

Lysistrata by Aristophanes¹

[The action of the play takes place in a street in Athens, with the citadel on the Acropolis in the back, its doors facing the audience]

Lysistrata

If they'd called a Bacchic celebration
or some festival for Pan or Colias
or for Genetyllis, you'd not be able
to move around through all the kettle drums.
But as it is, there are no women here.

[Calonice enters, coming to meet Lysistrata]

Ah, here's my neighbour—at least she's come.
Hello, Calonice.

Calonice

Hello, Lysistrata.

What's bothering you, child? Don't look so annoyed.
It doesn't suit you. Your eyes get wrinkled.

Lysistrata

My heart's on fire, Calonice—I'm so angry
at married women, at us, because,
although men say we're devious characters . . .

Calonice *[interrupting]*

Because, by god, we are!

Lysistrata *[continuing]*

. . . when I call them all

to meet here to discuss some serious business,
they just stay in bed and don't show up.

Calonice

Ah, my dear, they'll come. It's not so easy
for wives to get away. We've got to fuss
about our husbands, wake up the servants,
calm and wash the babies, then give them food.

Lysistrata

Liam

[The action of the play takes place in the modern walls of P.A.D. Phi Alpha Delta Law Fraternity, International]

Liam

Man, if they'd be late in bitches balls deep
or be it presumptuous and half-dead passed out on the
side of the road
for I swear they see that their balls shall be not the only
thing to be hairless.

[Cal enters, coming to meet Liam]

Liam

Finally, my brother— at least he's cum.
Where the fuck were you, dude?

Cal

Hello to you too.

What's up your butt? Don't look so annoyed. It doesn't
suit you. Your eyes get wrinkled.

Liam

Literally, my heart's on fire, Cal— I'm so angry
at these women, at us, because,
although these bitches say we're pussy whipped . . .

Cal *[interrupting]*

Ahaha because, by Koby, we are!

Liam *[continuing]*

. . . when I blow up the chat,

like I mean serious business, they just stay in bed and
don't show up.

Cal

Bro, bro, bro, they'll come. Half of them aren't even
sober after last night. And you know, the gains hit the
different in the morning.

Liam

¹ Aristophanes. *Lysistrata*. New York: Dover, 1994.

But there are other things they need to do—
more important issues.

Calonice

My dear Lysistrata,
why have you asked the women to meet here?
What's going on? Is it something big?

Lysistrata

It's huge.

Calonice

And hard as well?

Lysistrata

Yes, by god, really hard.

Calonice

Then why aren't we all here?

Lysistrata

I don't mean that!
If that were it, they'd all be charging here so
fast.
No. It's something I've been playing with—
wrestling with for many sleepless nights.

Calonice

If you've been working it like that, by now
it must have shrivelled up.

Lysistrata

Yes, so shrivelled up
that the salvation of the whole of Greece
is now in women's hands.

Calonice

In women's hands?
Then it won't be long before we done for.

Lysistrata

It's up to us to run the state's affairs—
the Spartans would no longer be around.

But there are other things they need to do—
more important issues.

Cal

Bro,
Why have you asked the boys to here? What's going
on? Is it something big?

Liam

It's fucking huge.

Cal

And hard as well?

Liam

Fuckkk, by Koby, really hard.

Cal

Then why aren't we all here?

Liam

I don't mean that!
If that were it, they'd all be charging here so fast.
No. It's something I've been playing with—
wrestling with for many sleepless nights.

Cal

If you've been working it like that, by now
it must have shrivelled up.

Liam

Yes, so shrivelled up
that the salvation of the whole of mankind
is now in female hands.

Cal

In women's hands?
Then it won't be long before we done for.

Liam

It's up to us to run campus affairs— fuck the chicks,
would no longer be calling the shots.

Calonice

If they weren't there, by god, not anymore,
that would be good news.

Lysistrata

And then if all Boeotians
were totally destroyed!

Calonice

Not all of them—
you'd have to save the eels.

Lysistrata

As for Athens,
I won't say anything as bad as that.
You can imagine what I'd say. But now,
if only all the women would come here
from Sparta and Boeotia, join up with us,
if we worked together, we'd save Greece.

Calonice

But what sensible or splendid act
could women do? We sit around playing
with our cosmetics, wearing golden clothes,
posing in Cimmerian silks and slippers.

