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**Portia’s suicide note**

Rationale:

[in this note, multiple reasons are given for Portia’s suicide to show the complexity of her thoughts and the toughness of the character. The reasons include: 1. Portia felt guilty and wanted to atone for his husband; 2. She thinks that Brutus does not trust her as before.]

[all the settings and past stories are made up by myself.]

It also explains the reason why Portia took such a cruel approach for death, as she said “now I shall burn this heart”

Dearest Brutus,

I am sitting at the stove, writing to you.

To be honest, I do not intend to write this to you. I even want to drop the pen now, yet I can’t. I can’t leave you without letting you know the reason and make you think me so cruel to leave you alone.

So I shall suppress my grief, and keep writing.

I love you Brutus, so deeply that I shall die bravely for you. Since we got married, I have been wishing that everyone in the world could be as happy as we were and love whoever they love, yet you, Brutus, killed the one they loved deepest. I know the only thing I can do right now is to atone for you. I do have selfish motives though: I should do that before changing my affection for you because of the great mistake you made.

Please don’t feel sorry for me.

Do you still remember that night before our marriage? You told me that you may not accompany me all the time, and I understood that you, as one of the most honorable men in Rome, were busy running everything, so what did I say to you? Whenever you are ready for an expedition, inform me, as I shall go with you.

But now I am still here at the stove, the very place we sat together so often ten years ago, side by side and hand in hand, whispering in one another’s ears. Was there anything that we could not talk about together? Or any feeling that we shall not pour out and share with each other?

Looking back now, the only remaining is a bleeding heart.

So now I shall burn this heart, the one that used to be so fully devoted to you and Rome, with my everlasting faith and love.

Now that you don’t trust me anymore, I shall turn to death instead.

After that, my spirit shall be with you whenever and wherever you are.

Fare thee well

Portia

**Brutus’ deeper reflections (soliloquy)**

Calm down, Brutus, calm down.

You are the leader.

You have huge decisions to make ahead.

YOU are the one who decides the success or failure of the entire Roman empire.

…

Still, she has left me alone to face all these challenges ahead.

Of course, I love so deeply Rome and its people and Caesar.

Of course, I bear so hard in mind every single word of our promises.

But which one should I choose? You were clever, and you knew me so well and to you, the answer was so obvious.

I stabbed Caesar all because of the Rome I love. I never told anyone the heartache I suffered every day when Caesar’s last stare keep flashing in front of my eyes whenever and wherever I go, I have never regretted that however, as only my suffering can bring liberty to all. Neither do I regret for not telling you the conspiracy, because otherwise, as I knew you so well, by no means would you remain silent.

I did not tell you those because I loved you, too. I did not want you to suffer what I have been suffering. That is my own affairs, which you, as a woman, shall never bear.

Yet I do regret for not accompanying you, which I will make up to you soon, after the war ceases and the people are safe. I shall follow you to where you are and be by your side forever.