

**Act 1, Scene 1**

*Enter THESEUS, HIPPOLYTA*

**THESEUS**

Now, fair Hippolyta, our nuptial hour  
Draws on apace. Four happy days bring in  
Another moon. But oh, me thinks how slow  
This old moon wanes!

**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  
Of our solemnities.

**THESEUS**

Let's stir the Athenian youth to merriments;  
Awake the pert and nimble spirit of mirth;

**HIPPOLYTA**

Turn melancholy forth to funerals;  
The pale companion is not for our pomp.

**THESEUS**

Hippolyta, I wooed thee with my sword  
But I will wed thee in another key,  
With pomp, with triumph, and with reveling.

*Enter EGEUS and his daughter HERMIA, LYSANDER, and DEMETRIUS*

**EGEUS**

Happy be Theseus, our renownèd duke.

**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 man hath bewitched the bosom of my child.  
With cunning haste thou filched my daughter's heart,  
Turned her obedience (which is due to me)  
To stubborn harshness.  
I beg the ancient privilege of Athens.  
As she is mine, I may dispose of her—  
Which shall be either to this gentleman (*points to Demetrius*)  
Or to her death.

**THESEUS**

What say you, Hermia? Be advised, fair maid:  
Demetrius is a worthy gentleman.

**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 looked but with my eyes.

**THESEUS**

Rather your eyes must with her judgment look.

**HERMIA**

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  
Forever the society of men.  
You can endure the livery of a nun,  
To live a barren sister all your life.

**HIPPOLYTA**

Take time to pause, and by the next new moon  
Upon that day either prepare to die  
For disobedience to your father's will,  
Or else to wed Demetrius.

**DEMETRIUS**

Relent, sweet Hermia— And, Lysander, yield  
Thy crazèd title to my certain right.

**LYSANDER**

You have her father's love, Demetrius.  
Let me have Hermia's. Do you marry her.

**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 beloved of beauteous Hermia.  
*(To Theseus)* Demetrius made vows to Helena,  
And won her soul. And she, sweet lady, dotes,  
Devoutly dotes, dotes in idolatry,  
Upon this spotted and inconstant man.

**THESEUS**

Demetrius, come.  
And come, Egeus.  
For you, fair Hermia,  
Fit your fancies to your father's will,  
Or else the law of Athens yields you up  
To death, or to a vow of single life.  
*Exit THESEUS, and HIPPOLYTA, and EGEUS, and DEMETRIUS*

**LYSANDER**

How now, my love? Why is your cheek so pale?  
The course of true love never did run smooth.

**HERMIA**

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

**LYSANDER**

Hear me, Hermia.  
I have a widow aunt, she hath no child.  
From Athens is her house remote seven leagues.  
There, gentle Hermia, may I marry thee.  
And to that place the sharp Athenian law  
Cannot pursue us.  
Steal forth thy father's house tomorrow night.  
And in the wood, a league without the town—  
There will I stay for thee.

**HERMIA**

My good Lysander!  
I swear to thee by Cupid's strongest bow,  
By all the vows that ever men have broke  
(In number more than ever women spoke),  
In that same place thou hast appointed me,  
Tomorrow truly will I meet with thee.

**LYSANDER**

Keep promise, love. Look, here comes Helena.

*Enter HELENA*

**HERMIA**

Godspeed, fair Helena! Whither away?

**HELENA**

Call you me "fair"? That "fair" again unsay.  
Demetrius loves your fair. Oh happy fair!  
Sickness is catching. Oh, were favor so,  
Yours would I catch, fair Hermia, ere I go.  
My ear should catch your voice, my eye your eye.  
My tongue should catch your tongue's sweet melody.  
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**

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

**HERMIA**

I give him curses, yet he gives me love.

**HELENA**

Oh, 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**

Take comfort. He no more shall see my face.  
Lysander and myself will fly this place.

**LYSANDER**

Helen, to you our minds we will unfold.  
Tomorrow night when Phoebe doth behold  
A time that lovers' flights doth still conceal,  
Through Athens' gates have we devised to steal.

**HERMIA**

And thence from Athens turn away our eyes  
To seek new friends and stranger companies.  
Farewell, sweet playfellow. Pray thou for us.  
And good luck grant thee thy Demetrius!

*Exit HERMIA*

**LYSANDER**

Helena, adieu.  
As you on him, Demetrius dote on you!

*Exit LYSANDER*

**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.  
Things base and vile, holding no quantity,  
Love can transpose to form and dignity.  
And therefore is Love said to be a child,  
Because in choice he is so oft bequiled.  
For ere Demetrius looked on Hermia's eyne,  
He hailed 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 tomorrow night  
Pursue her. But herein mean I enrich my pain,  
To have his sight thither and back again.

*Exit HELENA*

**ACT 1, SCENE 2**

*Enter the RUDE MECHANICALS: QUINCE the carpenter, SNUG the joiner, BOTTOM the weaver, FLUTE the bellows-mender, SNOOT the tinker.*

**QUINCE**

Is all our company here?

**BOTTOM**

Good Peter Quince, say what the play treats on, then read the names of the actors.

