

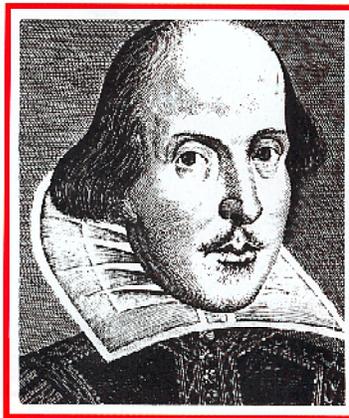
PERUSAL SCRIPT



A Midsummer Night's Dream

by William Shakespeare

Edited by C. Michael Perry



Newport, Maine

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A Midsummer Nights Dream (edited)

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A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM

DRAMATIS PERSONAE 13M 8W + fairies, attendants

HERMIA.	in love with Lysander.
LYSANDER.	in love with Hermia.
DEMETRIUS.	in love with Hermia.
HELENA.	in love with Demetrius.
THESEUS.	Duke of Athens.
HIPPOLYTA.	queen of the Amazons, betrothed to Theseus.
EGEUS.	father of Hermia.
PHILOSTRATE.	master of the revels to Theseus.
ATTENDANTS	to Theseus and Hippolyta.
OBERON.	king of the fairies.
TITANIA.	queen of the fairies.
PUCK.	or Robin Goodfellow.
PEAS-BLOSSOM.	FAIRY.
COBWEB.	FAIRY.
MOTH.	FAIRY.
MUSTARD-SEED.	FAIRY.
Other FAIRIES attending Oberon and Titania.	
NICK BOTTOM.	a weaver.
PETER QUINCE.	a carpenter.
SNUG.	a joiner.
FRANCIS FLUTE.	a bellows-mender.
TOM SNOUT.	a tinker.
ROBIN STARVELING.	a tailor.
PROLOGUE	character in the interlude performed by Quince
PYRAMUS.	character in the interlude performed by Bottom
THISBE.	character in the interlude performed by Flute
WALL.	character in the interlude performed by Snout
MOONSHINE.	character in the interlude performed by Starveling
LION.	character in the interlude performed by Snug.

SYNOPSIS.

1/1 Athens. The palace of Theseus.

THESEUS, HIPPOLYTA, PHILOSTRATE & ATTENDANTS enter; THESEUS tells PHILOSTRATE to arrange for entertainment; PHILOSTRATE exits. EGIUS, HIPPOLYTA, LYSANDER, AND DEMETRIUS enter. EGEUS wants HERMIA to marry DEMETRIUS, but she insists on marrying LYSANDER. THESEUS tells HERMIA that the law dictates she must obey EGEUS or be punished. LYSANDER protests that DEMETRIUS courted, then jilted Helena. All exit, except LYSANDER & HERMIA, who agree to elope. HELENA enters; they confide in her, and exit. HELENA decides to betray them to DEMETRIUS.

1/2 Athens. A room in Quince's house.

QUINCE assigns parts to SNUG, BOTTOM, FLUTE, SNOUT, & STARVELING, in a play, "Pyramus and Thisby", which they hope to act before King Theseus.

2/1 A wood near Athens.

PUCK tells a FAIRY that Oberon wants an Indian boy, a favorite of Titania's. OBERON, TITANIA, & their TRAINS enter; OBERON & TITANIA quarrel; TITANIA & her TRAIN exit. OBERON sends PUCK to find a flower which induces instant love; PUCK exits. DEMETRIUS enters, fleeing HELENA, who follows him; they exit. PUCK enters with the flower which OBERON intends to use on Titania; OBERON orders PUCK to find Demetrius and work the magic on him as well.

2/2 Another part of the wood.

TITANIA & her TRAIN enter; FAIRIES sing TITANIA to sleep, & exit. OBERON enters, anoints TITANIA's eyelids, & exits. LYSANDER & HERMIA enter, speak, and fall asleep. PUCK enters, anoints LYSANDER's eyelids, and exits. DEMETRIUS & HELENA enter; DEMETRIUS exits, but HELENA sees LYSANDER and awakens him. LYSANDER, bewitched, falls in love with HELENA, who thinks he is mocking her; she exits, followed by LYSANDER. HERMIA awakes alone, & exits.

3/1 The wood. TITANIA lying asleep.

QUINCE, SNUG, BOTTOM, FLUTE, SNOUT, & STARVELING rehearse the play. PUCK enters, then exits with BOTTOM; when they enter again, BOTTOM is wearing an ass's head; they others flee, chased by PUCK; SNOUT, then QUINCE, reappear briefly, & exit. BOTTOM sings, waking TITANIA, who promptly adores him. PEAS-BLOSSOM, COBWEB, MOTH, & MUSTARD-SEED enter, and wait upon BOTTOM.

3/2 Another part of the wood.

PUCK tells OBERON of Titania's infatuation. HERMIA & DEMETRIUS enter & squabble; HERMIA exits; DEMETRIUS falls asleep. OBERON scolds PUCK, who exits to find Helena. OBERON anoints DEMETRIUS's eyes; PUCK enters, followed by HELENA & LYSANDER. DEMETRIUS wakes and woos HELENA, who thinks both men are ridiculing her. HERMIA enters; LYSANDER tells her he loves HELENA; HERMIA & HELENA quarrel; LYSANDER & DEMETRIUS exit to fight; HERMIA & HELENA exit separately. OBERON orders PUCK to protect the lovers and to remove the spell on Lysander; OBERON exits. PUCK plays tricks on LYSANDER & DEMETRIUS, who make numerous exits and entrances, chasing each other, until they tire and fall asleep. PUCK removes the spell from LYSANDER's eyes.

