 0156		It was an answer. How apply you this?	
	MENENIUS		
FTLN 0157		The senators of Rome are this good belly,	
FTLN 0158		And you the mutinous members. For examine	
FTLN 0159		Their counsels and their cares, digest things rightly	
FTLN 0160		Touching the weal o’ th’ common, you shall find	160
FTLN 0161		No public benefit which you receive	
FTLN 0162		But it proceeds or comes from them to you	
FTLN 0163		And no way from yourselves. What do you think,	
FTLN 0164		You, the great toe of this assembly?	
FTLN 0165	SECOND CITIZEN	I the great toe? Why the great toe?	165
	MENENIUS		
FTLN 0166		For that, being one o’ th’ lowest, basest, poorest,	
FTLN 0167		Of this most wise rebellion, thou goest foremost.	
FTLN 0168		Thou rascal, that art worst in blood to run,	
FTLN 0169		Lead’st first to win some vantage.	
FTLN 0170		But make you ready your stiff bats and clubs.	170
FTLN 0171		Rome and her rats are at the point of battle;	
FTLN 0172		The one side must have bale.	
		<i>Enter Caius Martius.</i>	
FTLN 0173		Hail, noble Martius.	
	MARTIUS		
FTLN 0174		Thanks.—What’s the matter, you dissentious rogues,	
FTLN 0175		That, rubbing the poor itch of your opinion,	175
FTLN 0176		Make yourselves scabs?	
FTLN 0177	SECOND CITIZEN	We have ever your good word.	
	MARTIUS		
FTLN 0178		He that will give good words to thee will flatter	
FTLN 0179		Beneath abhorring. What would you have, you curs,	

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FTLN 0180	That like nor peace nor war? The one affrights you;	180
FTLN 0181	The other makes you proud. He that trusts to you,	
FTLN 0182	Where he should find you lions, finds you hares;	
FTLN 0183	Where foxes, geese. You are no surer, no,	
FTLN 0184	Than is the coal of fire upon the ice	
FTLN 0185	Or hailstone in the sun. Your virtue is	185
FTLN 0186	To make him worthy whose offense subdues him,	
FTLN 0187	And curse that justice did it. Who deserves greatness	
FTLN 0188	Deserves your hate; and your affections are	
FTLN 0189	A sick man's appetite, who desires most that	
FTLN 0190	Which would increase his evil. He that depends	190
FTLN 0191	Upon your favors swims with fins of lead,	
FTLN 0192	And hews down oaks with rushes. Hang you! Trust	
FTLN 0193	you?	
FTLN 0194	With every minute you do change a mind	
FTLN 0195	And call him noble that was now your hate,	195
FTLN 0196	Him vile that was your garland. What's the matter,	
FTLN 0197	That in these several places of the city	
FTLN 0198	You cry against the noble senate, who,	
FTLN 0199	Under the gods, keep you in awe, which else	
FTLN 0200	Would feed on one another?—What's their seeking?	200
	MENENIUS	
FTLN 0201	For corn at their own rates, whereof they say	
FTLN 0202	The city is well stored.	
FTLN 0203	MARTIUS Hang 'em! They say?	
FTLN 0204	They'll sit by th' fire and presume to know	
FTLN 0205	What's done i' th' Capitol, who's like to rise,	205
FTLN 0206	Who thrives, and who declines; side factions and	
FTLN 0207	give out	
FTLN 0208	Conjectural marriages, making parties strong	
FTLN 0209	And feebling such as stand not in their liking	
FTLN 0210	Below their cobbled shoes. They say there's grain	210
FTLN 0211	enough?	
FTLN 0212	Would the nobility lay aside their ruth	
FTLN 0213	And let me use my sword, I'd make a quarry	

FTLN 0214	With thousands of these quartered slaves as high	
FTLN 0215	As I could pick my lance.	215
	MENENIUS	
FTLN 0216	Nay, these are almost thoroughly persuaded;	
FTLN 0217	For though abundantly they lack discretion,	
FTLN 0218	Yet are they passing cowardly. But I beseech you,	
FTLN 0219	What says the other troop?	
FTLN 0220	MARTIUS	They are dissolved. Hang
FTLN 0221	'em!	220
FTLN 0222	They said they were an-hungry, sighed forth	
FTLN 0223	proverbs	
FTLN 0224	That hunger broke stone walls, that dogs must eat,	
FTLN 0225	That meat was made for mouths, that the gods sent	225
FTLN 0226	not	
FTLN 0227	Corn for the rich men only. With these shreds	
FTLN 0228	They vented their complainings, which being	
FTLN 0229	answered	
FTLN 0230	And a petition granted them—a strange one,	230
FTLN 0231	To break the heart of generosity	
FTLN 0232	And make bold power look pale—they threw their	
FTLN 0233	caps	
FTLN 0234	As they would hang them on the horns o' th' moon,	
FTLN 0235	Shouting their emulation.	235
FTLN 0236	MENENIUS	What is granted them?
	MARTIUS	
FTLN 0237	Five tribunes to defend their vulgar wisdoms,	
FTLN 0238	Of their own choice. One's Junius Brutus,	
FTLN 0239	Sicinius Velutus, and I know not. 'Sdeath!	
FTLN 0240	The rabble should have first 「unroofed」 the city	240
FTLN 0241	Ere so prevailed with me. It will in time	
FTLN 0242	Win upon power and throw forth greater themes	
FTLN 0243	For insurrection's arguing.	
FTLN 0244	MENENIUS	This is strange.
FTLN 0245	MARTIUS	Go get you home, you fragments.
		245

*Enter a Messenger hastily.*



MESSENGER

FTLN 0246       Where's Caius Martius?

FTLN 0247       MARTIUS                               Here. What's the matter?

MESSENGER

FTLN 0248       The news is, sir, the Volsces are in arms.

MARTIUS

FTLN 0249       I am glad on 't. Then we shall ha' means to vent

FTLN 0250       Our musty superfluity.                               250

*Enter Sicinius Velutus, Junius Brutus, †(two Tribunes); †  
Cominius, Titus Lartius, with other Senators.*

FTLN 0251                               See our best elders.

FIRST SENATOR

FTLN 0252       Martius, 'tis true that you have lately told us:

FTLN 0253       The Volsces are in arms.

FTLN 0254       MARTIUS                               They have a leader,

FTLN 0255       Tullus Aufidius, that will put you to 't.                               255

FTLN 0256       I sin in envying his nobility,

FTLN 0257       And, were I anything but what I am,

FTLN 0258       I would wish me only he.

FTLN 0259       COMINIUS                               You have fought together?

MARTIUS

FTLN 0260       Were half to half the world by th' ears and he                               260

FTLN 0261       Upon my party, I'd revolt, to make

FTLN 0262       Only my wars with him. He is a lion

FTLN 0263       That I am proud to hunt.

FTLN 0264       FIRST SENATOR                       Then, worthy Martius,

FTLN 0265       Attend upon Cominius to these wars.                               265

COMINIUS

FTLN 0266       It is your former promise.

FTLN 0267       MARTIUS                               Sir, it is,

FTLN 0268       And I am constant.—Titus †Lartius, † thou

FTLN 0269       Shalt see me once more strike at Tullus' face.

FTLN 0270       What, art thou stiff? Stand'st out?                               270

FTLN 0271	LARTIUS	No, Caius Martius,	
FTLN 0272		I'll lean upon one crutch and fight with t' other	
FTLN 0273		Ere stay behind this business.	
FTLN 0274	MENENIUS	O, true bred!	
	「FIRST」 SENATOR		
FTLN 0275		Your company to th' Capitol, where I know	275
FTLN 0276		Our greatest friends attend us.	
FTLN 0277	LARTIUS, 「to Cominius」	Lead you on.—	
FTLN 0278		「To Martius.」 Follow Cominius. We must follow you;	
FTLN 0279		Right worthy you priority.	
FTLN 0280	COMINIUS	Noble Martius.	280
	「FIRST」 SENATOR, 「to the Citizens」		
FTLN 0281		Hence to your homes, begone.	
FTLN 0282	MARTIUS	Nay, let them follow.	
FTLN 0283		The Volsces have much corn; take these rats thither	
FTLN 0284		To gnaw their garners.	
		<i>Citizens steal away.</i>	
FTLN 0285		Worshipful mutineers,	285
FTLN 0286		Your valor puts well forth.—Pray follow.	
		<i>They exit. Sicinius and Brutus remain.</i>	
	SICINIUS		
FTLN 0287		Was ever man so proud as is this Martius?	
FTLN 0288	BRUTUS	He has no equal.	
	SICINIUS		
FTLN 0289		When we were chosen tribunes for the people—	
	BRUTUS		
FTLN 0290		Marked you his lip and eyes?	290
FTLN 0291	SICINIUS	Nay, but his taunts.	
	BRUTUS		
FTLN 0292		Being moved, he will not spare to gird the gods—	
FTLN 0293	SICINIUS	Bemock the modest moon.	
	BRUTUS		
FTLN 0294		The present wars devour him! He is grown	
FTLN 0295		Too proud to be so valiant.	295

FTLN 0296	SICINIUS	Such a nature,	
FTLN 0297		Tickled with good success, disdains the shadow	
FTLN 0298		Which he treads on at noon. But I do wonder	
FTLN 0299		His insolence can brook to be commanded	
FTLN 0300		Under Cominius.	300
FTLN 0301	BRUTUS	Fame, at the which he aims,	
FTLN 0302		In whom already he's well graced, cannot	
FTLN 0303		Better be held nor more attained than by	
FTLN 0304		A place below the first; for what miscarries	
FTLN 0305		Shall be the General's fault, though he perform	305
FTLN 0306		To th' utmost of a man, and giddy censure	
FTLN 0307		Will then cry out of Martius "O, if he	
FTLN 0308		Had borne the business!"	
FTLN 0309	SICINIUS	Besides, if things go well,	
FTLN 0310		Opinion that so sticks on Martius shall	310
FTLN 0311		Of his demerits rob Cominius.	
FTLN 0312	BRUTUS	Come.	
FTLN 0313		Half all Cominius' honors are to Martius,	
FTLN 0314		Though Martius earned them not, and all his faults	
FTLN 0315		To Martius shall be honors, though indeed	315
FTLN 0316		In aught he merit not.	
FTLN 0317	SICINIUS	Let's hence and hear	
FTLN 0318		How the dispatch is made, and in what fashion,	
FTLN 0319		More than his singularity, he goes	
FTLN 0320		Upon this present action.	320
FTLN 0321	BRUTUS	Let's along.	
		<i>They exit.</i>	

「Scene 2」

*Enter Tullus Aufidius with Senators of Corioles.*

FIRST SENATOR

FTLN 0322 So, your opinion is, Aufidius,  
 FTLN 0323 That they of Rome are entered in our counsels  
 FTLN 0324 And know how we proceed.

FTLN 0325	AUFIDIUS	Is it not yours?	
FTLN 0326		Whatever have been thought on in this state	5
FTLN 0327		That could be brought to bodily act ere Rome	
FTLN 0328		Had circumvention? 'Tis not four days gone	
FTLN 0329		Since I heard thence. These are the words—I think	
FTLN 0330		I have the letter here. Yes, here it is.	
FTLN 0331		⌈ <i>(He reads.)</i> ⌋ <i>They have pressed a power, but it is not</i>	10
FTLN 0332		<i>known</i>	
FTLN 0333		<i>Whether for east or west. The dearth is great.</i>	
FTLN 0334		<i>The people mutinous; and, it is rumored,</i>	
FTLN 0335		<i>Cominius, Martius your old enemy,</i>	
FTLN 0336		<i>Who is of Rome worse hated than of you,</i>	15
FTLN 0337		<i>And Titus Lartius, a most valiant Roman,</i>	
FTLN 0338		<i>These three lead on this preparation</i>	
FTLN 0339		<i>Whither 'tis bent. Most likely 'tis for you.</i>	
FTLN 0340		<i>Consider of it.</i>	
FTLN 0341	FIRST SENATOR	Our army's in the field.	20
FTLN 0342		We never yet made doubt but Rome was ready	
FTLN 0343		To answer us.	
FTLN 0344	AUFIDIUS	Nor did you think it folly	
FTLN 0345		To keep your great pretenses veiled till when	
FTLN 0346		They needs must show themselves, which, in the	25
FTLN 0347		hatching,	
FTLN 0348		It seemed, appeared to Rome. By the discovery	
FTLN 0349		We shall be shortened in our aim, which was	
FTLN 0350		To take in many towns ere almost Rome	
FTLN 0351		Should know we were afoot.	30
FTLN 0352	SECOND SENATOR	Noble Aufidius,	
FTLN 0353		Take your commission; hie you to your bands.	
FTLN 0354		Let us alone to guard Corioles.	
FTLN 0355		If they set down before 's, for the remove	
FTLN 0356		Bring up your army. But I think you'll find	35
FTLN 0357		They've not prepared for us.	
FTLN 0358	AUFIDIUS	O, doubt not that;	
FTLN 0359		I speak from certainties. Nay, more,	

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FTLN 0360 Some parcels of their power are forth already,  
 FTLN 0361 And only hitherward. I leave your Honors. 40  
 FTLN 0362 If we and Caius Martius chance to meet,  
 FTLN 0363 'Tis sworn between us we shall ever strike  
 FTLN 0364 Till one can do no more.  
 FTLN 0365 ALL The gods assist you!  
 FTLN 0366 AUFIDIUS And keep your Honors safe! 45  
 FTLN 0367 FIRST SENATOR Farewell.  
 FTLN 0368 SECOND SENATOR Farewell.  
 FTLN 0369 ALL Farewell.

*All exit.*

〔Scene 3〕

*Enter Volumnia and Virgilia, mother and wife  
 to Martius. They set them down on two low stools  
 and sew.*

FTLN 0370 VOLUMNIA I pray you, daughter, sing, or express yourself  
 FTLN 0371 in a more comfortable sort. If my son were my  
 FTLN 0372 husband, I should freelier rejoice in that absence  
 FTLN 0373 wherein he won honor than in the embracements  
 FTLN 0374 of his bed where he would show most love. When 5  
 FTLN 0375 yet he was but tender-bodied and the only son of  
 FTLN 0376 my womb, when youth with comeliness plucked  
 FTLN 0377 all gaze his way, when for a day of kings' entreaties  
 FTLN 0378 a mother should not sell him an hour from her beholding,  
 FTLN 0379 I, considering how honor would become 10  
 FTLN 0380 such a person—that it was no better than picture-like  
 FTLN 0381 to hang by th' wall, if renown made it not  
 FTLN 0382 stir—was pleased to let him seek danger where he  
 FTLN 0383 was like to find fame. To a cruel war I sent him,  
 FTLN 0384 from whence he returned, his brows bound with 15  
 FTLN 0385 oak. I tell thee, daughter, I sprang not more in joy  
 FTLN 0386 at first hearing he was a man-child than now in  
 FTLN 0387 first seeing he had proved himself a man.

FTLN 0388 VIRGILIA But had he died in the business, madam, how  
 FTLN 0389 then? 20  
 FTLN 0390 VOLUMNIA Then his good report should have been my  
 FTLN 0391 son; I therein would have found issue. Hear me  
 FTLN 0392 profess sincerely: had I a dozen sons, each in my  
 FTLN 0393 love alike and none less dear than thine and my  
 FTLN 0394 good Martius, I had rather had eleven die nobly 25  
 FTLN 0395 for their country than one voluptuously surfeit out  
 FTLN 0396 of action.

*Enter a Gentlewoman.*

FTLN 0397 GENTLEWOMAN Madam, the Lady Valeria is come to  
 FTLN 0398 visit you.  
 VIRGILIA  
 FTLN 0399 Beseech you, give me leave to retire myself. 30  
 FTLN 0400 VOLUMNIA Indeed you shall not.  
 FTLN 0401 Methinks I hear hither your husband's drum,  
 FTLN 0402 See him pluck Aufidius down by th' hair;  
 FTLN 0403 As children from a bear, the Volsces shunning him.  
 FTLN 0404 Methinks I see him stamp thus and call thus: 35  
 FTLN 0405 "Come on, you cowards! You were got in fear,  
 FTLN 0406 Though you were born in Rome." His bloody brow  
 FTLN 0407 With his mailed hand then wiping, forth he goes  
 FTLN 0408 Like to a harvestman [that's] tasked to mow  
 FTLN 0409 Or all or lose his hire. 40  
 VIRGILIA  
 FTLN 0410 His bloody brow? O Jupiter, no blood!  
 VOLUMNIA  
 FTLN 0411 Away, you fool! It more becomes a man  
 FTLN 0412 Than gilt his trophy. The breasts of Hecuba,  
 FTLN 0413 When she did suckle Hector, looked not lovelier  
 FTLN 0414 Than Hector's forehead when it spit forth blood 45  
 FTLN 0415 At Grecian sword, contemning.—Tell Valeria  
 FTLN 0416 We are fit to bid her welcome. *Gentlewoman exits.*

VIRGILIA

FTLN 0417 Heavens bless my lord from fell Aufidius!

VOLUMNIA

FTLN 0418 He'll beat Aufidius' head below his knee

FTLN 0419 And tread upon his neck. 50

*Enter Valeria with an Usher and a Gentlewoman.*

FTLN 0420 VALERIA My ladies both, good day to you.

FTLN 0421 VOLUMNIA Sweet madam.

FTLN 0422 VIRGILIA I am glad to see your Ladyship.

FTLN 0423 VALERIA How do you both? You are manifest housekeepers.

FTLN 0424 What are you sewing here? A fine spot, in 55

FTLN 0425 good faith. How does your little son?

FTLN 0426 VIRGILIA I thank your Ladyship; well, good madam.

FTLN 0427 VOLUMNIA He had rather see the swords and hear a

FTLN 0428 drum than look upon his schoolmaster.

FTLN 0429 VALERIA O' my word, the father's son! I'll swear 'tis a 60

FTLN 0430 very pretty boy. O' my troth, I looked upon him o'

FTLN 0431 Wednesday half an hour together. H'as such a confirmed

FTLN 0432 countenance. I saw him run after a gilded

FTLN 0433 butterfly, and when he caught it, he let it go again,

FTLN 0434 and after it again, and over and over he comes, 65

FTLN 0435 and up again, caught it again. Or whether his fall

FTLN 0436 enraged him or how 'twas, he did so set his teeth

FTLN 0437 and tear it. O, I warrant how he mammocked it!

FTLN 0438 VOLUMNIA One on 's father's moods.

FTLN 0439 VALERIA Indeed, la, 'tis a noble child. 70

FTLN 0440 VIRGILIA A crack, madam.

FTLN 0441 VALERIA Come, lay aside your stitchery. I must have

FTLN 0442 you play the idle huswife with me this afternoon.

FTLN 0443 VIRGILIA No, good madam, I will not out of doors.

FTLN 0444 VALERIA Not out of doors? 75

FTLN 0445 VOLUMNIA She shall, she shall.

FTLN 0446 VIRGILIA Indeed, no, by your patience. I'll not over the

FTLN 0447 threshold till my lord return from the wars.

FTLN 0448	VALERIA	Fie, you confine yourself most unreasonably.	
FTLN 0449		Come, you must go visit the good lady that lies in.	80
FTLN 0450	VIRGILIA	I will wish her speedy strength and visit her	
FTLN 0451		with my prayers, but I cannot go thither.	
FTLN 0452	VOLUMNIA	Why, I pray you?	
FTLN 0453	「VIRGILIA」	'Tis not to save labor, nor that I want love.	
FTLN 0454	VALERIA	You would be another Penelope. Yet they say	85
FTLN 0455		all the yarn she spun in Ulysses' absence did but fill	
FTLN 0456		Ithaca full of moths. Come, I would your cambric	
FTLN 0457		were sensible as your finger, that you might leave	
FTLN 0458		pricking it for pity. Come, you shall go with us.	
FTLN 0459	VIRGILIA	No, good madam, pardon me; indeed, I will	90
FTLN 0460		not forth.	
FTLN 0461	VALERIA	In truth, la, go with me, and I'll tell you excellent	
FTLN 0462		news of your husband.	
FTLN 0463	VIRGILIA	O, good madam, there can be none yet.	
FTLN 0464	VALERIA	Verily, I do not jest with you. There came	95
FTLN 0465		news from him last night.	
FTLN 0466	VIRGILIA	Indeed, madam!	
FTLN 0467	VALERIA	In earnest, it's true. I heard a senator speak it.	
FTLN 0468		Thus it is: the Volsces have an army forth, against	
FTLN 0469		whom Cominius the General is gone with one	100
FTLN 0470		part of our Roman power. Your lord and Titus Lartius	
FTLN 0471		are set down before their city Corioles. They	
FTLN 0472		nothing doubt prevailing, and to make it brief	
FTLN 0473		wars. This is true, on mine honor, and so, I pray, go	
FTLN 0474		with us.	105
FTLN 0475	VIRGILIA	Give me excuse, good madam. I will obey you	
FTLN 0476		in everything hereafter.	
FTLN 0477	VOLUMNIA	Let her alone, lady. As she is now, she will	
FTLN 0478		but disease our better mirth.	
FTLN 0479	VALERIA	In troth, I think she would.—Fare you well,	110
FTLN 0480		then.—Come, good sweet lady.—Prithee, Virgilia,	
FTLN 0481		turn thy solemnness out o' door, and go along with	
FTLN 0482		us.	



FTLN 0483 VIRGILIA No, at a word, madam. Indeed, I must not. I  
 FTLN 0484 wish you much mirth. 115  
 FTLN 0485 VALERIA Well, then, farewell.

*Ladies exit.*

「Scene 4」

*Enter Martius, Titus Lartius, with 「Trumpet,」 Drum,  
 and Colors, with Captains and Soldiers, as before  
 the city 「of」 Corioles. To them a Messenger.*

MARTIUS  
 FTLN 0486 Yonder comes news. A wager they have met.  
 LARTIUS  
 FTLN 0487 My horse to yours, no.  
 FTLN 0488 MARTIUS 'Tis done.  
 FTLN 0489 LARTIUS Agreed.  
 MARTIUS, 「to Messenger」  
 FTLN 0490 Say, has our general met the enemy? 5  
 MESSENGER  
 FTLN 0491 They lie in view but have not spoke as yet.  
 LARTIUS  
 FTLN 0492 So the good horse is mine.  
 FTLN 0493 MARTIUS I'll buy him of you.  
 LARTIUS  
 FTLN 0494 No, I'll nor sell nor give him. Lend you him I will  
 FTLN 0495 For half a hundred years.—Summon the town. 10  
 FTLN 0496 MARTIUS How far off lie these armies?  
 FTLN 0497 MESSENGER Within this mile and half.  
 MARTIUS  
 FTLN 0498 Then shall we hear their 'larum and they ours.  
 FTLN 0499 Now, Mars, I prithee, make us quick in work,  
 FTLN 0500 That we with smoking swords may march from 15  
 FTLN 0501 hence  
 FTLN 0502 To help our fielded friends!—Come, blow thy blast.  
*They sound a parley.*

*Enter two Senators with others on the walls of Corioles.*

FTLN 0503

Tullus Aufidius, is he within your walls?

FIRST SENATOR

FTLN 0504

No, nor a man that fears you less than he:

FTLN 0505

That's lesser than a little. *Drum afar off.* 20

FTLN 0506

Hark, our drums

FTLN 0507

Are bringing forth our youth. We'll break our walls

FTLN 0508

Rather than they shall pound us up. Our gates,

FTLN 0509

Which yet seem shut, we have but pinned with

FTLN 0510

rushes. 25

FTLN 0511

They'll open of themselves. *Alarum far off.*

FTLN 0512

Hark you, far off!

FTLN 0513

There is Aufidius. List what work he makes

FTLN 0514

Amongst your cloven army.

*〔They exit from the walls.〕*

FTLN 0515

MARTIUS

O, they are at it! 30

LARTIUS

FTLN 0516

Their noise be our instruction.—Ladders, ho!

*Enter the Army of the Volsces 〔as through the city gates.〕*

MARTIUS

FTLN 0517

They fear us not but issue forth their city.—

FTLN 0518

Now put your shields before your hearts, and fight

FTLN 0519

With hearts more proof than shields.—Advance,

FTLN 0520

brave Titus. 35

FTLN 0521

They do disdain us much beyond our thoughts,

FTLN 0522

Which makes me sweat with wrath.—Come on, my

FTLN 0523

fellows!

FTLN 0524

He that retires, I'll take him for a Volsce,

FTLN 0525

And he shall feel mine edge. 40

*Alarum. The Romans are beat back to their trenches.*

*〔They exit, with the Volsces following.〕*

*Enter Martius cursing, 〔with Roman soldiers.〕*

MARTIUS

FTLN 0526 All the contagion of the south light on you,  
 FTLN 0527 You shames of Rome! You herd of—Boils and  
 FTLN 0528 plagues  
 FTLN 0529 Plaster you o'er, that you may be abhorred  
 FTLN 0530 Farther than seen, and one infect another 45  
 FTLN 0531 Against the wind a mile! You souls of geese,  
 FTLN 0532 That bear the shapes of men, how have you run  
 FTLN 0533 From slaves that apes would beat! Pluto and hell!  
 FTLN 0534 All hurt behind. Backs red, and faces pale  
 FTLN 0535 With flight and agued fear! Mend, and charge home, 50  
 FTLN 0536 Or, by the fires of heaven, I'll leave the foe  
 FTLN 0537 And make my wars on you. Look to 't. Come on!  
 FTLN 0538 If you'll stand fast, we'll beat them to their wives,  
 FTLN 0539 As they us to our trenches. Follow 's!

*Another alarum. [The Volsces re-enter and are driven  
 back to the gates of Corioles, which open to admit  
 them.]*

FTLN 0540 So, now the gates are ope. Now prove good 55  
 FTLN 0541 seconds!  
 FTLN 0542 'Tis for the followers fortune widens them,  
 FTLN 0543 Not for the fliers. Mark me, and do the like.  
*Martius follows [the fleeing Volsces through]  
 the gates, and is shut in.*

FTLN 0544 FIRST SOLDIER Foolhardiness, not I.  
 FTLN 0545 SECOND SOLDIER Nor I. 60  
 FTLN 0546 FIRST SOLDIER See they have shut him in.  
*Alarum continues.*

FTLN 0547 ALL To th' pot, I warrant him.

*Enter Titus Lartius.*

LARTIUS

FTLN 0548 What is become of Martius?  
 FTLN 0549 ALL Slain, sir, doubtless.

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FIRST SOLDIER

FTLN 0550      Following the fliers at the very heels,      65  
FTLN 0551      With them he enters, who upon the sudden  
FTLN 0552      Clapped to their gates. He is himself alone,  
FTLN 0553      To answer all the city.

FTLN 0554      LARTIUS                      O, noble fellow,  
FTLN 0555      Who sensibly outdares his senseless sword,      70  
FTLN 0556      And when it bows, stand'st up! Thou art left,  
FTLN 0557      Martius.

FTLN 0558      A carbuncle entire, as big as thou art,  
FTLN 0559      Were not so rich a jewel. Thou wast a soldier  
FTLN 0560      Even to 'Cato's' wish, not fierce and terrible      75  
FTLN 0561      Only in strokes, but with thy grim looks and  
FTLN 0562      The thunderlike percussion of thy sounds  
FTLN 0563      Thou mad'st thine enemies shake, as if the world  
FTLN 0564      Were feverous and did tremble.

*Enter Martius, bleeding, 'as if from Corioles,' assaulted  
by the enemy.*

FTLN 0565      FIRST SOLDIER    Look, sir.      80

FTLN 0566      LARTIUS    O, 'tis Martius!  
FTLN 0567      Let's fetch him off or make remain alike.  
*They fight, and all enter the city, 'exiting the stage.'*

['Scene 5']

*Enter certain Romans, with spoils.*

FTLN 0568      FIRST ROMAN    This will I carry to Rome.  
FTLN 0569      SECOND ROMAN    And I this.  
FTLN 0570      THIRD ROMAN    A murrain on 't! I took this for silver.

*Enter Martius, and Titus 'Lartius' with a Trumpet.*

MARTIUS

FTLN 0571      See here these movers that do prize their hours  
FTLN 0572      At a cracked drachma. Cushions, leaden spoons,      5

FTLN 0573 Irons of a doit, doublets that hangmen would  
 FTLN 0574 Bury with those that wore them, these base slaves,  
 FTLN 0575 Ere yet the fight be done, pack up. Down with them!  
   *「The Romans with spoils」 exit.*  
   *Alarum continues still afar off.*

FTLN 0576 And hark, what noise the General makes! To him!  
 FTLN 0577 There is the man of my soul's hate, Aufidius, 10  
 FTLN 0578 Piercing our Romans. Then, valiant Titus, take  
 FTLN 0579 Convenient numbers to make good the city,  
 FTLN 0580 Whilst I, with those that have the spirit, will haste  
 FTLN 0581 To help Cominius.

FTLN 0582 LARTIUS                   Worthy sir, thou bleed'st. 15  
 FTLN 0583 Thy exercise hath been too violent  
 FTLN 0584 For a second course of fight.