**QUINCE**

Right. Our play is the most lamentable Comedy, *Death of Pyramus and Thisbe*.

**BOTTOM**

A very good piece of work, I assure you.

**QUINCE**

Answer as I call you. Nick Bottom, the Weaver?

**BOTTOM**

Ready. Name what part I am for.

**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 performing it. I will move storms.

**QUINCE**

Francis Flute, the Bellows-mender?

**FLUTE**

Here, Peter Quince.

**QUINCE**

Flute, you must take Thisbe on you.

**FLUTE**

What is Thisbe? A wandering knight?

**QUINCE**

It is the lady that Pyramus must love.

**FLUTE**

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

**QUINCE**

You shall play it in a wig, and speak small.

**BOTTOM**

Let me play Thisbe too! I'll speak in a monstrous little voice: "Ah, Pyramus, my lover dear!"

**QUINCE**

No, no. You must play Pyramus.  
And Flute, you Thisbe.

**BOTTOM**

Well, proceed.

**QUINCE**

Tom Snout, the tinker.

**SNOUT**

Here, Peter Quince.

**QUINCE**

Snout, you, the Prop Mak'r:  
Snug, the Joiner, you, the lion's part:  
And I hope here is a play fitted.

**SNUG**

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

**QUINCE**

It is nothing but roaring.

**BOTTOM**

Let me play the lion too. I will roar, and make the duke say, "Let him roar again."

**SNOUT**

You would fright the duchess and the ladies, that they would shriek enough to hang us all.

**FLUTE & SNUG**

They would hang us, every mother's son.

**QUINCE**

Pyramus, he is a most lovely, gentlemanlike man. Therefore you must play Pyramus.

**BOTTOM**

Well, I will undertake it.

**QUINCE**

Masters, here are your parts.  
I desire you con them by t'morrow night and meet in the palace wood, by moonlight.  
There will we rehearse. I pray, fail me not.

**BOTTOM**

There we may rehearse. Be perfect. Adieu.

*Exit All*

## **ACT 2, SCENE 1**

*Enter FAIRIES at one side and PUCK at the other*

### **PUCK**

How now, spirits? Whither wander you?

### **FAIRIES**

We do serve the fairy queen to dew her orbs upon the green.  
We seek some dewdrops. We'll be gone –  
Our queen and elves come here anon.

### **PUCK**

The king doth keep his revels here tonight.  
Take heed the queen come not within his sight,  
Because she stole a sweet boy changeling  
That jealous Oberon wants at his wing.

### **PEASEBLOSSOM & COBWEB**

You are that shrewd and knavish Puck -  
You do one's work, and they shall have good luck.  
Are not you he?

### **PUCK**

Thou speak'st it aright.  
I am that merry wanderer of the night.  
But, room, fairies! Here comes Oberon.

### **FAIRIES**

And here our mistress!

*Enter OBERON, from one side  
and TITANIA, the Queen, from the other*

### **OBERON**

Ill met by moonlight, proud Titania.

### **TITANIA**

What, jealous Oberon? Fairies, skip hence.  
I have forsworn his company.

### **OBERON**

Tarry, rash wanton. Am not I thy lord?

### **TITANIA**

Then I must be thy lady. Why art thou here?  
But that, your Amazon, your warrior love,  
To Theseus must be wedded.

### **OBERON**

How canst thou thus for shame, Titania,  
Knowing I know thy love to Theseus?

### **TITANIA**

These are the forgeries of jealousy.  
And never, since the middle summer's spring,  
Met we on hill, in dale, forest or mead,  
To dance our ringlets to the whistling wind,  
But with thy brawls thou hast disturbed our sport.

**FAIRIES 1**

Therefore the winds, piping to us in vain  
As in revenge, have sucked up from the sea  
Contagious fogs, which falling in the land  
Have every pelting river made so proud  
That they have overborne their continents.

**FAIRIES 2**

And thorough this distemperature we see  
The seasons alter. The Spring, the Summer,  
The chiding Autumn, angry Winter change  
Their wonted liveries, and the mazèd world,  
Now knows not which is which.

**TITANIA**

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.

**TITANIA**

Set your heart at rest.  
The Fairyland buys not the child of me.  
His mother was a votaress of my order.  
But she, being mortal, of that boy did die.  
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.

**OBERON**

Give me that boy and I will go with thee.

**TITANIA**

Not for thy fairy kingdom—Fairies, away!

*Exit TITANIA and FAIRIES*

**OBERON**

Well, go thy way.  
(*to PUCK*)  
My gentle Puck, come hither.  
I once beheld a little western flower.  
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 flower, and be thou here again.

**PUCK**

I'll put a girdle round about the Earth  
In forty minutes.  
*Exit PUCK*

**OBERON**

Having once this juice,  
I'll drop the nectar in Titania's eyes.  
The next thing then she waking looks upon  
She shall pursue it with the soul of love.  
*(Hears someone coming)*  
But who comes here? I am invisible.

*Enter DEMETRIUS, followed by HELENA*

**DEMETRIUS**

I love thee not, therefore pursue me not.  
Where is Lysander and fair Hermia?  
Thou told'st me they were stol'n unto this wood.  
Hence, get thee gone, and follow me no more.

