

Women on Top
Scene 2

33

Soon after the stage is empty, enter Blepyrus SL. He is wearing a yellow petticoat and ornate, female bedroom slippers. He is in pain.

Malcolm Hill
2012 mj335

1 $\text{♩} = 56$ BLEPYRUS

B Blep

$\text{♩} = 56$

mf

7

B Blep

Ev ry-thing has gone: no cloak no shoes no

*throwaway
afterthought*

12

B Blep

wife. Ev - ry - thing has gone,

18

B Blep

ev - ry - thing has gone.

24 **Più mosso** ♩=56

B Blep

Ev - ry thing, and I des-pa-rate-ly need_____ to poo.

Più mosso ♩=56

29

B Blep

It's still night, no-one's look-ing one place is as good as a - no - ther.

34

B Blep

No shoes_____ no_ cloak_____

cresc.

40 *rubat* *a tempo* Blep squats on bench mid-SL

B Blep

ev - ry - thing_____ has. gone._____

47 $\text{♩} = 88$ *Enter Tryg SR* 35

T Tryg

Who have we here? Is it my neighbour Blepyrus?

$\text{♩} = 88$

f *mf*

54 *Slower*

T Tryg

By Pal-las! The man him-self! Why do you look so yellow?

B Blep

Slower

It's my

61

T Tryg

I ne-ver had you as a cross-

B Blep

wife's pet-ti-coat.

67 *Slower*

T Tryg

dress-er! and where's your cloak?

B Blep

No i-dea, and I search'd the whole

73

T Tryg

B Blep

Why— did-n't you ask— your—

bed- room.

77

T Tryg

B Blep

wife— where she'd put it?

Be- cause she was - n't a- ny where— to be

81

B Blep

seen: I've no i - dea where she's gone; I some -

85

T Tryg

B Blep

Crumbs, — we are both —

times wish I'd ne - ver mar - ried.

89 37

T Tryg 8 in the same boat: _____ my cloak has _____ dis-ap pear'd _____

93

T Tryg 8 too, so _____ have my shoes, and my wife

sim. to Blep
p 3

97

T Tryg 8 Per - haps she's gone to

B Blep 3 I bet Prax - a-go-ra's out _____ do - ing no good.

104

T Tryg 8 friends for _____ break-fast. I want-ed to go to th'Ass-em-bly, but I

B Blep p Pro-ba-bly.

slower a tempo

slower a tempo

38

109

T Tryg

8

can't with-out my cloak.

B Blep

Like-wise, but first I must get rid of this pear stuck

116

B Blep

in my pipes. Please could you call my doc-tor; but is there a bet-ter one to get?

122

B Blep

I know, call A-the-nian Health Di-rect; Oh no, we vo-ted it closed to

130

T Tryg

8

Tryg puts his hands over his ears and exits SL

B Blep

save cash. Oh!

cresc.

Q Crem

B Blep

I des - p'rate-ly need to ex - pel this blast - ed_ pear!



Q Crem

$\text{♩} = 66$

Greet - ings, my friend. You seem to be_ in la - bour.

$\text{♩} = 66$



Q Crem

Blep sighs

Wear-ing Prax-a-go-ra's clothes now?

B Blep

Not a - ny more.



B Blep

$\text{♩} = 66$

They were the on ly things I could lay my hands_ on. What have you been do -

Blep stands



162

Q Crem

Just come back from th'Ass - em-bly. Yup.

B Blep

- ing Chre- mes? O-ver al - rea- dy?

169

Q Crem

No, I ar - riv'd just too

B Blep

But it's on ly just day-break. Were you in time for the at - ten-dance fee?

175

Q Crem

late; the Ass - em-bly was al rea- dy full of pale faced shoe-ma- kers.

B Blep

So if I go there_

182 ♩=70 41

Q Crem Nope. — They de

B Blep will I get no-thing? Bo-ther. What hap-pen'd?

189 *pù mosso*

Q Crem ba - ted_ "How best_ to save the sink - ing of_ the_ state" — led by a

197

Q Crem fair and come-ly youth, who held that the on - ly course of safe - ty_ was that

204

Q Crem wo - men take the_ reins of state. —

212

Q Crem

There were shouts of ap- plause from all the pale faced fac - tion, —

218

Q Crem

— who were col-lect - ed in the front, while those of us at the back

225

Q Crem

all cried out in dis-a gree - ment. But we were shout-ed

B Blep

So I should hope.