4/1 *The wood.* LYSANDER, DEMETRIUS, HELENA, & HERMIA asleep.

TITANIA, BOTTOM, PEAS-BLOSSOM, COBWEB, MOTH, MUSTARD-SEED, FAIRIES, & OBERON enter, unseen; the FAIRIES indulge BOTTOM, then exit. TITANIA & BOTTOM fall asleep. PUCK enters; OBERON tells him that TITANIA has given up the Indian boy; OBERON releases TITANIA from the spell; PUCK removes the ass's head from BOTTOM; OBERON, TITANIA, & PUCK exit. THESEUS, HIPPOLYTA, EGEUS, and TRAIN enter, awakening the confused lovers. DEMETRIUS says he loves HELENA. THESEUS commands that the two couples be married at the same time as himself and HIPPOLYTA. All exit, except BOTTOM, who wakes, speaks, & exits.

4/2 Athens. A room in Quince's house.

QUINCE, FLUTE, SNOOT, & STARVELING are distressed because they cannot put on their play without Bottom. SNUG enters & speaks, followed by BOTTOM, who is welcomed by the others. BOTTOM announces that their play has been chosen as part of the wedding entertainment, and urges them to prepare.

5/1 Athens. An apartment in the palace of Theseus.

THESEUS, HIPPOLYTA, PHILOSTRATE, LORDS, & ATTENDANTS enter; THESEUS & HIPPOLYTA speak; LYSANDER, DEMETRIUS, HERMIA, and HELENA enter. PHILOSTRATE describes the entertainment; THESEUS chooses to see "Pyramus & Thisby"; PHILOSTRATE exits, returning with QUINCE, SNUG, BOTTOM, FLUTE, SNOOT, & STARVELING, in character for the play. The play is performed; the audience comments; a dance follows; all exit. PUCK enters & speaks; OBERON, TITANIA and their TRAIN enter, speak, dance, & exit; PUCK speaks, & exits.

* when this symbol shows in the text, there has been an edit made.

A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM

ACT I.

SCENE I. [Athens. The palace of Theseus. Enter THESEUS, HIPPOLYTA, PHILOSTRATE, and ATTENDANTS.]

THESEUS.

Now, fair Hippolyta, our nuptial hour 1/1/1
Draws on apace; four happy days bring in
Another moon: but, *

HIPPOLYTA.

Four days will quickly steep themselves in night;
Four nights will quickly dream away the time;
And then the moon, like to a silver bow
New-bent in heaven, shall behold the night 1/1/10
Of our solemnities.

THESEUS.

Go, Philostrate,
Stir up the Athenian youth to merriments;
Awake the pert and nimble spirit of mirth:*

[Exit PHILOSTRATE.]

Hippolyta, I woo'd thee with my sword,
And won thy love, doing thee injuries;
But I will wed thee in another key,
With pomp, with triumph, and with revelling.

[Enter EGEUS and his daughter HERMIA, LYSANDER, and DEMETRIUS.]

EGEUS.

Happy be Theseus, our renowned duke! 1/1/20

THESEUS.

Thanks, good Egeus: what's the news with thee?

EGEUS.

Full of vexation come I, with complaint
Against my child, my daughter Hermia.
Stand forth, Demetrius. My noble lord,
This man hath my consent to marry her.
Stand forth, Lysander: and, my gracious duke,
This hath bewitch'd the bosom of my child: -*
And stol'n the impression of her fantasy
With bracelets of thy hair, rings, gauds, conceits,

Knacks, trifles, nosegays, sweetmeats,-*
With cunning hast thou filch'd my daughter's heart;
Turn'd her obedience, which is due to me,
To stubborn harshness:- *

1/1/40

I beg the ancient privilege of Athens,-
As she is mine, I may dispose of her:
Which shall be either to this gentleman
Or to her death, according to our law.*

THESEUS.

What say you, Hermia? be advised, fair maid:
To you your father should be as a god;
One that composed your beauties; yea, and one
To whom you are but as a form in wax,
By him imprinted, and within his power
To leave the figure, or disfigure it.
Demetrius is a worthy gentleman.

1/1/50

HERMIA.

So is Lysander.

THESEUS.

In himself he is;
But in this kind, wanting your father's voice,
The other must be held the worthier.

HERMIA.

I would my father look'd but with my eyes.

THESEUS.

Rather your eyes must with his judgement look.

HERMIA.

I do entreat your Grace to pardon me.*
But I beseech your Grace that I may know
The worst that may befall me in this case,
If I refuse to wed Demetrius.

THESEUS.

Either to die the death, or to abjure
For ever the society of men.
Therefore, fair Hermia, question your desires;
Know of your youth, examine well your blood,
Whether, if you yield not to your father's choice,*
To live a barren sister all your life,
*happy is the rose distill'd
Than that which, withering on the virgin thorn,
Grows, lives, and dies in single blessedness.

HERMIA.

So will I grow, so live, so die, my lord,*

THESEUS.

Take time to pause; and, by the next new moon,-
The sealing-day betwixt my love and me,
For everlasting bond of fellowship,-
Upon that day either prepare to die
For disobedience to your father's will,
Or else to wed Demetrius, as he would;
Or on Diana's altar to protest
For aye austerity and single life.