FTLN 0585 MARTIUS                   Sir, praise me not.  
 FTLN 0586 My work hath yet not warmed me. Fare you well.  
 FTLN 0587 The blood I drop is rather physical 20  
 FTLN 0588 Than dangerous to me. To Aufidius thus  
 FTLN 0589 I will appear and fight.

FTLN 0590 LARTIUS   Now the fair goddess Fortune  
 FTLN 0591 Fall deep in love with thee, and her great charms  
 FTLN 0592 Misguide thy opposers' swords! Bold gentleman, 25  
 FTLN 0593 Prosperity be thy page!

FTLN 0594 MARTIUS                   Thy friend no less  
 FTLN 0595 Than those she placeth highest! So farewell.

FTLN 0596 LARTIUS   Thou worthiest Martius!           *「Martius exits.」*  
 FTLN 0597 Go sound thy trumpet in the marketplace. 30  
 FTLN 0598 Call thither all the officers o' th' town,  
 FTLN 0599 Where they shall know our mind. Away!

*They exit.*

## [Scene 6]

*Enter Cominius as it were in retire, with Soldiers.*

COMINIUS

FTLN 0600	Breathe you, my friends. Well fought! We are come	
FTLN 0601	off	
FTLN 0602	Like Romans, neither foolish in our stands	
FTLN 0603	Nor cowardly in retire. Believe me, sirs,	
FTLN 0604	We shall be charged again. Whiles we have struck,	5
FTLN 0605	By interims and conveying gusts we have heard	
FTLN 0606	The charges of our friends. The Roman gods	
FTLN 0607	Lead their successes as we wish our own,	
FTLN 0608	That both our powers, with smiling fronts	
FTLN 0609	encount'ring,	10
FTLN 0610	May give you thankful sacrifice!	

*Enter a Messenger.*

FTLN 0611	Thy news?	
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MESSENGER

FTLN 0612	The citizens of Corioles have issued	
FTLN 0613	And given to Lartius and to Martius battle.	
FTLN 0614	I saw our party to their trenches driven,	15
FTLN 0615	And then I came away.	

FTLN 0616	COMINIUS	Though thou speakest truth,	
FTLN 0617		Methinks thou speak'st not well. How long is 't	
FTLN 0618		since?	

FTLN 0619	MESSENGER	Above an hour, my lord.	20
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COMINIUS

FTLN 0620	'Tis not a mile; briefly we heard their drums.	
FTLN 0621	How couldst thou in a mile confound an hour	
FTLN 0622	And bring thy news so late?	

FTLN 0623	MESSENGER	Spies of the Volsces	
FTLN 0624		Held me in chase, that I was forced to wheel	25

FTLN 0625 Three or four miles about; else had I, sir,  
 FTLN 0626 Half an hour since brought my report. 「He exits.」

*Enter Martius, 「bloody.」*

FTLN 0627 COMINIUS Who's yonder,  
 FTLN 0628 That does appear as he were flayed? O gods,  
 FTLN 0629 He has the stamp of Martius, and I have 30  
 FTLN 0630 Before-time seen him thus.

FTLN 0631 MARTIUS Come I too late?

COMINIUS  
 FTLN 0632 The shepherd knows not thunder from a tabor  
 FTLN 0633 More than I know the sound of Martius' tongue  
 FTLN 0634 From every meaner man. 35

FTLN 0635 MARTIUS Come I too late?

COMINIUS  
 FTLN 0636 Ay, if you come not in the blood of others,  
 FTLN 0637 But mantled in your own.

FTLN 0638 MARTIUS O, let me clip you  
 FTLN 0639 In arms as sound as when I wooed, in heart 40  
 FTLN 0640 As merry as when our nuptial day was done  
 FTLN 0641 And tapers burnt to bedward! 「They embrace.」

COMINIUS  
 FTLN 0642 Flower of warriors, how is 't with Titus Lartius?

MARTIUS  
 FTLN 0643 As with a man busied about decrees,  
 FTLN 0644 Condemning some to death and some to exile; 45  
 FTLN 0645 Ransoming him or pitying, threat'ning th' other;  
 FTLN 0646 Holding Corioles in the name of Rome  
 FTLN 0647 Even like a fawning greyhound in the leash,  
 FTLN 0648 To let him slip at will.

COMINIUS Where is that slave 50  
 FTLN 0649 Which told me they had beat you to your trenches?  
 FTLN 0650 Where is he? Call him hither.

FTLN 0651 MARTIUS Let him alone.  
 FTLN 0652 He did inform the truth. But for our gentlemen,

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FTLN 0654	The common file—a plague! Tribunes for them!—	55
FTLN 0655	The mouse ne'er shunned the cat as they did budge	
FTLN 0656	From rascals worse than they.	
FTLN 0657	COMINIUS	
	But how prevailed you?	
	MARTIUS	
FTLN 0658	Will the time serve to tell? I do not think.	
FTLN 0659	Where is the enemy? Are you lords o' th' field?	60
FTLN 0660	If not, why cease you till you are so?	
	COMINIUS	
FTLN 0661	Martius, we have at disadvantage fought	
FTLN 0662	And did retire to win our purpose.	
	MARTIUS	
FTLN 0663	How lies their battle? Know you on which side	
FTLN 0664	They have placed their men of trust?	65
FTLN 0665	COMINIUS	
FTLN 0666	As I guess,	
FTLN 0667	Martius,	
FTLN 0668	Their bands i' th' vaward are the <i>Antiates</i> ,	
FTLN 0669	Of their best trust; o'er them Aufidius,	70
FTLN 0670	Their very heart of hope.	
FTLN 0671	MARTIUS	
FTLN 0672	I do beseech you,	
FTLN 0673	By all the battles wherein we have fought,	
FTLN 0674	By th' blood we have shed together, by th' vows we	
FTLN 0675	have made	75
FTLN 0676	To endure friends, that you directly set me	
FTLN 0677	Against Aufidius and his <i>Antiates</i> ,	
FTLN 0678	And that you not delay the present, but,	
FTLN 0679	Filling the air with swords advanced and darts,	
FTLN 0680	We prove this very hour.	
FTLN 0681	COMINIUS	
FTLN 0682	Though I could wish	80
FTLN 0683	You were conducted to a gentle bath	
FTLN 0684	And balms applied to you, yet dare I never	
FTLN 0685	Deny your asking. Take your choice of those	
	That best can aid your action.	
FTLN 0686	MARTIUS	
FTLN 0687	Those are they	85
FTLN 0688	That most are willing. If any such be here—	



FTLN 0686	As it were sin to doubt—that love this painting	
FTLN 0687	Wherein you see me smeared; if any fear	
FTLN 0688	「Lesser」 his person than an ill report;	
FTLN 0689	If any think brave death outweighs bad life,	90
FTLN 0690	And that his country's dearer than himself;	
FTLN 0691	Let him alone, or so many so minded,	
FTLN 0692	Wave thus to express his disposition	
FTLN 0693	And follow Martius. <i>「He waves his sword.」</i>	
	<i>They all shout and wave their swords,</i>	
	<i>take him up in their arms, and cast up their caps.</i>	
FTLN 0694	O, me alone! Make you a sword of me?	95
FTLN 0695	If these shows be not outward, which of you	
FTLN 0696	But is four Volsces? None of you but is	
FTLN 0697	Able to bear against the great Aufidius	
FTLN 0698	A shield as hard as his. A certain number,	
FTLN 0699	Though thanks to all, must I select from all.	100
FTLN 0700	The rest shall bear the business in some other fight,	
FTLN 0701	As cause will be obeyed. Please you to march,	
FTLN 0702	And 「I」 shall quickly draw out my command,	
FTLN 0703	Which men are best inclined.	
FTLN 0704	COMINIUS <i>March on, my fellows.</i>	105
FTLN 0705	Make good this ostentation, and you shall	
FTLN 0706	Divide in all with us.	

*They exit.*

「Scene 7」

*Titus Lartius, having set a guard upon Corioles, going  
with Drum and Trumpet toward Cominius and Caius  
Martius, enters with a Lieutenant, other Soldiers,  
and a Scout.*

LARTIUS

FTLN 0707	So, let the ports be guarded. Keep your duties
FTLN 0708	As I have set them down. If I do send, dispatch
FTLN 0709	Those centuries to our aid; the rest will serve

FTLN 0710 For a short holding. If we lose the field,  
 FTLN 0711 We cannot keep the town. 5  
 FTLN 0712 LIEUTENANT Fear not our care, sir.  
 FTLN 0713 LARTIUS Hence, and shut your gates upon 's.  
 FTLN 0714 「(To the Scout.)」 Our guider, come. To th' Roman  
 FTLN 0715 camp conduct us.  
 「They」 exit, 「the Lieutenant one way, Lartius another.」

## 「Scene 8」

*Alarum, as in battle.**Enter Martius and Aufidius at several doors.*

MARTIUS  
 FTLN 0716 I'll fight with none but thee, for I do hate thee  
 FTLN 0717 Worse than a promise-breaker.  
 FTLN 0718 AUFIDIUS We hate alike.  
 FTLN 0719 Not Afric owns a serpent I abhor  
 FTLN 0720 More than thy fame and envy. Fix thy foot. 5  
 MARTIUS  
 FTLN 0721 Let the first budger die the other's slave,  
 FTLN 0722 And the gods doom him after!  
 FTLN 0723 AUFIDIUS If I fly, Martius,  
 FTLN 0724 Hollo me like a hare.  
 FTLN 0725 MARTIUS Within these three hours, 10  
 FTLN 0726 Tullus,  
 FTLN 0727 Alone I fought in your Corioles' walls  
 FTLN 0728 And made what work I pleased. 'Tis not my blood  
 FTLN 0729 Wherein thou seest me masked. For thy revenge,  
 FTLN 0730 Wrench up thy power to th' highest. 15  
 FTLN 0731 AUFIDIUS Wert thou the  
 FTLN 0732 Hector  
 FTLN 0733 That was the whip of your bragged progeny,  
 FTLN 0734 Thou shouldst not scape me here.

*Here they fight, and certain Volsces come in  
 the aid of Aufidius.*

FTLN 0735            「(To the Volsces.)」 Officious and not valiant, you have            20  
 FTLN 0736            shamed me  
 FTLN 0737            In your condemnèd seconds.  
                           *Martius fights till they be driven in breathless.*  
                           「Aufidius and Martius exit, separately.」

「Scene 9」

*Alarum. A retreat is sounded. Flourish. Enter, at one door, Cominius with the Romans; at another door Martius, with his arm in a scarf.*

COMINIUS, 「to Martius」

FTLN 0738            If I should tell thee o'er this thy day's work,  
 FTLN 0739            Thou 't not believe thy deeds. But I'll report it  
 FTLN 0740            Where senators shall mingle tears with smiles;  
 FTLN 0741            Where great patricians shall attend and shrug,  
 FTLN 0742            I' th' end admire; where ladies shall be frighted            5  
 FTLN 0743            And, gladly quaked, hear more; where the dull  
 FTLN 0744            tribunes,  
 FTLN 0745            That with the fusty plebeians hate thine honors,  
 FTLN 0746            Shall say against their hearts "We thank the gods  
 FTLN 0747            Our Rome hath such a soldier."                                 10  
 FTLN 0748            Yet cam'st thou to a morsel of this feast,  
 FTLN 0749            Having fully dined before.

*Enter Titus 「Lartius」 with his power, from the pursuit.*

FTLN 0750            LARTIUS                                 O general,  
 FTLN 0751            Here is the steed, we the caparison.  
 FTLN 0752            Hadst thou beheld—   15  
 FTLN 0753            MARTIUS                                 Pray now, no more. My mother,  
 FTLN 0754            Who has a charter to extol her blood,  
 FTLN 0755            When she does praise me grieves me. I have done  
 FTLN 0756            As you have done—that's what I can;  
 FTLN 0757            Induced as you have been—that's for my country.            20  
 FTLN 0758            He that has but effected his good will  
 FTLN 0759            Hath overta'en mine act.

FTLN 0760	COMINIUS	You shall not be	
FTLN 0761		The grave of your deserving. Rome must know	
FTLN 0762		The value of her own. 'Twere a concealment	25
FTLN 0763		Worse than a theft, no less than a traducement,	
FTLN 0764		To hide your doings and to silence that	
FTLN 0765		Which, to the spire and top of praises vouched,	
FTLN 0766		Would seem but modest. Therefore, I beseech you—	
FTLN 0767		In sign of what you are, not to reward	30
FTLN 0768		What you have done—before our army hear me.	
	MARTIUS		
FTLN 0769		I have some wounds upon me, and they smart	
FTLN 0770		To hear themselves remembered.	
FTLN 0771	COMINIUS	Should they not,	
FTLN 0772		Well might they fester 'gainst ingratitude	35
FTLN 0773		And tent themselves with death. Of all the horses—	
FTLN 0774		Whereof we have ta'en good and good store—of all	
FTLN 0775		The treasure in this field achieved and city,	
FTLN 0776		We render you the tenth, to be ta'en forth	
FTLN 0777		Before the common distribution	40
FTLN 0778		At your only choice.	
FTLN 0779	MARTIUS	I thank you, general,	
FTLN 0780		But cannot make my heart consent to take	
FTLN 0781		A bribe to pay my sword. I do refuse it	
FTLN 0782		And stand upon my common part with those	45
FTLN 0783		That have beheld the doing.	
		<i>A long flourish. They all cry "Martius, Martius!"</i>	
		<i>['and'] cast up their caps and lances.</i>	
		<i>Cominius and Lartius stand bare.</i>	
FTLN 0784		May these same instruments, which you profane,	
FTLN 0785		Never sound more! When drums and trumpets shall	
FTLN 0786		I' th' field prove flatterers, let courts and cities be	
FTLN 0787		Made all of false-faced soothing! When steel grows	50
FTLN 0788		Soft as the parasite's silk, let him be made	
FTLN 0789		An 'ovator' for th' wars! No more, I say.	
FTLN 0790		For that I have not washed my nose that bled,	
FTLN 0791		Or foiled some debile wretch—which, without note,	

FTLN 0792 Here's many else have done—you shout me forth 55  
 FTLN 0793 In acclamations hyperbolic,  
 FTLN 0794 As if I loved my little should be dieted  
 FTLN 0795 In praises sauced with lies.  
 FTLN 0796 COMINIUS Too modest are you,  
 FTLN 0797 More cruel to your good report than grateful 60  
 FTLN 0798 To us that give you truly. By your patience,  
 FTLN 0799 If 'gainst yourself you be incensed, we'll put you,  
 FTLN 0800 Like one that means his proper harm, in manacles,  
 FTLN 0801 Then reason safely with you. Therefore be it known,  
 FTLN 0802 As to us to all the world, that Caius Martius 65  
 FTLN 0803 Wears this war's garland, in token of the which  
 FTLN 0804 My noble steed, known to the camp, I give him,  
 FTLN 0805 With all his trim belonging. And from this time,  
 FTLN 0806 For what he did before Corioles, call him,  
 FTLN 0807 With all th' applause and clamor of the host, 70  
 FTLN 0808 Martius Caius Coriolanus! Bear  
 FTLN 0809 Th' addition nobly ever!

*Flourish. Trumpets sound, and drums.*

ALL

FTLN 0810 Martius Caius Coriolanus!  
 FTLN 0811 CORIOLANUS I will go wash;  
 FTLN 0812 And when my face is fair, you shall perceive 75  
 FTLN 0813 Whether I blush or no. Howbeit, I thank you.  
 FTLN 0814 I mean to stride your steed and at all times  
 FTLN 0815 To undercrest your good addition  
 FTLN 0816 To th' fairness of my power.  
 FTLN 0817 COMINIUS So, to our tent, 80  
 FTLN 0818 Where, ere we do repose us, we will write  
 FTLN 0819 To Rome of our success.—You, Titus Lartius,  
 FTLN 0820 Must to Corioles back. Send us to Rome  
 FTLN 0821 The best, with whom we may articulate  
 FTLN 0822 For their own good and ours. 85  
 FTLN 0823 LARTIUS I shall, my lord.

CORIOLANUS

FTLN 0824 The gods begin to mock me. I, that now  
 FTLN 0825 Refused most princely gifts, am bound to beg  
 FTLN 0826 Of my lord general.

FTLN 0827 COMINIUS Take 't, 'tis yours. What is 't? 90

CORIOLANUS

FTLN 0828 I sometime lay here in Corioles  
 FTLN 0829 At a poor man's house; he used me kindly.  
 FTLN 0830 He cried to me; I saw him prisoner;  
 FTLN 0831 But then Aufidius was within my view,  
 FTLN 0832 And wrath o'erwhelmed my pity. I request you 95  
 FTLN 0833 To give my poor host freedom.

FTLN 0834 COMINIUS O, well begged!

FTLN 0835 Were he the butcher of my son, he should  
 FTLN 0836 Be free as is the wind.—Deliver him, Titus.

LARTIUS

FTLN 0837 Martius, his name? 100

FTLN 0838 CORIOLANUS By Jupiter, forgot!

FTLN 0839 I am weary; yea, my memory is tired.  
 FTLN 0840 Have we no wine here?

FTLN 0841 COMINIUS Go we to our tent.  
 FTLN 0842 The blood upon your visage dries; 'tis time 105  
 FTLN 0843 It should be looked to. Come.

*A flourish* <sup>⌈</sup>of<sup>⌋</sup> *cornets. They exit.*

⌈Scene 10⌋

*Enter Tullus Aufidius bloody, with two or three Soldiers.*

FTLN 0844 AUFIDIUS The town is ta'en.

SOLDIER

FTLN 0845 'Twill be delivered back on good condition.

FTLN 0846 AUFIDIUS Condition?

FTLN 0847 I would I were a Roman, for I cannot,  
 FTLN 0848 Being a Volscæ, be that I am. Condition? 5  
 FTLN 0849 What good condition can a treaty find

FTLN 0850	I' th' part that is at mercy? Five times, Martius,	
FTLN 0851	I have fought with thee; so often hast thou beat me	
FTLN 0852	And wouldst do so, I think, should we encounter	
FTLN 0853	As often as we eat. By th' elements,	10
FTLN 0854	If e'er again I meet him beard to beard,	
FTLN 0855	He's mine, or I am his. Mine emulation	
FTLN 0856	Hath not that honor in 't it had; for where	
FTLN 0857	I thought to crush him in an equal force,	
FTLN 0858	True sword to sword, I'll potch at him some way	15
FTLN 0859	Or wrath or craft may get him.	
FTLN 0860	SOLDIER	He's the devil.
	AUFIDIUS	
FTLN 0861	Bolder, though not so subtle. My valor's poisoned	
FTLN 0862	With only suff'ring stain by him; for him	
FTLN 0863	Shall fly out of itself. Nor sleep nor sanctuary,	20
FTLN 0864	Being naked, sick, nor fane nor Capitol,	
FTLN 0865	The prayers of priests nor times of sacrifice,	
FTLN 0866	Embarquements all of fury, shall lift up	
FTLN 0867	Their rotten privilege and custom 'gainst	
FTLN 0868	My hate to Martius. Where I find him, were it	25
FTLN 0869	At home, upon my brother's guard, even there,	
FTLN 0870	Against the hospitable canon, would I	
FTLN 0871	Wash my fierce hand in 's heart. Go you to th' city;	
FTLN 0872	Learn how 'tis held and what they are that must	
FTLN 0873	Be hostages for Rome.	30
FTLN 0874	SOLDIER	Will not you go?
	AUFIDIUS	
FTLN 0875	I am attended at the cypress grove. I pray you—	
FTLN 0876	'Tis south the city mills—bring me word thither	
FTLN 0877	How the world goes, that to the pace of it	
FTLN 0878	I may spur on my journey.	35
FTLN 0879	SOLDIER	I shall, sir.
		<i>¶They exit, Aufidius through one door, Soldiers through another.¶</i>

## ACT 2

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「Scene 1」

*Enter Menenius with the two Tribunes of the people,  
Sicinius and Brutus.*

FTLN 0880 MENENIUS The augurer tells me we shall have news  
FTLN 0881 tonight.  
FTLN 0882 BRUTUS Good or bad?  
FTLN 0883 MENENIUS Not according to the prayer of the people,  
FTLN 0884 for they love not Martius. 5  
FTLN 0885 SICINIUS Nature teaches beasts to know their friends.  
FTLN 0886 MENENIUS Pray you, who does the wolf love?  
FTLN 0887 SICINIUS The lamb.  
FTLN 0888 MENENIUS Ay, to devour him, as the hungry plebeians  
FTLN 0889 would the noble Martius. 10  
FTLN 0890 BRUTUS He's a lamb indeed, that baas like a bear.  
FTLN 0891 MENENIUS He's a bear indeed, that lives like a lamb.  
FTLN 0892 You two are old men; tell me one thing that I shall  
FTLN 0893 ask you.  
FTLN 0894 BOTH Well, sir. 15  
FTLN 0895 MENENIUS In what enormity is Martius poor in, that  
FTLN 0896 you two have not in abundance?  
FTLN 0897 BRUTUS He's poor in no one fault, but stored with all.  
FTLN 0898 SICINIUS Especially in pride.  
FTLN 0899 BRUTUS And topping all others in boasting. 20  
FTLN 0900 MENENIUS This is strange now. Do you two know how  
FTLN 0901 you are censured here in the city, I mean of us o'  
FTLN 0902 th' right-hand file, do you?



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FTLN 0903	BOTH	Why, how are we censured?	
FTLN 0904	MENENIUS	Because you talk of pride now, will you not	25
FTLN 0905		be angry?	
FTLN 0906	BOTH	Well, well, sir, well?	
FTLN 0907	MENENIUS	Why, 'tis no great matter; for a very little	
FTLN 0908		thief of occasion will rob you of a great deal of patience.	
FTLN 0909		Give your dispositions the reins, and be	30
FTLN 0910		angry at your pleasures, at the least, if you take it	
FTLN 0911		as a pleasure to you in being so. You blame Martius	
FTLN 0912		for being proud.	
FTLN 0913	BRUTUS	We do it not alone, sir.	
FTLN 0914	MENENIUS	I know you can do very little alone, for	35
FTLN 0915		your helps are many, or else your actions would	
FTLN 0916		grow wondrous single. Your abilities are too infantlike	
FTLN 0917		for doing much alone. You talk of pride. O,	
FTLN 0918		that you could turn your eyes toward the napes	
FTLN 0919		of your necks and make but an interior survey of	40
FTLN 0920		your good selves! O, that you could!	
FTLN 0921	BOTH	What then, sir?	
FTLN 0922	MENENIUS	Why, then you should discover a brace of	
FTLN 0923		unmeriting, proud, violent, testy magistrates, alias	
FTLN 0924		fools, as any in Rome.	45
FTLN 0925	SICINIUS	Menenius, you are known well enough, too.	
FTLN 0926	MENENIUS	I am known to be a humorous patrician and	
FTLN 0927		one that loves a cup of hot wine with not a drop of	
FTLN 0928		allaying Tiber in 't; said to be something imperfect	
FTLN 0929		in favoring the first complaint, hasty and tinder-like	50
FTLN 0930		upon too trivial motion; one that converses	
FTLN 0931		more with the buttock of the night than with the	
FTLN 0932		forehead of the morning. What I think I utter,	
FTLN 0933		and spend my malice in my breath. Meeting two	
FTLN 0934		such wealsmen as you are—I cannot call you	55
FTLN 0935		Lycurguses—if the drink you give me touch my	
FTLN 0936		palate adversely, I make a crooked face at it. I «cannot»	
FTLN 0937		say your Worships have delivered the matter	
FTLN 0938		well when I find the ass in compound with the	

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FTLN 0939	major part of your syllables. And though I must	60
FTLN 0940	be content to bear with those that say you are reverend	
FTLN 0941	grave men, yet they lie deadly that tell you	
FTLN 0942	have good faces. If you see this in the map of my	
FTLN 0943	microcosm, follows it that I am known well enough	
FTLN 0944	too? What harm can your bisson conspectuities	65
FTLN 0945	glean out of this character, if I be known well	
FTLN 0946	enough, too?	
FTLN 0947	BRUTUS Come, sir, come; we know you well enough.	
FTLN 0948	MENENIUS You know neither me, yourselves, nor anything.	
FTLN 0949	You are ambitious for poor knaves' caps	70
FTLN 0950	and legs. You wear out a good wholesome forenoon	
FTLN 0951	in hearing a cause between an orange-wife	
FTLN 0952	and a faucet-seller, and then rejoin the controversy	
FTLN 0953	of threepence to a second day of audience.	
FTLN 0954	When you are hearing a matter between party and	75
FTLN 0955	party, if you chance to be pinched with the colic,	
FTLN 0956	you make faces like mummers, set up the bloody	
FTLN 0957	flag against all patience, and, in roaring for a	
FTLN 0958	chamber pot, dismiss the controversy bleeding,	
FTLN 0959	the more entangled by your hearing. All the peace	80
FTLN 0960	you make in their cause is calling both the parties	
FTLN 0961	knaves. You are a pair of strange ones.	
FTLN 0962	BRUTUS Come, come. You are well understood to be a	
FTLN 0963	perfecter giber for the table than a necessary	
FTLN 0964	bencher in the Capitol.	85
FTLN 0965	MENENIUS Our very priests must become mockers if	
FTLN 0966	they shall encounter such ridiculous subjects as	
FTLN 0967	you are. When you speak best unto the purpose, it	
FTLN 0968	is not worth the wagging of your beards, and your	
FTLN 0969	beards deserve not so honorable a grave as to	90
FTLN 0970	stuff a botcher's cushion or to be entombed in an	
FTLN 0971	ass's packsaddle. Yet you must be saying Martius is	
FTLN 0972	proud, who, in a cheap estimation, is worth all	
FTLN 0973	your predecessors since Deucalion, though peradventure	
FTLN 0974	some of the best of 'em were hereditary	95

FTLN 0975  
FTLN 0976  
FTLN 0977  
FTLN 0978

hangmen. Good e'en to your Worships. More of your conversation would infect my brain, being the herdsmen of the beastly plebeians. I will be bold to take my leave of you.

*「He begins to exit.」 Brutus and Sicinius 「stand」 aside.*

*Enter Volumnia, Virgilia, and Valeria.*

FTLN 0979  
FTLN 0980  
FTLN 0981  
FTLN 0982  
FTLN 0983  
FTLN 0984  
FTLN 0985  
FTLN 0986  
FTLN 0987  
FTLN 0988  
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FTLN 0993  
FTLN 0994  
FTLN 0995  
FTLN 0996  
FTLN 0997  
FTLN 0998  
FTLN 0999  
FTLN 1000  
FTLN 1001  
FTLN 1002  
FTLN 1003  
FTLN 1004  
FTLN 1005  
FTLN 1006

How now, my as fair as noble ladies—and the moon, were she earthly, no nobler—whither do you follow your eyes so fast? 100

VOLUMNIA Honorable Menenius, my boy Martius approaches. For the love of Juno, let's go!

MENENIUS Ha? Martius coming home? 105

VOLUMNIA Ay, worthy Menenius, and with most prosperous approbation.

MENENIUS Take my cap, Jupiter, and I thank thee! *「(He throws his cap in the air.)」* Hoo! Martius coming home? 110

*「VALERIA, VIRGILIA」* Nay, 'tis true.

VOLUMNIA Look, here's a letter from him. *「She produces a paper.」* The state hath another, his wife another, and I think there's one at home for you.

MENENIUS I will make my very house reel tonight. A letter for me? 115

VIRGILIA Yes, certain, there's a letter for you; I saw 't.

MENENIUS A letter for me? It gives me an estate of seven years' health, in which time I will make a lip at the physician. The most sovereign prescription in Galen is but empiricitic and, to this preservative, of no better report than a horse drench. Is he not wounded? He was wont to come home wounded. 120

VIRGILIA O no, no, no!

VOLUMNIA O, he is wounded, I thank the gods for 't. 125

MENENIUS So do I too, if it be not too much. Brings he victory in his pocket, the wounds become him.

