

# Play: The Second Maiden's Tragedy Author: Middleton?

Text used: The Revels Plays, Manchester UP ed. Anne Lancashire 1978

Library ref: 822.39 S445J1 1/1

Key:	enter from within ↘	↙ enter from without
	exit inwards ↖	↗ Exit outwards

<i>act/sc</i>	<i>door IN</i>	<i>Entering characters</i>	<i>door OUT</i>	<i>Space-time indication</i>	<i>Commentary and notes</i>
I.i	↘	Tyrant Nobles Memphonius Sophonirus Helvetius Govianus Memphonius Sophonirus Memphonius Lady  Lady Govianus Memphonius  Helvetius Tyrant	↗ ↗ ↙  ↗ ↗ ↙  ↗ ↗	TYR. Let her be sent for. (26)  TYR. Why mourns the kingdom's mistress? Does she come To meet advancement in a funeral garment? (115-6)  TYR. Confine thee to thy house nearest our court, And place a guard about thee. (206-7) GOV. Confine me? Here's my liberty in mine arms. (209) TYR. ...to vex his soul give command straight They be divided into several rooms, Where he may only have a sight of her, To his mind's torment, but his arms and lips Locked up like felons from her. (232-6)...Give order with all speed. (239)	Court scene from inwards.  Goes outwards to get H's daughter. Ditto. Memphonius comes back with the Lady.  After various proposals the Tyrant decides the best punishment is for Govianus and the Lady to be confined together, with no touching allowed. Helvetius exits outwards to implement Tyrant's orders; Tyrant returns inwards.
I.ii	↘ ↗ ↗ ↘ ↗ ↘ ↗ ↙	Anselmus Votarius  Wife Wife Anselmus Wife Votarius Leonella Wife  Bellarius	↙      ↗ ↙ ↙ ↙	ANS. Prithoe set to her, And bring my peace along with me. ... be worth thy word, then. (38-9, 68-9)  ANS. Yonder she comes. I'll have an ear to you both. (70) WIFE. He's not so good as a lord ought to be; Pray tell him so from me, sir. (110-11) ANS. I'll have an absence made purposely for thee And presently take horse... For a small time, farewell, then. (148-9, 153) WIFE. 'Has took his horse, but left his leave untaken...Did ever lord Depart so rudely from his lady's presence? (168, 169-70) VOT. Face, fare thee well. (257-8) WIFE. Where's my woman? (262) WIFE. I charge thee, while thou liv'st with me, henceforward Use not an hour's absence from my sight. (287-90) BEL. Leonella? LEON. Come forth, and show yourself a	They enter mid-conversation from outwards, about to set up the meeting with A's wife. Minimal congestion at outwards door: shift to other plot. Wife from inwards, Anselmus retires to observe. Wife tells Votarius of her marital woes; she then leaves.  He goes inwards to leave the household (see below).  Wife speaks of having seen her husband depart without proper leave-taking.  Votarius leaves the house. She calls Leonella from within. She goes back within.  Bellarius now arrives.