Lysistrata

Those are the very things which I assume
will save us—short dresses, perfumes, slippers,
make up, and clothing men can see through.

Calonice

How's that going to work?

Lysistrata

No man living
will lift his spear against another man . . . [50]

Calonice *[interrupting]*

By the two goddesses, I must take my dress
and dye it yellow

Cal

If they weren't there, by Lebron, not anymore,
that would be good news.

Liam

No more feminists!

Cal

Not all of them—
Anna from History 312 has a fatty.

Liam

As for the sororities,
I won't say anything as bad as that.
You can imagine what I'd say. But now,
if only all the frats would come here, join up
with us, if we worked together, we'd save
America.

Cal

But bro, how the fuck can we do that? We're
busy with finals and workouts and you know
how important hazing is.

Liam

Nah, you don't even have to worry, we'll have
even more time for our parties

Cal

How's that going to work?

Liam

No man living
will think about my body my choice...

Cal *[interrupting]*

By Rogan, I must shave

Lysistrata *[continuing]*
... or pick up a shield ...

Calonice *[interrupting again]*
I'll have to wear my very best silk dress.

Lysistrata *[continuing]*
... or pull out his sword.

Calonice
I need to get some shoes.

Lysistrata
O these women, they should be here by now!

Calonice
Yes, by god! They should have sprouted wings
and come here hours ago.

Lysistrata
They're true Athenians,
you'll see—everything they should be doing
they postpone till later. But no one's come
from Salamis or those towns on the coast.

Calonice *[with an obscene gesture]*
I know those women—they were up early
on their boats riding the mizzen mast.

Lysistrata
I'd have bet
those women from Acharnia would come
and get here first. But they've not shown up.

Calonice
Well, Theogenes' wife will be here.
I saw her hoisting sail to come. Hey, look!
Here's a group of women coming for you.
And there's another one, as well. Hello!
Hello there! Where they from?

[Various women start arriving from all directions]

Liam *[continuing]*
... or leave their hair ...

Cal *[interrupting again]*
I'll have to get a haircut.

Liam *[continuing]*
... or eat all our food they didn't order.

Cal
I need to get some shoes.

Liam
O these men, they should be here by now!

Cal
Yes, by Drake! They should have sprouted
wings
and come here hours ago.

Liam
They're true Alpha men,
you'll see—everything they should be doing
they postpone till later.

Cal *[with an obscene gesture]*
I know those men—they were up early
on their grind with their grind.

Liam
I'd have bet
those men from last night would come
and get here first. But they've not shown up.

Cal
Well, our honorary alumnus will be here.
I saw his snap story ubering over. Hey, look!
Here's a group of them coming for you.
And there's another one, as well. Ey!
What the hell, where'd they come from?

[Various men start arriving from all directions]

Yes, by the two gods,
I could pull that off. I do exercise
and work out to keep my butt well toned.
Calonice [*fondling Lampito's bosom*]
What an amazing pair of breasts you've got!

Lampito

O, you stroke me like I'm a sacrifice.

Lysistrata [*looking at Ismenia*]

And this young woman—where's she from?
[90]

Lampito

By the twin gods, she's an ambassador—
she's from Boeotia.

Myrrhine [*looking down Ismenia's elegant clothes*]

Of course, from Boeotia.

She's got a beautiful lowland region.

Calonice [*peering down Ismenia's dress to see her pubic hair*]

Yes. By god, she keeps that territory
elegantly groomed.

Lysistrata

Who's the other girl?

Lampito

A noble girl, by the two gods, from Corinth.

Calonice [*inspecting the girl's bosom and buttocks*]

A really noble girl, by Zeus—it's clear
she's got good lines right here, back here as
well.

Lampito

All right, who's the one who called the meeting
and brought this bunch of women here?

Ahahah, my guy nothing compares to the mane
you've grown

[*Landon grips Liam's hair*]

Calonice [*fondling Landon's pecks*]

What an amazing pair of breasts you've got!

Landon

O, you stroke me like I'm a sacrifice.

Liam [*looking at Issac*]

And this young woman—where's she from?

Landon

By Thor, he's a Chapter Advisor

Mike [*looking down Issac's elegant clothes*]

Of course,

He's got a beautiful lowland region.