FTLN 1007	VOLUMNIA	On 's brows, Menenius. He comes the third	
FTLN 1008		time home with the oaken garland.	
FTLN 1009	MENENIUS	Has he disciplined Aufidius soundly?	130
FTLN 1010	VOLUMNIA	Titus Lartius writes they fought together,	
FTLN 1011		but Aufidius got off.	
FTLN 1012	MENENIUS	And 'twas time for him too, I'll warrant him	
FTLN 1013		that. An he had stayed by him, I would not have	
FTLN 1014		been so 'fidiused for all the chests in Corioles and	135
FTLN 1015		the gold that's in them. Is the Senate possessed of	
FTLN 1016		this?	
FTLN 1017	VOLUMNIA	Good ladies, let's go.—Yes, yes, yes. The	
FTLN 1018		Senate has letters from the General, wherein he	
FTLN 1019		gives my son the whole name of the war. He hath	140
FTLN 1020		in this action outdone his former deeds doubly.	
FTLN 1021	VALERIA	In troth, there's wondrous things spoke of	
FTLN 1022		him.	
FTLN 1023	MENENIUS	Wondrous? Ay, I warrant you, and not without	
FTLN 1024		his true purchasing.	145
FTLN 1025	VIRGILIA	The gods grant them true.	
FTLN 1026	VOLUMNIA	True? Pow waw!	
FTLN 1027	MENENIUS	True? I'll be sworn they are true. Where is	
FTLN 1028		he wounded? <i>「(To the Tribunes.)」</i> God save your	
FTLN 1029		good Worships! Martius is coming home; he has	150
FTLN 1030		more cause to be proud.—Where is he wounded?	
FTLN 1031	VOLUMNIA	I' th' shoulder and i' th' left arm. There will	
FTLN 1032		be large cicatrices to show the people when he	
FTLN 1033		shall stand for his place. He received in the repulse	
FTLN 1034		of Tarquin seven hurts i' th' body.	155
FTLN 1035	MENENIUS	One i' th' neck and two i' th' thigh—there's	
FTLN 1036		nine that I know.	
FTLN 1037	VOLUMNIA	He had, before this last expedition, twenty-five	
FTLN 1038		wounds upon him.	
FTLN 1039	MENENIUS	Now it's twenty-seven. Every gash was an	160
FTLN 1040		enemy's grave. <i>(A shout and flourish.)</i> Hark, the	
FTLN 1041		trumpets!	

FTLN 1042 VOLUMNIA These are the ushers of Martius: before him  
 FTLN 1043 he carries noise, and behind him he leaves tears.  
 FTLN 1044 Death, that dark spirit, in 's nervy arm doth lie, 165  
 FTLN 1045 Which, being advanced, declines, and then men die.  
*A sennet.*

*Enter Cominius the General and Titus Lartius, between  
 them Coriolanus crowned with an oaken garland, with  
 Captains and Soldiers and a Herald. Trumpets sound.*

HERALD  
 FTLN 1046 Know, Rome, that all alone Martius did fight  
 FTLN 1047 Within Corioles' gates, where he hath won,  
 FTLN 1048 With fame, a name to Martius Caius; these  
 FTLN 1049 In honor follows "Coriolanus." 170  
 FTLN 1050 Welcome to Rome, renownèd Coriolanus.  
*Sound flourish.*

ALL  
 FTLN 1051 Welcome to Rome, renownèd Coriolanus!  
 CORIOLANUS  
 FTLN 1052 No more of this. It does offend my heart.  
 FTLN 1053 Pray now, no more.  
 FTLN 1054 COMINIUS Look, sir, your mother. 175  
 FTLN 1055 CORIOLANUS O,  
 FTLN 1056 You have, I know, petitioned all the gods  
 FTLN 1057 For my prosperity. *Kneels.*  
 FTLN 1058 VOLUMNIA Nay, my good soldier, up.  
*〔He stands.〕*

FTLN 1059 My gentle Martius, worthy Caius, and 180  
 FTLN 1060 By deed-achieving honor newly named—  
 FTLN 1061 What is it? Coriolanus must I call thee?  
 FTLN 1062 But, O, thy wife—  
 FTLN 1063 CORIOLANUS My gracious silence, hail.  
 FTLN 1064 Wouldst thou have laughed had I come coffined 185  
 FTLN 1065 home,  
 FTLN 1066 That weep'st to see me triumph? Ah, my dear,

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FTLN 1067	Such eyes the widows in Corioles wear	
FTLN 1068	And mothers that lack sons.	
FTLN 1069	MENENIUS	Now the gods crown
FTLN 1070	thee!	190
	「CORIOLANUS」	
FTLN 1071	And live you yet? 「(To Valeria.)」 O, my sweet lady,	
FTLN 1072	pardon.	
	VOLUMNIA	
FTLN 1073	I know not where to turn. O, welcome home!—	
FTLN 1074	And, welcome, general.—And you're welcome all.	195
	MENENIUS	
FTLN 1075	A hundred thousand welcomes! I could weep,	
FTLN 1076	And I could laugh; I am light and heavy. Welcome.	
FTLN 1077	A curse begin at very root on 's heart	
FTLN 1078	That is not glad to see thee! 「You」 are three	
FTLN 1079	That Rome should dote on; yet, by the faith of men,	200
FTLN 1080	We have some old crab trees here at home that will	
FTLN 1081	not	
FTLN 1082	Be grafted to your relish. Yet welcome, warriors!	
FTLN 1083	We call a nettle but a nettle, and	
FTLN 1084	The faults of fools but folly.	205
FTLN 1085	COMINIUS Ever right.	
FTLN 1086	CORIOLANUS Menenius ever, ever.	
	HERALD	
FTLN 1087	Give way there, and go on!	
FTLN 1088	CORIOLANUS, 「to Volumnia and Virgilia」 Your hand	
FTLN 1089	and yours.	210
FTLN 1090	Ere in our own house I do shade my head,	
FTLN 1091	The good patricians must be visited,	
FTLN 1092	From whom I have received not only greetings,	
FTLN 1093	But with them change of honors.	
FTLN 1094	VOLUMNIA	I have lived
FTLN 1095	To see inherited my very wishes	215
FTLN 1096	And the buildings of my fancy. Only	
FTLN 1097	There's one thing wanting, which I doubt not but	
FTLN 1098	Our Rome will cast upon thee.	

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FTLN 1099	CORIOLANUS	Know, good mother,	220
FTLN 1100		I had rather be their servant in my way	
FTLN 1101		Than sway with them in theirs.	
FTLN 1102	COMINIUS	On, to the Capitol.	
		<i>Flourish</i> 「of」 <i>cornets. They exit in state, as before.</i>	
		<i>Brutus and Sicinius</i> 「come forward.」	
	BRUTUS		
FTLN 1103		All tongues speak of him, and the blearèd sights	
FTLN 1104		Are spectacled to see him. Your prattling nurse	225
FTLN 1105		Into a rapture lets her baby cry	
FTLN 1106		While she chats him. The kitchen malkin pins	
FTLN 1107		Her richest lockram 'bout her reechy neck,	
FTLN 1108		Clamb'ring the walls to eye him. Stalls, bulks,	
FTLN 1109		windows	230
FTLN 1110		Are smothered up, leads filled, and ridges horsed	
FTLN 1111		With variable complexions, all agreeing	
FTLN 1112		In earnestness to see him. Seld-shown flamens	
FTLN 1113		Do press among the popular throngs and puff	
FTLN 1114		To win a vulgar station. Our veiled dames	235
FTLN 1115		Commit the war of white and damask in	
FTLN 1116		Their nicely-gauded cheeks to th' wanton spoil	
FTLN 1117		Of Phoebus' burning kisses. Such a pother,	
FTLN 1118		As if that whatsoever god who leads him	
FTLN 1119		Were slyly crept into his human powers	240
FTLN 1120		And gave him graceful posture.	
FTLN 1121	SICINIUS	On the sudden	
FTLN 1122		I warrant him consul.	
FTLN 1123	BRUTUS	Then our office may,	
FTLN 1124		During his power, go sleep.	245
	SICINIUS		
FTLN 1125		He cannot temp'rately transport his honors	
FTLN 1126		From where he should begin and end, but will	
FTLN 1127		Lose those he hath won.	
FTLN 1128	BRUTUS	In that there's comfort.	

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FTLN 1129	SICINIUS	Doubt	250
FTLN 1130	not		
FTLN 1131	The commoners, for whom we stand, but they		
FTLN 1132	Upon their ancient malice will forget		
FTLN 1133	With the least cause these his new honors—which		
FTLN 1134	That he will give them make I as little question		255
FTLN 1135	As he is proud to do 't.		
FTLN 1136	BRUTUS	I heard him swear,	
FTLN 1137	Were he to stand for consul, never would he		
FTLN 1138	Appear i' th' marketplace nor on him put		
FTLN 1139	The napless vesture of humility,		260
FTLN 1140	Nor showing, as the manner is, his wounds		
FTLN 1141	To th' people, beg their stinking breaths.		
FTLN 1142	SICINIUS	'Tis right.	
	BRUTUS		
FTLN 1143	It was his word. O, he would miss it rather		
FTLN 1144	Than carry it but by the suit of the gentry to him		265
FTLN 1145	And the desire of the nobles.		
FTLN 1146	SICINIUS	I wish no better	
FTLN 1147	Than have him hold that purpose and to put it		
FTLN 1148	In execution.		
FTLN 1149	BRUTUS	'Tis most like he will.	270
	SICINIUS		
FTLN 1150	It shall be to him then as our good wills,		
FTLN 1151	A sure destruction.		
FTLN 1152	BRUTUS	So it must fall out	
FTLN 1153	To him, or our authority's for an end.		
FTLN 1154	We must suggest the people in what hatred		275
FTLN 1155	He still hath held them; that to 's power he would		
FTLN 1156	Have made them mules, silenced their pleaders, and		
FTLN 1157	Dispropertied their freedoms; holding them		
FTLN 1158	In human action and capacity		
FTLN 1159	Of no more soul nor fitness for the world		280
FTLN 1160	Than camels in their war, who have their provand		
FTLN 1161	Only for bearing burdens, and sore blows		
FTLN 1162	For sinking under them.		





FTLN 1188	FIRST OFFICER	That's a brave fellow, but he's vengeance	5
FTLN 1189		proud and loves not the common people.	
FTLN 1190	SECOND OFFICER	'Faith, there hath been many great	
FTLN 1191		men that have flattered the people who ne'er loved	
FTLN 1192		them; and there be many that they have loved they	
FTLN 1193		know not wherefore; so that, if they love they	10
FTLN 1194		know not why, they hate upon no better a ground.	
FTLN 1195		Therefore, for Coriolanus neither to care whether	
FTLN 1196		they love or hate him manifests the true knowledge	
FTLN 1197		he has in their disposition and, out of his noble	
FTLN 1198		carelessness, lets them plainly see 't.	15
FTLN 1199	FIRST OFFICER	If he did not care whether he had their	
FTLN 1200		love or no, he waved indifferently 'twixt doing them	
FTLN 1201		neither good nor harm; but he seeks their hate with	
FTLN 1202		greater devotion than they can render it him and	
FTLN 1203		leaves nothing undone that may fully discover him	20
FTLN 1204		their opposite. Now, to seem to affect the malice	
FTLN 1205		and displeasure of the people is as bad as that	
FTLN 1206		which he dislikes, to flatter them for their love.	
FTLN 1207	SECOND OFFICER	He hath deserved worthily of his	
FTLN 1208		country, and his ascent is not by such easy degrees	25
FTLN 1209		as those who, having been supple and courteous to	
FTLN 1210		the people, bonneted, without any further deed to	
FTLN 1211		have them at all into their estimation and report;	
FTLN 1212		but he hath so planted his honors in their eyes and	
FTLN 1213		his actions in their hearts that for their tongues to	30
FTLN 1214		be silent and not confess so much were a kind of	
FTLN 1215		ingrateful injury. To report otherwise were a malice	
FTLN 1216		that, giving itself the lie, would pluck reproof	
FTLN 1217		and rebuke from every ear that heard it.	
FTLN 1218	FIRST OFFICER	No more of him; he's a worthy man.	35
FTLN 1219		Make way. They are coming.	

*A sennet. Enter the Patricians and the Tribunes of the people, Lictors before them; Coriolanus, Menenius, Cominius the consul. [The Patricians sit.] Sicinius*

*and Brutus take their places by themselves.  
Coriolanus stands.*

	MENENIUS	
FTLN 1220	Having determined of the Volsces and	
FTLN 1221	To send for Titus Lartius, it remains,	
FTLN 1222	As the main point of this our after-meeting,	
FTLN 1223	To gratify his noble service that	40
FTLN 1224	Hath thus stood for his country. Therefore please	
FTLN 1225	you,	
FTLN 1226	Most reverend and grave elders, to desire	
FTLN 1227	The present consul and last general	
FTLN 1228	In our well-found successes to report	45
FTLN 1229	A little of that worthy work performed	
FTLN 1230	By Martius Caius Coriolanus, whom	
FTLN 1231	We met here both to thank and to remember	
FTLN 1232	With honors like himself. <i>「Coriolanus sits.」</i>	
FTLN 1233	FIRST SENATOR                                Speak, good Cominius.	50
FTLN 1234	Leave nothing out for length, and make us think	
FTLN 1235	Rather our state's defective for requital,	
FTLN 1236	Than we to stretch it out. <i>「(To the Tribunes.)」</i>	
FTLN 1237	Masters o' th' people,	
FTLN 1238	We do request your kindest ears and, after,	55
FTLN 1239	Your loving motion toward the common body	
FTLN 1240	To yield what passes here.	
FTLN 1241	SICINIUS                                        We are convented	
FTLN 1242	Upon a pleasing treaty and have hearts	
FTLN 1243	Inclinable to honor and advance	60
FTLN 1244	The theme of our assembly.	
FTLN 1245	BRUTUS   Which the rather	
FTLN 1246	We shall be blest to do if he remember	
FTLN 1247	A kinder value of the people than	
FTLN 1248	He hath hereto prized them at.	65
FTLN 1249	MENENIUS                                     That's off, that's off!	
FTLN 1250	I would you rather had been silent. Please you	
FTLN 1251	To hear Cominius speak?	

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FTLN 1252	BRUTUS	Most willingly,	
FTLN 1253		But yet my caution was more pertinent	70
FTLN 1254		Than the rebuke you give it.	
FTLN 1255	MENENIUS	He loves your people,	
FTLN 1256		But tie him not to be their bedfellow.—	
FTLN 1257		Worthy Cominius, speak.	
		<i>Coriolanus rises and offers to go away.</i>	
FTLN 1258		Nay, keep your place.	75
	〔FIRST〕 SENATOR		
FTLN 1259		Sit, Coriolanus. Never shame to hear	
FTLN 1260		What you have nobly done.	
FTLN 1261	CORIOLANUS	Your Honors, pardon.	
FTLN 1262		I had rather have my wounds to heal again	
FTLN 1263		Than hear say how I got them.	80
FTLN 1264	BRUTUS	Sir, I hope	
FTLN 1265		My words disbenched you not?	
FTLN 1266	CORIOLANUS	No, sir. Yet oft,	
FTLN 1267		When blows have made me stay, I fled from words.	
FTLN 1268		You soothed not, therefore hurt not; but your	85
FTLN 1269		people,	
FTLN 1270		I love them as they weigh.	
FTLN 1271	MENENIUS	Pray now, sit down.	
	CORIOLANUS		
FTLN 1272		I had rather have one scratch my head i' th' sun	
FTLN 1273		When the alarum were struck than idly sit	90
FTLN 1274		To hear my nothings monstered. <i>Coriolanus exits.</i>	
FTLN 1275	MENENIUS	Masters of the people,	
FTLN 1276		Your multiplying spawn how can he flatter—	
FTLN 1277		That's thousand to one good one—when you now	
FTLN 1278		see	95
FTLN 1279		He had rather venture all his limbs for honor	
FTLN 1280		Than one on 's ears to hear it.—Proceed, Cominius.	
	COMINIUS		
FTLN 1281		I shall lack voice. The deeds of Coriolanus	
FTLN 1282		Should not be uttered feebly. It is held	
FTLN 1283		That valor is the chiefest virtue and	100

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FTLN 1284 Most dignifies the haver; if it be,  
 FTLN 1285 The man I speak of cannot in the world  
 FTLN 1286 Be singly counterpoised. At sixteen years,  
 FTLN 1287 When Tarquin made a head for Rome, he fought  
 FTLN 1288 Beyond the mark of others. Our then dictator, 105  
 FTLN 1289 Whom with all praise I point at, saw him fight  
 FTLN 1290 When with his Amazonian chin he drove  
 FTLN 1291 The bristled lips before him. He bestrid  
 FTLN 1292 An o'erpressed Roman and i' th' Consul's view  
 FTLN 1293 Slew three opposers. Tarquin's self he met 110  
 FTLN 1294 And struck him on his knee. In that day's feats,  
 FTLN 1295 When he might act the woman in the scene,  
 FTLN 1296 He proved best man i' th' field and for his meed  
 FTLN 1297 Was brow-bound with the oak. His pupil age  
 FTLN 1298 Man-entered thus, he waxèd like a sea, 115  
 FTLN 1299 And in the brunt of seventeen battles since  
 FTLN 1300 He lurched all swords of the garland. For this last,  
 FTLN 1301 Before and in Corioles, let me say,  
 FTLN 1302 I cannot speak him home. He stopped the flyers  
 FTLN 1303 And by his rare example made the coward 120  
 FTLN 1304 Turn terror into sport. As weeds before  
 FTLN 1305 A vessel under sail, so men obeyed  
 FTLN 1306 And fell below his stem. His sword, Death's stamp,  
 FTLN 1307 Where it did mark, it took; from face to foot  
 FTLN 1308 He was a thing of blood, whose every motion 125  
 FTLN 1309 Was timed with dying cries. Alone he entered  
 FTLN 1310 The mortal gate o' th' city, which he painted  
 FTLN 1311 With shunless destiny; aidless came off  
 FTLN 1312 And with a sudden reinforcement struck  
 FTLN 1313 Corioles like a planet. Now all's his, 130  
 FTLN 1314 When by and by the din of war gan pierce  
 FTLN 1315 His ready sense; then straight his doubled spirit  
 FTLN 1316 Requicken'd what in flesh was fatigate,  
 FTLN 1317 And to the battle came he, where he did  
 FTLN 1318 Run reeking o'er the lives of men as if 135  
 FTLN 1319 'Twere a perpetual spoil; and till we called

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FTLN 1320	Both field and city ours, he never stood	
FTLN 1321	To ease his breast with panting.	
FTLN 1322	MENENIUS	Worthy man!
	「FIRST」 SENATOR	
FTLN 1323	He cannot but with measure fit the honors	140
FTLN 1324	Which we devise him.	
FTLN 1325	COMINIUS	Our spoils he kicked at
FTLN 1326	And looked upon things precious as they were	
FTLN 1327	The common muck of the world. He covets less	
FTLN 1328	Than misery itself would give, rewards	145
FTLN 1329	His deeds with doing them, and is content	
FTLN 1330	To spend the time to end it.	
FTLN 1331	MENENIUS	He's right noble.
FTLN 1332	Let him be called for.	
FTLN 1333	「FIRST」 SENATOR	Call Coriolanus.
FTLN 1334	OFFICER	He doth appear.
	<i>Enter Coriolanus.</i>	
	MENENIUS	
FTLN 1335	The Senate, Coriolanus, are well pleased	
FTLN 1336	To make thee consul.	
FTLN 1337	CORIOLANUS	I do owe them still
FTLN 1338	My life and services.	155
FTLN 1339	MENENIUS	It then remains
FTLN 1340	That you do speak to the people.	
FTLN 1341	CORIOLANUS	I do beseech you,
FTLN 1342	Let me o'erleap that custom, for I cannot	
FTLN 1343	Put on the gown, stand naked, and entreat them	160
FTLN 1344	For my wounds' sake to give their suffrage. Please	
FTLN 1345	you	
FTLN 1346	That I may pass this doing.	
FTLN 1347	SICINIUS	Sir, the people
FTLN 1348	Must have their voices; neither will they bate	165
FTLN 1349	One jot of ceremony.	
FTLN 1350	MENENIUS, 「to Coriolanus」	Put them not to 't.
FTLN 1351	Pray you, go fit you to the custom, and	

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FTLN 1352	Take to you, as your predecessors have,	
FTLN 1353	Your honor with your form.	170
FTLN 1354	CORIOLANUS	It is a part
FTLN 1355	That I shall blush in acting, and might well	
FTLN 1356	Be taken from the people.	
FTLN 1357	BRUTUS, [to Sicinius]	Mark you that?
	CORIOLANUS	
FTLN 1358	To brag unto them "Thus I did, and thus!"	175
FTLN 1359	Show them th' unaching scars, which I should hide,	
FTLN 1360	As if I had received them for the hire	
FTLN 1361	Of their breath only!	
FTLN 1362	MENENIUS	Do not stand upon 't.—
FTLN 1363	We recommend to you, tribunes of the people,	180
FTLN 1364	Our purpose to them, and to our noble consul	
FTLN 1365	Wish we all joy and honor.	
	SENATORS	
FTLN 1366	To Coriolanus come all joy and honor!	
	<i>Flourish cornets. Then they exit. Sicinius and Brutus remain.</i>	
	BRUTUS	
FTLN 1367	You see how he intends to use the people.	
	SICINIUS	
FTLN 1368	May they perceive 's intent! He will require them	185
FTLN 1369	As if he did contemn what he requested	
FTLN 1370	Should be in them to give.	
FTLN 1371	BRUTUS	Come, we'll inform them
FTLN 1372	Of our proceedings here. On th' marketplace	
FTLN 1373	I know they do attend us.	190
		[They exit.]

[Scene 3]

*Enter seven or eight Citizens.*

FTLN 1374	FIRST CITIZEN	Once, if he do require our voices, we
FTLN 1375		ought not to deny him.

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FTLN 1376	SECOND CITIZEN	We may, sir, if we will.	
FTLN 1377	THIRD CITIZEN	We have power in ourselves to do it, but	
FTLN 1378		it is a power that we have no power to do; for, if	5
FTLN 1379		he show us his wounds and tell us his deeds, we	
FTLN 1380		are to put our tongues into those wounds and	
FTLN 1381		speak for them. So, if he tell us his noble deeds, we	
FTLN 1382		must also tell him our noble acceptance of them.	
FTLN 1383		Ingratitude is monstrous, and for the multitude to	10
FTLN 1384		be ingrateful were to make a monster of the multitude,	
FTLN 1385		of the which, we being members, should	
FTLN 1386		bring ourselves to be monstrous members.	
FTLN 1387	FIRST CITIZEN	And to make us no better thought of, a	
FTLN 1388		little help will serve; for once we stood up about	15
FTLN 1389		the corn, he himself stuck not to call us the many-headed	
FTLN 1390		multitude.	
FTLN 1391	THIRD CITIZEN	We have been called so of many; not that	
FTLN 1392		our heads are some brown, some black, some	
FTLN 1393		abram, some bald, but that our wits are so diversely	20
FTLN 1394		colored; and truly I think if all our wits were to	
FTLN 1395		issue out of one skull, they would fly east, west,	
FTLN 1396		north, south, and their consent of one direct way	
FTLN 1397		should be at once to all the points o' th' compass.	
FTLN 1398	SECOND CITIZEN	Think you so? Which way do you	25
FTLN 1399		judge my wit would fly?	
FTLN 1400	THIRD CITIZEN	Nay, your wit will not so soon out as another	
FTLN 1401		man's will; 'tis strongly wedged up in a blockhead.	
FTLN 1402		But if it were at liberty, 'twould sure	
FTLN 1403		southward.	30
FTLN 1404	SECOND CITIZEN	Why that way?	
FTLN 1405	THIRD CITIZEN	To lose itself in a fog, where, being three	
FTLN 1406		parts melted away with rotten dews, the fourth	
FTLN 1407		would return for conscience' sake, to help to get	
FTLN 1408		thee a wife.	35
FTLN 1409	SECOND CITIZEN	You are never without your tricks. You	
FTLN 1410		may, you may.	



FTLN 1411	THIRD CITIZEN	Are you all resolved to give your voices?	
FTLN 1412		But that's no matter; the greater part carries it. I	
FTLN 1413		say, if he would incline to the people, there was	40
FTLN 1414		never a worthier man.	
<i>Enter Coriolanus in a gown of humility, with Menenius.</i>			
FTLN 1415		Here he comes, and in the gown of humility. Mark	
FTLN 1416		his behavior. We are not to stay all together, but to	
FTLN 1417		come by him where he stands, by ones, by twos,	
FTLN 1418		and by threes. He's to make his requests by particulars,	45
FTLN 1419		wherein every one of us has a single honor	
FTLN 1420		in giving him our own voices with our own tongues.	
FTLN 1421		Therefore follow me, and I'll direct you how you	
FTLN 1422		shall go by him.	
FTLN 1423	ALL	Content, content.	50
		<i>〔Citizens exit.〕</i>	
	MENENIUS		
FTLN 1424		O sir, you are not right. Have you not known	
FTLN 1425		The worthiest men have done 't?	
FTLN 1426	CORIOLANUS	What must I say?	
FTLN 1427		"I pray, sir?"—plague upon 't! I cannot bring	
FTLN 1428		My tongue to such a pace. "Look, sir, my wounds!	55
FTLN 1429		I got them in my country's service when	
FTLN 1430		Some certain of your brethren roared and ran	
FTLN 1431		From th' noise of our own drums."	
FTLN 1432	MENENIUS	O me, the gods!	
FTLN 1433		You must not speak of that. You must desire them	60
FTLN 1434		To think upon you.	
FTLN 1435	CORIOLANUS	Think upon me? Hang 'em!	
FTLN 1436		I would they would forget me, like the virtues	
FTLN 1437		Which our divines lose by 'em.	
FTLN 1438	MENENIUS	You'll mar all.	65
FTLN 1439		I'll leave you. Pray you, speak to 'em, I pray you,	
FTLN 1440		In wholesome manner. <i>He exits.</i>	
FTLN 1441	CORIOLANUS	Bid them wash their faces	
FTLN 1442		And keep their teeth clean.	

*Enter three of the Citizens.*

FTLN 1443		So, here comes a brace.—	70
FTLN 1444		You know the cause, sir, of my standing here.	
	THIRD CITIZEN		
FTLN 1445		We do, sir. Tell us what hath brought you to 't.	
FTLN 1446	CORIOLANUS	Mine own desert.	
FTLN 1447	SECOND CITIZEN	Your own desert?	
FTLN 1448	CORIOLANUS	Ay, but 'not' mine own desire.	75
FTLN 1449	THIRD CITIZEN	How, not your own desire?	
FTLN 1450	CORIOLANUS	No, sir, 'twas never my desire yet to trouble	
FTLN 1451		the poor with begging.	
FTLN 1452	THIRD CITIZEN	You must think if we give you anything,	
FTLN 1453		we hope to gain by you.	80
FTLN 1454	CORIOLANUS	Well then, I pray, your price o' th'	
FTLN 1455		consulship?	
FTLN 1456	FIRST CITIZEN	The price is to ask it kindly.	
FTLN 1457	CORIOLANUS	Kindly, sir, I pray, let me ha 't. I have	
FTLN 1458		wounds to show you, which shall be yours in	85
FTLN 1459		private.—Your good voice, sir. What say you?	
FTLN 1460	SECOND CITIZEN	You shall ha 't, worthy sir.	
FTLN 1461	CORIOLANUS	A match, sir. There's in all two worthy	
FTLN 1462		voices begged. I have your alms. Adieu.	
FTLN 1463	THIRD CITIZEN, 'to the other Citizens'	But this is something	90
FTLN 1464		odd.	
FTLN 1465	SECOND CITIZEN	An 'twere to give again—but 'tis no	
FTLN 1466		matter. 'These citizens' exit.	

*Enter two other Citizens.*

FTLN 1467	CORIOLANUS	Pray you now, if it may stand with the	
FTLN 1468		tune of your voices that I may be consul, I have	95
FTLN 1469		here the customary gown.	
FTLN 1470	'FOURTH CITIZEN'	You have deserved nobly of your	
FTLN 1471		country, and you have not deserved nobly.	
FTLN 1472	CORIOLANUS	Your enigma?	

FTLN 1473	「FOURTH CITIZEN」	You have been a scourge to her enemies;	100
FTLN 1474		you have been a rod to her friends. You have	
FTLN 1475		not indeed loved the common people.	
FTLN 1476	CORIOLANUS	You should account me the more virtuous	
FTLN 1477		that I have not been common in my love. I will, sir,	
FTLN 1478		flatter my sworn brother, the people, to earn a	105
FTLN 1479		dearer estimation of them; 'tis a condition they account	
FTLN 1480		gentle. And since the wisdom of their choice	
FTLN 1481		is rather to have my hat than my heart, I will practice	
FTLN 1482		the insinuating nod and be off to them most	
FTLN 1483		counterfeitly. That is, sir, I will counterfeit the bewitchment	110
FTLN 1484		of some popular man and give it bountiful	
FTLN 1485		to the desirers. Therefore, beseech you, I may	
FTLN 1486		be consul.	
FTLN 1487	「FIFTH CITIZEN」	We hope to find you our friend, and	
FTLN 1488		therefore give you our voices heartily.	115
FTLN 1489	「FOURTH CITIZEN」	You have received many wounds for	
FTLN 1490		your country.	
FTLN 1491	CORIOLANUS	I will not seal your knowledge with showing	
FTLN 1492		them. I will make much of your voices and so	
FTLN 1493		trouble you no farther.	120
FTLN 1494	BOTH	The gods give you joy, sir, heartily.	
		「Citizens exit.」	
FTLN 1495	CORIOLANUS	Most sweet voices!	
FTLN 1496		Better it is to die, better to starve,	
FTLN 1497		Than crave the 「hire」 which first we do deserve.	
FTLN 1498		Why in this woolvish 「toge」 should I stand here	125
FTLN 1499		To beg of Hob and Dick that does appear	
FTLN 1500		Their needless vouches? Custom calls me to 't.	
FTLN 1501		What custom wills, in all things should we do 't?	
FTLN 1502		The dust on antique time would lie unswept	
FTLN 1503		And mountainous error be too highly heaped	130
FTLN 1504		For truth to o'erpeer. Rather than fool it so,	
FTLN 1505		Let the high office and the honor go	
FTLN 1506		To one that would do thus. I am half through;	
FTLN 1507		The one part suffered, the other will I do.	