1/1/90

DEMETRIUS.

Relent, sweet Hermia:- and, Lysander, yield
Thy crazed title to my certain right.

LYSANDER.

You have her father's love, Demetrius;
Let me have Hermia's: do you marry him.

EGEUS.

Scornful Lysander! true, he hath my love,-
And what is mine my love shall render him;
And she is mine,- and all my right of her
I do estate unto Demetrius.

LYSANDER.

I am, my lord, as well derived as he,
As well possess'd; my love is more than his;
My fortunes every way as fairly rank'd,
If not with vantage, as Demetrius';
And, which is more than all these boasts can be,
I am beloved of beauteous Hermia:
Why should not I, then, prosecute my right?
Demetrius, I'll avouch it to his head,
Made love to Nedar's daughter, Helena,
And won her soul; and she, sweet lady, dotes,
Devoutly dotes, dotes in idolatry,
Upon this spotted and inconstant man.

1/1/100

1/1/110

THESEUS.

I must confess that I have heard so much,*
My mind did lose it. But, Demetrius, come;
And come, Egeus; you shall go with me,
I have some private schooling for you both.
For you, fair Hermia, look you arm yourself

To fit your fancies to your father's will;*
Come, my Hippolyta: what cheer, my love?
Demetrius, and Egeus, go along:*

EGEUS.

With duty and desire we follow you.

[Exeunt THESEUS, HIPPOLYTA, EGEUS, DEMETRIUS, and TRAIN.]

LYSANDER.

How now, my love! why is your cheek so pale?
How chance the roses there do fade so fast?

HERMIA.

Belike for want of rain, which I could well
Beteem them from the tempest of my eyes.

1/1/130

LYSANDER.

The course of true love never did run smooth;

HERMIA.

O hell! to choose love by another's eyes!

1/1/140

LYSANDER.

Or, if there were a sympathy in choice,
War, death, or sickness did lay siege to it,
Making it momentary as a sound,
Swift as a shadow, short as any dream;
Brief as the lightning in the collied night,
That, in a spleen, unfolds both heaven and earth,
And ere a man hath power to say, "Behold!"
The jaws of darkness do devour it up:
So quick bright things come to confusion.

HERMIA.

If, then, true lovers have been ever cross'd,
It stands as an edict in destiny:*

1/1/150

LYSANDER.

I have a widow aunt, a dowager
From Athens is her house remote seven leagues;
And she respects me as her only son.
There, gentle Hermia, may I marry thee;
And to that place the sharp Athenian law
Cannot pursue us. If thou lovest me, then,
Steal forth thy father's house to-morrow night;
And in the wood, a league without the town,
Where I did meet thee once with Helena,
*There will I stay for thee.

1/1/160

HERMIA.

My good Lysander!

I swear to thee, by Cupid's strongest bow,

By his best arrow with the golden head,

1/1/170

*By all the vows that ever men have broke,

In number more than ever women spoke;-

In that same place thou hast appointed me,

To-morrow truly will I meet with thee.

LYSANDER.

Keep promise, love. Look, here comes Helena.

[Enter HELENA.]

HERMIA.

God speed fair Helena! whither away?

1/1/180

HELENA.

Call you me fair? that fair again unsay.

Demetrius loves your fair: O happy fair!

Your eyes are lode-stars; and your tongue's sweet air

*Sickness is catching: O, were favour so,

Yours would I catch, fair Hermia! ere I go,

My hair should catch your hair, my eye your eye,

My tongue should catch your tongue's sweet melody.

Were the world mine, Demetrius being bated,

1/1/190

The rest I'd give to be to you translated.

O, teach me how you look; and with what art

You sway the motion of Demetrius' heart!

HERMIA.

I frown upon him, yet he loves me still.

HELENA.

O, that your frowns would teach my smiles such skill!

HERMIA.

I give him curses, yet he gives me love.

HELENA.

O, that my prayers could such affection move!

HERMIA.

The more I hate, the more he follows me.

HELENA.

The more I love, the more he hateth me.

HERMIA.

His folly, Helena, is no fault of mine.

1/1/200

HELENA.

None, but your beauty: would that fault were mine!

HERMIA.

Take comfort: he no more shall see my face;
Lysander and myself will fly this place.
Before the time I did Lysander see,
Seem'd Athens as a paradise to me:
O, then, what graces in my love do dwell,
That he hath turn'd a heaven unto a hell!

LYSANDER.

Helen, to you our minds we will unfold:
*Through Athens' gates have we devised to steal.

HERMIA.

And in the wood, where often you and I
Upon faint primrose-beds were wont to lie,
Emptying our bosoms of their counsel sweet,
There my Lysander and myself shall meet;
*Farewell, sweet playfellow: pray thou for us;
And good luck grant thee thy Demetrius!-
Keep word, Lysander: we must starve our sight
From lovers' food till morrow deep midnight.

1/1/220

LYSANDER.

I will, my Hermia. [Exit HERMIA.] Helena, adieu:
As you on him, Demetrius dote on you!

[Exit.]

HELENA.

