


(c)ii Bianca – the perfect woman? Statements

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The Taming of the Shrew:

(c)ii Bianca – the perfect woman? Statements

A	Bianca's name (meaning 'white') represents her absolute purity of character.	
B	Bianca's transformation, from dutiful daughter to flirt, eloper, and defier of her husband, is not less dramatic than Katherina's character development.	
C	Bianca's modest, demure behaviour at the start of the play is clearly a ploy to manipulate the men around her – she in fact has control over her suitors, and to an extent, her father too.	
D	Shakespeare uses Bianca to expose the myth of the perfect, chaste, obedient, woman.	
E	Feminist critics tend to focus on the negative presentation and treatment of Katherina, perhaps neglecting the even worse portrayal of deceitful and flirtatious Bianca.	
F	The audience has no qualms about Bianca's secret relationship with Lucentio – it is a traditional comic device, and Baptista has no real reason to object.	
G	Bianca is a less developed and interesting character than Katherina. Her role is more to highlight the transformation in the character of Katherina, by undertaking an opposite character development.	
H	Shakespeare's presentation of Bianca as outwardly compliant to her father, but secretly desirous of choosing her own marriage partner, reveals Shakespeare's sympathy with the constraints of a patriarchal society.	
I	Bianca's character acts as a warning to male suitors – pretty young ladies may not be as chaste as they seem.	