*Enter three Citizens more.*

FTLN 1508	Here come more voices.—	135
FTLN 1509	Your voices! For your voices I have fought;	
FTLN 1510	Watched for your voices; for your voices bear	
FTLN 1511	Of wounds two dozen odd. Battles thrice six	
FTLN 1512	I have seen and heard of; for your voices have	
FTLN 1513	Done many things, some less, some more. Your	140
FTLN 1514	voices!	
FTLN 1515	Indeed, I would be consul.	
FTLN 1516	「SIXTH」 CITIZEN He has done nobly, and cannot go	
FTLN 1517	without any honest man's voice.	
FTLN 1518	「SEVENTH」 CITIZEN Therefore let him be consul. The	145
FTLN 1519	gods give him joy, and make him good friend to	
FTLN 1520	the people!	
FTLN 1521	ALL Amen, amen. God save thee, noble consul.	
	「Citizens exit.」	
FTLN 1522	CORIOLANUS Worthy voices!	

*Enter Menenius, with Brutus and Sicinius.*

	MENENIUS	
FTLN 1523	You have stood your limitation, and the Tribunes	150
FTLN 1524	Endue you with the people's voice. Remains	
FTLN 1525	That in th' official marks invested, you	
FTLN 1526	Anon do meet the Senate.	
FTLN 1527	CORIOLANUS Is this done?	
	SICINIUS	
FTLN 1528	The custom of request you have discharged.	155
FTLN 1529	The people do admit you, and are summoned	
FTLN 1530	To meet anon upon your approbation.	
	CORIOLANUS	
FTLN 1531	Where? At the Senate House?	
FTLN 1532	SICINIUS There, Coriolanus.	
	CORIOLANUS	
FTLN 1533	May I change these garments?	160
FTLN 1534	SICINIUS You may, sir.	

CORIOLANUS

FTLN 1535 That I'll straight do and, knowing myself again,  
FTLN 1536 Repair to th' Senate House.

MENENIUS

FTLN 1537 I'll keep you company.—Will you along?

BRUTUS

FTLN 1538 We stay here for the people. 165

FTLN 1539 SICINIUS Fare you well.

*Coriolanus and Menenius exit.*

FTLN 1540 He has it now; and by his looks, methinks,  
FTLN 1541 'Tis warm at 's heart.

FTLN 1542 BRUTUS With a proud heart he wore

FTLN 1543 His humble weeds. Will you dismiss the people? 170

*Enter the Plebeians.*

SICINIUS

FTLN 1544 How now, my masters, have you chose this man?

FTLN 1545 FIRST CITIZEN He has our voices, sir.

BRUTUS

FTLN 1546 We pray the gods he may deserve your loves.

SECOND CITIZEN

FTLN 1547 Amen, sir. To my poor unworthy notice,

FTLN 1548 He mocked us when he begged our voices. 175

THIRD CITIZEN

FTLN 1549 Certainly, he flouted us downright.

FIRST CITIZEN

FTLN 1550 No, 'tis his kind of speech. He did not mock us.

SECOND CITIZEN

FTLN 1551 Not one amongst us, save yourself, but says

FTLN 1552 He used us scornfully. He should have showed us

FTLN 1553 His marks of merit, wounds received for 's country. 180

FTLN 1554 SICINIUS Why, so he did, I am sure.

FTLN 1555 ALL No, no. No man saw 'em.

THIRD CITIZEN

FTLN 1556 He said he had wounds, which he could show in  
FTLN 1557 private,

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FTLN 1558	And with his hat, thus waving it in scorn,	185
FTLN 1559	“I would be consul,” says he. “Agèd custom,	
FTLN 1560	But by your voices, will not so permit me;	
FTLN 1561	Your voices therefore.” When we granted that,	
FTLN 1562	Here was “I thank you for your voices. Thank you.	
FTLN 1563	Your most sweet voices! Now you have left your	190
FTLN 1564	voices,	
FTLN 1565	I have no further with you.” Was not this mockery?	
	SICINIUS	
FTLN 1566	Why either were you ignorant to see ’t	
FTLN 1567	Or, seeing it, of such childish friendliness	
FTLN 1568	To yield your voices?	195
FTLN 1569	BRUTUS	Could you not have told him
FTLN 1570	As you were lessoned? When he had no power,	
FTLN 1571	But was a petty servant to the state,	
FTLN 1572	He was your enemy, ever spake against	
FTLN 1573	Your liberties and the charters that you bear	200
FTLN 1574	I’ th’ body of the weal; and, now arriving	
FTLN 1575	A place of potency and sway o’ th’ state,	
FTLN 1576	If he should still malignantly remain	
FTLN 1577	Fast foe to th’ plebeii, your voices might	
FTLN 1578	Be curses to yourselves. You should have said	205
FTLN 1579	That as his worthy deeds did claim no less	
FTLN 1580	Than what he stood for, so his gracious nature	
FTLN 1581	Would think upon you for your voices, and	
FTLN 1582	Translate his malice towards you into love,	
FTLN 1583	Standing your friendly lord.	210
FTLN 1584	SICINIUS	Thus to have said,
FTLN 1585	As you were fore-advised, had touched his spirit	
FTLN 1586	And tried his inclination; from him plucked	
FTLN 1587	Either his gracious promise, which you might,	
FTLN 1588	As cause had called you up, have held him to;	215
FTLN 1589	Or else it would have galled his surly nature,	
FTLN 1590	Which easily endures not article	
FTLN 1591	Tying him to aught. So putting him to rage,	

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FTLN 1592	You should have ta'en th' advantage of his choler	
FTLN 1593	And passed him unelected.	220
FTLN 1594	BRUTUS	Did you perceive
FTLN 1595	He did solicit you in free contempt	
FTLN 1596	When he did need your loves, and do you think	
FTLN 1597	That his contempt shall not be bruising to you	
FTLN 1598	When he hath power to crush? Why, had your	225
FTLN 1599	bodies	
FTLN 1600	No heart among you? Or had you tongues to cry	
FTLN 1601	Against the rectorship of judgment?	
	SICINIUS	
FTLN 1602	Have you ere now denied the asker? And now	
FTLN 1603	Again, of him that did not ask but mock,	230
FTLN 1604	Bestow your sued-for tongues?	
FTLN 1605	THIRD CITIZEN	He's not confirmed.
FTLN 1606	We may deny him yet.	
FTLN 1607	SECOND CITIZEN	And will deny him.
FTLN 1608	I'll have five hundred voices of that sound.	235
	FIRST CITIZEN	
FTLN 1609	I twice five hundred, and their friends to piece 'em.	
	BRUTUS	
FTLN 1610	Get you hence instantly, and tell those friends	
FTLN 1611	They have chose a consul that will from them take	
FTLN 1612	Their liberties, make them of no more voice	
FTLN 1613	Than dogs that are as often beat for barking	240
FTLN 1614	As therefor kept to do so.	
FTLN 1615	SICINIUS	Let them assemble
FTLN 1616	And, on a safer judgment, all revoke	
FTLN 1617	Your ignorant election. Enforce his pride	
FTLN 1618	And his old hate unto you. Besides, forget not	245
FTLN 1619	With what contempt he wore the humble weed,	
FTLN 1620	How in his suit he scorned you; but your loves,	
FTLN 1621	Thinking upon his services, took from you	
FTLN 1622	Th' apprehension of his present portance,	
FTLN 1623	Which most gibingly, ungravely, he did fashion	250
FTLN 1624	After the inveterate hate he bears you.	

FTLN 1625	BRUTUS	Lay	
FTLN 1626		A fault on us, your tribunes, that we labored,	
FTLN 1627		No impediment between, but that you must	
FTLN 1628		Cast your election on him.	255
FTLN 1629	SICINIUS	Say you chose him	
FTLN 1630		More after our commandment than as guided	
FTLN 1631		By your own true affections, and that your minds,	
FTLN 1632		Preoccupied with what you rather must do	
FTLN 1633		Than what you should, made you against the grain	260
FTLN 1634		To voice him consul. Lay the fault on us.	
	BRUTUS		
FTLN 1635		Ay, spare us not. Say we read lectures to you,	
FTLN 1636		How youngly he began to serve his country,	
FTLN 1637		How long continued, and what stock he springs of,	
FTLN 1638		The noble house o' th' Martians, from whence came	265
FTLN 1639		That Ancus Martius, Numa's daughter's son,	
FTLN 1640		Who after great Hostilius here was king,	
FTLN 1641		Of the same house Publius and Quintus were,	
FTLN 1642		That our best water brought by conduits hither;	
FTLN 1643		「And Censorinus, that was so surnamed,」	270
FTLN 1644		And nobly namèd so, twice being censor,	
FTLN 1645		Was his great ancestor.	
FTLN 1646	SICINIUS	One thus descended,	
FTLN 1647		That hath besides well in his person wrought	
FTLN 1648		To be set high in place, we did commend	275
FTLN 1649		To your remembrances; but you have found,	
FTLN 1650		Scaling his present bearing with his past,	
FTLN 1651		That he's your fixèd enemy, and revoke	
FTLN 1652		Your sudden approbation.	
FTLN 1653	BRUTUS	Say you ne'er had done 't—	280
FTLN 1654		Harp on that still—but by our putting on.	
FTLN 1655		And presently, when you have drawn your number,	
FTLN 1656		Repair to th' Capitol.	
FTLN 1657	ALL	We will so. Almost all	
FTLN 1658		Repent in their election. <i>Plebeians exit.</i>	285
FTLN 1659	BRUTUS	Let them go on.	



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FTLN 1660 This mutiny were better put in hazard  
FTLN 1661 Than stay, past doubt, for greater.  
FTLN 1662 If, as his nature is, he fall in rage  
FTLN 1663 With their refusal, both observe and answer 290  
FTLN 1664 The vantage of his anger.  
FTLN 1665 SICINIUS To th' Capitol, come.  
FTLN 1666 We will be there before the stream o' th' people,  
FTLN 1667 And this shall seem, as partly 'tis, their own,  
FTLN 1668 Which we have goaded onward. 295

*They exit.*

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## ACT 3

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「Scene 1」

*Cornets. Enter Coriolanus, Menenius, all the Gentry,  
Cominius, Titus Lartius, and other Senators.*

CORIOLANUS

FTLN 1669 Tullus Aufidius then had made new head?

LARTIUS

FTLN 1670 He had, my lord, and that it was which caused  
FTLN 1671 Our swifter composition.

CORIOLANUS

FTLN 1672 So then the Volsces stand but as at first,  
FTLN 1673 Ready, when time shall prompt them, to make road 5  
FTLN 1674 Upon 's again.

FTLN 1675 COMINIUS They are worn, lord consul, so,  
FTLN 1676 That we shall hardly in our ages see  
FTLN 1677 Their banners wave again.

FTLN 1678 CORIOLANUS Saw you Aufidius? 10

LARTIUS

FTLN 1679 On safeguard he came to me, and did curse  
FTLN 1680 Against the Volsces, for they had so vilely  
FTLN 1681 Yielded the town. He is retired to Antium.

CORIOLANUS

FTLN 1682 Spoke he of me?

FTLN 1683 LARTIUS He did, my lord. 15

FTLN 1684 CORIOLANUS How? What?

LARTIUS

FTLN 1685 How often he had met you sword to sword;

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FTLN 1686	That of all things upon the earth he hated	
FTLN 1687	Your person most; that he would pawn his fortunes	
FTLN 1688	To hopeless restitution, so he might	20
FTLN 1689	Be called your vanquisher.	
FTLN 1690	CORIOLANUS	At Antium lives he?
FTLN 1691	LARTIUS	At Antium.
	CORIOLANUS	
FTLN 1692	I wish I had a cause to seek him there,	
FTLN 1693	To oppose his hatred fully. Welcome home.	25
	<i>Enter Sicinius and Brutus.</i>	
FTLN 1694	Behold, these are the tribunes of the people,	
FTLN 1695	The tongues o' th' common mouth. I do despise	
FTLN 1696	them,	
FTLN 1697	For they do prank them in authority	
FTLN 1698	Against all noble sufferance.	30
FTLN 1699	SICINIUS	Pass no further.
FTLN 1700	CORIOLANUS	Ha? What is that?
	BRUTUS	
FTLN 1701	It will be dangerous to go on. No further.	
FTLN 1702	CORIOLANUS	What makes this change?
FTLN 1703	MENENIUS	The matter?
	COMINIUS	
FTLN 1704	Hath he not passed the noble and the common?	
	BRUTUS	
FTLN 1705	Cominius, no.	
FTLN 1706	CORIOLANUS	Have I had children's voices?
	「FIRST」 SENATOR	
FTLN 1707	Tribunes, give way. He shall to th' marketplace.	
	BRUTUS	
FTLN 1708	The people are incensed against him.	40
FTLN 1709	SICINIUS	Stop,
FTLN 1710	Or all will fall in broil.	
FTLN 1711	CORIOLANUS	Are these your herd?
FTLN 1712	Must these have voices, that can yield them now	

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FTLN 1713	And straight disclaim their tongues? What are your	45
FTLN 1714	offices?	
FTLN 1715	You being their mouths, why rule you not their	
FTLN 1716	teeth?	
FTLN 1717	Have you not set them on?	
FTLN 1718	MENENIUS Be calm, be calm.	50
	CORIOLANUS	
FTLN 1719	It is a purposed thing, and grows by plot,	
FTLN 1720	To curb the will of the nobility.	
FTLN 1721	Suffer 't, and live with such as cannot rule	
FTLN 1722	Nor ever will be ruled.	
FTLN 1723	BRUTUS Call 't not a plot.	55
FTLN 1724	The people cry you mocked them; and, of late,	
FTLN 1725	When corn was given them gratis, you repined,	
FTLN 1726	Scandaled the suppliants for the people, called them	
FTLN 1727	Timepleasers, flatterers, foes to nobleness.	
	CORIOLANUS	
FTLN 1728	Why, this was known before.	60
FTLN 1729	BRUTUS Not to them all.	
	CORIOLANUS	
FTLN 1730	Have you informed them sithence?	
FTLN 1731	BRUTUS How? I inform	
FTLN 1732	them?	
FTLN 1733	COMINIUS You are like to do such business.	65
	BRUTUS	
FTLN 1734	Not unlike, each way, to better yours.	
	CORIOLANUS	
FTLN 1735	Why then should I be consul? By yond clouds,	
FTLN 1736	Let me deserve so ill as you, and make me	
FTLN 1737	Your fellow tribune.	
FTLN 1738	SICINIUS You show too much of that	70
FTLN 1739	For which the people stir. If you will pass	
FTLN 1740	To where you are bound, you must inquire your	
FTLN 1741	way,	

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FTLN 1742	Which you are out of, with a gentler spirit,	
FTLN 1743	Or never be so noble as a consul,	75
FTLN 1744	Nor yoke with him for tribune.	
FTLN 1745	MENENIUS	Let's be calm.
	COMINIUS	
FTLN 1746	The people are abused, set on. This palt'ring	
FTLN 1747	Becomes not Rome, nor has Coriolanus	
FTLN 1748	Deserved this so dishonored rub, laid falsely	80
FTLN 1749	I' th' plain way of his merit.	
FTLN 1750	CORIOLANUS	Tell me of corn?
FTLN 1751	This was my speech, and I will speak 't again.	
	MENENIUS	
FTLN 1752	Not now, not now.	
FTLN 1753	「FIRST」 SENATOR	Not in this heat, sir, now.
FTLN 1754	CORIOLANUS	Now, as I live, I will.
FTLN 1755	My nobler friends, I crave their pardons. For	
FTLN 1756	The mutable, rank-scented meiny, let them	
FTLN 1757	Regard me, as I do not flatter, and	
FTLN 1758	Therein behold themselves. I say again,	90
FTLN 1759	In soothing them, we nourish 'gainst our senate	
FTLN 1760	The cockle of rebellion, insolence, sedition,	
FTLN 1761	Which we ourselves have plowed for, sowed, and	
FTLN 1762	scattered	
FTLN 1763	By mingling them with us, the honored number,	95
FTLN 1764	Who lack not virtue, no, nor power, but that	
FTLN 1765	Which they have given to beggars.	
FTLN 1766	MENENIUS	Well, no more.
	「FIRST」 SENATOR	
FTLN 1767	No more words, we beseech you.	
FTLN 1768	CORIOLANUS	How? No more?
FTLN 1769	As for my country I have shed my blood,	100
FTLN 1770	Not fearing outward force, so shall my lungs	
FTLN 1771	Coin words till their decay against those measles	
FTLN 1772	Which we disdain should tetter us, yet sought	
FTLN 1773	The very way to catch them.	105

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FTLN 1774	BRUTUS	You speak o' th' people	
FTLN 1775		As if you were a god to punish, not	
FTLN 1776		A man of their infirmity.	
FTLN 1777	SICINIUS	'Twere well	
FTLN 1778		We let the people know 't.	110
FTLN 1779	MENENIUS	What, what? His choler?	
FTLN 1780	CORIOLANUS	Choler?	
FTLN 1781		Were I as patient as the midnight sleep,	
FTLN 1782		By Jove, 'twould be my mind.	
FTLN 1783	SICINIUS	It is a mind	115
FTLN 1784		That shall remain a poison where it is,	
FTLN 1785		Not poison any further.	
FTLN 1786	CORIOLANUS	"Shall remain"?	
FTLN 1787		Hear you this Triton of the minnows? Mark you	
FTLN 1788		His absolute "shall"?	120
FTLN 1789	COMINIUS	'Twas from the canon.	
FTLN 1790	CORIOLANUS	"Shall"?	
FTLN 1791		O 'good' but most unwise patricians, why,	
FTLN 1792		You grave but reckless senators, have you thus	
FTLN 1793		Given Hydra here to choose an officer,	125
FTLN 1794		That with his peremptory "shall," being but	
FTLN 1795		The horn and noise o' th' monster's, wants not spirit	
FTLN 1796		To say he'll turn your current in a ditch	
FTLN 1797		And make your channel his? If he have power,	
FTLN 1798		Then vail your ignorance; if none, awake	130
FTLN 1799		Your dangerous lenity. If you are learned,	
FTLN 1800		Be not as common fools; if you are not,	
FTLN 1801		Let them have cushions by you. You are plebeians,	
FTLN 1802		If they be senators; and they are no less	
FTLN 1803		When, both your voices blended, the great'st taste	135
FTLN 1804		Most palates theirs. They choose their magistrate,	
FTLN 1805		And such a one as he, who puts his "shall,"	
FTLN 1806		His popular "shall," against a graver bench	
FTLN 1807		Than ever frowned in Greece. By Jove himself,	
FTLN 1808		It makes the consuls base! And my soul aches	140
FTLN 1809		To know, when two authorities are up,	

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FTLN 1810	Neither supreme, how soon confusion	
FTLN 1811	May enter 'twixt the gap of both and take	
FTLN 1812	The one by th' other.	
FTLN 1813	COMINIUS	Well, on to th' marketplace. 145
	CORIOLANUS	
FTLN 1814	Whoever gave that counsel to give forth	
FTLN 1815	The corn o' th' storehouse gratis, as 'twas used	
FTLN 1816	Sometime in Greece—	
FTLN 1817	MENENIUS	Well, well, no more of that.
	CORIOLANUS	
FTLN 1818	Though there the people had more absolute power,	150
FTLN 1819	I say they nourished disobedience, fed	
FTLN 1820	The ruin of the state.	
FTLN 1821	BRUTUS	Why shall the people give
FTLN 1822	One that speaks thus their voice?	
FTLN 1823	CORIOLANUS	I'll give my reasons, 155
FTLN 1824	More worthier than their voices. They know the	
FTLN 1825	corn	
FTLN 1826	Was not our recompense, resting well assured	
FTLN 1827	They ne'er did service for 't. Being pressed to th' war,	
FTLN 1828	Even when the navel of the state was touched,	160
FTLN 1829	They would not thread the gates. This kind of	
FTLN 1830	service	
FTLN 1831	Did not deserve corn gratis. Being i' th' war,	
FTLN 1832	Their mutinies and revolts, wherein they showed	
FTLN 1833	Most valor, spoke not for them. Th' accusation	165
FTLN 1834	Which they have often made against the Senate,	
FTLN 1835	All cause unborn, could never be the native	
FTLN 1836	Of our so frank donation. Well, what then?	
FTLN 1837	How shall this bosom multiplied digest	
FTLN 1838	The Senate's courtesy? Let deeds express	170
FTLN 1839	What's like to be their words: "We did request it;	
FTLN 1840	We are the greater poll, and in true fear	
FTLN 1841	They gave us our demands." Thus we debase	
FTLN 1842	The nature of our seats and make the rabble	
FTLN 1843	Call our cares fears, which will in time	175

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FTLN 1844	Break ope the locks o' th' Senate and bring in	
FTLN 1845	The crows to peck the eagles.	
FTLN 1846	MENENIUS	Come, enough.
	BRUTUS	
FTLN 1847	Enough, with over-measure.	
FTLN 1848	CORIOLANUS	No, take more! 180
FTLN 1849	What may be sworn by, both divine and human,	
FTLN 1850	Seal what I end withal! This double worship—	
FTLN 1851	「Where one」 part does disdain with cause, the other	
FTLN 1852	Insult without all reason, where gentry, title,	
FTLN 1853	wisdom	185
FTLN 1854	Cannot conclude but by the yea and no	
FTLN 1855	Of general ignorance—it must omit	
FTLN 1856	Real necessities and give way the while	
FTLN 1857	To unstable slightness. Purpose so barred, it follows	
FTLN 1858	Nothing is done to purpose. Therefore, beseech	190
FTLN 1859	you—	
FTLN 1860	You that will be less fearful than discreet,	
FTLN 1861	That love the fundamental part of state	
FTLN 1862	More than you doubt the change on 't, that prefer	
FTLN 1863	A noble life before a long, and wish	195
FTLN 1864	To jump a body with a dangerous physic	
FTLN 1865	That's sure of death without it—at once pluck out	
FTLN 1866	The multitudinous tongue; let them not lick	
FTLN 1867	The sweet which is their poison. Your dishonor	
FTLN 1868	Mangles true judgment and bereaves the state	200
FTLN 1869	Of that integrity which should become 't,	
FTLN 1870	Not having the power to do the good it would	
FTLN 1871	For th' ill which doth control 't.	
FTLN 1872	BRUTUS	'Has said enough.
	SICINIUS	
FTLN 1873	'Has spoken like a traitor and shall answer	205
FTLN 1874	As traitors do.	
FTLN 1875	CORIOLANUS	Thou wretch, despite o'erwhelm thee!
FTLN 1876	What should the people do with these bald tribunes,	
FTLN 1877	On whom depending, their obedience fails	



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FTLN 1878 To th' greater bench? In a rebellion, 210  
 FTLN 1879 When what's not meet but what must be was law,  
 FTLN 1880 Then were they chosen. In a better hour,  
 FTLN 1881 Let what is meet be said it must be meet,  
 FTLN 1882 And throw their power i' th' dust.  
 FTLN 1883 BRUTUS Manifest treason. 215  
 FTLN 1884 SICINIUS This a consul? No.  
 FTLN 1885 BRUTUS The aediles, ho! Let him be apprehended.

*Enter an Aedile.*

SICINIUS  
 FTLN 1886 Go, call the people; *['Aedile exits.]* in whose name  
 FTLN 1887 myself  
 FTLN 1888 Attach thee as a traitorous innovator, 220  
 FTLN 1889 A foe to th' public weal. Obey, I charge thee,  
 FTLN 1890 And follow to thine answer.  
 FTLN 1891 CORIOLANUS Hence, old goat.  
 ALL *['PATRICIANS']*  
 FTLN 1892 We'll surety him.  
 FTLN 1893 COMINIUS, *['to Sicinius']* Agèd sir, hands off. 225  
 CORIOLANUS, *['to Sicinius']*  
 FTLN 1894 Hence, rotten thing, or I shall shake thy bones  
 FTLN 1895 Out of thy garments.  
 FTLN 1896 SICINIUS Help, you citizens!

*Enter a rabble of Plebeians with the Aediles.*

FTLN 1897 MENENIUS On both sides more respect!  
 SICINIUS  
 FTLN 1898 Here's he that would take from you all your power. 230  
 FTLN 1899 BRUTUS Seize him, aediles.  
 FTLN 1900 ALL *['PLEBEIANS']* Down with him, down with him!  
 FTLN 1901 SECOND SENATOR Weapons, weapons, weapons!  
*They all bustle about Coriolanus.*  
 FTLN 1902 Tribunes, patricians, citizens, what ho!  
 FTLN 1903 Sicinius, Brutus, Coriolanus, citizens! 235

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FTLN 1904	ALL	Peace, peace, peace! Stay, hold, peace!	
	MENENIUS		
FTLN 1905		What is about to be? I am out of breath.	
FTLN 1906		Confusion's near. I cannot speak. You, tribunes	
FTLN 1907		To th' people!—Coriolanus, patience!—	
FTLN 1908		Speak, good Sicinius.	240
FTLN 1909	SICINIUS	Hear me, people! Peace!	
	ALL	「PLEBEIANS」	
FTLN 1910		Let's hear our tribune. Peace! Speak, speak, speak.	
	SICINIUS		
FTLN 1911		You are at point to lose your liberties.	
FTLN 1912		Martius would have all from you, Martius,	
FTLN 1913		Whom late you have named for consul.	245
FTLN 1914	MENENIUS	Fie, fie, fie!	
FTLN 1915		This is the way to kindle, not to quench.	
	「FIRST」	SENATOR	
FTLN 1916		To unbuild the city and to lay all flat.	
	SICINIUS		
FTLN 1917		What is the city but the people?	
FTLN 1918	ALL	「PLEBEIANS」 True,	250
FTLN 1919		The people are the city.	
	BRUTUS		
FTLN 1920		By the consent of all, we were established	
FTLN 1921		The people's magistrates.	
FTLN 1922	ALL	「PLEBEIANS」 You so remain.	
FTLN 1923	MENENIUS	And so are like to do.	255
	「CORIOLANUS」		
FTLN 1924		That is the way to lay the city flat,	
FTLN 1925		To bring the roof to the foundation	
FTLN 1926		And bury all which yet distinctly ranges	
FTLN 1927		In heaps and piles of ruin.	
FTLN 1928	SICINIUS	This deserves death.	260
	BRUTUS		
FTLN 1929		Or let us stand to our authority	
FTLN 1930		Or let us lose it. We do here pronounce,	
FTLN 1931		Upon the part o' th' people, in whose power	

FTLN 1932	We were elected theirs, Martius is worthy	
FTLN 1933	Of present death.	265
FTLN 1934	SICINIUS                               Therefore lay hold of him,	
FTLN 1935	Bear him to th' rock Tarpeian, and from thence	
FTLN 1936	Into destruction cast him.	
FTLN 1937	BRUTUS                                       Aediles, seize him!	
	ALL PLEBEIANS	
FTLN 1938	Yield, Martius, yield!	270
FTLN 1939	MENENIUS                               Hear me one word.	
FTLN 1940	Beseech you, tribunes, hear me but a word.	
FTLN 1941	AEDILES   Peace, peace!	
	MENENIUS	
FTLN 1942	Be that you seem, truly your country's friend,	
FTLN 1943	And temp'rately proceed to what you would	275
FTLN 1944	Thus violently redress.	
FTLN 1945	BRUTUS                                       Sir, those cold ways,	
FTLN 1946	That seem like prudent helps, are very poisonous	
FTLN 1947	Where the disease is violent.—Lay hands upon him,	
FTLN 1948	And bear him to the rock.	280
	<i>Coriolanus draws his sword.</i>	
FTLN 1949	CORIOLANUS                               No, I'll die here.	
FTLN 1950	There's some among you have beheld me fighting.	
FTLN 1951	Come, try upon yourselves what you have seen me.	
	MENENIUS	
FTLN 1952	Down with that sword!—Tribunes, withdraw awhile.	
	BRUTUS	
FTLN 1953	Lay hands upon him!	285
FTLN 1954	MENENIUS                               Help Martius, help!	
FTLN 1955	You that be noble, help him, young and old!	
FTLN 1956	ALL <sup>1</sup> PLEBEIANS <sup>1</sup> Down with him, down with him!	
	<i>In this mutiny, the Tribunes, the Aediles, and the People are beat in.</i>	
	MENENIUS, <sup>1</sup> to Coriolanus <sup>1</sup>	
FTLN 1957	Go, get you to <sup>1</sup> your <sup>1</sup> house. Begone, away.	
FTLN 1958	All will be naught else.	290

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FTLN 1959	SECOND SENATOR	Get you gone.	
FTLN 1960	「CORIOLANUS」	Stand fast!	
FTLN 1961		We have as many friends as enemies.	
	MENENIUS		
FTLN 1962		Shall it be put to that?	
FTLN 1963	「FIRST」 SENATOR	The gods forbid!—	295
FTLN 1964		I prithee, noble friend, home to thy house;	
FTLN 1965		Leave us to cure this cause.	
FTLN 1966	MENENIUS	For 'tis a sore upon us	
FTLN 1967		You cannot tent yourself. Begone, beseech you.	
FTLN 1968	「COMINIUS」	Come, sir, along with us.	300
	「CORIOLANUS」		
FTLN 1969		I would they were barbarians, as they are,	
FTLN 1970		Though in Rome littered; not Romans, as they are	
FTLN 1971		not,	
FTLN 1972		Though calved i' th' porch o' th' Capitol.	
FTLN 1973	MENENIUS	Begone!	305
FTLN 1974		Put not your worthy rage into your tongue.	
FTLN 1975		One time will owe another.	
FTLN 1976	CORIOLANUS	On fair ground	
FTLN 1977		I could beat forty of them.	
FTLN 1978	MENENIUS	I could myself	310
FTLN 1979		Take up a brace o' th' best of them, yea, the two	
FTLN 1980		tribunes.	
	COMINIUS		
FTLN 1981		But now 'tis odds beyond arithmetic,	
FTLN 1982		And manhood is called foolery when it stands	
FTLN 1983		Against a falling fabric. 「 <i>To Coriolanus.</i> 」 Will you	315
FTLN 1984		hence,	
FTLN 1985		Before the tag return, whose rage doth rend	
FTLN 1986		Like interrupted waters and o'erbear	
FTLN 1987		What they are used to bear?	
FTLN 1988	MENENIUS, 「 <i>to Coriolanus</i> 」	Pray you, begone.	320
FTLN 1989		I'll try whether my old wit be in request	
FTLN 1990		With those that have but little. This must be patched	
FTLN 1991		With cloth of any color.	

