



SYNOPSIS: Duke Vincentia hands over governance of the state to Angela, overlooking the older, more experienced Escala, and without much of a hand over, hurriedly leaves for Poland.

Rather than going to Poland, the Duke asks a friar to disguise her as a Nun. This way she can keep an eye on Vienna, and Angela's governance.

Master Overdone, a brothel owner, bumps into Lucio, informing him that Claudio has been arrested and is to be beheaded for getting his girlfriend, Juliet pregnant. Pompey, a prostitute, joins the street scene with news that all brothels are to be shut down. Pompey and Overdone get arrested.

Lucio visits Claudio in prison. Claudio asks Lucio to go to his brother, Isabello, who is a novice priest, to ask Isabello to go to Angela and plead for his life.

In the courthouse, Pompey and Overdone are told by Escala that they must cease their unlawful trade. Angela tells Escala that Claudio must be executed at 9am the next morning.

Lucio goes to the Priory, telling Isabello his brother's situation and that his only hope is for Isabello to plead to Angela for his life.

In Angela's office, the Provost, requests Angela to consider whether she is being too rash for sentencing Claudio to death. Isabello enters to plead for his brother's life. Angela refuses to save Claudio but, taking a fancy to Isabello asks him to return tomorrow.

The Duke, in disguise as a nun, visits the prison and tells Claudio to resign himself to death.

Isabello revisits Angela, who tells Isabello that she will save Claudio's life, if Isabello has sex with her. Isabello refuses to relinquish his virginity and submit to her demands. Angela tells him that Claudio must therefore die. Isabello threatens to tell the world of Angela's inappropriate proposal and Angela asks, "*who will believe you?*".

Isabello visits Claudio and tells him what has happened. Claudio asks would it really be so bad to have sex with Angela, to save his life. Isabello is appalled, the Duke (still in disguise) intervenes and Claudio is immediately repentant.

The Duke comes up with a plan; she tells Isabello to arrange to meet Angela, in the dark, and the Duke will arrange for Marianus, who was once betrothed to Angela and remains heartbroken, to take Isabello's place.

Pompey and Overdone, who are once again in court, to try and save themselves, revealing that Lucio has had a child out of wedlock. Lucio says that the Duke would not be so strict, since she enjoyed the pleasures of sexual relations with men. The Duke contradicts him, and the two argue.

The Duke asks the Provost to ignore Angela's instructions to execute Claudio, but pretends to Isabello that his brother has, indeed, been executed.

The Duke "returns" as himself to the city and meets Escala and Angela. Isabello arrives and publicly denounces Angela. The Duke mocks him, saying that this cannot be true. The Duke then disappears and reappears as the nun, revealing the truth about Marianus; she then relinquishes her disguise, orders Angela to marry Marianus, sentences Lucio to death, reveals that Claudio is alive and proposes to Isabello. Isabello is silent.

In the second half, the story is repeated with the following characters gender swapped: Angelo, Isabella, Duke Vincentio, Escalus, Mariana and Mistress Overdone.