**HELENA**

You draw me, you hard-hearted adamant.

**DEMETRIUS**

But do I not in plainest truth tell you  
That I do not, nor I cannot, love you?

**HELENA**

And even for that do I love you the more.

**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**

Let me go.  
Or I shall do thee mischief in the wood.

*Exit DEMETRIUS*

**HELENA**

We cannot fight for love as men may do.  
We should be wooed 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.

*Exit HELENA*

**OBERON**

Fare thee well, nymph. Ere he shall seek thy love.

*Enter PUCK*

Hast thou the flower there?

**PUCK**

Ay, there it is.

**OBERON**

I pray thee, give it me.

*(takes flower from PUCK)*

I know a bank where the wild thyme blows,  
Where oxlips and the nodding violet grows.  
There sleeps Titania sometime of the night,  
Lulled 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.

*(gives PUCK some of the flower)*

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.

**PUCK**

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

*Exit OBERON, then PUCK*

**ACT 2, SCENE 2**

*Enter TITANIA with FAIRIES*

**TITANIA**

Come now, a roundel. Sing me now asleep.  
Then to your offices and let me rest.

**FAIRIES**

*(sing)*

You spotted snakes with double tongue,  
Thorny hedgehogs, be not seen.  
Newts and blindworms, do no wrong.  
Come not near our fairy queen.

Weaving spiders, come not here.  
Hence, you long-legged spinners, hence!  
Beetles black, approach not near.  
Worm nor snail, do no offense.

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.

*TITANIA sleeps*

*Exit FAIRIES*

*Enter OBERON*

**OBERON**

*(squeezing flower juice on TITANIA's eyelids)*

What thou seest when thou dost wake,  
Love and languish for his sake.  
When thou wakest, it is thy dear.  
*(beat)* Wake when some vile thing is near.

*Exit OBERON*

*Enter LYSANDER and HELENA*

**LYSANDER**

Fair love, we'll rest us if you think we may.  
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.

*HERMIA and LYSANDER sleep*

*Enter PUCK*

**PUCK**

*(sees LYSANDER and HERMIA)*  
Night and silence! Who is here?  
Weeds of Athens he doth wear.  
And here the maiden, sleeping sound  
On the dank and dirty ground.  
*(squeezes flower juice on LYSANDER's eyelids)*  
When thou wakest, I am gone,  
For I must now to Oberon.

*Exit PUCK*

*Enter DEMETRIUS and HELENA, running*

**HELENA**

Stay, though thou kill me, sweet Demetrius.

**DEMETRIUS**

Stay, on thy peril. I alone will go.

*Exit DEMETRIUS*

**HELENA**

Oh, I am out of breath in this fond chase.  
The more my prayer, the lesser is my grace.  
*(sees LYSANDER)*  
But who is here? Lysander, on the ground?  
Lysander, if you live, good sir, awake.

**LYSANDER**

*(waking)* And run through fire I will for thy sweet sake.

**HELENA**

Do not say so, Lysander. Say not so.  
Yet Hermia still loves you. Oh, this I know.

**LYSANDER**

Not Hermia but Helena I love.  
Who will not change a raven for a dove?

**HELENA**

Wherefore was I to this keen mockery born?  
When at your hands did I deserve this scorn?  
Oh, that a lady of one man refused  
Should of another therefore be abused!

*Exit HELENA*

**LYSANDER**

She sees not Hermia. I take my flight.  
I honor Helena to be her knight.

*Exit LYSANDER*

**HERMIA**

*(waking)* Help me, Lysander, help me! Do thy best  
To pluck this crawling serpent from my breast.  
No? Then I well perceive you all not nigh.  
Either death or you I'll find immediately.

*Exit HERMIA*

**ACT 3, SCENE 1**

*TITANIA sleeps*

*Enter the RUDE MECHANICALS*

**BOTTOM**

Are we all met?

**QUINCE**

Here's a marvelous convenient place for our rehearsal.

**BOTTOM**

Peter Quince—

There are things in this comedy  
of Pyramus and Thisbe that will never please.  
First, Pyramus must draw a sword to kill himself,  
which the ladies cannot abide.

**SNOUT**

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

**BOTTOM**

Write me a prologue, and say 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.

**SNOUT**

Will not the ladies be afeard of the lion?

**SNUG**

To bring in a lion among ladies is a most dreadful thing.

**SNOUT**

Therefore another prologue must tell he is not a lion.

**QUINCE**

It shall be so.  
But there is a hard thing: to bring the moonlight.  
For you know, Pyramus and Thisbe meet by moonlight.

**SNOUT**

Doth the moon shine that night we play our play?

**SNUG**

A calendar, a calendar!

**SNOUT**

Look in the almanac!

**FLUTE**

Find out moonshine, find out moonshine!

*(They look in the almanac, and all shake heads, "No.")*

**SNOUT**

One must say he comes to present the person of Moonshine.

**QUINCE**

Then, there is another thing: we must have a wall.

For Pyramus and Thisbe, says the story, did talk through the chink of a wall.

**SNOUT**

Some man or other must present Wall.