Cal [*peering down Issac's pants to see his pubic hair*]

Yes. By Aristotle, he keeps that territory
elegantly groomed.

Liam

Who's the other guy?

Landon

A noble bro, from Chi Phi.

Cal [*inspecting the guy's arms and buttocks*]

A really noble man, by Zeus—it's clear
he's got good lines right here, back here as well.

Landon

All right, who's the one who called the meeting
and brought this bunch of brothers here?

Lysistrata

I did.

Lampito

Then lay out what it is you want from us.

Myrrhine

Come on, dear lady, tell us what's going on,
what's so important to you.

Lysistrata

In a minute.

Before I say it, I'm going to ask you
one small question.

Calonice

Ask whatever you want.

Lysistrata

Don't you miss the fathers of your children
when they go off to war? I understand [100]
you all have husbands far away from home.

Calonice

My dear, it's five full months my man's been
gone—off in Thrace taking care of Eucrates.

Myrrhine

And mine's been stuck in Pylos seven whole
months.

Lampito

And mine—as soon as he gets home from war
he grabs his shield and buggers off again.

Lysistrata

As for old flames and lovers—they're none left.
And since Milesians went against us,
I've not seen a decent eight-inch dildo.
Yes, it's just leather, but it helps us out. [110]
So would you be willing, if I found a way,

Liam

Suh.

Landon

Then lay out what it is you want from us.

Mike

Come on, my guy, tell us what's up,
what's so important to you.

Liam

Give me a minute.

Before I say it, I'm going to ask you
one small question.

Cal

Ask whatever you want.

Liam

Aren't you sick of hearing whiney women win
unjust money? Taking alimony, child support,
even the child itself.

Cal

We didn't ask for them to give birth.

Mike

It's blackmail.

Landon

My body, my choice and they choose wrong

Liam

Men don't win cases, men don't get anything!
And yet these feminazis think were the privileged
ones!

Myrrhine to work with me to make this fighting end?

By the twin goddesses, yes. Even if
in just one day I had to pawn this dress
and drain my purse

Calonice

Me too—they could slice me up
like a flat fish, then use one half of me
to get a peace.

Lampito

I'd climb up to the top
of Taygetus to get a glimpse of peace.

Lysistrata

All right I'll tell you. No need to keep quiet
about my plan. Now, ladies, if we want [120]
to force the men to have a peace, well then,
we must give up . . .

Myrrhine *[interrupting]*

Give up what? Tell us!

Lysistrata

Then, will you do it?

Myrrhine

Of course, we'll do it,
even if we have to die.

Lysistrata

All right then—
we have to give up all male penises.

[The women react with general consternation]

Why do you turn away? Where are you going?
How come you bite your lips and shake your
heads?
And why so pale? How come you're crying like
that?

Mike

These women are always complaining as if they
did ask for it

Cal

The #metoo more like fuck me too

Landon

These whores are just as
horny as us but call us insaciable. Push comes to
fuck they're practically begging for our cocks.
I'd like to shut these women up.

Liam

All right I'll tell you. No need to keep quiet
about my plan. Now, brothers, if we want
change well then, we must give up . . .

Mike *[interrupting]*

Give up what? Tell us!

Liam

Then, will you do it?

Mike

Of course, we'll do it,
even if we have to die.

Liam

All right then—
we have to give up all female cunts.

[The men react with general consternation]

Why do you turn away? Where are you going?
How come you bite your lips and shake your
heads?
And why so pale? Bro are you crying?

Myrrhine Will you do it or not? What will it be?

Calonice I won't do it. So let the war drag on.

Lysistrata I won't either. The war can keep on going. [130]

Calonice How can you say that, you flatfish? Just now you said they could slice you into halves.

Lysistrata Ask what you like, but not that! If I had to, I'd be willing to walk through fire—sooner than than give up screwing. There's nothing like it, dear Lysistrata.

Myrrhine And what about you?

Lysistrata I'd choose the fire, too.

Lysistrata What a debased race we women are! It's no wonder men write tragedies about us. We're good for nothing but screwing Poseidon in the bathtub. But my Spartan friend, if you were willing, [140] just you and me, we still could pull it off. So help me out.

Lampito By the twin gods, it's hard for women to sleep all by themselves without a throbbing cock. But we must try. We've got to have a peace.