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FTLN 1992	COMINIUS	Nay, come away.	
		<i>Coriolanus and Cominius exit.</i>	
FTLN 1993	PATRICIAN	This man has marred his fortune.	325
	MENENIUS		
FTLN 1994		His nature is too noble for the world.	
FTLN 1995		He would not flatter Neptune for his trident	
FTLN 1996		Or Jove for 's power to thunder. His heart's his	
FTLN 1997		mouth;	
FTLN 1998		What his breast forges, that his tongue must vent,	330
FTLN 1999		And, being angry, does forget that ever	
FTLN 2000		He heard the name of death. <i>A noise within.</i>	
FTLN 2001		Here's goodly work.	
FTLN 2002	PATRICIAN	I would they were abed!	
	MENENIUS		
FTLN 2003		I would they were in Tiber. What the vengeance,	335
FTLN 2004		Could he not speak 'em fair?	
		<i>Enter Brutus and Sicinius with the rabble again.</i>	
FTLN 2005	SICINIUS	Where is this viper	
FTLN 2006		That would depopulate the city and	
FTLN 2007		Be every man himself?	
FTLN 2008	MENENIUS	You worthy tribunes—	340
	SICINIUS		
FTLN 2009		He shall be thrown down the Tarpeian rock	
FTLN 2010		With rigorous hands. He hath resisted law,	
FTLN 2011		And therefore law shall scorn him further trial	
FTLN 2012		Than the severity of the public power	
FTLN 2013		Which he so sets at naught.	345
FTLN 2014	FIRST CITIZEN	He shall well know	
FTLN 2015		The noble tribunes are the people's mouths	
FTLN 2016		And we their hands.	
FTLN 2017	ALL [PLEBEIANS]	He shall, sure on 't.	
FTLN 2018	MENENIUS	Sir, sir—	350
FTLN 2019	SICINIUS	Peace!	

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	MENENIUS	
FTLN 2020	Do not cry havoc where you should but hunt	
FTLN 2021	With modest warrant.	
FTLN 2022	SICINIUS Sir, how comes 't that you	
FTLN 2023	Have help to make this rescue?	355
FTLN 2024	MENENIUS Hear me speak.	
FTLN 2025	As I do know the Consul's worthiness,	
FTLN 2026	So can I name his faults.	
FTLN 2027	SICINIUS Consul? What consul?	
FTLN 2028	MENENIUS The consul Coriolanus.	360
FTLN 2029	BRUTUS He consul?	
FTLN 2030	ALL <sup>1</sup> PLEBEIANS <sup>1</sup> No, no, no, no, no!	
	MENENIUS	
FTLN 2031	If, by the Tribunes' leave, and yours, good people,	
FTLN 2032	I may be heard, I would crave a word or two,	
FTLN 2033	The which shall turn you to no further harm	365
FTLN 2034	Than so much loss of time.	
FTLN 2035	SICINIUS Speak briefly then,	
FTLN 2036	For we are peremptory to dispatch	
FTLN 2037	This viperous traitor. To eject him hence	
FTLN 2038	Were but one danger, and to keep him here	370
FTLN 2039	Our certain death. Therefore it is decreed	
FTLN 2040	He dies tonight.	
FTLN 2041	MENENIUS Now the good gods forbid	
FTLN 2042	That our renownèd Rome, whose gratitude	
FTLN 2043	Towards her deservèd children is enrolled	375
FTLN 2044	In Jove's own book, like an unnatural dam	
FTLN 2045	Should now eat up her own.	
	SICINIUS	
FTLN 2046	He's a disease that must be cut away.	
	MENENIUS	
FTLN 2047	O, he's a limb that has but a disease—	
FTLN 2048	Mortal to cut it off; to cure it easy.	380
FTLN 2049	What has he done to Rome that's worthy death?	
FTLN 2050	Killing our enemies, the blood he hath lost—	
FTLN 2051	Which I dare vouch is more than that he hath	



FTLN 2085 Will prove too bloody, and the end of it  
 FTLN 2086 Unknown to the beginning.

FTLN 2087 SICINIUS Noble Menenius,  
 FTLN 2088 Be you then as the people's officer.— 420  
 FTLN 2089 Masters, lay down your weapons.

FTLN 2090 BRUTUS Go not home.

SICINIUS

FTLN 2091 Meet on the marketplace. *['To Menenius.']* We'll  
 FTLN 2092 attend you there,  
 FTLN 2093 Where if you bring not Martius, we'll proceed 425  
 FTLN 2094 In our first way.

FTLN 2095 MENENIUS I'll bring him to you.  
 FTLN 2096 *['To Senators.']* Let me desire your company. He must  
 FTLN 2097 come,  
 FTLN 2098 Or what is worst will follow. 430  
 FTLN 2099 *['FIRST']* SENATOR Pray you, let's to him.  
*All exit.*

*['Scene 2']*

*Enter Coriolanus with Nobles.*

CORIOLANUS

FTLN 2100 Let them pull all about mine ears, present me  
 FTLN 2101 Death on the wheel or at wild horses' heels,  
 FTLN 2102 Or pile ten hills on the Tarpeian rock,  
 FTLN 2103 That the precipitation might down stretch  
 FTLN 2104 Below the beam of sight, yet will I still 5  
 FTLN 2105 Be thus to them.

FTLN 2106 NOBLE You do the nobler.

FTLN 2107 CORIOLANUS I muse my mother  
 FTLN 2108 Does not approve me further, who was wont  
 FTLN 2109 To call them woolen vassals, things created 10  
 FTLN 2110 To buy and sell with groats, to show bare heads  
 FTLN 2111 In congregations, to yawn, be still, and wonder



FTLN 2112 When one but of my ordinance stood up  
 FTLN 2113 To speak of peace or war.

*Enter Volunnia.*

FTLN 2114 I talk of you. 15  
 FTLN 2115 Why did you wish me milder? Would you have me  
 FTLN 2116 False to my nature? Rather say I play  
 FTLN 2117 The man I am.  
 FTLN 2118 VOLUMNIA O sir, sir, sir,  
 FTLN 2119 I would have had you put your power well on 20  
 FTLN 2120 Before you had worn it out.  
 FTLN 2121 CORIOLANUS Let go.  
 FTLN 2122 VOLUMNIA  
 FTLN 2123 You might have been enough the man you are  
 FTLN 2124 With striving less to be so. Lesser had been  
 FTLN 2125 The [thwartings] of your dispositions if 25  
 FTLN 2126 You had not showed them how you were disposed  
 FTLN 2127 Ere they lacked power to cross you.  
 FTLN 2127 CORIOLANUS Let them hang!  
 FTLN 2128 VOLUMNIA Ay, and burn too.

*Enter Menenius with the Senators.*

FTLN 2129 MENENIUS, [to Coriolanus]  
 FTLN 2130 Come, come, you have been too rough, something 30  
 FTLN 2131 too rough.  
 FTLN 2131 You must return and mend it.  
 FTLN 2132 [FIRST] SENATOR There's no remedy,  
 FTLN 2133 Unless, by not so doing, our good city  
 FTLN 2134 Cleave in the midst and perish. 35  
 FTLN 2135 VOLUMNIA Pray be counseled.  
 FTLN 2136 I have a heart as little apt as yours,  
 FTLN 2137 But yet a brain that leads my use of anger  
 FTLN 2138 To better vantage.  
 FTLN 2139 MENENIUS Well said, noble woman. 40  
 FTLN 2140 Before he should thus stoop to th' [herd]—but that  
 FTLN 2141 The violent fit o' th' time craves it as physic

FTLN 2142	For the whole state—I would put mine armor on,		
FTLN 2143	Which I can scarcely bear.		
FTLN 2144	CORIOLANUS	What must I do?	45
	MENENIUS		
FTLN 2145	Return to th' Tribunes.		
FTLN 2146	CORIOLANUS	Well, what then? What then?	
FTLN 2147	MENENIUS	Repent what you have spoke.	
	CORIOLANUS		
FTLN 2148	For them? I cannot do it to the gods.		
FTLN 2149	Must I then do 't to them?		50
FTLN 2150	VOLUMNIA	You are too absolute,	
FTLN 2151	Though therein you can never be too noble		
FTLN 2152	But when extremities speak. I have heard you say		
FTLN 2153	Honor and policy, like unsevered friends,		
FTLN 2154	I' th' war do grow together. Grant that, and tell me		55
FTLN 2155	In peace what each of them by th' other lose		
FTLN 2156	That they combine not there?		
FTLN 2157	CORIOLANUS	Tush, tush!	
FTLN 2158	MENENIUS	A good	
FTLN 2159	demand.		60
	VOLUMNIA		
FTLN 2160	If it be honor in your wars to seem		
FTLN 2161	The same you are not, which for your best ends		
FTLN 2162	You adopt your policy, how is it less or worse		
FTLN 2163	That it shall hold companionship in peace		
FTLN 2164	With honor as in war, since that to both		65
FTLN 2165	It stands in like request?		
FTLN 2166	CORIOLANUS	Why force you this?	
	VOLUMNIA		
FTLN 2167	Because that now it lies you on to speak		
FTLN 2168	To th' people, not by your own instruction,		
FTLN 2169	Nor by th' matter which your heart prompts you,		70
FTLN 2170	But with such words that are but roted in		
FTLN 2171	Your tongue, though but bastards and syllables		
FTLN 2172	Of no allowance to your bosom's truth.		

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FTLN 2173	Now, this no more dishonors you at all	
FTLN 2174	Than to take in a town with gentle words,	75
FTLN 2175	Which else would put you to your fortune and	
FTLN 2176	The hazard of much blood.	
FTLN 2177	I would dissemble with my nature where	
FTLN 2178	My fortunes and my friends at stake required	
FTLN 2179	I should do so in honor. I am in this	80
FTLN 2180	Your wife, your son, these senators, the nobles;	
FTLN 2181	And you will rather show our general louts	
FTLN 2182	How you can frown than spend a fawn upon 'em	
FTLN 2183	For the inheritance of their loves and safeguard	
FTLN 2184	Of what that want might ruin.	85
FTLN 2185	MENENIUS Noble lady!—	
FTLN 2186	Come, go with us; speak fair. You may salve so,	
FTLN 2187	Not what is dangerous present, but the loss	
FTLN 2188	Of what is past.	
FTLN 2189	VOLUMNIA I prithee now, my son,	90
FTLN 2190	Go to them with this bonnet in thy hand,	
FTLN 2191	And thus far having stretched it—here be with	
FTLN 2192	them—	
FTLN 2193	Thy knee bussing the stones—for in such business	
FTLN 2194	Action is eloquence, and the eyes of th' ignorant	95
FTLN 2195	More learned than the ears—waving thy head,	
FTLN 2196	Which often thus correcting thy stout heart,	
FTLN 2197	Now humble as the ripest mulberry	
FTLN 2198	That will not hold the handling. Or say to them	
FTLN 2199	Thou art their soldier and, being bred in broils,	100
FTLN 2200	Hast not the soft way, which thou dost confess	
FTLN 2201	Were fit for thee to use as they to claim,	
FTLN 2202	In asking their good loves; but thou wilt frame	
FTLN 2203	Thyself, forsooth, hereafter theirs, so far	
FTLN 2204	As thou hast power and person.	105
FTLN 2205	MENENIUS This but done	
FTLN 2206	Even as she speaks, why, their hearts were yours;	
FTLN 2207	For they have pardons, being asked, as free	
FTLN 2208	As words to little purpose.	

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FTLN 2209	VOLUMNIA	Prithee now,	110
FTLN 2210		Go, and be ruled; although I know thou hadst rather	
FTLN 2211		Follow thine enemy in a fiery gulf	
FTLN 2212		Than flatter him in a bower.	
<i>Enter Cominius.</i>			
FTLN 2213		Here is Cominius.	
	COMINIUS		
FTLN 2214		I have been i' th' marketplace; and, sir, 'tis fit	115
FTLN 2215		You make strong party or defend yourself	
FTLN 2216		By calmness or by absence. All's in anger.	
	MENENIUS		
FTLN 2217		Only fair speech.	
FTLN 2218	COMINIUS	I think 'twill serve, if he	
FTLN 2219		Can thereto frame his spirit.	120
FTLN 2220	VOLUMNIA	He must, and will.—	
FTLN 2221		Prithee, now, say you will, and go about it.	
	CORIOLANUS		
FTLN 2222		Must I go show them my unbarbèd sconce? Must I	
FTLN 2223		With my base tongue give to my noble heart	
FTLN 2224		A lie that it must bear? Well, I will do 't.	125
FTLN 2225		Yet, were there but this single plot to lose,	
FTLN 2226		This mold of Martius, they to dust should grind it	
FTLN 2227		And throw 't against the wind. To th' marketplace!	
FTLN 2228		You have put me now to such a part which never	
FTLN 2229		I shall discharge to th' life.	130
FTLN 2230	COMINIUS	Come, come, we'll prompt	
FTLN 2231		you.	
	VOLUMNIA		
FTLN 2232		I prithee now, sweet son, as thou hast said	
FTLN 2233		My praises made thee first a soldier, so,	
FTLN 2234		To have my praise for this, perform a part	135
FTLN 2235		Thou hast not done before.	
FTLN 2236	CORIOLANUS	Well, I must do 't.	
FTLN 2237		Away, my disposition, and possess me	
FTLN 2238		Some harlot's spirit! My throat of war be turned,	



CORIOLANUS

FTLN 2272 The word is “mildly.” Pray you, let us go.  
 FTLN 2273 Let them accuse me by invention, I  
 FTLN 2274 Will answer in mine honor.

175

FTLN 2275 MENENIUS Ay, but mildly.  
 FTLN 2276 CORIOLANUS Well, mildly be it, then. Mildly.

*They exit.*

[Scene 3]

*Enter Sicinius and Brutus.*

BRUTUS

FTLN 2277 In this point charge him home, that he affects  
 FTLN 2278 Tyrannical power. If he evade us there,  
 FTLN 2279 Enforce him with his envy to the people,  
 FTLN 2280 And that the spoil got on the Antiates  
 FTLN 2281 Was ne'er distributed.

5

*Enter an Aedile.*

What, will he come?

FTLN 2282  
 FTLN 2283 AEDILE He's coming.

FTLN 2284 BRUTUS How accompanied?

AEDILE

FTLN 2285 With old Menenius, and those senators  
 FTLN 2286 That always favored him.

10

FTLN 2287 SICINIUS Have you a catalogue  
 FTLN 2288 Of all the voices that we have procured,  
 FTLN 2289 Set down by th' poll?

FTLN 2290 AEDILE I have. 'Tis ready.

SICINIUS

FTLN 2291 Have you collected them by tribes?

15

FTLN 2292 AEDILE I have.

SICINIUS

FTLN 2293 Assemble presently the people hither;  
 FTLN 2294 And when they hear me say “It shall be so

FTLN 2295	I' th' right and strength o' th' commons," be it either	
FTLN 2296	For death, for fine, or banishment, then let them	20
FTLN 2297	If I say "Fine," cry "Fine," if "Death," cry "Death,"	
FTLN 2298	Insisting on the old prerogative	
FTLN 2299	And power i' th' truth o' th' cause.	
FTLN 2300	AEDILE	I shall inform them.
	BRUTUS	
FTLN 2301	And when such time they have begun to cry,	25
FTLN 2302	Let them not cease, but with a din confused	
FTLN 2303	Enforce the present execution	
FTLN 2304	Of what we chance to sentence.	
FTLN 2305	AEDILE	Very well.
	SICINIUS	
FTLN 2306	Make them be strong and ready for this hint	30
FTLN 2307	When we shall hap to give 't them.	
FTLN 2308	BRUTUS	Go about it.
		<i>「Aedile exits.」</i>
FTLN 2309	Put him to choler straight. He hath been used	
FTLN 2310	Ever to conquer and to have his worth	
FTLN 2311	Of contradiction. Being once chafed, he cannot	35
FTLN 2312	Be reined again to temperance; then he speaks	
FTLN 2313	What's in his heart, and that is there which looks	
FTLN 2314	With us to break his neck.	
	<i>Enter Coriolanus, Menenius, and Cominius, with others 「(Senators).」</i>	
FTLN 2315	SICINIUS	Well, here he comes.
FTLN 2316	MENENIUS, <i>「aside to Coriolanus」</i>	Calmly, I do beseech
FTLN 2317	you.	40
	CORIOLANUS, <i>「aside to Menenius」</i>	
FTLN 2318	Ay, as an hostler that <i>「for th'」</i> poorest piece	
FTLN 2319	Will bear the knave by th' volume.—Th' honored	
FTLN 2320	gods	
FTLN 2321	Keep Rome in safety and the chairs of justice	45
FTLN 2322	Supplied with worthy men! Plant love among 's!	

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FTLN 2323	「Throng」 our large temples with the shows of peace	
FTLN 2324	And not our streets with war!	
FTLN 2325	FIRST SENATOR	Amen, amen.
FTLN 2326	MENENIUS	A noble wish. 50
	<i>Enter the Aedile with the Plebeians.</i>	
FTLN 2327	SICINIUS	Draw near, you people.
	AEDILE	
FTLN 2328		List to your tribunes. Audience! Peace, I say!
FTLN 2329	CORIOLANUS	First, hear me speak.
FTLN 2330	BOTH TRIBUNES	Well, say.—Peace, ho!
	CORIOLANUS	
FTLN 2331		Shall I be charged no further than this present? 55
FTLN 2332		Must all determine here?
FTLN 2333	SICINIUS	I do demand
FTLN 2334		If you submit you to the people's voices,
FTLN 2335		Allow their officers, and are content
FTLN 2336		To suffer lawful censure for such faults 60
FTLN 2337		As shall be proved upon you.
FTLN 2338	CORIOLANUS	I am content.
	MENENIUS	
FTLN 2339		Lo, citizens, he says he is content.
FTLN 2340		The warlike service he has done, consider. Think
FTLN 2341		Upon the wounds his body bears, which show 65
FTLN 2342		Like graves i' th' holy churchyard.
FTLN 2343	CORIOLANUS	Scratches with
FTLN 2344		briars,
FTLN 2345		Scars to move laughter only.
FTLN 2346	MENENIUS	Consider further, 70
FTLN 2347		That when he speaks not like a citizen,
FTLN 2348		You find him like a soldier. Do not take
FTLN 2349		His rougher 「accents」 for malicious sounds,
FTLN 2350		But, as I say, such as become a soldier
FTLN 2351		Rather than envy you. 75
FTLN 2352	COMINIUS	Well, well, no more.



FTLN 2353	CORIOLANUS	What is the matter,	
FTLN 2354		That, being passed for consul with full voice,	
FTLN 2355		I am so dishonored that the very hour	
FTLN 2356		You take it off again?	80
FTLN 2357	SICINIUS	Answer to us.	
FTLN 2358	CORIOLANUS	Say then. 'Tis true, I ought so.	
	SICINIUS		
FTLN 2359		We charge you that you have contrived to take	
FTLN 2360		From Rome all seasoned office and to wind	
FTLN 2361		Yourself into a power tyrannical,	85
FTLN 2362		For which you are a traitor to the people.	
	CORIOLANUS		
FTLN 2363		How? Traitor?	
FTLN 2364	MENENIUS	Nay, temperately! Your promise.	
	CORIOLANUS		
FTLN 2365		The fires i' th' lowest hell fold in the people!	
FTLN 2366		Call me their traitor? Thou injurious tribune!	90
FTLN 2367		Within thine eyes sat twenty thousand deaths,	
FTLN 2368		In thy hands clutched as many millions, in	
FTLN 2369		Thy lying tongue both numbers, I would say	
FTLN 2370		"Thou liest" unto thee with a voice as free	
FTLN 2371		As I do pray the gods.	95
FTLN 2372	SICINIUS	Mark you this, people?	
FTLN 2373	ALL <sup>1</sup> PLEBEIANS	To th' rock, to th' rock with him!	
FTLN 2374	SICINIUS	Peace!	
FTLN 2375		We need not put new matter to his charge.	
FTLN 2376		What you have seen him do and heard him speak,	100
FTLN 2377		Beating your officers, cursing yourselves,	
FTLN 2378		Opposing laws with strokes, and here defying	
FTLN 2379		Those whose great power must try him—even this,	
FTLN 2380		So criminal and in such capital kind,	
FTLN 2381		Deserves th' extremest death.	105
FTLN 2382	BRUTUS	But since he hath	
FTLN 2383		Served well for Rome—	
FTLN 2384	CORIOLANUS	What do you prate of service?	
FTLN 2385	BRUTUS	I talk of that that know it.	

FTLN 2386	CORIOLANUS	You?	110
	MENENIUS		
FTLN 2387		Is this the promise that you made your mother?	
FTLN 2388	COMINIUS	Know, I pray you—	
FTLN 2389	CORIOLANUS	I'll know no further.	
FTLN 2390		Let them pronounce the steep Tarpeian death,	
FTLN 2391		Vagabond exile, flaying, pent to linger	115
FTLN 2392		But with a grain a day, I would not buy	
FTLN 2393		Their mercy at the price of one fair word,	
FTLN 2394		Nor check my courage for what they can give,	
FTLN 2395		To have 't with saying "Good morrow."	
FTLN 2396	SICINIUS	For that he has,	120
FTLN 2397		As much as in him lies, from time to time	
FTLN 2398		Envied against the people, seeking means	
FTLN 2399		To pluck away their power, as now at last	
FTLN 2400		Given hostile strokes, and that not in the presence	
FTLN 2401		Of dreaded justice, but on the ministers	125
FTLN 2402		That doth distribute it, in the name o' th' people	
FTLN 2403		And in the power of us the Tribunes, we,	
FTLN 2404		Even from this instant, banish him our city	
FTLN 2405		In peril of precipitation	
FTLN 2406		From off the rock Tarpeian, never more	130
FTLN 2407		To enter our Rome gates. I' th' people's name,	
FTLN 2408		I say it shall be so.	
	ALL	「PLEBEIANS」	
FTLN 2409		It shall be so, it shall be so! Let him away!	
FTLN 2410		He's banished, and it shall be so.	
	COMINIUS		
FTLN 2411		Hear me, my masters and my common friends—	135
	SICINIUS		
FTLN 2412		He's sentenced. No more hearing.	
FTLN 2413	COMINIUS	Let me speak.	
FTLN 2414		I have been consul and can show 「for」 Rome	
FTLN 2415		Her enemies' marks upon me. I do love	
FTLN 2416		My country's good with a respect more tender,	140
FTLN 2417		More holy and profound, than mine own life,	

FTLN 2418	My dear wife's estimate, her womb's increase,	
FTLN 2419	And treasure of my loins. Then if I would	
FTLN 2420	Speak that—	
FTLN 2421	SICINIUS            We know your drift. Speak what?	145
	BRUTUS	
FTLN 2422	There's no more to be said, but he is banished	
FTLN 2423	As enemy to the people and his country.	
FTLN 2424	It shall be so.	
FTLN 2425	ALL 「PLEBEIANS」 It shall be so, it shall be so!	
	CORIOLANUS	
FTLN 2426	You common cry of curs, whose breath I hate	150
FTLN 2427	As reek o' th' rotten fens, whose loves I prize	
FTLN 2428	As the dead carcasses of unburied men	
FTLN 2429	That do corrupt my air, I banish you!	
FTLN 2430	And here remain with your uncertainty;	
FTLN 2431	Let every feeble rumor shake your hearts;	155
FTLN 2432	Your enemies, with nodding of their plumes,	
FTLN 2433	Fan you into despair! Have the power still	
FTLN 2434	To banish your defenders, till at length	
FTLN 2435	Your ignorance—which finds not till it feels,	
FTLN 2436	Making but reservation of yourselves,	160
FTLN 2437	Still your own foes—deliver you	
FTLN 2438	As most abated captives to some nation	
FTLN 2439	That won you without blows! Despising	
FTLN 2440	For you the city, thus I turn my back.	
FTLN 2441	There is a world elsewhere.	165
	<i>Coriolanus, Cominius, with others 「(Senators)」 exit.</i>	
	AEDILE	
FTLN 2442	The people's enemy is gone, is gone.	
	ALL 「PLEBEIANS」	
FTLN 2443	Our enemy is banished; he is gone. Hoo, hoo!	
	<i>They all shout and throw up their caps.</i>	
	SICINIUS	
FTLN 2444	Go see him out at gates, and follow him,	
FTLN 2445	As he hath followed you, with all despite.	

FTLN 2446

Give him deserved vexation. Let a guard

170

FTLN 2447

Attend us through the city.

ALL 「PLEBEIANS」

FTLN 2448

Come, come, let's see him out at gates! Come!

FTLN 2449

The gods preserve our noble tribunes! Come!

*They exit.*

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## ACT 4

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「Scene 1」

*Enter Coriolanus, Volumnia, Virgilia, Menenius,  
Cominius, with the young nobility of Rome.*

CORIOLANUS

FTLN 2450 Come, leave your tears. A brief farewell. The beast  
FTLN 2451 With many heads butts me away. Nay, mother,  
FTLN 2452 Where is your ancient courage? You were used  
FTLN 2453 To say extremities was the trier of spirits;  
FTLN 2454 That common chances common men could bear; 5  
FTLN 2455 That when the sea was calm, all boats alike  
FTLN 2456 Showed mastership in floating; fortune's blows  
FTLN 2457 When most struck home, being gentle wounded  
FTLN 2458 craves  
FTLN 2459 A noble cunning. You were used to load me 10  
FTLN 2460 With precepts that would make invincible  
FTLN 2461 The heart that conned them.