231

Q Crem

down. Then their lead - er heape'd all praise up on all wo-men, while on

238 43

Q Crem *you most foul a - buse. First - ly that you are a vil-lain.*

B Blep *What?—*

244

Q Crem *We'll come to that la - ter. Next he said you are an*

B Blep *Oh! And what a-bout you?—*

250

Q Crem *ar - rant thief. And an in form-er. No, he said the same*

B Blep *Just me? Me?*

*Crem points to
the Audience*

257 $\text{♩} = 70$

Q Crem

of all these men here. The fi - nal part of his

262

Q Crem

speech, which summ'd up all he'd said, was in ef-fect that our wo - men are the

267

Q Crem

sole foun-tain heads of all true wis - dom, first-rate pro fess -

272

Q Crem

ors of po - li - ti - cal e - co - no-my, strict ob - ser-vers of se - cre -

276 *arms up*

Q Crem

cy; _____ For when did wo - men, _____ did wo - men di -

280 **Slower** *arms up*

Q Crem

vulge _____ the my - ste - ries, while with men, - with men state se-crets are al-ways in

Slower

284 **a tempo**

Q Crem

dan - ger. _____ To in-vest the wo men

Aside, to the Audience: *To Crem:*

B Blep

There's some thing in that! What was the fi-nal out come?

a tempo

288 **Meno mosso** *p*

Q Crem

with the pow-ers of gov-ern-ment. With all the chan ges _____ that our ci - ty has so

Meno mosso *p*

p

291 *mf*

Q Crem *of - ten ex - pe - ri - enc'd, this al - one re - mains un - tried.*

B Blep *You mean this bill has been*

294

Q Crem *I do. And all the pow - ers that un til to - day were held by men now are trans ferr'd to wo - men.*

B Blep *passed?*

298

Q Crem *Yes, — and she will al - so*

B Blep *What? My vote — lost — to my — wife? —*

303

Q Crem

man - age all the mo ney___ at home too.

B Blep

But does this mean___ that we no long-er

307

Più mosso *cresc.*

Q Crem

Yes,_____ my friend, now_____ it's our wives' turn.

B Blep

have to work___ from day-break?

Più mosso

313

$\text{♩} = 92$

Crem high fives Blep

Q Crem

And so,_____ from

$\text{♩} = 92$

318

quasi Handelian sea-song

Q Crem

now_ on it's our_____ pri-vi-lege to gos - sip,___groan and

322

Q Crem *sim.*

grum-ble to our heart's con-tent; it's

327

Q Crem

now our pri-vi-lege to gos-sip and groan and grum -

332

Q Crem

- - - ble, to groan and groan and grum - ble

338

Q Crem *(rit)*

to our heart's con-tent, our heart's con-

344

Q Crem *a tempo* *p*

tent. Ev-ry man must yield to the new de-cree;

350

Q Crem

but_____ then_____ there's the old max - im:

355 *f*

Q Crem

"Our most stu - pid de - crees al - ways have_____ a

360

Q Crem

hap - py con - clu - sion".

Lento mp Crem and Blep raise their arms

May the Gods_____ grant_____

Lento mp

366

Q Crem

so in this case too. Now it's

4 arms down $\text{♩} = 92$

372

Q Crem

our,_____ It's our_____

B Blep

It's our_____ pri-vi-lege, from

sim.

378

Q Crem

pri vi-lege, so now—it's our pri-vi-lege to groan—and grum - ble, now it's

B Blep

now—it's our pri-vi-lege to grum - - - - - ble

384

Q Crem

our ——— pri-vi-lege to grum - ble to grum -

B Blep

to gos - - - - - sip to grum - ble and

390

Q Crem

ble to grum-ble and groan. to groan and groan to groan

B Blep

groan ——— it's our pri-vi lege, it's our ——— pri-vi-lege to

396

Q Crem

— and groan — and grum - ble and groan, it's our pri-vi-lege it's our pri-vi-lege

B Blep

groan and groan ——— it's our ——— pri-vi-lege it's now ——— our pri-vi- lege,

403

Q Crem

it's now_____ our pri-vi-lege, now our pri-vi-lege to gos-sip, groan and grum ble, to

B Blep

now,_____ it's now_____ our pri-vi- lege to gos-sip, groan and grum ble, to

409

Q Crem

gos sip, groan and grum-ble to our heart's_____ con tent._____ But now

B Blep

gos sip, groan and grum-ble to our heart's_____ con tent._____

Adagio

p

*Pause to let singers
get their breath back,
plus possible applause*

415

Q Crem

I must get back home to col- lect_ all my be long-ings and bring them to the_ Fo-rum.

Blep gives him an
uncomprehending look

B Blep

*Enter Prax SR, no longer
disguised as a man; she
is dragging Blep's cloak*

421 $\text{♩} = 84$

S. Prax

Q Crem *warmly* *Exit Crem SL*

Fare-well.