How happy some o'er other-some can be!
Through Athens I am thought as fair as she.
But what of that? Demetrius thinks not so;
He will not know what all but he do know:
*Love looks not with the eyes, but with the mind,
And therefore is wing'd Cupid painted blind:
*For ere Demetrius look'd on Hermia's eyne,
He hail'd down oaths that he was only mine;
And when this hail some heat from Hermia felt,
So he dissolved, and showers of oaths did melt.
I will go tell him of fair Hermia's flight:
Then to the wood will he to-morrow night
Pursue her; and for this intelligence
If I have thanks, it is a dear expense:
But herein mean I to enrich my pain,
To have his sight thither and back again.

1/1/250

[Exit.]

SCENE II. [Athens. A room in Quince's house. Enter QUINCE the Carpenter, SNUG the Joiner, BOTTOM the Weaver, FLUTE the Bellows-mender, SNOOT the Tinker, and STARVELING the Tailor.]

QUINCE.

Is all our company here?

1/2/1

BOTTOM.

You were best to call them generally, man by man, according to the scrip.

QUINCE.

Here is the scroll of every man's name, which is thought fit, through all Athens, to play in our interlude before the duke and the duchess on his wedding-day at night.

BOTTOM.

First, good Peter Quince, say what the play treats on; then read the names of the actors; and so grow to a point.

QUINCE.

Marry, our play is "The Most Lamentable Comedy and Most Cruel Death of Pyramus and Thisby".

1/2/10

BOTTOM.

A very good piece of work, I assure you, and a merry.- Now, good Peter Quince, call forth your actors by the scroll.- Masters, spread yourselves.

QUINCE.

Answer as I call you.- Nick Bottom the weaver.

BOTTOM.

Ready. Name what part I am for, and proceed.

QUINCE.

You, Nick Bottom, are set down for Pyramus.

BOTTOM.

What is Pyramus? a lover, or a tyrant?

QUINCE.

A lover, that kills himself most gallant for love.

BOTTOM.

That will ask some tears in the true performing of it: if I do it, let the audience look to their eyes; I will move storms, I will condole in some measure. To the rest: yet my chief humour is for a tyrant:*

1/2/20

The raging rocks
And shivering shocks
Shall break the locks
Of prison-gates;

And Phibbus' car
Shall shine from far,
And make and mar
The foolish Fates.

1/2/30

This was lofty!- Now name the rest of the players.-*

QUINCE.

Francis Flute the bellows-mender.

FLUTE.

Here, Peter Quince.

QUINCE.

You must take Thisby on you.

FLUTE.

What is Thisby? a wandering knight?

QUINCE.

It is the lady that Pyramus must love.

FLUTE.

Nay, faith, let not me play a woman; I have a beard coming.

QUINCE.

That's all one: you shall play it in a mask, and you may
speak as small as you will.

1/2/40

BOTTOM.

An I may hide my face, let me play Thisby too: I'll speak in
a monstrous little voice;- "Thisne, Thisne,"- "Ah, Pyramus,
my lover dear! thy Thisby dear, and lady dear!"

QUINCE.

No, no; you must play Pyramus:- and, Flute, you Thisby.

BOTTOM.

Well, proceed.

QUINCE.

Robin Starveling the tailor.

STARVELING.

Here, Peter Quince.

QUINCE.

Robin Starveling, you must play Thisby's mother.- Tom Snout
the tinker.

1/2/50

SNOUT.

Here, Peter Quince.

QUINCE.

You, Pyramus' father; myself, Thisby's father;- Snug the
joiner, you, the lion's part:- and, I hope, here is a play
fitted.

SNUG.

Have you the lion's part written? pray you, if it be, give it me, for I am slow of study.

QUINCE.

You may do it extempore, for it is nothing but roaring.

BOTTOM.

Let me play the lion too: I will roar, that I will do any man's heart good to hear me; I will roar, that I will make the duke say, "Let him roar again, let him roar again."

1/2/60

QUINCE.

An you should do it too terribly, you would fright the ladies, that they would shriek; and that were enough to hang us all.

ALL.

That would hang us, every mother's son.

BOTTOM.

I grant you, friends, if you should fright the ladies out of their wits, they would have no more discretion but to hang us: but I will aggravate my voice so, that I will roar you as gently as any sucking dove; I will roar you an 'twere any nightingale.

QUINCE.

You can play no part but Pyramus; for Pyramus is a sweet-faced man; a proper man as one shall see in a summer's day; a most lovely, gentleman-like man: therefore you must needs play Pyramus.

1/2/70

BOTTOM.

Well, I will undertake it. What beard were I best to play it in?

QUINCE.

Why, what you will.

*But, masters, here are your parts: and I am to entreat you, request you, and desire you, to con them by tomorrow night; and meet me in the palace-wood, a mile without the town, by moonlight: there will we rehearse, *

BOTTOM.

We will meet; and there we may rehearse most obscenely and courageously.

1/2/90

QUINCE.

Take pains; be perfit: adieu. At the duke's oak we meet.

* [Exeunt.] **ACT I.** **END.**

ACT II.

SCENE I. A wood near Athens. Enter a FAIRY at one door and PUCK at another.]

PUCK.

How now, spirit! whither wander you?

2/1/1

FAIRY ONE

Over hill, over dale,

Thorough bush, thorough brier,

Over park, over pale,

Thorough flood, thorough fire,

I do wander every where,

Swifter than the moon's sphere;

And I serve the fairy queen,

To dew her orbs upon the green.

*I must go seek some dewdrops here,

And hang a pearl in every cowslip's ear,

Farewell, thou lob of spirits; I'll be gone:

Our queen and all her elves come here anon.