VIRGILIA

FTLN 2462 O heavens! O heavens!  
FTLN 2463 CORIOLANUS Nay, I prithee,  
FTLN 2464 woman— 15

VOLUMNIA

FTLN 2465 Now the red pestilence strike all trades in Rome,  
FTLN 2466 And occupations perish!  
FTLN 2467 CORIOLANUS What, what, what!  
FTLN 2468 I shall be loved when I am lacked. Nay, mother,  
FTLN 2469 Resume that spirit when you were wont to say 20  
FTLN 2470 If you had been the wife of Hercules,

FTLN 2471	Six of his labors you'd have done and saved	
FTLN 2472	Your husband so much sweat.—Cominius,	
FTLN 2473	Droop not. Adieu.—Farewell, my wife, my mother.	
FTLN 2474	I'll do well yet.—Thou old and true Menenius,	25
FTLN 2475	Thy tears are salter than a younger man's	
FTLN 2476	And venomous to thine eyes.—My sometime	
FTLN 2477	general,	
FTLN 2478	I have seen thee stern, and thou hast oft beheld	
FTLN 2479	Heart-hard'ning spectacles. Tell these sad women	30
FTLN 2480	'Tis fond to wail inevitable strokes	
FTLN 2481	As 'tis to laugh at 'em.—My mother, you wot well	
FTLN 2482	My hazards still have been your solace, and—	
FTLN 2483	Believe 't not lightly—though I go alone,	
FTLN 2484	Like to a lonely dragon that his fen	35
FTLN 2485	Makes feared and talked of more than seen, your	
FTLN 2486	son	
FTLN 2487	Will or exceed the common or be caught	
FTLN 2488	With cautelous baits and practice.	
FTLN 2489	VOLUMNIA	My first son,
FTLN 2490	Whither 'wilt' thou go? Take good Cominius	40
FTLN 2491	With thee awhile. Determine on some course	
FTLN 2492	More than a wild exposure to each chance	
FTLN 2493	That starts i' th' way before thee.	
FTLN 2494	'VIRGILIA'	O the gods!
	COMINIUS	
FTLN 2495	I'll follow thee a month, devise with thee	
FTLN 2496	Where thou shalt rest, that thou mayst hear of us	
FTLN 2497	And we of thee; so if the time thrust forth	
FTLN 2498	A cause for thy repeal, we shall not send	
FTLN 2499	O'er the vast world to seek a single man	50
FTLN 2500	And lose advantage, which doth ever cool	
FTLN 2501	I' th' absence of the needer.	
FTLN 2502	CORIOLANUS	Fare you well.
FTLN 2503	Thou hast years upon thee, and thou art too full	
FTLN 2504	Of the wars' surfeits to go rove with one	55
FTLN 2505	That's yet unbruised. Bring me but out at gate.—	

FTLN 2506 Come, my sweet wife, my dearest mother, and  
 FTLN 2507 My friends of noble touch. When I am forth,  
 FTLN 2508 Bid me farewell, and smile. I pray you, come.  
 FTLN 2509 While I remain above the ground, you shall 60  
 FTLN 2510 Hear from me still, and never of me aught  
 FTLN 2511 But what is like me formerly.  
 FTLN 2512 MENENIUS That's worthily  
 FTLN 2513 As any ear can hear. Come, let's not weep.  
 FTLN 2514 If I could shake off but one seven years 65  
 FTLN 2515 From these old arms and legs, by the good gods,  
 FTLN 2516 I'd with thee every foot.  
 FTLN 2517 CORIOLANUS Give me thy hand.  
 FTLN 2518 Come.

*They exit.*

「Scene 2」

*Enter the two Tribunes, Sicinius, and Brutus,  
with the Aedile.*

SICINIUS  
 FTLN 2519 Bid them all home. He's gone, and we'll no further.  
 FTLN 2520 The nobility are vexed, whom we see have sided  
 FTLN 2521 In his behalf.  
 FTLN 2522 BRUTUS Now we have shown our power,  
 FTLN 2523 Let us seem humbler after it is done 5  
 FTLN 2524 Than when it was a-doing.  
 FTLN 2525 SICINIUS Bid them home.  
 FTLN 2526 Say their great enemy is gone, and they  
 FTLN 2527 Stand in their ancient strength.  
 FTLN 2528 BRUTUS Dismiss them home. 10  
 FTLN 2529 Here comes his mother.

*「Aedile exits.」*

*Enter Volumnia, Virgilia, and Menenius.*

FTLN 2530 SICINIUS Let's not meet her.  
 FTLN 2531 BRUTUS Why?

FTLN 2532	SICINIUS	They say she's mad.	
	BRUTUS		
FTLN 2533		They have ta'en note of us. Keep on your way.	15
	VOLUMNIA		
FTLN 2534		O, you're well met. The hoarded plague o' th' gods	
FTLN 2535		Requite your love!	
FTLN 2536	MENENIUS	Peace, peace! Be not so loud.	
	VOLUMNIA,	「to the Tribunes」	
FTLN 2537		If that I could for weeping, you should hear—	
FTLN 2538		Nay, and you shall hear some. 「(To Sicinius.)」 Will	20
FTLN 2539		you be gone?	
	VIRGILIA,	「to Brutus」	
FTLN 2540		You shall stay too. I would I had the power	
FTLN 2541		To say so to my husband.	
FTLN 2542	SICINIUS,	「to Volumnia」	
		Are you mankind?	
	VOLUMNIA		
FTLN 2543		Ay, fool, is that a shame? Note but this, fool.	25
FTLN 2544		Was not a man my father? Hadst thou foxship	
FTLN 2545		To banish him that struck more blows for Rome	
FTLN 2546		Than thou hast spoken words?	
FTLN 2547	SICINIUS	O blessèd heavens!	
	VOLUMNIA		
FTLN 2548		More noble blows than ever thou wise words,	30
FTLN 2549		And for Rome's good. I'll tell thee what—yet go.	
FTLN 2550		Nay, but thou shalt stay too. I would my son	
FTLN 2551		Were in Arabia and thy tribe before him,	
FTLN 2552		His good sword in his hand.	
FTLN 2553	SICINIUS	What then?	35
FTLN 2554	VIRGILIA	What then?	
FTLN 2555		He'd make an end of thy posterity.	
FTLN 2556	VOLUMNIA	Bastards and all.	
FTLN 2557		Good man, the wounds that he does bear for Rome!	
FTLN 2558	MENENIUS	Come, come, peace.	40
	SICINIUS		
FTLN 2559		I would he had continued to his country	



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FTLN 2560	As he began, and not unknit himself	
FTLN 2561	The noble knot he made.	
FTLN 2562	BRUTUS	I would he had.
	VOLUMNIA	
FTLN 2563	“I would he had”? ’Twas you incensed the rabble.	45
FTLN 2564	Cats, that can judge as fitly of his worth	
FTLN 2565	As I can of those mysteries which heaven	
FTLN 2566	Will not have Earth to know.	
FTLN 2567	BRUTUS, <i>['to Sicinius']</i> Pray, let’s go.	
FTLN 2568	VOLUMNIA Now, pray, sir, get you gone.	50
FTLN 2569	You have done a brave deed. Ere you go, hear this:	
FTLN 2570	As far as doth the Capitol exceed	
FTLN 2571	The meanest house in Rome, so far my son—	
FTLN 2572	This lady’s husband here, this, do you see?—	
FTLN 2573	Whom you have banished, does exceed you all.	55
	BRUTUS	
FTLN 2574	Well, well, we’ll leave you.	
FTLN 2575	SICINIUS	Why stay we to be baited
FTLN 2576	With one that wants her wits?	<i>Tribunes exit.</i>
FTLN 2577	VOLUMNIA	Take my prayers with
FTLN 2578	you.	60
FTLN 2579	I would the gods had nothing else to do	
FTLN 2580	But to confirm my curses. Could I meet ’em	
FTLN 2581	But once a day, it would unclog my heart	
FTLN 2582	Of what lies heavy to ’t.	
FTLN 2583	MENENIUS	You have told them home,
FTLN 2584	And, by my troth, you have cause. You’ll sup with	65
FTLN 2585	me?	
	VOLUMNIA	
FTLN 2586	Anger’s my meat. I sup upon myself	
FTLN 2587	And so shall starve with feeding.	
FTLN 2588	<i>['(To Virgilia.)']</i> Come, let’s go.	70
FTLN 2589	Leave this faint puling, and lament as I do,	
FTLN 2590	In anger, Juno-like. Come, come, come.	<i>They exit.</i>
FTLN 2591	MENENIUS Fie, fie, fie!	<i>He exits.</i>

## [Scene 3]

*Enter a Roman [Nicanor] and a Volsce [Adrian].*

FTLN 2592	ROMAN	I know you well, sir, and you know me. Your	
FTLN 2593		name I think is Adrian.	
FTLN 2594	VOLSCE	It is so, sir. Truly, I have forgot you.	
FTLN 2595	ROMAN	I am a Roman, and my services are, as you are,	
FTLN 2596		against 'em. Know you me yet?	5
FTLN 2597	VOLSCE	Nicanor, no?	
FTLN 2598	ROMAN	The same, sir.	
FTLN 2599	VOLSCE	You had more beard when I last saw you, but	
FTLN 2600		your favor is well [approved] by your tongue.	
FTLN 2601		What's the news in Rome? I have a note from the	10
FTLN 2602		Volscian state to find you out there. You have well	
FTLN 2603		saved me a day's journey.	
FTLN 2604	ROMAN	There hath been in Rome strange insurrections,	
FTLN 2605		the people against the senators, patricians,	
FTLN 2606		and nobles.	15
FTLN 2607	VOLSCE	Hath been? Is it ended, then? Our state thinks	
FTLN 2608		not so. They are in a most warlike preparation and	
FTLN 2609		hope to come upon them in the heat of their	
FTLN 2610		division.	
FTLN 2611	ROMAN	The main blaze of it is past, but a small thing	20
FTLN 2612		would make it flame again; for the nobles receive	
FTLN 2613		so to heart the banishment of that worthy Coriolanus	
FTLN 2614		that they are in a ripe aptness to take all power	
FTLN 2615		from the people and to pluck from them their tribunes	
FTLN 2616		forever. This lies glowing, I can tell you, and	25
FTLN 2617		is almost mature for the violent breaking out.	
FTLN 2618	VOLSCE	Coriolanus banished?	
FTLN 2619	ROMAN	Banished, sir.	
FTLN 2620	VOLSCE	You will be welcome with this intelligence,	
FTLN 2621		Nicanor.	30
FTLN 2622	ROMAN	The day serves well for them now. I have heard	

FTLN 2623 it said the fittest time to corrupt a man's wife is  
 FTLN 2624 when she's fall'n out with her husband. Your noble  
 FTLN 2625 Tullus Aufidius 「will」 appear well in these wars, his  
 FTLN 2626 great opposer Coriolanus being now in no request 35  
 FTLN 2627 of his country.  
 FTLN 2628 VOLSCÉ He cannot choose. I am most fortunate thus  
 FTLN 2629 accidentally to encounter you. You have ended my  
 FTLN 2630 business, and I will merrily accompany you home.  
 FTLN 2631 ROMAN I shall between this and supper tell you most 40  
 FTLN 2632 strange things from Rome, all tending to the good  
 FTLN 2633 of their adversaries. Have you an army ready, say  
 FTLN 2634 you?  
 FTLN 2635 VOLSCÉ A most royal one. The centurions and their  
 FTLN 2636 charges, distinctly billeted, already in th' entertainment, 45  
 FTLN 2637 and to be on foot at an hour's warning.  
 FTLN 2638 ROMAN I am joyful to hear of their readiness and am  
 FTLN 2639 the man, I think, that shall set them in present action.  
 FTLN 2640 So, sir, heartily well met, and most glad of  
 FTLN 2641 your company. 50  
 FTLN 2642 VOLSCÉ You take my part from me, sir. I have the most  
 FTLN 2643 cause to be glad of yours.  
 FTLN 2644 ROMAN Well, let us go together.

*They exit.*

「Scene 4」

*Enter Coriolanus in mean apparel, disguised,  
 and muffled.*

CORIOLANUS

FTLN 2645 A goodly city is this Antium. City,  
 FTLN 2646 'Tis I that made thy widows. Many an heir  
 FTLN 2647 Of these fair edifices 'fore my wars  
 FTLN 2648 Have I heard groan and drop. Then, know me not,

FTLN 2649 Lest that thy wives with spits and boys with stones 5  
 FTLN 2650 In puny battle slay me.

*Enter a Citizen.*

FTLN 2651 Save you, sir.

CITIZEN

FTLN 2652 And you.

FTLN 2653 CORIOLANUS Direct me, if it be your will,  
 FTLN 2654 Where great Aufidius lies. Is he in Antium? 10

CITIZEN

FTLN 2655 He is, and feasts the nobles of the state  
 FTLN 2656 At his house this night.

FTLN 2657 CORIOLANUS Which is his house, beseech  
 FTLN 2658 you?

CITIZEN

FTLN 2659 This here before you. 15

FTLN 2660 CORIOLANUS Thank you, sir. Farewell.

*Citizen exits.*

FTLN 2661 O world, thy slippery turns! Friends now fast sworn,  
 FTLN 2662 Whose double bosoms seems to wear one heart,  
 FTLN 2663 Whose hours, whose bed, whose meal and exercise  
 FTLN 2664 Are still together, who twin, as 'twere, in love 20  
 FTLN 2665 Unseparable, shall within this hour,  
 FTLN 2666 On a dissension of a doit, break out  
 FTLN 2667 To bitterest enmity; so fellest foes,  
 FTLN 2668 Whose passions and whose plots have broke their  
 FTLN 2669 sleep 25

FTLN 2670 To take the one the other, by some chance,  
 FTLN 2671 Some trick not worth an egg, shall grow dear friends  
 FTLN 2672 And interjoin their issues. So with me:  
 FTLN 2673 My birthplace <sup>hate</sup> I, and my love's upon  
 FTLN 2674 This enemy town. I'll enter. If he slay me, 30  
 FTLN 2675 He does fair justice; if he give me way,  
 FTLN 2676 I'll do his country service.

*He exits.*

## [Scene 5]

*Music plays. Enter a Servingman.*

FTLN 2677 FIRST SERVINGMAN Wine, wine, wine! What service is  
FTLN 2678 here? I think our fellows are asleep. [He exits.]

*Enter another Servingman.*

FTLN 2679 SECOND SERVINGMAN Where's Cotus? My master calls  
FTLN 2680 for him. Cotus! *He exits.*

*Enter Coriolanus.*

FTLN 2681 CORIOLANUS A goodly house. The feast smells well, but I  
FTLN 2682 Appear not like a guest. 5

*Enter the First Servingman.*

FTLN 2683 FIRST SERVINGMAN What would you have, friend?  
FTLN 2684 Whence are you? Here's no place for you. Pray, go  
FTLN 2685 to the door. *He exits.*

FTLN 2686 CORIOLANUS I have deserved no better entertainment  
FTLN 2687 In being Coriolanus. 10

*Enter Second [Servingman.]*

FTLN 2688 SECOND SERVINGMAN Whence are you, sir?—Has the  
FTLN 2689 porter his eyes in his head, that he gives entrance  
FTLN 2690 to such companions?—Pray, get you out.  
FTLN 2691 CORIOLANUS Away! 15  
FTLN 2692 SECOND SERVINGMAN Away? Get you away.  
FTLN 2693 CORIOLANUS Now th' art troublesome.  
FTLN 2694 SECOND SERVINGMAN Are you so brave? I'll have you  
FTLN 2695 talked with anon.

*Enter Third Servingman; the First, [entering,]  
meets him.*

FTLN 2696 THIRD SERVINGMAN What fellow's this? 20

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FTLN 2697	FIRST SERVINGMAN	A strange one as ever I looked on. I	
FTLN 2698		cannot get him out o' th' house. Prithee, call my	
FTLN 2699		master to him. <i>〔He steps aside.〕</i>	
FTLN 2700	THIRD SERVINGMAN	What have you to do here, fellow?	
FTLN 2701		Pray you, avoid the house.	25
FTLN 2702	CORIOLANUS	Let me but stand. I will not hurt your	
FTLN 2703		hearth.	
FTLN 2704	THIRD SERVINGMAN	What are you?	
FTLN 2705	CORIOLANUS	A gentleman.	
FTLN 2706	THIRD SERVINGMAN	A marv' llous poor one.	30
FTLN 2707	CORIOLANUS	True, so I am.	
FTLN 2708	THIRD SERVINGMAN	Pray you, poor gentleman, take up	
FTLN 2709		some other station. Here's no place for you. Pray	
FTLN 2710		you, avoid. Come.	
FTLN 2711	CORIOLANUS	Follow your function, go, and batten on	35
FTLN 2712		cold bits. <i>Pushes him away from him.</i>	
FTLN 2713	THIRD SERVINGMAN	What, you will not?—Prithee, tell	
FTLN 2714		my master what a strange guest he has here.	
FTLN 2715	SECOND SERVINGMAN	And I shall.	
		<i>Second Servingman exits.</i>	
FTLN 2716	THIRD SERVINGMAN	Where dwell'st thou?	40
FTLN 2717	CORIOLANUS	Under the canopy.	
FTLN 2718	THIRD SERVINGMAN	Under the canopy?	
FTLN 2719	CORIOLANUS	Ay.	
FTLN 2720	THIRD SERVINGMAN	Where's that?	
FTLN 2721	CORIOLANUS	I' th' city of kites and crows.	45
FTLN 2722	THIRD SERVINGMAN	I' th' city of kites and crows? What	
FTLN 2723		an ass it is! Then thou dwell'st with daws too?	
FTLN 2724	CORIOLANUS	No, I serve not thy master.	
FTLN 2725	THIRD SERVINGMAN	How, sir? Do you meddle with my	
FTLN 2726		master?	50
FTLN 2727	CORIOLANUS	Ay, 'tis an honest service than to meddle	
FTLN 2728		with thy mistress. Thou prat'st and prat'st. Serve	
FTLN 2729		with thy trencher. Hence! <i>Beats him away.</i>	
		<i>〔Third Servingman exits.〕</i>	

*Enter Aufidius with the* 「Second」 *Servingman.*

FTLN 2730	AUFIDIUS	Where is this fellow?	
FTLN 2731	SECOND SERVINGMAN	Here, sir. I'd have beaten him like	55
FTLN 2732		a dog, but for disturbing the lords within.	
		<i>「He steps aside.」</i>	
FTLN 2733	AUFIDIUS	Whence com'st thou? What wouldst thou?	
FTLN 2734		Thy name? Why speak'st not? Speak, man. What's	
FTLN 2735		thy name?	
FTLN 2736	CORIOLANUS, 「 <i>removing his muffler</i> 」	If, Tullus,	60
FTLN 2737		Not yet thou know'st me, and seeing me, dost not	
FTLN 2738		Think me for the man I am, necessity	
FTLN 2739		Commands me name myself.	
FTLN 2740	AUFIDIUS	What is thy name?	
	CORIOLANUS		
FTLN 2741		A name unmusical to the Volscians' ears	65
FTLN 2742		And harsh in sound to thine.	
FTLN 2743	AUFIDIUS	Say, what's thy name?	
FTLN 2744		Thou hast a grim appearance, and thy face	
FTLN 2745		Bears a command in 't. Though thy tackle's torn,	
FTLN 2746		Thou show'st a noble vessel. What's thy name?	70
	CORIOLANUS		
FTLN 2747		Prepare thy brow to frown. Know'st thou me yet?	
FTLN 2748	AUFIDIUS	I know thee not. Thy name?	
	CORIOLANUS		
FTLN 2749		My name is Caius Martius, who hath done	
FTLN 2750		To thee particularly and to all the Volscies	
FTLN 2751		Great hurt and mischief; thereto witness may	75
FTLN 2752		My surname Coriolanus. The painful service,	
FTLN 2753		The extreme dangers, and the drops of blood	
FTLN 2754		Shed for my thankless country are requited	
FTLN 2755		But with that surname, a good memory	
FTLN 2756		And witness of the malice and displeasure	80
FTLN 2757		Which thou shouldst bear me. Only that name	
FTLN 2758		remains.	
FTLN 2759		The cruelty and envy of the people,	

FTLN 2760	Permitted by our dastard nobles, who	
FTLN 2761	Have all forsook me, hath devoured the rest,	85
FTLN 2762	And suffered me by th' voice of slaves to be	
FTLN 2763	「Whooped」 out of Rome. Now this extremity	
FTLN 2764	Hath brought me to thy hearth, not out of hope—	
FTLN 2765	Mistake me not—to save my life; for if	
FTLN 2766	I had feared death, of all the men i' th' world	90
FTLN 2767	I would have 'voided thee, but in mere spite,	
FTLN 2768	To be full quit of those my banishers,	
FTLN 2769	Stand I before thee here. Then if thou hast	
FTLN 2770	A heart of wreak in thee, that wilt revenge	
FTLN 2771	Thine own particular wrongs and stop those maims	95
FTLN 2772	Of shame seen through thy country, speed thee	
FTLN 2773	straight	
FTLN 2774	And make my misery serve thy turn. So use it	
FTLN 2775	That my revengeful services may prove	
FTLN 2776	As benefits to thee, for I will fight	100
FTLN 2777	Against my cankered country with the spleen	
FTLN 2778	Of all the under fiends. But if so be	
FTLN 2779	Thou dar'st not this, and that to prove more fortunes	
FTLN 2780	Thou 'rt tired, then, in a word, I also am	
FTLN 2781	Longer to live most weary, and present	105
FTLN 2782	My throat to thee and to thy ancient malice,	
FTLN 2783	Which not to cut would show thee but a fool,	
FTLN 2784	Since I have ever followed thee with hate,	
FTLN 2785	Drawn tuns of blood out of thy country's breast,	
FTLN 2786	And cannot live but to thy shame, unless	110
FTLN 2787	It be to do thee service.	
FTLN 2788	AUFIDIUS                                   O Martius, Martius,	
FTLN 2789	Each word thou hast spoke hath weeded from my	
FTLN 2790	heart	
FTLN 2791	A root of ancient envy. If Jupiter	115
FTLN 2792	Should from yond cloud speak divine things	
FTLN 2793	And say 'tis true, I'd not believe them more	
FTLN 2794	Than thee, all-noble Martius. Let me twine	



FTLN 2795	Mine arms about that body, whereagainst	
FTLN 2796	My grainèd ash an hundred times hath broke	120
FTLN 2797	And scarred the moon with splinters.	
		「 <i>They embrace.</i> 」
FTLN 2798	Here I clip	
FTLN 2799	The anvil of my sword and do contest	
FTLN 2800	As hotly and as nobly with thy love	
FTLN 2801	As ever in ambitious strength I did	125
FTLN 2802	Contend against thy valor. Know thou first,	
FTLN 2803	I loved the maid I married; never man	
FTLN 2804	Sighed truer breath. But that I see thee here,	
FTLN 2805	Thou noble thing, more dances my rapt heart	
FTLN 2806	Than when I first my wedded mistress saw	130
FTLN 2807	Bestride my threshold. Why, thou Mars, I tell thee	
FTLN 2808	We have a power on foot, and I had purpose	
FTLN 2809	Once more to hew thy target from thy brawn	
FTLN 2810	Or lose mine arm for 't. Thou hast beat me out	
FTLN 2811	Twelve several times, and I have nightly since	135
FTLN 2812	Dreamt of encounters 'twixt thyself and me;	
FTLN 2813	We have been down together in my sleep,	
FTLN 2814	Unbuckling helms, fisting each other's throat,	
FTLN 2815	And waked half dead with nothing. Worthy Martius,	
FTLN 2816	Had we no other quarrel else to Rome but that	140
FTLN 2817	Thou art thence banished, we would muster all	
FTLN 2818	From twelve to seventy and, pouring war	
FTLN 2819	Into the bowels of ungrateful Rome,	
FTLN 2820	Like a bold flood 「o'erbear 't.」 O, come, go in,	
FTLN 2821	And take our friendly senators by th' hands,	145
FTLN 2822	Who now are here, taking their leaves of me,	
FTLN 2823	Who am prepared against your territories,	
FTLN 2824	Though not for Rome itself.	
FTLN 2825	CORIOLANUS	You bless me, gods!
	AUFIDIUS	
FTLN 2826	Therefore, most absolute sir, if thou wilt have	150
FTLN 2827	The leading of thine own revenges, take	

FTLN 2828 Th' one half of my commission and set down—  
 FTLN 2829 As best thou art experienced, since thou know'st  
 FTLN 2830 Thy country's strength and weakness—thine own  
 FTLN 2831 ways, 155  
 FTLN 2832 Whether to knock against the gates of Rome,  
 FTLN 2833 Or rudely visit them in parts remote  
 FTLN 2834 To fright them ere destroy. But come in.  
 FTLN 2835 Let me commend thee first to those that shall  
 FTLN 2836 Say yea to thy desires. A thousand welcomes! 160  
 FTLN 2837 And more a friend than ere an enemy—  
 FTLN 2838 Yet, Martius, that was much. Your hand. Most  
 FTLN 2839 welcome! *「Coriolanus and Aufidius」 exit.*

*Two of the Servingmen 「come forward.」*

FTLN 2840 FIRST SERVINGMAN Here's a strange alteration!  
 FTLN 2841 SECOND SERVINGMAN By my hand, I had thought to 165  
 FTLN 2842 have stricken him with a cudgel, and yet my mind  
 FTLN 2843 gave me his clothes made a false report of him.  
 FTLN 2844 FIRST SERVINGMAN What an arm he has! He turned me  
 FTLN 2845 about with his finger and his thumb as one would  
 FTLN 2846 set up a top. 170  
 FTLN 2847 SECOND SERVINGMAN Nay, I knew by his face that there  
 FTLN 2848 was something in him. He had, sir, a kind of face,  
 FTLN 2849 methought—I cannot tell how to term it.  
 FTLN 2850 FIRST SERVINGMAN He had so, looking as it were—  
 FTLN 2851 Would I were hanged but I thought there was 175  
 FTLN 2852 more in him than I could think.  
 FTLN 2853 SECOND SERVINGMAN So did I, I'll be sworn. He is simply  
 FTLN 2854 the rarest man i' th' world.  
 FTLN 2855 FIRST SERVINGMAN I think he is. But a greater soldier  
 FTLN 2856 than he you wot one. 180  
 FTLN 2857 SECOND SERVINGMAN Who, my master?  
 FTLN 2858 FIRST SERVINGMAN Nay, it's no matter for that.  
 FTLN 2859 SECOND SERVINGMAN Worth six on him.  
 FTLN 2860 FIRST SERVINGMAN Nay, not so neither. But I take him  
 FTLN 2861 to be the greater soldier. 185

FTLN 2862 SECOND SERVINGMAN Faith, look you, one cannot tell  
 FTLN 2863 how to say that. For the defense of a town our general  
 FTLN 2864 is excellent.

FTLN 2865 FIRST SERVINGMAN Ay, and for an assault too.

*Enter the Third Servingman.*

FTLN 2866 THIRD SERVINGMAN O slaves, I can tell you news, news, 190  
 FTLN 2867 you rascals!

FTLN 2868 BOTH What, what, what? Let's partake!

FTLN 2869 THIRD SERVINGMAN I would not be a Roman, of all nations;  
 FTLN 2870 I had as lief be a condemned man.

FTLN 2871 BOTH Wherefore? Wherefore? 195

FTLN 2872 THIRD SERVINGMAN Why, here's he that was wont to  
 FTLN 2873 thwack our general, Caius Martius.

FTLN 2874 FIRST SERVINGMAN Why do you say "thwack our  
 FTLN 2875 general"?

FTLN 2876 THIRD SERVINGMAN I do not say "thwack our general," 200  
 FTLN 2877 but he was always good enough for him.

FTLN 2878 SECOND SERVINGMAN Come, we are fellows and friends.  
 FTLN 2879 He was ever too hard for him; I have heard him  
 FTLN 2880 say so himself.

FTLN 2881 FIRST SERVINGMAN He was too hard for him directly, to 205  
 FTLN 2882 say the truth on 't, before Corioles; he scotched  
 FTLN 2883 him and notched him like a carbonado.

FTLN 2884 SECOND SERVINGMAN An he had been cannibally given,  
 FTLN 2885 he might have boiled and eaten him too.

FTLN 2886 FIRST SERVINGMAN But, more of thy news. 210

FTLN 2887 THIRD SERVINGMAN Why, he is so made on here within  
 FTLN 2888 as if he were son and heir to Mars; set at upper end  
 FTLN 2889 o' th' table; no question asked him by any of the  
 FTLN 2890 senators but they stand bald before him. Our general  
 FTLN 2891 himself makes a mistress of him, sanctifies 215  
 FTLN 2892 himself with 's hand, and turns up the white o' th'  
 FTLN 2893 eye to his discourse. But the bottom of the news is,  
 FTLN 2894 our general is cut i' th' middle and but one half of

FTLN 2895	what he was yesterday, for the other has half, by	
FTLN 2896	the entreaty and grant of the whole table. He'll go,	220
FTLN 2897	he says, and sowl the porter of Rome gates by th'	
FTLN 2898	ears. He will mow all down before him and leave	
FTLN 2899	his passage polled.	
FTLN 2900	SECOND SERVINGMAN And he's as like to do 't as any	
FTLN 2901	man I can imagine.	225
FTLN 2902	THIRD SERVINGMAN Do 't? He will do 't! For, look you,	
FTLN 2903	sir, he has as many friends as enemies, which	
FTLN 2904	friends, sir, as it were, durst not, look you, sir, show	
FTLN 2905	themselves, as we term it, his friends whilst he's	
FTLN 2906	in directitude.	230
FTLN 2907	FIRST SERVINGMAN Directitude? What's that?	
FTLN 2908	THIRD SERVINGMAN But when they shall see, sir, his	
FTLN 2909	crest up again, and the man in blood, they will out	
FTLN 2910	of their burrows like coneys after rain, and revel	
FTLN 2911	all with him.	235
FTLN 2912	FIRST SERVINGMAN But when goes this forward?	
FTLN 2913	THIRD SERVINGMAN Tomorrow, today, presently. You	
FTLN 2914	shall have the drum struck up this afternoon. 'Tis,	
FTLN 2915	as it were, a parcel of their feast, and to be executed	
FTLN 2916	ere they wipe their lips.	240
FTLN 2917	SECOND SERVINGMAN Why then, we shall have a stirring	
FTLN 2918	world again. This peace is nothing but to rust iron,	
FTLN 2919	increase tailors, and breed ballad-makers.	
FTLN 2920	FIRST SERVINGMAN Let me have war, say I. It exceeds	
FTLN 2921	peace as far as day does night. It's sprightly walking,	245
FTLN 2922	audible, and full of vent. Peace is a very apoplexy,	
FTLN 2923	lethargy; mulled, deaf, 「sleepy,」 insensible; a getter	
FTLN 2924	of more bastard children than war's a destroyer of	
FTLN 2925	men.	
FTLN 2926	SECOND SERVINGMAN 'Tis so, and as wars in some sort	250
FTLN 2927	may be said to be a ravisher, so it cannot be denied	
FTLN 2928	but peace is a great maker of cuckolds.	

