

“Locked Away”  
By Katy Mulvaney  
Produced by Ben Wermund

Inspired by Shakespeare’s *Merchant of Venice*

**Verse 1 – For Jessica**

They said, for you, Lorenzo was a catch, and you didn’t ask why.

They said a Jewess was a bitch, and you just stood by.

Your father kept you locked away,

Like a princess in a tower,

Until you were ready to settle for a toad.

You spent all your father’s money on a boy who spouted poetry.

Did you know what you were giving up

When you took a monkey for your mother’s ring?

And they laughed to tell you that you were damned anyway?

O Jessica, your father loved you, though strange were his ways.

Do you know now why he tried to keep you locked away?

Do you know now why he tried to keep you locked away?

**Verse 2 – For Portia**

They said that Bassiano was a catch – didn’t ask how they knew.

A poor Venetian boy was enough for you.

Your father locked you up in lead, left you dowered like a queen.

You turned away Spanish nobles and African kings.

Then your chosen boy just left you before he’d even shared your bed.

Did you know what you were risking

When you asked if he would give away your ring?

And they laughed ‘cause they knew: you came to save them anyway.

O, O Portia, your father loved you, though strange were his ways.

Do you know now why he tried to keep you locked away?

Do you know now why he tried to keep you locked away?

**Verse 3 – For Nerissa**

You said, for you, Gratziano was a catch, but you didn't say why.

Your mistress gave her heart away, and you just stood by.

Your father locked her up in lead, and he gave you all the keys.

But you were content just to follow where she'd lead.

When that pretty boy broke her heart

You turned it into just a joke, so only you saw her crying

As she watched him give away her wedding ring.

And you could only laugh since you knew she'd choose him anyway.

O Nerissa, your mistress loved you, though strange were her ways.

Do you wish now you had tried to keep her locked away?

Do you wish now you had tried to keep her locked away?