$\text{♩} = 84$ *p* *legato*

432 $\text{♩} = 88$ **Allegro** approximate rhythms: don't wait before jumping in

S. Prax *f*

B Blep *f Annoyed:* *3*

What do you care?

Where have you been? I've my

$\text{♩} = 88$ **Allegro** approximate rhythms: don't wait before jumping in

This section is unaccompanied

441

S. Prax

B Blep

What, dress'd like that? In my clothes!?

sta tus to main tain, Pax - a-go-ra. Some-one's sto-len my

447

S. Prax I sup-pose you think it was me.

B Blep cloak. Yes, and you still have-n't told me where you were.

454 *coquettishly*

S. Prax Do you think I've been with my lov - er?

B Blep Lo - ver sin - gu - lar or

458

S. Prax Would-n't you like to know?

B Blep plu - ral? And is that my cloak you're

462

S. Prax *p* Of course, Ble-py-rus. I was called to a friend's *Dumps cloak mp* It was

B Blep drag-ging in the mud? A man friend?

470 *Blep picks up the cloak and puts it on seat*

S. Prax *p* cold. As I am a de - li cate flow - er, I bor-row'd your cloak..But I left you

477

S. Prax cov - er'd up, dear, be - neath the blan-kets.

B Blep *p* And did you take my staff and

482

S. Prax *p* Yes, so I'd be safe walk-ing a-round.

Q Crem *(Offstage throughout, interrupting)*

B Blep *p* shoes too? Through you..._____

Sounding like a telephone cold caller Hel - lo, I'm

488

Q Crem call-ing a-bout your a - ba- cus: your o - pe - ra-ting sys-tem has been co - rup -

492

S. Prax *Prax looks at Blep* *ff* Thrusts arm towards sound Opens palm 90 degrees to the floor
Go a - way!

Q Crem ted; please go to your a - ba - cus now!

B Blep *Blep looks at Prax* *ff* Thrusts arm towards sound Opens palm 90 degrees to the floor
Go a - way!

496

B Blep *mf* Through you I've lost a pint and a half of bar-ley, 'cos I miss'd the Ass-em-bley pay-ment.

502

S. Prax *mf* Think no-thing of it, she's got a whop - ping boy. No,

B Blep Who's got a boy? The Ass-em-bley?

509

S. Prax *p* sil-ly, the wo-man I helped all night long. Was the Ass-em bly go-ing to meet to-

Meno mosso*winking to
the Audience***Tempo primo**

55

515

S. Prax

day? True, I do re-mem-ber now.

B Blep

Yes; why? So you have-n't heard what cra-zy de-cree they've

523

S. Prax

No.

B Blep

passed? It's bloom-ing mar-vel-lous! They're go-ing to make you wo men the

530

S. Prax

What of? Wool-len ma-nu-fac-ture? Which de-part-ment?

B Blep

o-ver-seers. No, the State!

538

S. Prax

Mostly to the Audience:

By Aph-ro-di-te,

B Blep

Ev-ry bloom-ing one with-out ex-cep-tion.

545

S. Prax

our ci - ty will be - come real - ly pros-per-ous.

B Blep

How come?

*getting gradually
more authoritarian*

549

S. Prax *mp*

For ma-ny rea- sons. First, we'll to-le- rate no_ vile_____

p

555

S. Prax *3*

per-ju rers, no vile_____ in - form- ers,_____

B Blep

But these ve - ry trades_____gain me_____ a

561

S. Prax *f* *3* *sf* *mf*

Shush! and lis-ten to your wife. No pet ty

B Blep

live - li- hood.

p *sf* *p*

Mostly to the Audience:
♩=72

567

S. Prax

lar-ce-ny, no en-vi-ous grudg-ing, no rags, want or po-ver-ty, no de fa-ma-tion,

574

S. Prax

no dis-traint for debt.

To the Audience:

B. Blep

Grand pro-mi-ses, if they come to pass!

$\text{♩} = 60$

with happy conviction:

582

S. Prax

rit. I am well a-ware how wise my scheme is, soon the

rit.

587

S. Prax

na-tion to an-cient laws at tached, may dread re-form and in no-va-tion.

592

B Blep

No, if re-form-ing is your aim, right bold-ly may you speak, for no-vel-ty has

597

Slowish

To Blep only:

S. Prax

Let me, I pray, be-speak your si-lence and at

B Blep

charms for us, we hate what-e'er's an-tique.