And let him hold his fingers thus, and through  
that cranny shall Pyramus and Thisbe whisper.

**QUINCE**

Then all is well.

Come, sit down every mother's son and rehearse your parts.

Pyramus, you begin. And so everyone according to his cue.

*Enter PUCK, unseen*

**PUCK**

*(aside)* What hempen homespuns have we swaggering here,  
So near the cradle of the fairy queen?

**QUINCE**

Speak, Pyramus.—Thisbe, stand forth.

**BOTTOM**

*(as PYRAMUS)* Thisbe, the flowers of odious savors sweet—

**QUINCE**

“Odors,” “odors.”

**BOTTOM**

*(as PYRAMUS)* — odors savors sweet,

My Thisbe dear, I will to thee appear.

But hark, a voice! Stay thou but here awhile.

*Exit BOTTOM*

**PUCK**

*(aside)* A stranger Pyramus than e'er played here.

*Exit PUCK*

**FLUTE**

Must I speak now?

**QUINCE**

Ay, must you.

For you must understand he goes to see a noise that he heard,  
and is to come again.

**FLUTE**

*(as THISBE in regular voice)* Most radiant Pyramus,

*(in higher pitch)* Most radiant Pyramus,

*(in very high pitch)* Most radiant Pyramus,  
most lily-white of hue,

Of color like the red rose on triumphant brier,

I'll meet thee, Pyramus, at Ninny's tomb.

**QUINCE**

“Ninus' tomb,” man.

But, you must not speak that yet. That you answer to Pyramus.  
Pyramus, enter. Your cue is past.

**FLUTE**

*(in his own voice)* Oh.

*(as THISBE)* As true as truest horse that yet would never tire.

*Enter BOTTOM with a donkey's head,  
And PUCK behind, laughing to himself*

**BOTTOM**

*(as PYRAMUS)* If I were fair, Thisbe, I were only thine.

**QUINCE**

Oh, monstrous! Oh, strange! We are haunted.  
Fly, masters! Help!

*Exit QUINCE, FLUTE, SNUG, SNOUT*

**PUCK**

I'll follow you.

*Exit PUCK after QUINCE, etal.*

**BOTTOM**

Why do they run away?

*Enter QUINCE and SNOUT*

**SNOUT**

O Bottom, thou art changed!

*Exit SNOUT*

**BOTTOM**

*(Calling after SNOUT)*

What do you see?

*Enter FLUTE*

**FLUTE** *(Stuttering)*

Bless thee, Bottom, bless thee.  
Thou art translated.

*Exit FLUTE*

*Enter and Exit PUCK*

**BOTTOM**

I see their knavery:  
this is to fright me if they could.  
I will walk up and down here and I will sing,  
that they shall hear I am not afraid.

*(sings)*

*The ouzel cock, so black of hue with orange-tawny bill,  
The throstle with his note so true, the wren with little quill—*

**TITANIA**

*(waking)* What angel wakes me from my flowery bed?

**BOTTOM**

*(sings)*

*The finch, the sparrow, and the lark, the plainsong cuckoo gray,  
Whose note full many a man doth mark and dares not answer "Nay"—*

**TITANIA**

I pray thee, gentle mortal, sing again.  
Mine ear is much enamored of thy note.  
And thy fair virtue's force perforce doth move me  
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 nowadays.

**TITANIA**

Thou art as wise as thou art beautiful.

**BOTTOM**

Not so, neither.  
But would I had wit enough to get out of this wood.

**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.  
Peaseblossom, Cobweb, Moth, and Mustardseed!

*Enter PEASEBLOSSOM, COBWEB, MOTH and MUSTARDSEED*

**PEASEBLOSSOM, COBWEB, MOTH, MUSTARDSEED**

Ready.  
Where shall we go?

**TITANIA**

Be kind and courteous to this gentleman.  
Feed him with apricocks and dewberries,  
With purple grapes, green figs, and mulberries.  
And pluck the wings from painted butterflies  
To fan the moonbeams from his sleeping eyes.  
Nod to him, elves, and do him courtesies.

**PEASEBLOSSOM, COBWEB, MUSTARDSEED, MOTH**

Hail, mortal.

**BOTTOM**

I beseech your name.

**PEASEBLOSSOM**

Peaseblossom.

**BOTTOM**

I shall desire you of more acquaintance, good Miss Peaseblossom.  
Your name, honest maid?

**COBWEB**

Cobweb.

**BOTTOM**

Good Mistress Cobweb, I shall desire you of more acquaintance too.  
Your name, I beseech you, miss?

**MOTH**

Moth.

**BOTTOM**

I desire you of more acquaintance, good Miss Moth.  
And your name?

**MUSTARDSEED**

Mustardseed.

**BOTTOM**

Good Mustardseed, I shall desire you of more acquaintance too.

**TITANIA**

Come, wait upon him. Lead him to my bower.

*Exit ALL*

**ACT 3, SCENE 2**

*Enter OBERON*

**OBERON**

I wonder if Titania be awaked.

*Enter PUCK*

Here comes my messenger. How now, mad spirit?