	↗	Leonella Bellarius		gentleman (294-5) LEON. You shall walk boldly, sir, And openly in view through every room About the house; and let the proudest meet thee, I charge thee give no way to 'em. (303-6)	They go inwards together as Bellarius is 'set up' in the house.
II.i	↘	Lady Servant		LADY. My father? Pray make haste; he waits too long. Entreat him hither. (3- 4)	From inwards, about to meet visitor. This creates a 2 on 2 congestion at inwards door, but shift to other plot justifies marked congestion pattern.
		Servant Helvetius	↗ ↘	LADY. Some mild news, I hope, Comes with my father. (10-11)	Visitor arrives.
	↘	Govianus		GOV. Up, ancient sinner; thou 'rt but mocked with death. (113)	From within the house.
	↗	Helvetius Govianus Lady		GOV. I ha' lost an enemy and have found a father. (176)	They go inwards, the king's plans duped by the new-found alliance.
II.ii		Votarius	↘		Votarius now returns to his wooing.
	↘	Wife			Wife comes outwards.
	↘	Leonella Anselmus	↘	WIFE. Most welcome, sir. (46)	From inwards.
	↗	Wife Anselmus		WIFE. I'm glad you're changed so well, sir. (76)	They go inwards, husband and wife.
	↗	Leonella Bellarius		VOT. Ha, what's he? Life, 'tis Bellarius, my rank enemy! ...stealing through the house With a whoremaster's pace—I like it not. (97-8, 101-2)	She follows her mistress. Bellarius enters, 'passing over the stage'.
	↗	Bellarius			He most probably loops around the stage and exits back inwards.
	↘	Anselmus Anselmus		ANS. We miss you, sir, within. (119) ANS. I'll fetch you from aloft! (139)	They hear a noise in the gallery, and Anselmus dashes up to catch Bellarius.
	↘	Anselmus			
	↗	Anselmus Anselmus Leonella		ANS. Run, Votarius, To the back-gate; the guilty slave leaped out And scaped me so. (151-3)	Having exited the gallery, he now reappears with Leonella from inwards, and directs Votarius to the other side of the house.
	↗	Votarius Anselmus Leonella	↗	ANS. ...get thee to thy chamber! (173)	She goes inwards.
II.iii	↘	Tyrant Sophonirus Memphonius Nobles Helvetius	↘	TYR. I must not miss her; I want her sight too long. (3-4)...Helvetius! Where is he? (7)	Minimal congestion at inwards door marked by double rhyming couplet and flourish. A shift to other plot.
		Guard Helvetius	↘ ↗	TYR. Here comes the kingdom's father. (9)	Helvetius from outwards with news.
		Guard Helvetius	↘ ↗	TYR. No? Our guard within, there! (94)	Guard called in.
		Guard Nobles	↘ ↗	TYR. Bear that old fellow to our castle prisoner. (95)	Helvetius taken out to prison.
	↗	Tyrant Memphonius Sophonirus	↗ ↗	TYR. Beset the house Of Govianus round. (116-17)	Nobles go out to do as instructed, Tyrant retires.
III.i	↘	Govianus		SERV. An old lord come from the	

	<p>Lady</p> <p>Servant</p> <p>Servant ↗</p> <p>Servant ↘</p> <p>Servant ↗</p> <p>Sophonirus ↘</p> <p>Servant ↘</p> <p>Servant ↗</p> <p>Servant ↘</p> <p>Servant ↗</p> <p>Fellows ↘</p> <p>Fellows ↗</p> <p>Sophonirus ↘</p> <p>Govianus ↗</p> <p>Lady ↗</p>	<p>court. (2)</p> <p>GOV. Go, know it truly, sir. (6)</p> <p>GOV. What says he now? (12)</p> <p>GOV. Let him be tried. (18)</p> <p>GOV. I see he dares. (23)</p> <p>SOPH. The house is round beset with armed men That know their time, when to break in and seize on her. (42-3)</p> <p>GOV. Within, there! (45)</p> <p>GOV. Look out, and tell me what thou seest. (46)</p> <p>SERV. Out of all parts a' th' house, I may see fellows Gathered in companies...(55-6)</p> <p>GOV. Prithee find other business. (60)</p> <p>FELL. Heart, farewell he, then! (187-8)</p> <p>GOV. Thou'rt cold enough To lie entombed now by my father's side. Without offence in kindred there I'll place thee With one I loved the dearest next to thee. (251-3)</p>	<p>Exits to bring Soph in. Sophonirus now appears.</p> <p>Re-enters in response to Govianus' call. Servant returns outwards to investigate... And returns with the news.</p> <p>Servant is dismissed. They break in. They return outwards.</p> <p>He exits out with the body to bury it.</p>
IV.i	<p>↘ Votarius</p> <p>Wife ↗</p> <p>↘ Votarius</p> <p>Leonella ↗</p> <p>↗ Wife</p> <p>Bellarius ↘</p> <p>↗ Leonella</p> <p>Bellarius ↘</p>	<p>WIFE. Go thy ways. (64)</p> <p>LEO. Madam, my lord entreats your company. (65)</p> <p>WIFE. Thanks, my good wench. (137)</p> <p>BELL. What, art alone? (139)</p> <p>LEO. Bribe me but with a kiss, it shall be so. (166)</p>	<p>They enter from inwards, involved in intimate conversation. Votarius leaves. With a message from within.</p> <p>Goes in to husband. Arrives from outwards. They go in. Minimal congestion with next entrance at inwards door.</p>
IV.ii	<p>↘ Tyrant</p> <p>Nobles ↘</p> <p>Memphoniuss ↗</p> <p>Memphoniuss ↗</p> <p>Soldiers ↘</p> <p>4 Soldier ↗</p> <p>1 Soldier ↗</p> <p>2, 3 Soldiers ↗</p> <p>1 Soldier ↘</p> <p>2, 3 Soldiers ↘</p> <p>↗ Tyrant</p> <p>↗ Soldiers 1-3</p> <p>First soldier remains</p>	<p><i>Enter Tyrant wondrous discontentedly,</i></p> <p><i>Nobles afar off.</i></p> <p>TYR. Where is that fellow brought the first report to us?</p> <p>MEM. He waits without.</p> <p>TYR. I charge thee, give command That he be executed speedily. (10-13)</p> <p>TYR. Within, there! (37)</p> <p>TYR. Go, give order That Govianus be released. (38-9)</p> <p>TYR. Run, sir, you; Bring me the keys of the cathedral straight. (41)</p> <p>TYR. Provide you, sirs, close lanthorns and a pickaxe. Away, be speedy! (45-6)</p> <p>1 SOL. Here be the keys, my lord. (54)</p> <p>TYR. I thank thy speed. (55)</p> <p>TYR. Follow me, And wealth shall follow you. (56)</p> <p>1 SOL. Wealth! By this light, We go to rob a church. (57)</p> <p>MEM. What should he make in the cathedral now, The hour so deep in</p>	<p>Tyrant enters at inwards door, his mood as foreseen by 1 FEL at III.i.223-5. Nobles at a distance from him. cf. 'farther door' below at IV.iii. The Fellow who at III.i. 223-5 foresaw the Tyrant's wrath when news of the Lady's death was delivered is about to find his prognostication fulfilled. Soldiers come in.</p> <p>Goes outwards to do Tyrant's bidding. Ditto.</p> <p>Ditto.</p> <p>Returns with keys. Return with provisions. Exits inwards, for no apparent reason except to provide a BX soon. They follow.</p> <p>choric interlude which serves to create fictional time-lapseand</p>