Slowish

602

S. Prax

ten - tion un - til to each is ma-ni- fest the depth of my in - vent - ion. To

To the Audience:

607

Slightly faster

S. Prax

me, dear friends, and ci-ti-zens, it seems but just and fair, that of this life's good

Slightly faster

612

S. Prax

things you all should have an e - qual share. My fol-low-ers at the Ass

59

616

S. Prax

em - bly and Jus - tice do pro - claim that all things be in

620

S. Prax

com - mon and our style of life the

Più mosso

622

S. Prax

same. Stop your mouth with dung!

B Blep

How? Shall dung, then, be com - mon too?

Più mosso

626 **ff** **rall** **mp** **A tempo** **f** $\text{♩} = 104$

S. Prax No, you fool, but Peace. Stop in-ter-rup-ting! Of

B Blep *Blep goes to speak*

632

S. Prax all the goods and pro-per-ty which e-ve-ry man has got, _____ to - get - her when col

Red. _____

637

S. Prax lect - ed, I would make one com-mon lot. _____ From that fund_ we the wo - men

642

S. Prax will, like pro - vi-dent trus - tees. _____ ap - por-tion out_ to each e nough for com-fort and for

647 **a little slower**

S. Prax

ease._____ When each may have for ask - ing, clothes, wine and food, thus_____

a little slower

652 **Slow**

S. Prax

to de-fraud the com-mon fund would do___ no earth - ly good._____

B Blep

But just sup-pose some

Slow

657

B Blep

bux - om lass a man___ should chance e - spy, will the ge - ne - ral

661

S. Prax

'Gainst this con-tin-gence,

B Blep

purse sup-ply a sum_ with which her charms to buy?_____

665

S. Prax

as is fit, the law doth now provide: the hand-some and the ug - ly shall be

670

S. Prax

seat-ed side by side; who - ev - er to the pret - ty wench would fain pay his ad-dress

675

S. Prax

- es must first on the ill - fa - voured one be - stow some kind ca - res - ses. Con

680

S. Prax

verse - ly, if a fris - ky maid a woo - ing wish to go, she on the old and

685 ♩=88 63

S. Prax *ug - ly first her fa - vours must be - stow.*

B Blep *This sounds ghash - ly.*

690

S. Prax *mf* *We've got slaves for that.*

B Blep *mf p mf* *How will the soil get tilled? How will the soil get tilled? How will we get new*

695

S. Prax *mf* *The wo-men will weave new ones for you, but on-ly af-ter yours are*

B Blep *p* *clothes? How will we get new clothes? How will we get new*

S. Prax *p* worn out; but on - ly af - ter yours are worn out. *mf* The same for

B Blep *mf* clothes? What will be our mode of life? *p* What will

S. Prax ev - ry - one: think of the ci - ty as one great

B Blep be our mode of life? What will be our mode of life? What will

S. Prax one great dwell - ing - house.

B Blep be our mode of life? What will be our mode of life? *f* How

716

S. Prax *mf*
Why_ would_ they_ steal if we

B Blep *p*
will you deal with rob-bers? How will you deal_ with

721

S. Prax
all_ share ev - ry thing?_

B Blep *p* *pp* *mf*
rob-bers? with rob-bers? with rob-bers? Will our_homes be

726

S. Prax *mf*
As_ long_ as you sleep at home_ not with a whore;

B Blep
safe at night? Will our_homes be safe at night? So will our

731

p *mf*

S. Prax not with a whore, not with a whore. As long as you sleep at home

B Blep homes be safe? Will our homes be safe at

Meno mosso

$\text{♩} = 80$

736

S. Prax not with a whore.

Blep looks totally horrified as it dawns on him

B Blep night? And she must be an old woman

Meno mosso
 $\text{♩} = 80$

741

S. Prax That's it in one! The council of-fices and

B Blep first? Where will I eat?

mp

745

S. Prax

courts of law are to be-come free res - tau-rants. But now, —

f

not spread

747

S. Prax

— in vir - tue of my Of - fice, I must go to the Fo - rum

749

S. Prax

to re-ceive all the goods and cof - fers own'd by ev - ry ci - ti-zen, to

mf

751

S. Prax

swell the pub - lic fund. I'll or - der a shrill-voic'd he - rald - ess

753

S. Prax

to make this de- cree known to all. La-ter to

Prax starts to exit SR

Offstage:

B Blep

Pathetically *mp*

When will my meal be rea- dy?—

p

756

S. Prax

day.

Blep collects cloak, drops it and starts to go after her.

He stops, approaches the Audience and sings to them:

B Blep

Now I'll on - ly be known as "The

758

B Blep

Hus - band of our La - dy Pre - si - dent"._

Blep exits SR