PUCK.

The king doth keep his revels here to-night:

Take heed the queen come not within his sight;

For Oberon is passing fell and wrath,

2/1/20

Because that she, as her attendant, hath

A lovely boy, stol'n from an Indian king;

She never had so sweet a changeling:

And jealous Oberon would have the child

Knight of his train, to trace the forests wild;

But she perforce withholds the loved boy,

Crowns him with flowers, and makes him all her joy:*

FAIRY TWO

Either I mistake your shape and making quite,

Or else you are that shrewd and knavish sprite

Call'd Robin Goodfellow: are you not he

That frights the maidens of the villagery;

*Are not you he?

PUCK.

Thou speak'st aright;

I am that merry wanderer of the night,

I jest to Oberon, and make him smile,

*

2/1/50

The wisest aunt, telling the saddest tale,
Sometime for three-foot stool mistaketh me;
Then slip I from her bum, down topples she,
*A merrier hour was never wasted there.-
But room, fairy! here comes Oberon.

FAIRY THREE

And here my mistress,- Would that he were gone!

[Enter OBERON, at one door, with his TRAIN, and TITANIA, at another, with hers.]

OBERON.

Ill met by moonlight, proud Titania.

2/1/60

TITANIA.

What, jealous Oberon!- Fairies, skip hence:
I have forsworn his bed and company.

OBERON.

Tarry, rash wanton: am not I thy lord?

TITANIA.

Then I must be thy lady: but I know
When thou hast stol'n away from fairy-land,
* the bouncing Amazon,
Your buskin'd mistress and your warrior love,
To Theseus must be wedded? and you come
To give their bed joy and prosperity.

2/1/70

OBERON.

How canst thou thus, for shame, Titania,
Glance at my credit with Hippolyta,
Knowing I know thy love to Theseus?
Didst thou not lead him through the glimmering night?
And make him with fair Aegle break his faith?

2/1/80

TITANIA.

These are the forgeries of jealousy:
*the spring, the summer,
The childing autumn, angry winter, change
Their wonted liveries; and the mazed world,
By their increase, now knows not which is which:
And this same progeny of evils comes
From our debate, from our dissension;
We are their parents and original.

OBERON.

Do you amend it, then; it lies in you:
Why should Titania cross her Oberon?

I do but beg a little changeling boy,
To be my henchman.

2/1/120

TITANIA.

Set your heart at rest:

The fairy-land buys not the child of me.
His mother was a vot'ress of my order:
*And for her sake do I rear up her boy;
And for her sake I will not part with him.

OBERON.

How long within this wood intend you stay?

TITANIA.

Perchance till after Theseus' wedding-day.
If you will patiently dance in our round,
And see our moonlight revels, go with us;
If not, shun me, and I will spare your haunts.

2/1/140

OBERON.

Give me that boy, and I will go with thee.

TITANIA.

Not for thy fairy kingdom.- Fairies, away!*

[Exit TITANIA with her TRAIN.]

OBERON.

Well, go thy way: thou shalt not from this grove
Till I torment thee for this injury.-
My gentle Puck, come hither. Thou remember'st.*

OBERON.

That very time I saw- but thou couldst not-
*Cupid all arm'd: a certain aim he took
*Yet mark'd I where the bolt of Cupid fell:
It fell upon a little western flower,
Before milk-white, now purple with love's wound,
*Fetch me that flower; the herb I shew'd thee once:
The juice of it on sleeping eyelids laid
Will make or man or woman madly dote
Upon the next live creature that it sees.
Fetch me this herb; and be thou here again
Ere the leviathan can swim a league.

2/1/170

PUCK.

I'll put a girdle round about the earth
In forty minutes.

[Exit.]

OBERON.

Having once this juice,
I'll watch Titania when she is asleep,
And drop the liquor of it in her eyes.
The next thing then she waking looks upon,-
Be it on lion, bear, or wolf, or bull,
*She shall pursue it with the soul of love:
And ere I take this charm off from her sight,
As I can take it with another herb,
I'll make her render up her page to me.
But who comes here? I am invisible;
And I will overhear their conference.

2/1/180

[Enter DEMETRIUS, HELENA following him.]

DEMETRIUS.

I love thee not, therefore pursue me not.
Where is Lysander and fair Hermia?
The one I'll slay, the other slayeth me.
Thou told'st me they were stol'n unto this wood;*

2/1/190

HELENA.

You draw me, you hard-hearted adamant;
But yet you draw not iron, for my heart
Is true as steel: leave you your power to draw,
And I shall have no power to follow you.

DEMETRIUS.

Do I entice you? do I speak you fair?
Or, rather, do I not in plainest truth
Tell you I do not nor I cannot love you?

2/1/200

HELENA.

And even for that do I love you the more.*
The more you beat me, I will fawn on you:
*Neglect me, lose me; only give me leave,
Unworthy as I am, to follow you.*

2/1/210

DEMETRIUS.

Tempt not too much the hatred of my spirit;
For I am sick when I do look on thee.

HELENA.

And I am sick when I look not on you.

DEMETRIUS.

You do impeach your modesty too much,
To leave the city, and commit yourself
Into the hands of one that loves you not;*

I'll run from thee and hide me in the brakes,
And leave thee to the mercy of wild-beasts.

HELENA.

