

NARRATOR 3

And he began to tell her.

Scene 7 (MYRRHA) Vertumnus, Pomona,
Aphrodite, Narrator 3, Myrrha, Cinyras, Nursemaid

VERTUMNUS

Part One: The Mistake.

There was a girl like you named Myrrha, and she too ignored Aphrodite. She wouldn't fall in love. There were suitors everywhere, but she was blind to them. Finally, Aphrodite had had enough, and seized her with a passion.

*APHRODITE literally seizes MYRRHA; the flowers
fall into the pool and scatter.*

POMONA

So?

VERTUMNUS

It was a passion for her father.

POMONA

That isn't true.

VERTUMNUS

It is.

APHRODITE

(in MYRRHA'S ear)

You can shut yourself in a room, bolt the door, but love will come through the window. Draw the curtains, lock the casement, but love will seep through the walls. Never think, never think that you can be safe from love.

NARRATOR 3

She struggled hard against her passion.

MYRRHA'S
MONOLOGUE

MYRRHA

O gods, I pray you, keep off this wickedness, make me a daughter to my parents. Even to think what I am thinking is a crime-- or is it a crime? Who would condemn such love as crime? The animals, I've seen, will do as they desire. A ram goes to the ewe that he has sired; and birds will make a nest with those the nest once held. How happy they are to be so free! But we have laws. Yet there are countries, I have heard, with no such laws, where in the dark, the bonds of love, already strong, might be made perfect. Why do I keep thinking of such things? Leave me alone! He is the

(MORE)

MYRRHA (cont'd)

best of men-- the best of fathers. If I were not his daughter then I might lie with Cinyras but I am his daughter. You have been virtuous in body, Myrrha; now be so in mind.

She struggles free of Aphrodite and crouches in a corner of the pool.

CINYRAS

Myrrha?

MYRRHA

Father?

CINYRAS

Why are you crying?

MYRRHA

It's nothing. Nothing.

CINYRAS

Why should a girl like you be sad? There are suitors at our door every day, yet you keep refusing them, and weeping in the corners of the house. Is there someone special you are hiding?

MYRRHA

No.

CINYRAS

What are you waiting for?

MYRRHA

Nothing.

CINYRAS

None of them pleases you?

MYRRHA

No.

CINYRAS

What sort of husband would you like?

MYRRHA

One like you.

CINYRAS

May you always be such a good, sweet girl.