**PUCK**

My mistress with a monster is in love.  
A crew of patches, rude mechanicals  
Were met together to rehearse their calls.  
The shallowest thick-skin of that barren sort,  
Who Pyramus presented in their sport,  
When from the other players I he lead,  
A brayer's face I fixèd on his head.  
When in the moment he became a flunky,  
Titania waked and straightway loved a donkey.

**OBERON**

But hast thou yet latched the Athenian's eyes  
With the love juice, as I did bid thee do?

**PUCK**

I took him sleeping—that is finished too.

*Enter DEMETRIUS and HERMIA*

**OBERON**

*(aside to PUCK)*  
Stand close. This is the same Athenian.

**PUCK**

*(aside to OBERON)*  
This is the woman, but not this the man.

**DEMETRIUS**

Oh, why rebuke you him that loves you so?

**HERMIA**

Where is he my Lysander? Where'd he go?

**DEMETRIUS**

He is not dead, for aught that I can tell.

**HERMIA**

I pray thee, tell me then that he is well.

**DEMETRIUS**

And if I could, what should I get therefore?

**HERMIA**

A privilege never to see me more.

*Exit HERMIA*

**DEMETRIUS**

There is no following her in this fierce vein.  
Here so for a quick sleep I will remain.  
*(lies down and sleeps)*

**OBERON**

*(to PUCK)*

What hast thou done? Thou hast mistaken quite,  
And laid the love juice on some true love's sight.  
Find Helena of Athens - bring her here.  
I'll charm his eyes against she do appear.

**PUCK**

I go, I go. Look how I go,  
Swifter than arrow from the Tartar's bow.

*Exit PUCK*

**OBERON**

*(squeezing flower juice into DEMETRIUS's eyes)*

Flower of this purple dye, hit with Cupid's archery,  
When his love he doth espy, let her shine so gloriously.

*Enter PUCK*

**PUCK**

Captain of our fairy band, Helena is here at hand,  
And the youth, mistook by me.  
Lord, what fools these mortals be!

*Enter LYSANDER and HELENA*

**LYSANDER**

Why should you think that I should woo in scorn?

**HELENA**

Your vows are Hermia's. To her they are borne.

**LYSANDER**

I had no judgment when to her I swore.

**HELENA**

Nor none, in my mind, now you give her o'er.

**LYSANDER**

Demetrius loves her, and he loves not you.

**DEMETRIUS**

*(waking)*

O Helena, goddess, nymph, oh, let me kiss  
This princess of pure white, this seal of bliss!

**HELENA**

O spite! O hell! I see you all are bent  
To set against me for your merriment.  
You both are rivals, and love Hermia,  
And now both rivals to mock Helena—

**LYSANDER**

You are unkind, Demetrius. Be not so.  
For you love Hermia. This you know I know.

**DEMETRIUS**

Lysander, keep thy Hermia. I will none.  
For now to Helena that love is gone.

*Enter HERMIA*

**HERMIA**

Thou art not by mine eye, Lysander, found.  
Mine ear, I thank it, brought me to thy sound  
But why unkindly didst thou leave me so?

**LYSANDER**

The hate I bear thee made me leave thee so.

**HERMIA**

You speak not as you think. It cannot be.

**HELENA**

You fashion this false sport, in spite of me.  
Oh Hermia! I beg you, don't pretend  
To join with men in scorning your poor friend!

**HERMIA**

I am amazed at your passionate words.  
I scorn you not. It seems that you scorn me.

**HELENA**

Have you not set Lysander, all in fuss,  
To follow me and praise my eyes and hair?  
And made your other love, Demetrius—  
To call me goddess, nymph, divine, and rare?

**HERMIA**

I understand not what you mean by this.

**LYSANDER**

My love, my life, my soul, fair Helena!

**HELENA**

Oh, excellent!

**HERMIA**

*(to LYSANDER)*

Sweet, do not scorn her so.

**LYSANDER**

Helen, I love thee. By my life, I do.

**DEMETRIUS**

I say I love thee more than he can do.

**LYSANDER**

If thou say so, withdraw and prove it too.

**HERMIA**

Lysander, where to tends all this?  
(holds *LYSANDER* back)

**LYSANDER**

(to *HERMIA*)  
Vile thing, let loose  
Or I will shake thee from me like a serpent.

**HERMIA**

Do you not jest?

**HELENA**

Yes, sooth, and so do you.

**LYSANDER**

Be certain, nothing truer. 'Tis no jest  
That I do hate thee and love Helena.

**HERMIA**

(to *HELENA*)  
You thief of love! What, have you come by night  
And stol'n my love's heart from him?

**HELENA**

Have you no modesty, no maiden shame,  
Fie, fie! You counterfeit, low puppet, you!

**HERMIA**

How low am? I am not yet so low  
But that my nails can reach unto thine eyes.

**HELENA**

(to *LYSANDER* and *DEMETRIUS*)  
I pray, let her not hurt me, gentlemen,  
I'll follow you no further. Let me go.

**HERMIA**

Why, get you gone! Who is 't that hinders you?

**LYSANDER**

(to *HERMIA*)  
Get you gone, you dwarf,  
You bead, you acorn!