FTLN 2929 FIRST SERVINGMAN Ay, and it makes men hate one  
 FTLN 2930 another.  
 FTLN 2931 THIRD SERVINGMAN Reason: because they then less 255  
 FTLN 2932 need one another. The wars for my money! I hope  
 FTLN 2933 to see Romans as cheap as Volscians. 「(Noise  
 FTLN 2934 within.)」 They are rising; they are rising.  
 FTLN 2935 「FIRST AND SECOND SERVINGMEN」 In, in, in, in!  
*They exit.*

## 「Scene 6」

*Enter the two Tribunes. Sicinius and Brutus.*

SICINIUS  
 FTLN 2936 We hear not of him, neither need we fear him.  
 FTLN 2937 His remedies are tame—the present peace,  
 FTLN 2938 And quietness of the people, which before  
 FTLN 2939 Were in wild hurry. Here do we make his friends  
 FTLN 2940 Blush that the world goes well, who rather had, 5  
 FTLN 2941 Though they themselves did suffer by 't, behold  
 FTLN 2942 Dissentious numbers pest'ring streets than see  
 FTLN 2943 Our tradesmen singing in their shops and going  
 FTLN 2944 About their functions friendly.  
 BRUTUS  
 FTLN 2945 We stood to 't in good time. 10

*Enter Menenius.*

FTLN 2946 Is this Menenius?  
 SICINIUS  
 FTLN 2947 'Tis he, 'tis he. O, he is grown most kind  
 FTLN 2948 Of late.—Hail, sir.  
 FTLN 2949 MENENIUS Hail to you both.  
 SICINIUS  
 FTLN 2950 Your Coriolanus is not much missed 15  
 FTLN 2951 But with his friends. The commonwealth doth stand,  
 FTLN 2952 And so would do were he more angry at it.

MENENIUS

FTLN 2953 All's well, and might have been much better if  
 FTLN 2954 He could have temporized.  
 FTLN 2955 SICINIUS Where is he, hear you? 20  
 FTLN 2956 MENENIUS Nay, I hear nothing;  
 FTLN 2957 His mother and his wife hear nothing from him.

*Enter three or four Citizens.*

ALL <sup>⌈</sup>CITIZENS, *to the Tribunes* <sup>⌋</sup>

FTLN 2958 The gods preserve  
 FTLN 2959 you both!  
 FTLN 2960 SICINIUS Good e'en, our neighbors. 25

BRUTUS

FTLN 2961 Good e'en to you all, good e'en to you all.  
 FIRST CITIZEN  
 FTLN 2962 Ourselves, our wives, and children, on our knees  
 FTLN 2963 Are bound to pray for you both.  
 FTLN 2964 SICINIUS Live, and thrive!

BRUTUS

FTLN 2965 Farewell, kind neighbors. We wished Coriolanus 30  
 FTLN 2966 Had loved you as we did.

ALL <sup>⌈</sup>CITIZENS <sup>⌋</sup> Now the gods keep you!

FTLN 2967 BOTH TRIBUNES Farewell, farewell. *Citizens exit.*

SICINIUS

FTLN 2969 This is a happier and more comely time  
 FTLN 2970 Than when these fellows ran about the streets 35  
 FTLN 2971 Crying confusion.

BRUTUS

FTLN 2972 Caius Martius was  
 FTLN 2973 A worthy officer i' th' war, but insolent,  
 FTLN 2974 O'ercome with pride, ambitious, past all thinking  
 FTLN 2975 Self-loving. 40

SICINIUS

FTLN 2976 And affecting one sole throne, without assistance.

FTLN 2977 MENENIUS I think not so.

SICINIUS

FTLN 2978 We should by this, to all our lamentation,  
 FTLN 2979 If he had gone forth consul, found it so.



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FTLN 3008	All to the Senate House. Some news is coming	
FTLN 3009	That turns their countenances.	
FTLN 3010	SICINIUS 'Tis this slave—	75
FTLN 3011	Go whip him 'fore the people's eyes—his raising,	
FTLN 3012	Nothing but his report.	
FTLN 3013	MESSENGER Yes, worthy sir,	
FTLN 3014	The slave's report is seconded, and more,	
FTLN 3015	More fearful, is delivered.	80
FTLN 3016	SICINIUS What more fearful?	
	MESSENGER	
FTLN 3017	It is spoke freely out of many mouths—	
FTLN 3018	How probable I do not know—that Martius,	
FTLN 3019	Joined with Aufidius, leads a power 'gainst Rome	
FTLN 3020	And vows revenge as spacious as between	85
FTLN 3021	The young'st and oldest thing.	
FTLN 3022	SICINIUS This is most likely!	
	BRUTUS	
FTLN 3023	Raised only that the weaker sort may wish	
FTLN 3024	Good Martius home again.	
FTLN 3025	SICINIUS The very trick on 't.	90
FTLN 3026	MENENIUS This is unlikely;	
FTLN 3027	He and Aufidius can no more atone	
FTLN 3028	Than violent'st contrariety.	
	<i>Enter 'a Second' Messenger.</i>	
FTLN 3029	'SECOND' MESSENGER You are sent for to the Senate.	
FTLN 3030	A fearful army, led by Caius Martius	95
FTLN 3031	Associated with Aufidius, rages	
FTLN 3032	Upon our territories, and have already	
FTLN 3033	O'erborne their way, consumed with fire and took	
FTLN 3034	What lay before them.	
	<i>Enter Cominius.</i>	
FTLN 3035	COMINIUS, 'to the Tribunes' O, you have made good	100
FTLN 3036	work!	
FTLN 3037	MENENIUS What news? What news?	





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FTLN 3070	MENENIUS	We are all undone, unless	135
FTLN 3071		The noble man have mercy.	
FTLN 3072	COMINIUS	Who shall ask it?	
FTLN 3073		The Tribunes cannot do 't for shame; the people	
FTLN 3074		Deserve such pity of him as the wolf	
FTLN 3075		Does of the shepherds. For his best friends, if they	140
FTLN 3076		Should say "Be good to Rome," they charged him	
FTLN 3077		even	
FTLN 3078		As those should do that had deserved his hate	
FTLN 3079		And therein showed like enemies.	
FTLN 3080	MENENIUS	'Tis true.	145
FTLN 3081		If he were putting to my house the brand	
FTLN 3082		That should consume it, I have not the face	
FTLN 3083		To say "Beseech you, cease."—You have made fair	
FTLN 3084		hands,	
FTLN 3085		You and your crafts! You have crafted fair!	150
FTLN 3086	COMINIUS	You have	
FTLN 3087		brought	
FTLN 3088		A trembling upon Rome such as was never	
FTLN 3089		S' incapable of help.	
FTLN 3090	TRIBUNES	Say not we brought it.	155
FTLN 3091	MENENIUS	How? Was 't we? We loved him, but like beasts	
FTLN 3092		And cowardly nobles, gave way unto your clusters,	
FTLN 3093		Who did hoot him out o' th' city.	
FTLN 3094	COMINIUS	But I fear	
FTLN 3095		They'll roar him in again. Tullus Aufidius,	160
FTLN 3096		The second name of men, obeys his points	
FTLN 3097		As if he were his officer. Desperation	
FTLN 3098		Is all the policy, strength, and defense	
FTLN 3099		That Rome can make against them.	
<i>Enter a troop of Citizens.</i>			
FTLN 3100	MENENIUS	Here come the	165
FTLN 3101		clusters.—	
FTLN 3102		And is Aufidius with him? You are they	

FTLN 3103	That made the air unwholesome when you cast	
FTLN 3104	Your stinking, greasy caps in hooting at	
FTLN 3105	Coriolanus' exile. Now he's coming,	170
FTLN 3106	And not a hair upon a soldier's head	
FTLN 3107	Which will not prove a whip. As many coxcombs	
FTLN 3108	As you threw caps up will he tumble down	
FTLN 3109	And pay you for your voices. 'Tis no matter.	
FTLN 3110	If he could burn us all into one coal,	175
FTLN 3111	We have deserved it.	
FTLN 3112	ALL [CITIZENS] Faith, we hear fearful news.	
FTLN 3113	FIRST CITIZEN For mine own part,	
FTLN 3114	When I said banish him, I said 'twas pity.	
FTLN 3115	SECOND CITIZEN And so did I.	180
FTLN 3116	THIRD CITIZEN And so did I. And, to say the truth, so	
FTLN 3117	did very many of us. That we did we did for the	
FTLN 3118	best; and though we willingly consented to his	
FTLN 3119	banishment, yet it was against our will.	
FTLN 3120	COMINIUS You're goodly things, you voices!	185
	MENENIUS	
FTLN 3121	You have made good work, you and your cry!—	
FTLN 3122	Shall 's to the Capitol?	
FTLN 3123	COMINIUS O, ay, what else? <i>Both exit.</i>	
	SICINIUS	
FTLN 3124	Go, masters, get you home. Be not dismayed.	
FTLN 3125	These are a side that would be glad to have	190
FTLN 3126	This true which they so seem to fear. Go home,	
FTLN 3127	And show no sign of fear.	
FTLN 3128	FIRST CITIZEN The gods be good to us! Come, masters,	
FTLN 3129	let's home. I ever said we were i' th' wrong when	
FTLN 3130	we banished him.	195
FTLN 3131	SECOND CITIZEN So did we all. But, come, let's home.	
	<i>Citizens exit.</i>	
FTLN 3132	BRUTUS I do not like this news.	
FTLN 3133	SICINIUS Nor I.	

BRUTUS

FTLN 3134

Let's to the Capitol. Would half my wealth

FTLN 3135

Would buy this for a lie.

200

FTLN 3136

SICINIUS

Pray, let's go.

*Tribunes exit.*

[Scene 7]

*Enter Aufidius with his Lieutenant.*

FTLN 3137

AUFIDIUS Do they still fly to th' Roman?

LIEUTENANT

FTLN 3138

I do not know what witchcraft's in him, but

FTLN 3139

Your soldiers use him as the grace 'fore meat,

FTLN 3140

Their talk at table, and their thanks at end;

FTLN 3141

And you are dark'ned in this action, sir,

5

FTLN 3142

Even by your own.

FTLN 3143

AUFIDIUS I cannot help it now,

FTLN 3144

Unless by using means I lame the foot

FTLN 3145

Of our design. He bears himself more proudlier,

FTLN 3146

Even to my person, than I thought he would

10

FTLN 3147

When first I did embrace him. Yet his nature

FTLN 3148

In that's no changeling, and I must excuse

FTLN 3149

What cannot be amended.

FTLN 3150

LIEUTENANT Yet I wish, sir—

FTLN 3151

I mean for your particular—you had not

15

FTLN 3152

Joined in commission with him, but either

FTLN 3153

Have borne the action of yourself or else

FTLN 3154

To him had left it solely.

AUFIDIUS

FTLN 3155

I understand thee well, and be thou sure,

FTLN 3156

When he shall come to his account, he knows not

20

FTLN 3157

What I can urge against him, although it seems,

FTLN 3158

And so he thinks and is no less apparent

FTLN 3159

To th' vulgar eye, that he bears all things fairly,

FTLN 3160

And shows good husbandry for the Volscian state,

---

FTLN 3161	Fights dragonlike, and does achieve as soon	25
FTLN 3162	As draw his sword; yet he hath left undone	
FTLN 3163	That which shall break his neck or hazard mine	
FTLN 3164	Whene'er we come to our account.	
	LIEUTENANT	
FTLN 3165	Sir, I beseech you, think you he'll carry Rome?	
	AUFIDIUS	
FTLN 3166	All places yields to him ere he sits down,	30
FTLN 3167	And the nobility of Rome are his;	
FTLN 3168	The Senators and Patricians love him too.	
FTLN 3169	The Tribunes are no soldiers, and their people	
FTLN 3170	Will be as rash in the repeal as hasty	
FTLN 3171	To expel him thence. I think he'll be to Rome	35
FTLN 3172	As is the osprey to the fish, who takes it	
FTLN 3173	By sovereignty of nature. First, he was	
FTLN 3174	A noble servant to them, but he could not	
FTLN 3175	Carry his honors even. Whether 'twas pride,	
FTLN 3176	Which out of daily fortune ever taints	40
FTLN 3177	The happy man; whether defect of judgment,	
FTLN 3178	To fail in the disposing of those chances	
FTLN 3179	Which he was lord of; or whether nature,	
FTLN 3180	Not to be other than one thing, not moving	
FTLN 3181	From th' casque to th' cushion, but commanding	45
FTLN 3182	peace	
FTLN 3183	Even with the same austerity and garb	
FTLN 3184	As he controlled the war; but one of these—	
FTLN 3185	As he hath spices of them all—not all,	
FTLN 3186	For I dare so far free him—made him feared,	50
FTLN 3187	So hated, and so banished. But he has a merit	
FTLN 3188	To choke it in the utterance. So our virtues	
FTLN 3189	Lie in th' interpretation of the time,	
FTLN 3190	And power, unto itself most commendable,	
FTLN 3191	Hath not a tomb so evident as a chair	55
FTLN 3192	T' extol what it hath done.	
FTLN 3193	One fire drives out one fire, one nail one nail;	

FTLN 3194

Rights by rights 「falter」; strengths by strengths do  
fail.

FTLN 3195

FTLN 3196

Come, let's away. When, Caius, Rome is thine,

60

FTLN 3197

Thou art poor'st of all; then shortly art thou mine.

*They exit.*

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## ACT 5

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「Scene 1」

*Enter Menenius, Cominius, Sicinius, Brutus (the two Tribunes), with others.*

MENENIUS

FTLN 3198 No, I'll not go. You hear what he hath said  
FTLN 3199 Which was sometime his general, who loved him  
FTLN 3200 In a most dear particular. He called me father,  
FTLN 3201 But what o' that? Go you that banished him;  
FTLN 3202 A mile before his tent, fall down, and knee 5  
FTLN 3203 The way into his mercy. Nay, if he coyed  
FTLN 3204 To hear Cominius speak, I'll keep at home.

COMINIUS

FTLN 3205 He would not seem to know me.

FTLN 3206 MENENIUS Do you hear?

COMINIUS

FTLN 3207 Yet one time he did call me by my name. 10  
FTLN 3208 I urged our old acquaintance, and the drops  
FTLN 3209 That we have bled together. "Coriolanus"  
FTLN 3210 He would not answer to, forbade all names.  
FTLN 3211 He was a kind of nothing, titleless,  
FTLN 3212 Till he had forged himself a name o' th' fire 15  
FTLN 3213 Of burning Rome.

MENENIUS, 「*to the Tribunes*」

FTLN 3214 Why, so; you have made good work!

FTLN 3215 A pair of tribunes that have wracked Rome

FTLN 3216 To make coals cheap! A noble memory!

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	COMINIUS	
FTLN 3217	I minded him how royal 'twas to pardon	20
FTLN 3218	When it was less expected. He replied	
FTLN 3219	It was a bare petition of a state	
FTLN 3220	To one whom they had punished.	
FTLN 3221	MENENIUS	Very well.
FTLN 3222	Could he say less?	25
	COMINIUS	
FTLN 3223	I offered to awaken his regard	
FTLN 3224	For 's private friends. His answer to me was	
FTLN 3225	He could not stay to pick them in a pile	
FTLN 3226	Of noisome musty chaff. He said 'twas folly	
FTLN 3227	For one poor grain or two to leave unburnt	30
FTLN 3228	And still to nose th' offense.	
FTLN 3229	MENENIUS For one poor grain or two!	
FTLN 3230	I am one of those! His mother, wife, his child,	
FTLN 3231	And this brave fellow too, we are the grains;	
FTLN 3232	You are the musty chaff, and you are smelt	35
FTLN 3233	Above the moon. We must be burnt for you.	
	SICINIUS	
FTLN 3234	Nay, pray, be patient. If you refuse your aid	
FTLN 3235	In this so-never-needed help, yet do not	
FTLN 3236	Upbraid 's with our distress. But sure, if you	
FTLN 3237	Would be your country's pleader, your good tongue,	40
FTLN 3238	More than the instant army we can make,	
FTLN 3239	Might stop our countryman.	
FTLN 3240	MENENIUS	No, I'll not meddle.
FTLN 3241	SICINIUS Pray you, go to him.	
FTLN 3242	MENENIUS What should I do?	45
	BRUTUS	
FTLN 3243	Only make trial what your love can do	
FTLN 3244	For Rome, towards Martius.	
FTLN 3245	MENENIUS	Well, and say that
FTLN 3246	Martius	
FTLN 3247	Return me, as Cominius is returned, unheard,	50



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FTLN 3248	What then? But as a discontented friend,	
FTLN 3249	Grief-shot with his unkindness? Say 't be so?	
FTLN 3250	SICINIUS Yet your good will	
FTLN 3251	Must have that thanks from Rome after the measure	
FTLN 3252	As you intended well.	55
FTLN 3253	MENENIUS I'll undertake 't.	
FTLN 3254	I think he'll hear me. Yet to bite his lip	
FTLN 3255	And hum at good Cominius much unhearts me.	
FTLN 3256	He was not taken well; he had not dined.	
FTLN 3257	The veins unfilled, our blood is cold, and then	60
FTLN 3258	We pout upon the morning, are unapt	
FTLN 3259	To give or to forgive; but when we have stuffed	
FTLN 3260	These pipes and these conveyances of our blood	
FTLN 3261	With wine and feeding, we have suppler souls	
FTLN 3262	Than in our priestlike fasts. Therefore I'll watch him	65
FTLN 3263	Till he be dieted to my request,	
FTLN 3264	And then I'll set upon him.	
	BRUTUS	
FTLN 3265	You know the very road into his kindness	
FTLN 3266	And cannot lose your way.	
FTLN 3267	MENENIUS Good faith, I'll prove him,	70
FTLN 3268	Speed how it will. I shall ere long have knowledge	
FTLN 3269	Of my success. <i>He exits.</i>	
FTLN 3270	COMINIUS He'll never hear him.	
FTLN 3271	SICINIUS Not?	
	COMINIUS	
FTLN 3272	I tell you, he does sit in gold, his eye	75
FTLN 3273	Red as 'twould burn Rome; and his injury	
FTLN 3274	The jailor to his pity. I kneeled before him;	
FTLN 3275	'Twas very faintly he said "Rise"; dismissed me	
FTLN 3276	Thus with his speechless hand. What he would do	
FTLN 3277	He sent in writing after me; what he	80
FTLN 3278	Would not, bound with an oath to yield to his	
FTLN 3279	Conditions. So that all hope is vain	
FTLN 3280	Unless his noble mother and his wife,	
FTLN 3281	Who, as I hear, mean to solicit him	

FTLN 3282 For mercy to his country. Therefore let's hence 85  
 FTLN 3283 And with our fair entreaties haste them on.

*They exit.*

〔Scene 2〕

*Enter Menenius to the Watch, or Guard.*

FTLN 3284 FIRST WATCH Stay! Whence are you?

FTLN 3285 SECOND WATCH Stand, and go back.

MENENIUS

FTLN 3286 You guard like men; 'tis well. But by your leave,

FTLN 3287 I am an officer of state and come

FTLN 3288 To speak with Coriolanus. 5

FTLN 3289 FIRST WATCH From whence?

FTLN 3290 MENENIUS From Rome.

FIRST WATCH

FTLN 3291 You may not pass; you must return. Our general

FTLN 3292 Will no more hear from thence.

SECOND WATCH

FTLN 3293 You'll see your Rome embraced with fire before 10

FTLN 3294 You'll speak with Coriolanus.

FTLN 3295 MENENIUS Good my friends,

FTLN 3296 If you have heard your general talk of Rome

FTLN 3297 And of his friends there, it is lots to blanks

FTLN 3298 My name hath touched your ears. It is Menenius. 15

FIRST WATCH

FTLN 3299 Be it so; go back. The virtue of your name

FTLN 3300 Is not here passable.

FTLN 3301 MENENIUS I tell thee, fellow,

FTLN 3302 Thy general is my lover. I have been

FTLN 3303 The book of his good acts, whence men have read 20

FTLN 3304 His fame unparalleled happily amplified;

FTLN 3305 For I have ever verified my friends—

FTLN 3306 Of whom he's chief—with all the size that verity

FTLN 3307 Would without lapsing suffer. Nay, sometimes,

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FTLN 3308	Like to a bowl upon a subtle ground,	25
FTLN 3309	I have tumbled past the throw, and in his praise	
FTLN 3310	Have almost stamped the leasing. Therefore, fellow,	
FTLN 3311	I must have leave to pass.	
FTLN 3312	FIRST WATCH Faith, sir, if you had told as many lies in	
FTLN 3313	his behalf as you have uttered words in your own,	30
FTLN 3314	you should not pass here, no, though it were as virtuous	
FTLN 3315	to lie as to live chastely. Therefore, go back.	
FTLN 3316	MENENIUS Prithee, fellow, remember my name is Menenius,	
FTLN 3317	always factionary on the party of your	
FTLN 3318	general.	35
FTLN 3319	SECOND WATCH Howsoever you have been his liar, as	
FTLN 3320	you say you have, I am one that, telling true under	
FTLN 3321	him, must say you cannot pass. Therefore, go back.	
FTLN 3322	MENENIUS Has he dined, can'st thou tell? For I would	
FTLN 3323	not speak with him till after dinner.	40
FTLN 3324	FIRST WATCH You are a Roman, are you?	
FTLN 3325	MENENIUS I am, as thy general is.	
FTLN 3326	FIRST WATCH Then you should hate Rome as he does.	
FTLN 3327	Can you, when you have pushed out your gates the	
FTLN 3328	very defender of them, and, in a violent popular	45
FTLN 3329	ignorance given your enemy your shield, think to	
FTLN 3330	front his revenges with the easy groans of old	
FTLN 3331	women, the virginal palms of your daughters, or	
FTLN 3332	with the palsied intercession of such a decayed	
FTLN 3333	dotant as you seem to be? Can you think to blow	50
FTLN 3334	out the intended fire your city is ready to flame in	
FTLN 3335	with such weak breath as this? No, you are deceived.	
FTLN 3336	Therefore, back to Rome and prepare for	
FTLN 3337	your execution. You are condemned. Our general	
FTLN 3338	has sworn you out of reprieve and pardon.	55
FTLN 3339	MENENIUS Sirrah, if thy captain knew I were here, he	
FTLN 3340	would use me with estimation.	
FTLN 3341	FIRST WATCH Come, my captain knows you not.	
FTLN 3342	MENENIUS I mean thy general.	

FTLN 3343 FIRST WATCH My general cares not for you. Back, I say, 60  
 FTLN 3344 go, lest I let forth your half pint of blood. Back!  
 FTLN 3345 That's the utmost of your having. Back!  
 FTLN 3346 MENENIUS Nay, but fellow, fellow—

*Enter Coriolanus with Aufidius.*

FTLN 3347 CORIOLANUS What's the matter?  
 FTLN 3348 MENENIUS *['to First Watch']* Now, you companion, I'll 65  
 FTLN 3349 say an errand for you. You shall know now that I  
 FTLN 3350 am in estimation; you shall perceive that a Jack  
 FTLN 3351 guardant cannot office me from my son Coriolanus.  
 FTLN 3352 Guess but *['by']* my entertainment with him  
 FTLN 3353 if thou stand'st not i' th' state of hanging or of some 70  
 FTLN 3354 death more long in spectatorship and crueller in  
 FTLN 3355 suffering; behold now presently, and swoon for  
 FTLN 3356 what's to come upon thee. *['(To Coriolanus.)']* The  
 FTLN 3357 glorious gods sit in hourly synod about thy particular  
 FTLN 3358 prosperity and love thee no worse than thy old 75  
 FTLN 3359 father Menenius does! O my son, my son! *['(He*  
 FTLN 3360 *weeps.)']* Thou art preparing fire for us; look thee,  
 FTLN 3361 here's water to quench it. I was hardly moved to  
 FTLN 3362 come to thee; but being assured none but myself  
 FTLN 3363 could move thee, I have been blown out of your 80  
 FTLN 3364 gates with sighs, and conjure thee to pardon Rome  
 FTLN 3365 and thy petitionary countrymen. The good gods  
 FTLN 3366 assuage thy wrath and turn the dregs of it upon  
 FTLN 3367 this varlet here, this, who, like a block, hath denied  
 FTLN 3368 my access to thee. 85  
 FTLN 3369 CORIOLANUS Away!  
 FTLN 3370 MENENIUS How? Away?  
 FTLN 3371 CORIOLANUS  
 FTLN 3372 Wife, mother, child, I know not. My affairs  
 FTLN 3373 Are servanted to others. Though I owe 90  
 FTLN 3374 My revenge properly, my remission lies  
 FTLN 3375 In Volscian breasts. That we have been familiar,  
 Ingrate forgetfulness shall poison rather

FTLN 3376	Than pity note how much. Therefore, begone.	
FTLN 3377	Mine ears against your suits are stronger than	
FTLN 3378	Your gates against my force. Yet, for I loved thee,	95
FTLN 3379	Take this along; I writ it for thy sake,	
	<i>〔He gives Menenius a paper.〕</i>	
FTLN 3380	And would have sent it. Another word, Menenius,	
FTLN 3381	I will not hear thee speak.—This man, Aufidius,	
FTLN 3382	Was my beloved in Rome; yet thou behold'st.	
FTLN 3383	AUFIDIUS You keep a constant temper. <i>They exit.</i>	100
	<i>The Guard and Menenius remain.</i>	
FTLN 3384	FIRST WATCH Now, sir, is your name Menenius?	
FTLN 3385	SECOND WATCH 'Tis a spell, you see, of much power. You	
FTLN 3386	know the way home again.	
FTLN 3387	FIRST WATCH Do you hear how we are shent for keeping	
FTLN 3388	your Greatness back?	105
FTLN 3389	SECOND WATCH What cause do you think I have to	
FTLN 3390	swoon?	
FTLN 3391	MENENIUS I neither care for th' world nor your general.	
FTLN 3392	For such things as you, I can scarce think	
FTLN 3393	there's any, you're so slight. He that hath a will to	110
FTLN 3394	die by himself fears it not from another. Let your	
FTLN 3395	general do his worst. For you, be that you are,	
FTLN 3396	long; and your misery increase with your age! I say	
FTLN 3397	to you, as I was said to, away! <i>He exits.</i>	
FTLN 3398	FIRST WATCH A noble fellow, I warrant him.	115
FTLN 3399	SECOND WATCH The worthy fellow is our general. He's	
FTLN 3400	the rock, the oak not to be wind-shaken.	
	<i>Watch exit.</i>	

〔Scene 3〕

*Enter Coriolanus and Aufidius.*

CORIOLANUS

FTLN 3401	We will before the walls of Rome tomorrow
FTLN 3402	Set down our host. My partner in this action,

FTLN 3403	You must report to th' Volscian lords how plainly	
FTLN 3404	I have borne this business.	
FTLN 3405	AUFIDIUS	Only their ends 5
FTLN 3406	You have respected, stopped your ears against	
FTLN 3407	The general suit of Rome, never admitted	
FTLN 3408	A private whisper, no, not with such friends	
FTLN 3409	That thought them sure of you.	
FTLN 3410	CORIOLANUS	This last old man, 10
FTLN 3411	Whom with a cracked heart I have sent to Rome,	
FTLN 3412	Loved me above the measure of a father,	
FTLN 3413	Nay, godded me indeed. Their latest refuge	
FTLN 3414	Was to send him, for whose old love I have—	
FTLN 3415	Though I showed sourly to him—once more offered	15
FTLN 3416	The first conditions, which they did refuse	
FTLN 3417	And cannot now accept, to grace him only	
FTLN 3418	That thought he could do more. A very little	
FTLN 3419	I have yielded to. Fresh embassies and suits,	
FTLN 3420	Nor from the state nor private friends, hereafter	20
FTLN 3421	Will I lend ear to.	<i>Shout within.</i>
FTLN 3422		Ha? What shout is this?
FTLN 3423	Shall I be tempted to infringe my vow	
FTLN 3424	In the same time 'tis made? I will not.	
 <i>Enter Virgilia, Volumnia, Valeria, young Martius, with Attendants.</i> 		
FTLN 3425	My wife comes foremost, then the honored mold	25
FTLN 3426	Wherein this trunk was framed, and in her hand	
FTLN 3427	The grandchild to her blood. But out, affection!	
FTLN 3428	All bond and privilege of nature, break!	
FTLN 3429	Let it be virtuous to be obstinate.	「 <i>Virgilia curtsies.</i> 」
FTLN 3430	What is that curtsy worth? Or those doves' eyes,	30
FTLN 3431	Which can make gods forsworn? I melt and am not	
FTLN 3432	Of stronger earth than others.	「 <i>Volumnia bows.</i> 」
FTLN 3433		My mother bows,
FTLN 3434	As if Olympus to a molehill should	
FTLN 3435	In supplication nod; and my young boy	35