The wildest hath not such a heart as you.
Run when you will, the story shall be changed,-
*The dove pursues the griffin; the mild hind
Makes speed to catch the tiger,- bootless speed,
When cowardice pursues, and valour flies!

2/1/230

DEMETRIUS.

I will not stay thy questions; let me go:
Or, if thou follow me, do not believe
But I shall do thee mischief in the wood.

HELENA.

*Your wrongs do set a scandal on my sex:
We cannot fight for love, as men may do;
We should be woo'd, and were not made to woo.
I'll follow thee, and make a heaven of hell,
To die upon the hand I love so well.

2/1/240

[Exeunt DEMETRIUS and HELENA.]

OBERON.

Fare thee well, nymph: ere he do leave this grove,
Thou shalt fly him, and he shall seek thy love.

[Enter PUCK.]

Hast thou the flower there? Welcome, wanderer.

PUCK.

Ay, there it is.

OBERON.

I pray thee, give it me.

I know a bank where the wild thyme blows,
Where oxlips and the nodding violet grows;
*There sleeps Titania sometime of the night,
Lull'd in these flowers with dances and delight;
*And with the juice of this I'll streak her eyes,
And make her full of hateful fantasies.
Take thou some of it, and seek through this grove:
A sweet Athenian lady is in love
With a disdainful youth: anoint his eyes;
But do it when the next thing he espies
May be the lady: thou shalt know the man
By the Athenian garments he hath on.
Effect it with some care, that he may prove

2/1/250

2/1/260

More fond on her than she upon her love:
And look thou meet me ere the first cock crow.

PUCK.

Fear not, my lord, your servant shall do so.

[Exeunt.]

SCENE II. [Another part of the wood. Enter TITANIA, with her TRAIN.]

TITANIA.

Come, now a roundel and a fairy song;

2/2/1

*Sing me now asleep;

Then to your offices, and let me rest.

FIRST FAIRY.

[Song.] You spotted snakes with double tongue,

Thorny hedgehogs, be not seen;

2/2/10

Newts and blind-worms, do no wrong,

Come not near our fairy queen.

[Chorus.] Philomel, with melody

Sing in our sweet lullaby:

Lulla, lulla, lullaby; lulla, lulla, lullaby:

Never harm,

Nor spell nor charm,

Come our lovely lady nigh;

So, good night, with lullaby.

SECOND FAIRY.

Weaving spiders, come not here;

2/2/20

Hence, you long-legg'd spinners, hence!

Beetles black, approach not near;

Worm nor snail, do no offence.

[Chorus.] Philomel, with melody

Sing in our sweet lullaby:

Lulla, lulla, lullaby; lulla, lulla, lullaby:

Never harm,

Nor spell nor charm,

Come our lovely lady nigh;

So, good night, with lullaby.

2/2/30

THIRD FAIRY.

Hence, away! now all is well:

One aloof stand sentinel.

[Exeunt FAIRIES. TITANIA sleeps. Enter OBERON.]

OBERON.

What thou see'st when thou dost wake,
 [Squeezes the flower on TITANIA's eyelids]
Do it for thy true-love take;
Love and languish for his sake:
Be it ounce, or cat, or bear,
Pard, or boar with bristled hair,
In thy eye that shall appear
When thou wakest, it is thy dear:
Wake when some vile thing is near.

[Exit.]

2/2/40

[Enter LYSANDER and HERMIA.]

LYSANDER.

Fair love, you faint with wandering in the wood;
And to speak troth, I have forgot our way:
We'll rest us, Hermia, if you think it good,
And tarry for the comfort of the day.

HERMIA.

Be it so, Lysander: find you out a bed;
For I upon this bank will rest my head.

LYSANDER.

One turf shall serve as pillow for us both;
One heart, one bed, two bosoms, and one troth.

HERMIA.

Nay, good Lysander; for my sake, my dear,
Lie further off yet, do not lie so near.

2/2/50

LYSANDER.

O, take the sense, sweet, of my innocence!
Love takes the meaning in love's conference.
I mean, that my heart unto yours is knit,
So that but one heart we can make of it:
Two bosoms interchained with an oath;
So then two bosoms and a single troth.
Then by your side no bed-room me deny;
For lying so, Hermia, I do not lie.

HERMIA.

Lysander riddles very prettily:-
Now much beshrew my manners and my pride,
If Hermia meant to say Lysander lied.
But, gentle friend, for love and courtesy
Lie further off; in human modesty,

2/2/60

Such separation as may well be said
Becomes a virtuous bachelor and a maid,
So far be distant; and, good night, sweet friend:
Thy love ne'er alter till thy sweet life end!

LYSANDER.

*Here is my bed: sleep give thee all his rest!

2/2/70

HERMIA.

With half that wish the wisher's eyes be press'd!

[They sleep. Enter PUCK.]

PUCK.

Through the forest have I gone,
But Athenian found I none,
On whose eyes I might approve
This flower's force in stirring love.
Night and silence! who is here?
Weeds of Athens he doth wear:
This is he my master said
Despised the Athenian maid;
And here the maiden, sleeping sound,
On the dank and dirty ground:-
Pretty soul! she durst not lie
Near this lack-love, this kill-courtesy.
Churl, upon thy eyes I throw

2/2/80

[Squeezes the flower on LYSANDER'S eyelids.]

All the power this charm doth owe.
When thou wakest, let love forbid
Sleep his seat on thy eyelid:
So awake when I am gone;
For I must now to Oberon.

