

Liar

Never Been Kissed and The Taming of The Shrew

In Shakespeare's *The Taming of The Shrew* two men switch identities in order for one of them to gain a wife. Lucentio pretends to be his servant, Tranio, and becomes Bianca's school master in order to become closer to her. In Raja Gosnell's *Never Been Kissed* a journalist named Josie goes undercover as a highschool student for a piece she was supposed to write. After some time pretending to be a highschool student her and her english teacher, Sam, fall in love with each other. Sam struggles with his feelings due to him believing that Josie is one of his students. In both cases, deception is an overarching theme and how people often alter themselves to appeal to someone else.

In both cases, deception in relationships ends up becoming a bigger part of the relationship than intended because in order to keep up with lies more people are required to get involved. As a result, partners become closer once the truth is revealed due to less people being involved in their relationship after an extended time of many extra people being involved.

“You will be schoolmaster. And undertake the teaching of the maid: That's your device.” - Tranio

Act 1, Scene 1. Lines 195-197

This occurs during the beginning of the play, Tranio and Lucentio decide to swap identities so that Lucentio can become Bianca's school master and eventually win her over so that he can marry her. This is already involving more people than Bianca and Lucentio in their relationship. It is involving someone else who has to constantly be on top of everything to make sure that they don't let the truth slip, especially to the wrong person.

There is a similar situation of deception in Never Been Kissed.



In this scene Josie had just gotten her job to pretend to be a highschool student for the article that she was due to write. She is talking to a friend about how she has not yet had her first kiss and is waiting for the right guy. At this point Josie did not know about Sam, unlike how in Shrew Lucentio switched identities in order to get a partner. Josie still knows though that she has to put on an act and pretend to be somebody that she truly isn't. Any relationships that Josie were to form as a "highschool student" were already tainted due to the amount of people that were already involved in the situation. Josie was required to pretend to be someone she was not, she was supposed to "fit in" with the popular kids, but that's not the person she truly is. Josie is not Josie, Josie is Josie playing a highschool student, it was all an act. It's the same as Lucentio in Shrew, even though they both kept some of their main character traits that made them who they are they both were putting on an act in order to gain something.

"I have brought him up ever since he was three years old, and his name is Tranio," -Vincentio

Act 5, Scene 1. Line 82-84

In this scene Vincentio, Lucentio's actual father, tries to reveal that who everyone thinks is Lucentio is actually Tranio. This shows some of the complications that can come from major forms of deception in relationships. When people who don't know the situation get involved it can cause the truth to be revealed prior to when it was intended to. Even though shortly after this Lucentio reveals that him and Tranio had switched identities if Lucentio was not prepared for that to happen yet it could've caused Bianca to question certain aspects of her and Lucentio's relationship.

During a scene in Never Been Kissed, Josie's true identity is revealed, but people have a completely different reaction.

This scene of the movie is at South Glen High School's prom, during prom the popular girls of the school attempt to dump dog food all over Josie. This is when Josie finally reveals that she is in fact not a highschool student, but a journalist who's writing about high school in that day and age. This is when everyone who

was involved in the lie of Josie being a highschool student, and her and Sam being in love are removed from the situation. There are no longer lies being kept from each other. Even though Sam states that he is hurt by Josie's lies and says that he doesn't want anything to do with her anymore all of the unnecessary things and people involved in their relationship are taken out of the equation. Even though Sam does not give Josie the reaction that she expected or hoped for it made their relationship less complicated, it removed the people that weren't actually a part of the relationship from it. Even though when Bianca finds out that Lucentio isn't who he said he was she didn't get mad it still did the same thing, removed the extra people from their relationship, making their relationship far simpler for both of them due to the less amount of people directly involved in it.

“Love wrought these miracles. Bianca’s love made me exchange my state with Tranio.” - Lucentio

Act 5, Scene 1. Lines 127-128

In this scene of Shrew Lucentio finally reveals to everyone that him and Tranio had switched identities so that he could be with Bianca. This removed all of the extra people who were involved in their relationship from the equation. Nobody had any negative responses to this confession from Lucentio, even if there were negative responses it was too late to do anything since Bianca and Lucentio were already married. By Lucentio revealing his true identity Tranio and everyone else who knew about the identity swap were taken away from Lucentio and Bianca's relationship. This made their relationship a lot simpler because they no longer had to worry about hiding who they truly were and they did not have to worry about accidentally exposing themselves.

The weight that is lifted off of both parties shoulders once there are no secrets in a relationship is easily shown in this scene of the movie.

In this scene it is shown that Sam forgives Josie for the deception that occurred in their relationship. He also kisses Josie, making it her first kiss, something that she had been waiting for and had decided she wanted to be special. That shows that she cares enough about Sam to let him be her first kiss. This shows that they have grown closer in their relationship due to the lack of other people being involved in it. Even though Sam was mad at Josie when he first found out that she wasn't actually a high school student he ended up forgiving her. Even though the reasons that he forgave her and got over his anger were not revealed in the film we know that now that the truth is out all of the extra people who were controlling their relationships were removed, leaving them to just have each other and be able to be honest with each other.

The play and the movie both show that in society once deception in a relationship is taken away there is more of a connection between the two people due to all of the extra people that were once involved in the relationship being taken out of the equation. In the play and the movie they both show how once all of the extra people in the relationship are removed it brings the two people closer together, they can trust each other more and in turn let their relationship grow more.