	onstage as linking chorus NOT Memphonius as editor suggests.		night? (63-4) MEM. Noble Helvetius, all the lords agree By some close policy shortly to set free. (70-1)	change of location.
IV.iii	<p>↘ Lady Tyrant Soldiers 1-3 ↙</p> <p>Tyrant 2, 3 Soldiers Lady (body) ↗</p> <p>1 Soldier ↗</p>		<p><i>Enter the Tyrant again at a farther door, which opened, brings them to the tomb where the Lady lies buried. The tomb here discovered, richly set forth.</i></p> <p>TYR. Bear her before us gently to our palace. Place you the stone again where first we found it. (127-8)</p>	<p>This stage direction is an important indicator of a lateral viewpoint on the stage: the playwright conceives the stage-space from the side rather than from the front (De Witt's position).</p> <p>They return outwards, a staggered exit specified (1 SOL must first replace the stone cover of the tomb).</p> <p>Staggered exit creates minimal congestion...</p>
IV.iv	<p>Govianus Page ↙</p> <p>Page ↗</p> <p>↘ Lady</p> <p>↖ Lady Govianus ↗</p>		<p>GOV. Already mine eye melts... Temple of honour, I salute thee early, The time that my griefs rise... Be ready, boy; give me the strain again. (4-5, 10)</p> <p>GOV. Prithee withdraw a little, and attend me. At cloister door. (35-6)</p> <p><i>On a sudden, in a kind of noise like a wind, the doors clattering, the tombstone flies open, and a great light appears in the midst of the tomb; his Lady, as went out, standing just before him all in white, stuck with jewels, and a great crucifix on her breast.</i></p> <p>LADY. Farewell, true lord. (80)</p> <p>GOV. Her body I will place in her first rest, Or in th' attempt lock death into my breast. (89-90)</p>	<p>...marked also by possible offstage singing of the page, who is instructed to sing again.</p> <p>He exits outwards to wait.</p> <p>Spectacular theatrical effect at inwards door; lighting effect in the tiring house (cf. <i>Romeo and Juliet</i> V.iii.125-7)?</p> <p>Returns within.</p> <p>Exits outwards to deal with Tyrant and the Lady's body. Minimal congestion with next entrance (marked: other plot).</p>
V.i	<p>Votarius Anselmus ↙</p> <p>Votarius ↗</p> <p>↘ G ↙ G ↘ G ↙ G ↖ G ↘ G</p> <p>Bellarius</p> <p>Bellarius</p>		<p>VOT. You shall stand here, my lord, unseen, and hear all... Lock yourself, sir, Into that closet, and be sure none see you. (1, 9-10)</p> <p>VOT. Though I shoot wide, I'll cozen him of the game. (17)</p> <p>LEO. Dost thou see thine enemy walk? (18)</p> <p>LEO. Yet I'll down now I think on't. (29)</p> <p>WIFE. Is all set ready, wench?... Pray watch the door, and suffer none to trouble us. (38, 68)</p> <p><i>Enter Votarius to the door within.</i></p> <p>LEO. Back! Y'are too forward, sir. There's no coming for you. (84)</p> <p>BELL. O deadly poison after a sweet</p>	<p>We assume Anselmus enters the concealment space upstage centre (which signifies the 'closet'. Alternatively a more concrete signifier for a lockable closet might be the inwards door. In such a case some of the entrances below would need to switch to outwards door (not a logistical or logical problem).o</p> <p>He exits to prepare for the trick.</p> <p>They enter above to observe.</p> <p>She exits the gallery.</p> <p>Leonella returns from inwards with Wife, and is sent to watch the door.</p> <p>Leonella guarding the door against Votarius' intrusion.</p> <p>Bellarius must leave the gallery at some point.</p> <p>He comes onto the stage to</p>