[Exit. Enter DEMETRIUS and HELENA, running.]

HELENA.

Stay, though thou kill me, sweet Demetrius.

2/2/90

DEMETRIUS.

I charge thee, hence, and do not haunt me thus.

HELENA.

O, wilt thou darkling leave me? do not so.

DEMETRIUS.

Stay, on thy peril: I alone will go.

[Exit.]

HELENA.

O, I am out of breath in this fond chase!

*Happy is Hermia, wheresoe'er she lies;
For she hath blessed and attractive eyes.
How came her eyes so bright? Not with salt tears:
If so, my eyes are oftener wash'd than hers.

No, no, I am as ugly as a bear;

2/2/100

For beasts that meet me run away for fear:

*But who is here?- Lysander! on the ground!

Dead? or asleep?- I see no blood, no wound.-

Lysander, if you live, good sir, awake.

LYSANDER [starting up].

And run through fire I will for thy sweet sake.

Transparent Helena! Nature shows art,

2/2/110

That through thy bosom makes me see thy heart.

Where is Demetrius? O, how fit a word

Is that vile name to perish on my sword!

HELENA.

Do not say so, Lysander; say not so.

What though he love your Hermia? Lord, what though?

Yet Hermia still loves you: then be content.

LYSANDER.

Content with Hermia! No; I do repent

The tedious minutes I with her have spent.

Not Hermia, but Helena I love:

Who will not change a raven for a dove?

2/2/120

The will of man is by his reason sway'd;

And reason says you are the worthier maid.

Things growing are not ripe until their season:*

HELENA.

Wherefore was I to this keen mockery born?

When at your hands did I deserve this scorn?

2/2/130

*Good troth, you do me wrong,- good sooth, you do,-

In such disdainful manner me to woo.

But fare you well: perforce I must confess

I thought you lord of more true gentleness.

O, that a lady, of one man refused,

Should of another therefore be abused!

[Exit.]

2/2/140

LYSANDER.

She sees not Hermia.- Hermia, sleep thou there:

And never mayst thou come Lysander near!

For, as a surfeit of the sweetest things

*And, all my powers, address your love and might
To honour Helen, and to be her knight!

[Exit.]

2/2/150

HERMIA [awaking].

Help me, Lysander, help me! do thy best
To pluck this crawling serpent from my breast!
Ay me, for pity!- what a dream was here!
Lysander, look how I do quake with fear:
Methought a serpent eat my heart away,
And you sat smiling at his cruel prey.-
Lysander!- what, removed?- Lysander! lord!-
*Alack, where are you? speak, an if you hear;
Speak, of all loves! I swoon almost with fear.
No?- then I well perceive you are not nigh:
Either death or you I'll find immediately.

2/2/160

[Exit.]

ACT II.

END.

ACT III.

SCENE I. The wood. TITANIA lying asleep. Enter QUINCE, SNUG, BOTTOM, FLUTE, SNOUT, and STARVELING.]

BOTTOM.

Are we all met?

3/1/1

QUINCE.

*here's a marvellous convenient place for our rehearsal. This green plot shall be our stage, this hawthorn-brake our tiring-house; and we will do it in action as we will do it before the duke.

BOTTOM.

Peter Quince,-

QUINCE.

What say'st thou, bully Bottom?

BOTTOM.

There are things in this comedy of "Pyramus and Thisby" that will never please. First, Pyramus must draw a sword to kill himself; which the ladies cannot abide. How answer you that?

3/1/10

SNOUT.

By'r lakin, a parlous fear.

STARVELING.

I believe we must leave the killing out, when all is done.

BOTTOM.

Not a whit: I have a device to make all well. Write me a prologue; and let the prologue seem to say, we will do no harm with our swords, and that Pyramus is not kill'd indeed; and, for the more better assurance, tell them that I Pyramus am not Pyramus, but Bottom the weaver: this will put them out of fear.

QUINCE.

Well, we will have such a prologue;*

3/1/20

* **SNOUT.**

Will not the ladies be afeard of the lion?

STARVELING.

I fear it, I promise you.

BOTTOM.

* there is not a more fearful wild-fowl than your lion living; and we ought to look to't.

SNOUT.

Therefore another prologue must tell he is not a lion.

BOTTOM.

Nay, you must name his name,

and he himself must speak,

3/1/30

saying thus, "Ladies,"- or, "Fair

ladies,- I would wish you,"- or, "I would request you,"- or

"I would entreat you,- not to fear, not to tremble: my life

for yours. If you think I come hither as a lion, it were

pity of my life: no, I am no such thing; I am a man as other

men are:"- and there, indeed, let him name his name, and

tell them plainly he is Snug the joiner.

QUINCE.

Well, it shall be so. But there is two hard things,- that

is, to bring the moonlight into a chamber; for, you know,

Pyramus and Thisby meet by moonlight.

3/1/40

SNUG.

Doth the moon shine that night we play our play?

BOTTOM.

A calendar, a calendar! look in the almanac; find out

moonshine, find out moonshine.

QUINCE.

Yes, it doth shine that night.

* **QUINCE.**

* Then, there is another thing: we must

3/1/50

have a wall; *for Pyramus and Thisby,

says the story, did talk through the chink of a wall.

SNUG.

You can never bring in a wall.- What say you, Bottom?

BOTTOM.

Some man or other must present wall: and let him have some

*rough-cast about him, to

signify wall; and let him hold his fingers thus, and through

that cranny shall Pyramus and Thisby whisper.

