

## SCENE 2

The Inn  
Later that day

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*The Captain and some sailors are in.*

*(ARAGONA enters, cloaked, and looks round. She is followed moments later by a HOODED FIGURE. ARAGONA sees the Captain and goes to his table)*

**CAPTAIN**

Signora! Aragona, are you alone?

**ARAGONA**

Yes, I thought Salai would be here, Captain.

**CAPTAIN**

No. I haven't seen him today. Marco! Has Salai been in?

**MARCO**

No Captain. Not that I know of.

**ARAGONA**

Oh well. I'll just have to go to Leonardo's studio. If you *should* see him will you tell him that I couldn't wait, my husband is returning unexpectedly this weekend and I have much to do. He'll understand.

**CAPTAIN**

Of course I will Signora... please take care.

*(ARAGONA squeezes the Captain's hand)*

**ARAGONA**

You are so kind Captain.

**CAPTAIN**

You're father was always kind to me Aragona...

*(ARAGONA leaves. The HOODED FIGURE follows)*

## SCENE 2A

Street 2 - Outside Inn (Front of Stage)  
Continuous

Bastiano confronts Aragona.

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*(ARAGONA enters, followed by HOODED FIGURE)*  
*(ARAGONA becomes aware that she is followed)*

**ARAGONA**

Who's there?

*(The HOODED FIGURE reveals his face. It is BASTIANO.)*

**ARAGONA**

*(Horrorified)*

Bastiano!! Why have you come back?

*(Backing away)*

What do you want of me...? Just leave me alone! You shouldn't be in the city anyway!

*(BASTIANO goes toward Aragona as he speaks)*

**BASTIANO**

All I want now is revenge. Revenge for five years rotting in the hole that is the Bargello, forgotten by my so-called friends, and then cast out of my own city... and all because of you, Aragona Farnese.

**ARAGONA**

Your memory plays tricks Bastiano, you brought it all on yourself. It was just reward for your evil ways.

*(BASTIANO angrily grabs Aragona by the arms)*

**BASTIANO**

Evil am I? Well I won't disappoint you. Revenge is what I want and revenge is what I shall have. I know all about your sordid little affair with that pathetic lapdog of Leonardo's.

**ARAGONA**

You lie!

**BASTIANO**

You're not denying it then?

**ARAGONA**

*(Flustered)*

No... Yes! Of course I deny it. I'm merely his patron..

**BASTIANO**

*(Amused)*

Ha! That's an interesting word for it. Well, we'll see what your husband thinks when he returns... at the weekend you said?

**ARAGONA**

*(With bravado)*

Do you really think Ludovico will believe you, Bastiano. You, a disgraced criminal.

*(ARAGONA breaks away)*

He'll kill you!

#18 EMPTY WORDS

*Aragona/ Bastiano*

[PLAY MUSIC](#)

**ARAGONA**

*(Shocked)*

No! You can't...

**BASTIANO**

Protest as much as you like Aragona, but with Totto Machiavelli as my witness, I think your husband might just have to believe me. No one in Florence messes with *that* family.

**ARAGONA**

Machiavelli! But...

*(ARAGONA looks unbelievably at Bastiano then turns and runs away distraught.*

*BASTIANO shouts after her)*

**BASTIANO**

*(Victorious)*

There's no escape Signora. You will suffer just as I did - for the rest of your life!

*(To himself)*

No, no escape.... Now, where's that fool Machiavelli, He'd better keep an eye on her.

*(BASTIANO exits)*