Lysistrata

Mike Will you do it or not? What will it be?

Cal I won't do it. So let the war drag on.

Liam I won't either. They can take our money if why we invented prostitutes.

Cal How can you say that, you pussy? Just now you said they could slice you into halves.

Liam Ask what you like, but not that! If I had to, I'd be willing to walk through fire—sooner than than give up screwing. It's gay not to fuck, my man.

Mike And what about you?

Liam I'd choose the fire, too.

Liam What a debased race we men are! It's no wonder the greeks write tragedies about us. We're good for nothing but screwing a tree. But my brother, if you were willing, just you and me, we still could pull it off. So help me out.

Landon it's hard for women to sleep all by themselves without a throbbing cock, they will buckle under the pressure.

Liam

Calonice O you're a true friend!
The only real woman in this bunch.

Calonice If we really do give up what you say—
I hope it never happens!—would doing that
make peace more likely?

Lysistrata

By the two goddesses,
yes,
much more likely. If we sit around at home
with all our make up on and in those gowns
made of Amorgos silk, naked underneath, [150]
with our crotches neatly plucked, our husbands
will get hard and want to screw. But then,
if we stay away and won't come near them,
they'll make peace soon enough. I'm sure of it.

Lampito Yes, just like they say—when Menelaus
saw Helen's naked tits, he dropped his sword.¹¹

Calonice But my friend, what if our men ignore us?

Lysistrata Well then, in the words of Pherecrates,
you'll find another way to skin the dog.¹²

Calonice But fake penises aren't any use at all.
What if they grab us and haul us by force [160]
into the bedroom.

Lysistrata Just grab the door post.

Calonice And if they beat us?

Lysistrata

Cal O you're a true brother!
The only real man in this bunch.

Cal If we really do give up what you say—
I hope it never happens!—would doing that
make peace more likely?

Liam

By DJ Khalid,
yes,
much more likely. If we walk round topless,
sweaty touching each other instead of them.

Landon Yes, just like they say— were like Hercules a
true alpha male, no woman could resist him.

Cal But dude, what if they ignore us?

Liam Well then, we'll spread the word farther

Cal What about their vibrators?

Liam How can they be satisfied their
still horny after sex.

Liam And if they fuck each other?

Then you must submit—
but do it grudgingly, don't cooperate.
There's no enjoyment for them when they just
force it in. Besides, there are other ways
to make them suffer. They'll soon surrender.
No husband ever had a happy life
if he did not get on well with his wife.

Calonice

Well, if you two think it's good, we do, too.

Lampito

I'm sure we can persuade our men to work
for a just peace in everything, no tricks.
But how'll you convince the Athenian mob?
They're mad for war.

Lysistrata

That's not your worry.

We'll win them over.

Lampito

I don't think so—
not while they have triremes under sail
and that huge treasure stashed away
where your goddess makes her home.

Lysistrata

But that's all been well taken care of.
Today we'll capture the Acropolis.
The old women have been assigned the task.
While we sit here planning all the details,
they'll pretend they're going there to sacrifice
and seize the place.

Lampito

You've got it all worked out.

Then we can do the same, would we be
satisfied with another prick? The lock needs the
key not another lock.

Cal

Well, if you two think it's good, we do, too.

Landon

I'm sure we can persuade other men to work
for a just peace in everything.

Liam

That's not your worry.

We'll win them over.

Landon

I don't think so—
not while they have silicon pricks

Liam

But that's all been well taken care of.
Today we'll make it clear that they're not the
only one able to make an ultimatum. Threaten
our manhood and you get our brotherhood and
tomorrow sororities aren't the only ones with a
pink landline call.

Landon

You've got it all worked out.

Calonice
Then how will we make our oath?

Lysistrata
I'll tell you, by god, if you want to hear.
Put a large dark bowl down on the ground,
then sacrifice a jug of Thasian wine,
and swear we'll never pour in water.

Lampito
Now, if you ask me, that's a super oath!

Lysistrata
Someone get the bowl and a jug of wine.
[The Scythian girl goes back in the house and returns with a bowl and a jug of wine. Calonice takes the bowl]

Calonice
Look, dear ladies, at this splendid bowl. [200]
Just touching this gives instant pleasure.