FTLN 3436	Hath an aspect of intercession which	
FTLN 3437	Great Nature cries “Deny not!” Let the Volsces	
FTLN 3438	Plow Rome and harrow Italy, I’ll never	
FTLN 3439	Be such a gosling to obey instinct, but stand	
FTLN 3440	As if a man were author of himself,	40
FTLN 3441	And knew no other kin.	
FTLN 3442	VIRGILIA	My lord and husband.
	CORIOLANUS	
FTLN 3443	These eyes are not the same I wore in Rome.	
	VIRGILIA	
FTLN 3444	The sorrow that delivers us thus changed	
FTLN 3445	Makes you think so.	45
FTLN 3446	CORIOLANUS	Like a dull actor now,
FTLN 3447	I have forgot my part, and I am out,	
FTLN 3448	Even to a full disgrace. Best of my flesh,	
FTLN 3449	Forgive my tyranny, but do not say	
FTLN 3450	For that “Forgive our Romans.”	「 <i>They kiss.</i> 」 50
FTLN 3451		O, a kiss
FTLN 3452	Long as my exile, sweet as my revenge!	
FTLN 3453	Now, by the jealous queen of heaven, that kiss	
FTLN 3454	I carried from thee, dear, and my true lip	
FTLN 3455	Hath virgined it e’er since. You gods! I 「prate」	55
FTLN 3456	And the most noble mother of the world	
FTLN 3457	Leave unsaluted. Sink, my knee, i’ th’ earth;	<i>Kneels.</i>
FTLN 3458	Of thy deep duty more impression show	
FTLN 3459	Than that of common sons.	
FTLN 3460	VOLUMNIA	O, stand up blest,
		「 <i>He rises.</i> 」
FTLN 3461	Whilst with no softer cushion than the flint	
FTLN 3462	I kneel before thee and unproperly	
FTLN 3463	Show duty, as mistaken all this while	
FTLN 3464	Between the child and parent.	「 <i>She kneels.</i> 」
FTLN 3465	CORIOLANUS	What’s this?
FTLN 3466	Your knees to me? To your corrected son?	65
		「 <i>He raises her up.</i> 」
FTLN 3467	Then let the pebbles on the hungry beach	

FTLN 3468	Fillip the stars! Then let the mutinous winds	
FTLN 3469	Strike the proud cedars 'gainst the fiery sun,	
FTLN 3470	Murdering impossibility to make	70
FTLN 3471	What cannot be slight work.	
FTLN 3472	VOLUMNIA	Thou art my warrior;
FTLN 3473	I 'hold' to frame thee. Do you know this lady?	
	CORIOLANUS	
FTLN 3474	The noble sister of Publicola,	
FTLN 3475	The moon of Rome, chaste as the icicle	75
FTLN 3476	That's curdied by the frost from purest snow	
FTLN 3477	And hangs on Dian's temple!—Dear Valeria.	
	VOLUMNIA, 'presenting young Martius'	
FTLN 3478	This is a poor epitome of yours,	
FTLN 3479	Which by th' interpretation of full time	
FTLN 3480	May show like all yourself.	80
FTLN 3481	CORIOLANUS, 'to young Martius'	The god of soldiers,
FTLN 3482	With the consent of supreme Jove, inform	
FTLN 3483	Thy thoughts with nobleness, that thou mayst prove	
FTLN 3484	To shame invulnerable, and stick i' th' wars	
FTLN 3485	Like a great seamark standing every flaw	85
FTLN 3486	And saving those that eye thee.	
FTLN 3487	VOLUMNIA, 'to young Martius'	Your knee, sirrah.
		'He kneels.'
FTLN 3488	CORIOLANUS	That's my brave boy!
	VOLUMNIA	
FTLN 3489	Even he, your wife, this lady, and myself	
FTLN 3490	Are suitors to you.	'Young Martius rises.'
FTLN 3491	CORIOLANUS	I beseech you, peace;
FTLN 3492	Or if you'd ask, remember this before:	
FTLN 3493	The thing I have forsworn to grant may never	
FTLN 3494	Be held by you denials. Do not bid me	
FTLN 3495	Dismiss my soldiers or capitulate	95
FTLN 3496	Again with Rome's mechanics. Tell me not	
FTLN 3497	Wherein I seem unnatural; desire not	
FTLN 3498	T' allay my rages and revenges with	
FTLN 3499	Your colder reasons.	



FTLN 3500	VOLUMNIA	O, no more, no more!	100
FTLN 3501		You have said you will not grant us anything;	
FTLN 3502		For we have nothing else to ask but that	
FTLN 3503		Which you deny already. Yet we will ask,	
FTLN 3504		That if you fail in our request, the blame	
FTLN 3505		May hang upon your hardness. Therefore hear us.	105
	CORIOLANUS		
FTLN 3506		Aufidius, and you Volsces, mark, for we'll	
FTLN 3507		Hear naught from Rome in private. <i>「He sits.」</i> Your	
FTLN 3508		request?	
	VOLUMNIA		
FTLN 3509		Should we be silent and not speak, our raiment	
FTLN 3510		And state of bodies would bewray what life	110
FTLN 3511		We have led since thy exile. Think with thyself	
FTLN 3512		How more unfortunate than all living women	
FTLN 3513		Are we come hither; since that thy sight, which	
FTLN 3514		should	
FTLN 3515		Make our eyes flow with joy, hearts dance with	115
FTLN 3516		comforts,	
FTLN 3517		Constrains them weep and shake with fear and	
FTLN 3518		sorrow,	
FTLN 3519		Making the mother, wife, and child to see	
FTLN 3520		The son, the husband, and the father tearing	120
FTLN 3521		His country's bowels out. And to poor we	
FTLN 3522		Thine enmity's most capital. Thou barr'st us	
FTLN 3523		Our prayers to the gods, which is a comfort	
FTLN 3524		That all but we enjoy. For how can we—	
FTLN 3525		Alas, how can we—for our country pray,	125
FTLN 3526		Whereto we are bound, together with thy victory,	
FTLN 3527		Whereto we are bound? Alack, or we must lose	
FTLN 3528		The country, our dear nurse, or else thy person,	
FTLN 3529		Our comfort in the country. We must find	
FTLN 3530		An evident calamity, though we had	130
FTLN 3531		Our wish, which side should win, for either thou	
FTLN 3532		Must as a foreign recreant be led	
FTLN 3533		With manacles through our streets, or else	

FTLN 3534	Triumphantly tread on thy country's ruin	
FTLN 3535	And bear the palm for having bravely shed	135
FTLN 3536	Thy wife and children's blood. For myself, son,	
FTLN 3537	I purpose not to wait on fortune till	
FTLN 3538	These wars determine. If I cannot persuade thee	
FTLN 3539	Rather to show a noble grace to both parts	
FTLN 3540	Than seek the end of one, thou shalt no sooner	140
FTLN 3541	March to assault thy country than to tread—	
FTLN 3542	Trust to 't, thou shalt not—on thy mother's womb	
FTLN 3543	That brought thee to this world.	
FTLN 3544	VIRGILIA	Ay, and mine,
FTLN 3545	That brought you forth this boy to keep your name	145
FTLN 3546	Living to time.	
FTLN 3547	YOUNG MARTIUS	He shall not tread on me.
FTLN 3548	I'll run away till I am bigger, but then I'll fight.	
	CORIOLANUS	
FTLN 3549	Not of a woman's tenderness to be	
FTLN 3550	Requires nor child nor woman's face to see.—	150
FTLN 3551	I have sat too long.	「 <i>He rises.</i> 」
FTLN 3552	VOLUMNIA	Nay, go not from us thus.
FTLN 3553	If it were so, that our request did tend	
FTLN 3554	To save the Romans, thereby to destroy	
FTLN 3555	The Volsces whom you serve, you might condemn	155
FTLN 3556	us	
FTLN 3557	As poisonous of your honor. No, our suit	
FTLN 3558	Is that you reconcile them, while the Volsces	
FTLN 3559	May say "This mercy we have showed," the Romans	
FTLN 3560	"This we received," and each in either side	160
FTLN 3561	Give the all-hail to thee and cry "Be blest	
FTLN 3562	For making up this peace!" Thou know'st, great son,	
FTLN 3563	The end of war's uncertain, but this certain,	
FTLN 3564	That, if thou conquer Rome, the benefit	
FTLN 3565	Which thou shalt thereby reap is such a name	165
FTLN 3566	Whose repetition will be dogged with curses,	
FTLN 3567	Whose chronicle thus writ: "The man was noble,	
FTLN 3568	But with his last attempt he wiped it out,	

FTLN 3569	Destroyed his country, and his name remains	
FTLN 3570	To th' ensuing age abhorred." Speak to me, son.	170
FTLN 3571	Thou hast affected the 「fine」 strains of honor	
FTLN 3572	To imitate the graces of the gods,	
FTLN 3573	To tear with thunder the wide cheeks o' th' air	
FTLN 3574	And yet to 「charge」 thy sulfur with a bolt	
FTLN 3575	That should but rive an oak. Why dost not speak?	175
FTLN 3576	Think'st thou it honorable for a noble man	
FTLN 3577	Still to remember wrongs?—Daughter, speak you.	
FTLN 3578	He cares not for your weeping.—Speak thou, boy.	
FTLN 3579	Perhaps thy childishness will move him more	
FTLN 3580	Than can our reasons.—There's no man in the world	180
FTLN 3581	More bound to 's mother, yet here he lets me prate	
FTLN 3582	Like one i' th' stocks. Thou hast never in thy life	
FTLN 3583	Showed thy dear mother any courtesy	
FTLN 3584	When she, poor hen, fond of no second brood,	
FTLN 3585	Has 「clucked」 thee to the wars and safely home,	185
FTLN 3586	Loaden with honor. Say my request's unjust	
FTLN 3587	And spurn me back; but if it be not so,	
FTLN 3588	Thou art not honest, and the gods will plague thee	
FTLN 3589	That thou restrain'st from me the duty which	
FTLN 3590	To a mother's part belongs.—He turns away.—	190
FTLN 3591	Down, ladies! Let us shame him with our knees.	
FTLN 3592	To his surname Coriolanus 'longs more pride	
FTLN 3593	Than pity to our prayers. Down! An end.	
	「 <i>They kneel.</i> 」	
FTLN 3594	This is the last. So, we will home to Rome	
FTLN 3595	And die among our neighbors.—Nay, behold 's.	195
FTLN 3596	This boy that cannot tell what he would have,	
FTLN 3597	But kneels and holds up hands for fellowship,	
FTLN 3598	Does reason our petition with more strength	
FTLN 3599	Than thou hast to deny 't.—Come, let us go.	
	「 <i>They rise.</i> 」	
FTLN 3600	This fellow had a Volscian to his mother,	200
FTLN 3601	His wife is in Corioles, and his child	

FTLN 3602	Like him by chance.—Yet give us our dispatch.	
FTLN 3603	I am hushed until our city be afire,	
FTLN 3604	And then I'll speak a little.	
	<i>〔He〕 holds her by the hand, silent.</i>	
FTLN 3605	CORIOLANUS	O mother, mother!
		205
FTLN 3606	What have you done? Behold, the heavens do ope,	
FTLN 3607	The gods look down, and this unnatural scene	
FTLN 3608	They laugh at. O, my mother, mother, O!	
FTLN 3609	You have won a happy victory to Rome,	
FTLN 3610	But, for your son—believe it, O, believe it!—	210
FTLN 3611	Most dangerously you have with him prevailed,	
FTLN 3612	If not most mortal to him. But let it come.—	
FTLN 3613	Aufidius, though I cannot make true wars,	
FTLN 3614	I'll frame convenient peace. Now, good Aufidius,	
FTLN 3615	Were you in my stead, would you have heard	215
FTLN 3616	A mother less? Or granted less, Aufidius?	
	AUFIDIUS	
FTLN 3617	I was moved withal.	
FTLN 3618	CORIOLANUS	I dare be sworn you were.
FTLN 3619	And, sir, it is no little thing to make	
FTLN 3620	Mine eyes to sweat compassion. But, good sir,	220
FTLN 3621	What peace you'll make advise me. For my part,	
FTLN 3622	I'll not to Rome. I'll back with you; and pray you,	
FTLN 3623	Stand to me in this cause.—O mother!—Wife!	
	<i>〔He speaks with them aside.〕</i>	
	AUFIDIUS, <i>〔aside〕</i>	
FTLN 3624	I am glad thou hast set thy mercy and thy honor	
FTLN 3625	At difference in thee. Out of that I'll work	225
FTLN 3626	Myself a former fortune.	
FTLN 3627	CORIOLANUS, <i>〔to the Women〕</i>	Ay, by and by;
FTLN 3628	But we will drink together, and you shall bear	
FTLN 3629	A better witness back than words, which we,	
FTLN 3630	On like conditions, will have countersealed.	230
FTLN 3631	Come, enter with us. Ladies, you deserve	
FTLN 3632	To have a temple built you. All the swords	

FTLN 3633  
FTLN 3634

In Italy, and her confederate arms,  
Could not have made this peace.

*They exit.*

〔Scene 4〕

*Enter Menenius and Sicinius.*

FTLN 3635  
FTLN 3636  
FTLN 3637  
FTLN 3638  
FTLN 3639  
FTLN 3640  
FTLN 3641  
FTLN 3642  
FTLN 3643  
FTLN 3644  
FTLN 3645  
FTLN 3646  
FTLN 3647  
FTLN 3648  
FTLN 3649  
FTLN 3650  
FTLN 3651  
FTLN 3652  
FTLN 3653  
FTLN 3654  
FTLN 3655  
FTLN 3656  
FTLN 3657  
FTLN 3658  
FTLN 3659  
FTLN 3660  
FTLN 3661  
FTLN 3662

MENENIUS See you yond coign o' th' Capitol, yond  
cornerstone?

SICINIUS Why, what of that?

MENENIUS If it be possible for you to displace it with  
your little finger, there is some hope the ladies of  
Rome, especially his mother, may prevail with  
him. But I say there is no hope in 't. Our throats  
are sentenced and stay upon execution.

5

SICINIUS Is 't possible that so short a time can alter the  
condition of a man?

10

MENENIUS There is differency between a grub and a  
butterfly, yet your butterfly was a grub. This Martius  
is grown from man to dragon. He has wings;  
he's more than a creeping thing.

SICINIUS He loved his mother dearly.

15

MENENIUS So did he me; and he no more remembers  
his mother now than an eight-year-old horse. The  
tartness of his face sours ripe grapes. When he  
walks, he moves like an engine, and the ground  
shrinks before his treading. He is able to pierce a  
corslet with his eye, talks like a knell, and his hum  
is a battery. He sits in his state as a thing made for  
Alexander. What he bids be done is finished with  
his bidding. He wants nothing of a god but eternity  
and a heaven to throne in.

20

25

SICINIUS Yes, mercy, if you report him truly.

MENENIUS I paint him in the character. Mark what  
mercy his mother shall bring from him. There is



FTLN 3690 MENENIUS This is good news.  
 FTLN 3691 I will go meet the ladies. This Volumnia  
 FTLN 3692 Is worth of consuls, senators, patricians  
 FTLN 3693 A city full; of tribunes such as you  
 FTLN 3694 A sea and land full. You have prayed well today. 60  
 FTLN 3695 This morning for ten thousand of your throats  
 FTLN 3696 I'd not have given a doit. Hark, how they joy!  
*Sound still with the shouts.*

FTLN 3697 SICINIUS, [to Second Messenger] First, the gods bless  
 FTLN 3698 you for your tidings; next, accept my thankfulness.  
 [SECOND] MESSENGER  
 FTLN 3699 Sir, we have all great cause to give great thanks. 65  
 FTLN 3700 SICINIUS They are near the city?  
 FTLN 3701 [SECOND] MESSENGER Almost at point to enter.  
 FTLN 3702 SICINIUS We'll meet them, and help the joy.  
*They exit.*

## [Scene 5]

*Enter two Senators, with Ladies [Volumnia, Virgilia,  
 Valeria] passing over the stage, with other Lords.*

SENATOR  
 FTLN 3703 Behold our patroness, the life of Rome!  
 FTLN 3704 Call all your tribes together, praise the gods,  
 FTLN 3705 And make triumphant fires. Strew flowers before  
 FTLN 3706 them,  
 FTLN 3707 Unshout the noise that banished Martius, 5  
 FTLN 3708 Repeal him with the welcome of his mother.  
 FTLN 3709 Cry "Welcome, ladies, welcome!"  
 FTLN 3710 ALL Welcome, ladies, welcome!  
*A flourish with drums and trumpets.*  
*[They exit.]*

## [Scene 6]

*Enter Tullus Aufidius, with Attendants.*

AUFIDIUS

FTLN 3711 Go tell the lords o' th' city I am here.  
 FTLN 3712 Deliver them this paper. [He gives them a paper.]  
 FTLN 3713 Having read it,  
 FTLN 3714 Bid them repair to th' marketplace, where I,  
 FTLN 3715 Even in theirs and in the commons' ears, 5  
 FTLN 3716 Will vouch the truth of it. Him I accuse  
 FTLN 3717 The city ports by this hath entered and  
 FTLN 3718 Intends t' appear before the people, hoping  
 FTLN 3719 To purge himself with words. Dispatch.

[The Attendants exit.]

*Enter three or four Conspirators of Aufidius's faction.*

FTLN 3720 Most welcome! 10

FIRST CONSPIRATOR

FTLN 3721 How is it with our general?

FTLN 3722 AUFIDIUS Even so  
 FTLN 3723 As with a man by his own alms empoisoned  
 FTLN 3724 And with his charity slain.

FTLN 3725 SECOND CONSPIRATOR Most noble sir, 15  
 FTLN 3726 If you do hold the same intent wherein  
 FTLN 3727 You wished us parties, we'll deliver you  
 FTLN 3728 Of your great danger.

FTLN 3729 AUFIDIUS Sir, I cannot tell.  
 FTLN 3730 We must proceed as we do find the people. 20

THIRD CONSPIRATOR

FTLN 3731 The people will remain uncertain whilst  
 FTLN 3732 'Twixt you there's difference, but the fall of either  
 FTLN 3733 Makes the survivor heir of all.

FTLN 3734 AUFIDIUS I know it,  
 FTLN 3735 And my pretext to strike at him admits 25  
 FTLN 3736 A good construction. I raised him, and I pawned  
 FTLN 3737 Mine honor for his truth, who, being so heightened,



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FTLN 3738	He watered his new plants with dews of flattery,	
FTLN 3739	Seducing so my friends; and to this end,	
FTLN 3740	He bowed his nature, never known before	30
FTLN 3741	But to be rough, unswayable, and free.	
FTLN 3742	THIRD CONSPIRATOR Sir, his stoutness	
FTLN 3743	When he did stand for consul, which he lost	
FTLN 3744	By lack of stooping—	
FTLN 3745	AUFIDIUS That I would have spoke of.	35
FTLN 3746	Being banished for 't, he came unto my hearth,	
FTLN 3747	Presented to my knife his throat. I took him,	
FTLN 3748	Made him joint servant with me, gave him way	
FTLN 3749	In all his own desires; nay, let him choose	
FTLN 3750	Out of my files, his projects to accomplish,	40
FTLN 3751	My best and freshest men; served his designments	
FTLN 3752	In mine own person; help to reap the fame	
FTLN 3753	Which he did end all his; and took some pride	
FTLN 3754	To do myself this wrong; till at the last	
FTLN 3755	I seemed his follower, not partner; and	45
FTLN 3756	He waged me with his countenance as if	
FTLN 3757	I had been mercenary.	
FTLN 3758	FIRST CONSPIRATOR So he did, my lord.	
FTLN 3759	The army marvelled at it, and, in the last,	
FTLN 3760	When he had carried Rome and that we looked	50
FTLN 3761	For no less spoil than glory—	
FTLN 3762	AUFIDIUS There was it	
FTLN 3763	For which my sinews shall be stretched upon him.	
FTLN 3764	At a few drops of women's rheum, which are	
FTLN 3765	As cheap as lies, he sold the blood and labor	55
FTLN 3766	Of our great action. Therefore shall he die,	
FTLN 3767	And I'll renew me in his fall. But hark!	

*Drums and trumpets sounds, with great shouts  
of the people.*

FTLN 3768	FIRST CONSPIRATOR Your native town you entered like a post
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FTLN 3769	And had no welcomes home, but he returns	
FTLN 3770	Splitting the air with noise.	60
FTLN 3771	SECOND CONSPIRATOR And patient fools,	
FTLN 3772	Whose children he hath slain, their base throats tear	
FTLN 3773	With giving him glory.	
FTLN 3774	THIRD CONSPIRATOR Therefore at your vantage,	
FTLN 3775	Ere he express himself or move the people	65
FTLN 3776	With what he would say, let him feel your sword,	
FTLN 3777	Which we will second. When he lies along,	
FTLN 3778	After your way his tale pronounced shall bury	
FTLN 3779	His reasons with his body.	
FTLN 3780	AUFIDIUS Say no more.	70

*Enter the Lords of the city.*

FTLN 3781	Here come the lords.	
	ALL LORDS	
FTLN 3782	You are most welcome home.	
FTLN 3783	AUFIDIUS I have not deserved it.	
FTLN 3784	But, worthy lords, have you with heed perused	
FTLN 3785	What I have written to you?	75
FTLN 3786	ALL <sup>1</sup> LORDS <sup>1</sup> We have.	
FTLN 3787	FIRST LORD And grieve to hear 't.	
FTLN 3788	What faults he made before the last, I think	
FTLN 3789	Might have found easy fines, but there to end	
FTLN 3790	Where he was to begin and give away	80
FTLN 3791	The benefit of our levies, answering us	
FTLN 3792	With our own charge, making a treaty where	
FTLN 3793	There was a yielding—this admits no excuse.	

*Enter Coriolanus marching with Drum and Colors, the  
Commoners being with him.*

FTLN 3794	AUFIDIUS He approaches. You shall hear him.	
	CORIOLANUS	
FTLN 3795	Hail, lords! I am returned your soldier,	85
FTLN 3796	No more infected with my country's love	

FTLN 3797	Than when I parted hence, but still subsisting	
FTLN 3798	Under your great command. You are to know	
FTLN 3799	That prosperously I have attempted, and	
FTLN 3800	With bloody passage led your wars even to	90
FTLN 3801	The gates of Rome. Our spoils we have brought	
FTLN 3802	home	
FTLN 3803	Doth more than counterpoise a full third part	
FTLN 3804	The charges of the action. We have made peace	
FTLN 3805	With no less honor to the Antiates	95
FTLN 3806	Than shame to th' Romans, and we here deliver,	
FTLN 3807	Subscribed by' th' Consuls and patricians,	
FTLN 3808	Together with the seal o' th' Senate, what	
FTLN 3809	We have compounded on.	
	<i>「He offers the lords a paper.」</i>	
FTLN 3810	AUFIDIUS Read it not, noble lords,	100
FTLN 3811	But tell the traitor in the highest degree	
FTLN 3812	He hath abused your powers.	
FTLN 3813	CORIOLANUS “Traitor”? How now?	
FTLN 3814	AUFIDIUS Ay, traitor, Martius.	
FTLN 3815	CORIOLANUS Martius?	105
	AUFIDIUS	
FTLN 3816	Ay, Martius, Caius Martius. Dost thou think	
FTLN 3817	I'll grace thee with that robbery, thy stol'n name	
FTLN 3818	Coriolanus, in Corioles?	
FTLN 3819	You lords and heads o' th' state, perfidiously	
FTLN 3820	He has betrayed your business and given up	110
FTLN 3821	For certain drops of salt your city Rome—	
FTLN 3822	I say your city—to his wife and mother,	
FTLN 3823	Breaking his oath and resolution like	
FTLN 3824	A twist of rotten silk, never admitting	
FTLN 3825	Counsel o' th' war, but at his nurse's tears	115
FTLN 3826	He whined and roared away your victory,	
FTLN 3827	That pages blushed at him and men of heart	
FTLN 3828	Looked wond'ring each at 「other.」	
FTLN 3829	CORIOLANUS	Hear'st thou, Mars?

FTLN 3830	AUFIDIUS	Name not the god, thou boy of tears.	120
FTLN 3831	CORIOLANUS	Ha?	
FTLN 3832	AUFIDIUS	No more.	
	CORIOLANUS		
FTLN 3833		Measureless liar, thou hast made my heart	
FTLN 3834		Too great for what contains it. "Boy"? O slave!—	
FTLN 3835		Pardon me, lords, 'tis the first time that ever	125
FTLN 3836		I was forced to scold. Your judgments, my grave	
FTLN 3837		lords,	
FTLN 3838		Must give this cur the lie; and his own notion—	
FTLN 3839		Who wears my stripes impressed upon him, that	
FTLN 3840		Must bear my beating to his grave—shall join	130
FTLN 3841		To thrust the lie unto him.	
FTLN 3842	FIRST LORD	Peace, both, and hear me speak.	
	CORIOLANUS		
FTLN 3843		Cut me to pieces, Volsces. Men and lads,	
FTLN 3844		Stain all your edges on me. "Boy"? False hound!	
FTLN 3845		If you have writ your annals true, 'tis there	135
FTLN 3846		That like an eagle in a dovecote, I	
FTLN 3847		「Fluttered」 <sup>1</sup> your Volscians in Corioles,	
FTLN 3848		Alone I did it. "Boy"!	
FTLN 3849	AUFIDIUS	Why, noble lords,	
FTLN 3850		Will you be put in mind of his blind fortune,	140
FTLN 3851		Which was your shame, by this unholy braggart,	
FTLN 3852		'Fore your own eyes and ears?	
FTLN 3853	ALL CONSPIRATORS	Let him die for 't.	
FTLN 3854	ALL PEOPLE	Tear him to pieces! Do it presently! He	
FTLN 3855		killed my son! My daughter! He killed my cousin	145
FTLN 3856		Marcus! He killed my father!	
FTLN 3857	SECOND LORD	Peace, ho! No outrage! Peace!	
FTLN 3858		The man is noble, and his fame folds in	
FTLN 3859		This orb o' th' Earth. His last offenses to us	
FTLN 3860		Shall have judicious hearing. Stand, Aufidius,	150
FTLN 3861		And trouble not the peace.	

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FTLN 3862	CORIOLANUS, <i>「drawing his sword」</i>	O, that I had him,	
FTLN 3863		With six Aufidiuses, or more, his tribe,	
FTLN 3864		To use my lawful sword.	
FTLN 3865	AUFIDIUS	Insolent villain!	155
FTLN 3866	ALL CONSPIRATORS	Kill, kill, kill, kill, kill him!	
		<i>Draw the Conspirators, and kills Martius, who falls.</i>	
		<i>Aufidius stands on him.</i>	
FTLN 3867	LORDS	Hold, hold, hold, hold!	
	AUFIDIUS		
FTLN 3868		My noble masters, hear me speak.	
FTLN 3869	FIRST LORD	O Tullus!	
	SECOND LORD		
FTLN 3870		Thou hast done a deed whereat valor will weep.	160
	THIRD LORD		
FTLN 3871		Tread not upon him.—Masters, all be quiet.—	
FTLN 3872		Put up your swords.	
	AUFIDIUS		
FTLN 3873		My lords, when you shall know—as in this rage,	
FTLN 3874		Provoked by him, you cannot—the great danger	
FTLN 3875		Which this man’s life did owe you, you’ll rejoice	165
FTLN 3876		That he is thus cut off. Please it your Honors	
FTLN 3877		To call me to your senate, I’ll deliver	
FTLN 3878		Myself your loyal servant or endure	
FTLN 3879		Your heaviest censure.	
FTLN 3880	FIRST LORD	Bear from hence his body,	170
FTLN 3881		And mourn you for him. Let him be regarded	
FTLN 3882		As the most noble corse that ever herald	
FTLN 3883		Did follow to his urn.	
FTLN 3884	SECOND LORD	His own impatience	
FTLN 3885		Takes from Aufidius a great part of blame.	175
FTLN 3886		Let’s make the best of it.	
FTLN 3887	AUFIDIUS	My rage is gone,	
FTLN 3888		And I am struck with sorrow.—Take him up.	
FTLN 3889		Help, three o’ th’ chiefest soldiers; I’ll be one.—	
FTLN 3890		Beat thou the drum that it speak mournfully.—	180

FTLN 3891  
FTLN 3892  
FTLN 3893  
FTLN 3894  
FTLN 3895

Trail your steel pikes. Though in this city he  
Hath widowed and unchilded many a one,  
Which to this hour bewail the injury,  
Yet he shall have a noble memory.  
Assist.

185

*They exit bearing the body of Martius.  
A dead march sounded.*

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