

# Duchess of Malfi

Ernest Benn Limited - The Plot



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-Duchess of Malfi  
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New mermaids  
The new mermaidsDuchess of Malfi  
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## The Duchess of Malfi

In the darkness, the Duchess thinks that Ferdinand is asking for her forgiveness when he reaches out his hand, and so she kisses it; when the lights come on she sees the dead bodies of her husband and children, and believes she just kissed her husband's severed hand. I am arm'd 'gainst misery; Bent to all sways of the oppressor's will: There 's no deep valley but near some great hill. Much you had of land and rent; Your length in clay 's now competent: A long war disturb'd your mind; Here your perfect peace is sign'd.

## The Duchess of Malfi, by John Webster

I 'll instantly to bed, For I am weary. Because you deni'd this suit to me, and gave 't To such a creature.

## The Duchess of Malfi

Let me see: you have a reasonable good face for 't already, and your night-cap expresses your ears sufficient largely. In prison, a furious Ferdinand tricks the Duchess into believing that Antonio and her eldest son are both dead. .

## The Duchess of Malfi by John Webster: Summary, Analysis & Themes

Ferdinand, distracted, leaves him alone with the bodies. O, let me shrowd my blushes in your bosom, Since 'tis the treasury of all my secrets! I am making my will as 'tis fit princes should, In perfect memory , and, I pray, sir, tell me, Were not one better make it smiling, thus, Than in deep groans and terrible ghastly looks, As if the gifts we parted with procur'd That violent distraction? He threatens the Cardinal, who calls for help.

## The Plot

Here are two of you, whose sin of your youth is the very patrimony of the physician; makes him renew his foot-cloth with the spring, and change his high-pric'd courtesan with the fall of the leaf.

## The Duchess of Malfi Summary

You are a good horseman, Antonio; you have excellent riders in France: what do you think of good horsemanship? I have already suffer'd for thee so much pain, The only remedy to do me good Is to kill my longing. In Act Four, Bosola tells Ferdinand that the Duchess is bearing her imprisonment nobly, which angers him. This includes scenes of dark humor, such as when Ferdinand convinces the Duchess that Antonio is dead by giving what he says is Antonio's severed hand, but is actually a wax figure.

### **The Duchess of Malfi**

Forget this base, low fellow—— DUCHESS. He is no stranger to murder himself, however, as he slays his own mistress by making her kiss a poisoned bible.

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