Lysistrata
Put it down. Now join me and place your hands
on our sacrificial victim.
[The women gather around the bowl and lay their hands on the wine jug. Lysistrata starts the ritual prayer]

O you,
Goddess of Persuasion and the bowl
which we so love, accept this sacrifice,
a women's offering, and be kind to us.
[Lysistrata opens the wine jug and lets the wine pour out into the bowl]

Calonice
Such healthy blood spurts out so beautifully!

Lampito

Cal
Then how will we make our oath?

Liam
Let's all just shot gun a beer.

Landon
Now, if you ask me, that's a super oath!

Liam
Someone get a fuck ton of beers.
[The pledge goes back in the house and returns with two cases]

Cal
Look, my brothers, we drink!

Liam
Speech!
[The men begin to chant]

Speech! Speech!
Speech!
[Liam plunged a hole in his can]

Cal
Make your holes!

Myrrhine By Castor, that's a mighty pleasant smell.
 Ladies, let me be the first to swear the oath.

Calonice No, by Aphrodite, no—not unless
 your lot is drawn.

Lysistrata *[holds up a bowl full of wine]*
 Grab the brim, Lampito,
 you and all the others. Someone repeat [210]
 for all the rest of you the words I say—
 that way you'll pledge your firm allegiance:
 No man, no husband and no lover . . .

Calonice *[taking the oath]*
 No man, no husband and no lover . . .

Lysistrata . . . will get near me with a stiff prick. . . Come
 on . . .
 Say it!

Calonice . . . will get near me with a stiff prick.
 O Lysistrata, my knees are getting weak!

Lysistrata At home I'll live completely without sex . . .

Calonice At home I'll live completely without sex . . .

Lysistrata . . . wearing saffron silks, with lots of make up .
 . .

Calonice . . . wearing saffron silks, with lots of make up .
 . . [220]

Lysistrata . . . to make my man as horny as I can.

Liam *[holds up his beer can]*
 Tonight we become real men of
 Hercules! Repeat after me! No woman, no girl,
 no wet cunt. . .

Cal *[taking the oath]*
 No woman, no girl, no wet cunt. . .

Liam . . . will get near my stiff prick. . . Come on . . .
 Say it!

Cal . . . will get near my stiff prick.
 O Liam, my knees are getting weak!

Liam At home I'll live completely without sex . . .

Cal At home I'll live completely without sex . . .

Liam . . . wearing nothing but our sweaty abs. . .

Cal . . . wearing nothing but our sweaty abs. . .

Liam . . . to make every woman as horny as I can.

Calonice
... to make my man as horny as I can.
Lysistrata
If against my will he takes me by force . . .
Calonice
If against my will he takes me by force . . .
Lysistrata
... I'll be a lousy lay, not move a limb.
Calonice
... I'll be a lousy lay, not move a limb.
Lysistrata
I'll not raise my slippers up towards the roof . . .
Calonice
I'll not raise my slippers up towards the roof . . .
Lysistrata
... nor crouch down like a lioness on all fours.
Calonice
... nor crouch down like a lioness on all fours
Lysistrata
If I do all this, then I may drink this wine.
Calonice
If I do all this, then I may drink this wine.
Lysistrata
If I fail, may this glass fill with water.
Calonice
If I fail, may this glass fill with water.
Lysistrata
Do all you women swear this oath?
All
We do.
Lysistrata
All right. I'll make the offering.
Cal

... to make every woman as horny as I can.
Liam
If theses women refuse to beg. . .
Cal
If theses women refuse to beg . . .
Liam
... I'll forces their pussies to throb.
Cal
... I'll forces their pussies to throb.
Liam
I'll not give them the satisfaction. . .
Cal
I'll not give them the satisfaction . . .
Lysistrata
... nor take it from the back.
Calonice
... nor take it from the back
Liam
If I do all this, then I may drink this beer.
Cal
If I do all this, then I may drink this beer.
Liam
If I fail, I must take it from the back.
Cal
If I fail, I must take it from the back.
Liam
Do all my brothers swear this oath?
All
We do.
Liam
Aight. Take your shots.

[Lysistrata drinks some of the wine in the bowl]

Calonice

Just your share,
my dear, so we all stay firm friends

[Liam opens his beer and begins to chug triggering the rest to follow]

All

Phi Alpha Delta!

Cal

Just your share,
my dude, so we all stay firm friends