

# Fake It 'Til You Make It?

*a comparative analysis of Shakespeare's 'Taming of the Shrew' and the film 'Just Go With It'*

Both the play "The Taming of the Shrew" and the film "Just Go With It" include the themes of honesty and deception surrounding love. In the play, a very determined Hortensio devises a plan to make Bianca want him. He disguises himself as a school teacher in an attempt to get closer to her. In the film, Daniel creates a made-up family to make him more appealing to Palmer, a school teacher with a love for children. Instead of just being their true genuine selves and trying to appeal to their crushes in natural ways, both Hortensio and Daniel use deception to gain adoration. **These two texts reflect the ongoing belief that men are pessimistic when it comes to love. Because of their preconceived ideas about romance, they use lying as the quickest and most dependable way to get what they want from women.**

In the movie, Daniel figures out a sneaky way to get laid without any strings being attached. He wore his old wedding ring into bars while looking sad and drinking alone. This made women feel enough pity for him to want to want to sleep with him, but without wanting to try and get involved in a relationship since he was clearly still dealing with the pain of his last one. When his trick didn't work on one woman, in particular (Palmer), he invented even stronger lies to try to win her over.

In the play, Hortensio had his friend Petruchio help him dress up as a schoolmaster so that Bianca's father, a very wealthy, powerful, well-known, and protective man, would hire him to give her private music lessons. He intended to appeal to her through the art of music, and court her by spending a lot of time with her in his 'sober robes'

Daniel wearing his old wedding ring is like Hortensio dressing up as a teacher. He was using a disguise as a way to get what he wanted romantically. Next, Daniel took Hortensio's disguise strategy to even further lengths when the ring trick didn't work on her. He told Palmer that he was married and had children. Palmer wasn't convinced and said that she wouldn't continue to date him until she met his family, and he proved that he was telling the truth.

---

**HORTENSIO (Act 1, Scene 2, Page 5, Line 105)**  
**Now shall my friend Petruchio do me grace,**  
**And offer me disguised in sober robes**  
**To old Baptista as a schoolmaster**

**Well seen in music, to instruct Bianca,  
That so I may, by this device at least,  
Have leave and leisure to make love to her  
And, unsuspected, court her by herself.**

Both Hortensio and Daniel needed the help of friend to try to recreate themselves into an image that would be appealing to their lovers. Bianca, a lover of music, would be led to believe that Hortensio was a music teacher. Palmer, a lover of children, would be convinced that Daniel had two of his own and was an amazing father.



In this scene from “Just Go With It,” Daniel (right) is explaining the plan to Katherine (right).

---

**LUCENTIO (as CAMBIO) (Act 1, Scene 2, Page 6, Line 125)**

**Whate'er I read to her, I'll plead for you  
As for my patron, stand you so assured,  
As firmly as yourself were still in place,  
Yea, and perhaps with more successful words  
Than you, unless you were a scholar, sir.**

This quote is Lucentio, Hortensio's friend, promising to make him look good in front of his dream woman, Bianca. Lucentio wanted to help Hortensio maintain a good representation seeing as Hortensio wasn't a “scholar.” In ‘Just Go With It,’ Daniel

trusted his best friend, Katherine, to make him look good to Palmer by pretending to be his ex-wife. He also pretended that her children were theirs in an attempt to woo Palmer with his 'fathering skills.'



This scene shows Daniel with Katherine and her two children while they are headed to meet up with Palmer. The camera work created anticipation and made their entrance very dramatic.

---

**HORTENSIO (Act 4, Scene 2, Page 2, Line 30)**  
**See how they kiss and court! Signior Lucentio,**  
**Here is my hand, and here I firmly vow**  
**Never to woo her more, but do forswear her**  
**As one unworthy all the former favors**  
**That I have fondly flattered her withal.**

Unlike Daniel, Hortensio realized pretty quickly that he was wasting his time with Bianca. He noticed a bond between Bianca and Lucentio and decided to move on. Daniel took a while to realize that he was wasting his time with Palmer, and that his heart truly belonged with Katherine. He, like Hortensio, decided to move on for what was best for himself. They both lied until they no longer had their same original goal. Their actions accurately portrayed the stereotypes surrounding love: that men will do crazy things to get what they want from a woman, and then stop once they have

enough.



In this scene is, Daniel and Katherine finally admit their true feelings for one another. They finally kiss after a long time of wanting to.

---

### **In conclusion...**

What do these portrayals show us about society's attitudes towards courtship/dating? 'The Taming of the Shrew' and 'Just Go With It' share a lot of similarities. Shakespeare's play, which dates back to the early 1590's, incorporates the same timeless belief as the 2011 romantic comedy: men are pessimist when it comes to love. The men of these two texts both used deception because of the rationales set by society. From the 1500's to present time, society's attitudes toward dating have created an image of an honest and perfect relationship as impossible. Daniel and Hortensio

chose to lie because it seemed like the only option for their romantic goals to work out. Because of their preconceived ideas about romance, they used lying as the quickest and most dependable way to get what they wanted from women.