

WELCOME TO THE AMPHITHEATER

LYSISTRATA

Lysistrata (lizi-TRA-ta) is an anti-war comedy written by Aristophanes. The story takes place during the Peloponnesian War, during which Greek city-states were at war with each other. In the play, the women of Athens, along with women from other city-states, band together to force their husbands to end the war by depriving their husbands of sex.

LYSISTRATA: Don't you feel sad and sorry because the fathers of your children are far away from you with the army? For I'll wager there is not one of you whose husband is not abroad at this moment... Now tell me, if I have discovered a means of ending the war, will you all second me?

MYRRHINÉ: Yes verily, by all the goddesses, I swear I will!

CLEONICÉ: And so will I!

LYSISTRATA: Then I will out with it at last, my mighty secret! Oh! sister women, if we would compel our husbands to make peace, we must refrain...

MYRRHINÉ: Refrain from what? tell us, tell us!

LYSISTRATA: But will you do it?

MYRRHINÉ: We will, we will, even if we would die of it.

LYSISTRATA: We must refrain from the male altogether... *(The women start walking away in response.)*

LYSISTRATA: Nay, why do you turn your backs on me? Where are you going? So, you bite your lips, and shake your heads, eh? Why these pale, sad looks? why these tears? Come, will you do it-yes or no? Do you hesitate?

MYRRHINÉ: I will not do it, let the war go on.

CLEONICÉ: Anything, anything but that! Bid me go through the fire, if you will,-but to rob us of the sweetest thing in all the world, Lysistrata darling!

LYSISTRATA: And you?

MYRRHINÉ: Yes, I agree with the others; I too would sooner go through the fire.

LYSISTRATA: Oh, uncontrollable, vicious sex! The poets have done well to make tragedies about us; we are good for nothing then but love and lewdness! But you, my dear, you from hardy Sparta, if you join me, all may yet be well; help me, second me, I conjure you.

LAMPITO: 'Tis a hard thing, by the two goddesses, it is! For a woman to sleep alone without ever a strong male in her bed. But there, peace must come first.