		<p>Govianus ↙          Servants ↗          Servants ↗          Anselmus ↗          Bellarius ↗          Leonella ↗          Wife ↗          Votarius ↗          Govianus ↗</p>	<p>banquet! What make I here? I had forgot my heart. (114-5)          GOV. Where should he be? (144)          GOV. Go, bear those bodies to a place more comely. (188-9)          GOV. Tyrant, I'll run thee on a dangerous shelf, Though I be forced to fly this land myself. (201-2)</p>	<p>intervene.          Govianus enters in search of his brother Votarius.          Exit outwards.          Rhyming couplet marks end of this plot strand.</p>
V.ii	<p>↘ Tyrant          ↗ Attendants          ↘ Attendant          ↘ Soldiers          ↘ Lady (prop)          ↘ 3 Soldier          ↘ Govianus          ↘ Soldiers          ↘ Attendants          ↘ Lady          ↗ Lady          ↘ Nobles          ↘ Memphonius          ↘ Helvetius          ↘ Lady          ↗ Lady          ↗ Lady (prop)          ↗ Govianus          ↗ Helvetius          ↗ Memphonius          ↗ Nobles          ↗ Tyrant</p>	<p>TYR. Go bring her forth, As we have caused her body to be decked In all the glorious riches of our palace. (7-9)  <i>They bring the body in a chair...</i>          2 SOL. He's come, my lord. (48)          TYR. Depart, then. (48)  <i>Enter the ghost in the same form as the Lady is dressed in the chair. (151)</i>          LADY. My truest love, Live ever honoured here, and blessed above. (164-5)          TYR. My lords, treason! (167)          MEM. Here comes another; we'll have his hand too. (173)  <i>The Spirit enters again and stays to go out with the body, as it were attending it.</i>          GOV. Let her be solemnly borne Unto the house of peace from whence she came As queen of silence. (202-4)          GOV. I would those ladies that fill honour's rooms Might all be borne so honest to their tombs. (211-12)</p>	<p>Tyrant in his palace.          They go inwards to bring out the Lady's body.          Statue of Lady carried on.          Govianus now arrives from outwards, having been summoned as make-up artist.          Others exit.          Lady's spirit enters from inwards, as body has done.          She returns inwards (overlay with tomb?)          Nobles now arrive from outwards.          Helvetius too arrives to join in the overthrow of the Tyrant.          Spirit returns from inwards...          ...and accompanies the body out to burial.          All exit outwards.</p>	