QUINCE.

If that may be, then all is well. Come, sit down, every

mother's son, and rehearse your parts. Pyramus, you begin:

when you have spoken your speech, enter into that brake;-

and so every one according to his cue.

3/1/60

[Enter PUCK behind.]

PUCK.

What hempen home-spuns have we swaggering here,
So near the cradle of the fairy queen?
What, a play toward! I'll be an auditor;
An actor too perhaps, if I see cause.

QUINCE.

Speak, Pyramus.- Thisby, stand forth.

BOTTOM.

Thisby, the flowers of odious savours sweet,-

QUINCE.

Odours, odours.

BOTTOM.

-odours savours sweet:

So hath thy breath, my dearest Thisby dear.-
But hark, a voice! stay thou but here awhile,
And by and by I will to thee appear.

3/1/70

[Exit.]

PUCK [aside].

A stranger Pyramus than e'er play'd here.

[Exit.]

FLUTE.

Must I speak now?

QUINCE.

Ay, marry, must you; for you must understand he goes but to
see a noise that he heard, and is to come again.

FLUTE.

Most radiant Pyramus, most lily-white of hue,
Of colour like the red rose on triumphant brier,
Most brisky juvenal, and eke most lovely Jew,
As true as truest horse, that yet would never tire,
I'll meet thee, Pyramus, at Ninny's tomb.

3/1/80

QUINCE.

"Ninus' tomb," man:- why, you must not speak that yet; that
you answer to Pyramus: you speak all your part at once, cues
and all.- Pyramus enter: your cue is past; it is, "never
tire."

FLUTE.

O,- As true as truest horse, that yet would never tire.

[Enter PUCK, and BOTTOM with an ass-head.]

BOTTOM.

If I were fair, Thisby, I were only thine:-

QUINCE.

O monstrous! O strange! we are haunted.- Pray, masters! fly,
masters!- Help!

[Exit with SNUG, FLUTE, SNOUT, and STARVELING.]

PUCK.

I'll follow you, I'll lead you about a round,

Through bog, through bush, through brake, through brier:

3/1/90

Sometime a horse I'll be, sometime a hound,

A hog, a headless bear, sometime a fire;

And neigh, and bark, and grunt, and roar, and burn,

Like horse, hound, hog, bear, fire, at every turn.

[Exit.]

BOTTOM.

Why do they run away? this is a knavery of them to make me
afeard.

[Enter SNOUT.]

SNOUT.

O Bottom, thou art changed! what do I see on thee?

BOTTOM.

What do you see? you see an ass-head of your own, do you?

[Exit SNOUT. Enter QUINCE.]

QUINCE.

Bless thee, Bottom! bless thee! thou art translated.

[Exit.]

BOTTOM.

I see their knavery: this is to make an ass of me; to fright
me, if they could. But I will not stir from this place, do
what they can: I will walk up and down here, and I will
sing, that they shall hear I am not afraid.

3/1/100

[Sings.] The ousel-cock so black of hue,

With orange-tawny bill,

The throstle with his note so true,

The wren with little quill:-

TITANIA [awaking].

What angel wakes me from my flowery bed?

BOTTOM [Sings].

The finch, the sparrow, and the lark,

The plain-song cuckoo gray,

3/1/110

Whose note full many a man doth mark,

And dares not answer nay:-

for, indeed, who would set his wit to so foolish a bird? who

would give a bird the lie, though he cry "cuckoo" never so?

TITANIA.

I pray thee, gentle mortal, sing again:
Mine ear is much enamour'd of thy note;
So is mine eye enthralled to thy shape;
And thy fair virtue's force perforce doth move me,
On the first view, to say, to swear, I love thee.

BOTTOM.

Methinks, mistress, you should have little reason for that:
and yet, to say the truth, reason and love keep little
company together now-a-days;- the more the pity that some
honest neighbours will not make them friends. Nay, I can
gleek upon occasion.

3/1/120

TITANIA.

Thou are as wise as thou art beautiful.

BOTTOM.

Not so, neither: but if I had wit enough to get out of this
wood, I have enough to serve mine own turn.

TITANIA.

Out of this wood do not desire to go:
Thou shalt remain here, whether thou wilt or no.
*And I do love thee: therefore, go with me;
I'll give thee fairies to attend on thee;
And they shall fetch thee jewels from the deep,
And sing, while thou on pressed flowers dost sleep:
And I will purge thy mortal grossness so,
That thou shalt like an airy spirit go.-
Peas-blossom! Cobweb! Moth! and Mustard-seed!

[Enter four FAIRIES.]

COBWEB

Ready.

PEASBLOSSOM

And I.

MUSTARDSEED

And I.

MOTH

And I.

ALL.

Where shall we go?

TITANIA.

Be kind and courteous to this gentleman,-

3/1/140

Hop in his walks, and gambol in his eyes;
*Nod to him, elves, and do him courtesies.

3/1/150

COBWEB

Hail, mortal!

PEASBLOSSOM

Hail!

MUSTARDSEED

Hail!

MOTH

Hail!

**

TITANIA.

Come, wait upon him; lead him to my bower.
The moon methinks looks with a watery eye;
And when she weeps, weeps every little flower,
Lamenting some enforced chastity.
Tie up my love's tongue, bring him silently.
[Exeunt.]

21 more pages finish act three, and fill our act four, and act five