**DEMETRIUS**

(to *HERMIA*)  
Let her alone.

**LYSANDER**

(to *DEMETRIUS*)  
Now follow, if thou darest, to try whose right,  
Of thine or mine, is most in Helena.

**DEMETRIUS**

"Follow"? Nay, I'll go with thee, cheek by jowl.

*Exit LYSANDER and DEMETRIUS*

**HERMIA**

Nay, go not back.

**HELENA**

Your hands than mine are quicker for a fray.  
My legs are longer though, to run away.

*Exit HELENA*

**HERMIA**

I am amazed and know not what to say.

*Exit HERMIA*

**OBERON**

*(to PUCK)*

This is thy negligence.  
*(gives PUCK another flower)*  
Go crush this herb into Lysander's sight,  
To take from thence the error of this night.  
When they next wake, all this shall seem a dream  
And back to Athens shall the lovers scheme.  
I'll to my queen and her charmed eye release  
From monster's view, and all things shall be peace.

*Exit OBERON*

**PUCK**

Up and down, up and down,  
I will lead them up and down.  
I am feared in field and town.  
Goblin, lead them up and down.  
Here comes one.

*Enter LYSANDER*

**LYSANDER**

Where art thou, proud Demetrius? Speak thou now.

**PUCK**

*(as DEMETRIUS)*

I run behind you as my feet allow.  
But forward shall I run with you as bait.

**LYSANDER**

Go as you may, I will be with thee straight.

*Exit LYSANDER*

*Enter DEMETRIUS*

**DEMETRIUS**

Thou runaway, Lysander, art thou fled?  
Speak! In some bush? Where dost thou hide thy head?

**PUCK**

*(as LYSANDER)*

You wilt not come? Come, recreant. Come, thou child!  
I'll whip thee with a rod 'till you're defiled.

*Exit DEMETRIUS*

Enter **LYSANDER**

**LYSANDER**

The villain is much lighter-heeled than I.  
I followed fast, but faster he did fly,  
I find myself in dark uneven way,  
So here will rest me. (*lies down*)  
Come, thou gentle day! (*sleeps*)

Enter **PUCK** and **DEMETRIUS**

**PUCK**

(*as LYSANDER to DEMETRIUS*)

Ho, ho! Coward, come hither. I am here.

**DEMETRIUS**

Nay, then, thou mock'st me. Never shall I fear.  
I'll stop me in this wood to rest my head  
And measure out my length on this cold bed.  
(*lies down and sleeps*)

Enter **HELENA**

**HELENA**

O long and tedious night, oh night so weary  
Steal me awhile from mine own company.  
(*lies down and sleeps*)

**PUCK**

Yet but three? Come one more.  
Two of both kinds make up four.  
Here she comes, cursed and sad.  
Cupid is a knavish lad  
Thus to make poor females mad.

Enter **HERMIA**

**HERMIA**

Never so weary, never such dismay,  
Here will I rest me till the break of day.  
(*lies down and sleeps*)

**PUCK**

On the ground sleep sound.  
(*squeezes flower juice into LYSANDER 's eyes*)  
When thou wakest, thou takest true delight in the sight  
Of thy former lady's eye.  
Jack shall have Jill. Nought shall go ill.

Exit **PUCK**

**ACT 4, SCENE 1**

*LYSANDER, DEMETRIUS, HELENA, and HERMIA sleep.*  
*Enter TITANIA and BOTTOM with the donkey's head;*  
*And PEASEBLOSSOM, COBWEB, MOTH, and MUSTARDSEED;*  
*OBBERON behind them, unseen*

**TITANIA**

*(to BOTTOM)*

Come, sit thee down upon this flowery bed  
While I stick roses in thy sleek, smooth head,

**BOTTOM**

Where's Peaseblossom?

**PEASEBLOSSOM**

Ready.

**BOTTOM**

Scratch my head, Peaseblossom.  
Where's Mistress Cobweb?

**COBWEB**

Ready.

**BOTTOM**

Mistress Cobweb, good maid,  
kill me a red-hipped humble-bee on the top of a thistle.  
And, good mistress, bring me the honey bag.

*Exit COBWEB*

Where's Maid Mustardseed?

**MUSTARDSEED**

Ready.

**BOTTOM**

Good maid, help Cobweb to scratch.  
I must to the barber's, mistress,  
for methinks I am marvelous hairy about the face.

**TITANIA**

What, wilt thou hear some music, my sweet love?  
Or say, sweet love, what thou desirest to eat.

**BOTTOM**

I could munch your good dry oats.  
Good hay, sweet hay, hath no fellow.

**TITANIA**

I have a venturous fairy that shall seek  
The squirrel's hoard and fetch thee new nuts.

**BOTTOM**

I had rather have a handful or two of dried peas.  
But, I pray you, I have an exposition of sleep come upon me.

**TITANIA**

Sleep thou, and I will wind thee in my arms.  
Fairies, be gone, and be all ways away.

*Exit FAIRIES*

Oh, how I love thee! How I dote on thee!

