



Syro

From *The Mandrake Root*

By Niccolo Machiavelli

Age Range: Adult, Young Adult

Style: Comedic, Classical

Monologue:

“If every rich guy was this stupid, I'd be running the show in no time! I mean, holy crap! What a dope! I could tell him anything! Absolutely anything! Have him running him around in circles! Do this, Calfucci! All the "it" people are doing it! Wear this! Buy that! Go there! I'd have him twisted like a pretzel! Not like Callimaco. Can't pull much over on him. My "master!" Hah! He's not one of them. Not really. He's ... more like me. A co-conspirator. He wants to blow things up! Torpedo the ark! Start all over! He has no respect for Calfucci. None. He's leading him toward a cliff. A steep one, if you ask me. Something to do with his wife. That'll be quite a fall. Not that I feel sorry for the old goat. I mean, I'd love to watch him lose everything. He doesn't deserve a wife like that. Just because he's got a lot of money. It pisses me off. What are us poor motherfuckers supposed to do? We get to choose from all the nasty girls? And what do you think happens if Callimaco gets caught? He won't go down for it. Not him! He's a respected member of society! It'll be me! That's right! I'll do the time! Fortunately, he's a pro. He knows what he's doing. Ligurio too. They won't get busted. Still, I'd like to know what their plan is. It makes me nervous. Impersonating a doctor. I mean, if that's the first step ... what's next?”

Play Synopsis:

Niccolo Machiavelli wrote his comedic play *The Mandrake Root* in about 1518. The play is set in Florence, Italy, during the author's own time, and presents a scandalous yet often hilarious tale in which Machiavelli explores the corruption of human nature and the willingness of many to do just about anything to achieve their desired ends—even if they know it to be wrong. The play's title alludes to the characters' trickery, as the mandrake root is traditionally associated with sexuality and fertility.

Read the Play Here:

<https://ia600501.us.archive.org/12/items/niccolo-machiavelli-mandragola-mandrake-root/Machiavelli%2C%20Niccolo%20-%20MANDRAGOLA%20%5BMUSA%5D.pdf>