*TITANIA and BOTTOM sleep*

*Enter PUCK*

**OBERON**

Welcome, good Puck. Seest thou this sweet sight?  
Her dotage now I do begin to pity.  
So gentle Puck, take this transformèd scalp  
From off the head of this Athenian swain,  
That he may think no more of this night's scheme  
But as the fierce vexation of a dream.  
But first I will release the fairy queen.

*(squeezing flower juice into TITANIA's eyes)*

Be as thou wast wont to be.  
See as thou wast wont to see.  
Now, my Titania, wake you, my sweet queen.

**TITANIA**

*(waking)*

My Oberon, what visions have I seen!

**OBERON**

There lies your love.

**TITANIA**

Oh, how mine eyes do loathe his visage now!

**OBERON**

Silence awhile. Puck, take off this head.

**PUCK**

*(takes the donkey's head off BOTTOM as he continues to sleep)*

Now when thou wakest, with thine own fool's eyes peep.

**OBERON**

Come on, my sweetest queen, take hands with me,  
Now thou and I are new in amity.  
So shall these pairs of faithful lovers be  
Wedded, with Theseus, all in jollity.

**TITANIA**

Come, my lord, and in our flight  
Tell me how it came this night  
That I sleeping here was found  
With these mortals on the ground.

*Exit OBERON, TITANIA, and PUCK*

*(Wind horns offstage)*

*Enter THESEUS, HIPPOLYTA, and EGEUS*

**THESEUS**

*(sees the four sleeping lovers)*

But, soft! What nymphs are these?

**EGEUS**

My lord, this is my daughter here asleep.

And this, Lysander. This Demetrius is.

And this Helena.

I wonder of their being here together.

**HIPPOLYTA**

No doubt they rose up early to observe

The rite of May, and hearing our intent,

Came here in grace our solemnity.

But speak, Egeus. Is not this the day

That Hermia should give answer of her choice?

**EGEUS**

It is, my lord.

*(THESEUS motions for EGEUS to wake the lovers.)*

*LYSANDER wakes, looks with love on HERMIA; DEMETRIUS wakes, looks with love on HELENA)*

**THESEUS**

Good morrow, friends. Saint Valentine is past.

I know you two are rival enemies:

How comes this gentle concord in the world?

**LYSANDER**

I cannot truly say how I came here;

But, as I think, for truly would I speak,

I came with Hermia hither: our intent

Was to be gone from Athens, where we might,

Without the peril of the Athenian law—

**EGEUS**

Enough, enough, my lord; you have enough:

I beg the law, the law, upon his head.

They would have stolen away; they would, Demetrius,

Thereby to have defeated you and me,

You of your wife and me of my consent,

Of my consent that she should be your wife.

**DEMETRIUS**

My lord, fair Helen told me of their stealth;

And I in fury hither follow'd them,

Fair Helena in fancy following me.

But by some power it is, my love to Hermia,

Melted as the snow.

The object and the pleasure of mine eye,

Is only Helena. To her, my lord,

Was I betroth'd ere I saw Hermia:

Now I do wish it, love it, long for it,

And will for evermore be true to it.

**HIPPOLYTA**

Fair lovers, you are fortunately met.

**THESEUS**

Egeus, I will overbear your will;  
For in the temple by and by with us  
These couples shall eternally be knit.

**HIPPOLYTA**

Away with us to Athens. Three and three,  
We'll hold a feast in great solemnity.

**THESEUS & HIPPOLYTA**

Come.

*Exit THESEUS, HIPPOLYTA, EGEUS*

**DEMETRIUS**

It's sure we are awake? Do not you think  
The duke was here, and bid us follow him?

**HERMIA**

Yea, and my father.

**HELENA**

And Hippolyta.

**LYSANDER**

And he did bid us follow to the temple.

*Exit LYSANDER, DEMETRIUS, HELENA, and HERMIA*

**BOTTOM**

*(waking)* I have had a most rare vision.  
I will get Peter Quince to write a ballad of this dream.

*Enter QUINCE, FLUTE, SNOUT, and SNUG, not seeing BOTTOM*

**SNOUT**

Masters, the duke is coming from the temple,  
and there are two or three lords and ladies to be married.

**BOTTOM**

Where are these lads? Where are these hearts?

**QUINCE**

Bottom! O most courageous day! O most happy hour!  
Let us hear, sweet Bottom.

**BOTTOM**

All that I will tell you is that the duke hath dined.  
Meet presently at the palace. And most dear actors,  
eat no onions nor garlic, for we are to utter sweet breath.  
And I do not doubt but to hear them say, "It is a sweet comedy."  
Away!

*Exit ALL*

**ACT 5, SCENE 1**

*Enter THESEUS, HIPPOLYTA*

**HIPPOLYTA**

'Tis strange, my Theseus, that these lovers speak of.

**THESEUS**

More strange than true. I never may believe  
These antique fables nor these fairy toys.

**HIPPOLYTA**

But all the story of the night told over,  
And all their minds transfigured so together,  
More witnesseth than fancy's images  
And grows to something of great constancy;  
But, howsoever, strange and admirable.  
Here come the lovers, full of joy and mirth.

*Enter LYSANDER, DEMETRIUS, HELENA, HERMIA, and EGEUS*

**THESEUS**

Come now, what masques, what dances shall we have?  
What revels are in hand? Is there no play?

*Enter QUINCE as PROLOGUE*

**PROLOGUE** (*delivered by QUINCE*)

The actors are at hand, and by their show  
You shall know all that you are like to know.

**THESEUS**

And we will hear it.

*Enter BOTTOM as PYRAMUS; FLUTE as THISBE;  
SNOUT as WALL and MOONSHINE; SNUG as LION.*

**PROLOGUE** (*delivered by QUINCE*)

This man is Pyramus, if you would know.  
This beauteous lady Thisbe is certain.  
This man, with lime and roughcast, present Wall,  
And with his cap of gold is also Moon.  
This grisly beast, is "Lion" called by name.

*Exit PROLOGUE, PYRAMUS, THISBE, LION, and WALL and MOONSHINE*

**WALL** (*played by SNOUT*)

In this same interlude it doth befall  
That I, one Snout by name, present a wall.  
And this the cranny is, right and sinister,  
Through which the fearful lovers are to whisper.

*Enter PYRAMUS*

**PYRAMUS** (*played by BOTTOM*)

O grim-looking night! O night with hue so black!  
O night, which ever art when day is not!  
O night, O night! Alack, alack, alack,  
I fear my Thisbe's promise is forgot!

Enter **THISBE**

**THISBE** (*played by FLUTE*)

O Wall, full often hast thou heard my moans,  
For parting my fair Pyramus and me!

**PYRAMUS**

I see a voice. Now will I to the chink,  
To spy and I can hear my Thisbe's face. Thisbe?

**THISBE**

My love thou art, my love, I think.

**PYRAMUS**

Oh, kiss me through the hole of this vile wall!

**THISBE**

I kiss the wall's hole, not your lips at all.

**PYRAMUS**

Wilt thou at Ninny's tomb meet me straightway?

**QUINCE**

Ninus! Ninus!

**THISBE**

Tide life, tide death, I come without delay.

Exit **PYRAMUS** and **THISBE**

**WALL**

Thus have I, Wall, my part discharged so.  
And, being done, thus Wall away doth go.

Exit **WALL**

**HIPPOLYTA**

This is the silliest stuff that ever I heard.

**THESEUS**

Here come two noble beasts in, a man and a lion.

Enter **LION** and **MOONSHINE**

**LION** (*played by SNUG*)

You, ladies, you whose gentle hearts do fear  
The smallest monstrous mouse that creeps on floor,  
May now perchance both quake and tremble here,  
When lion rough in wildest rage doth roar.  
(*ROARS*)

**MOONSHINE** (*SNOUT*)

Myself the man i' th' moon do seem to be.

**LYSANDER**

Proceed, Moon.

**DEMETRIUS**

But silence! Here comes Thisbe.

Enter **THISBE**

**THISBE**

This is old Ninny's tomb. Where is my love?

**LION**

(*ROARS*)

*THISBE runs off, dropping her mantle*

**DEMETRIUS**

Well roared, Lion!

**THESEUS**

Well run, Thisbe!

**HIPPOLYTA**

Well shone, Moon! Truly, the moon shines with a good grace.

*LION picks up THISBE's mantle, bloodies it, then exits*

Enter **PYRAMUS**

**DEMETRIUS**

And then came Pyramus.

**PYRAMUS**

(*seeing Thisbe's bloody mantle on the ground*)

Eyes, do you see? How can it be?

Thy mantle good. What, stained with blood?

Come, tears, confound! Out, sword, and wound!

Now am I dead.

Now am I fled.

Tongue, lose thy light.

Moon, take thy flight.

*Exit MOONSHINE*

Now die, die, die, die, die.

(*dies*)

**HIPPOLYTA**

How chance Moonshine is gone before Thisbe comes back and finds her lover?

**THESEUS**

She will find him by starlight. Here she comes.

**HIPPOLYTA**

I hope she will be brief.

*Enter THISBE (seeing PYRAMUS dead)*

**THISBE**

Asleep, my love?

What, dead, my dove?

O Pyramus, arise!

Speak, speak. Quite dumb?

Dead, dead? A tomb

Must cover thy sweet eyes.  
Tongue, not a word.  
Come, trusty sword.  
Come, blade, my breast imbrue.  
*(stabs herself)*  
And, farewell, friends.  
Thus Thisbe ends.  
Adieu, adieu, adieu.  
*(dies)*

*(THESEUS, HIPPOLYTA, LYSANDER, HERMIA, DEMETRIUS, and HELENA applaud)*  
*(THESEUS stands, all others follow including the RUDE MECHANICALS)*

**THESEUS**

Tis almost fairy time. Sweet friends, to bed.

*Enter OBERON and TITANIA, with FAIRIES and PUCK*

**OBERON**

By the dead and drowsy fire.  
Hop as light as bird from brier.

**TITANIA**

Hand in hand with fairy grace  
Will we sing and bless this place.

*(OBERON, TITANIA, FAIRIES, and PUCK sing and dance)*

**OBERON, TITANIA, and FAIRIES**

*(sing)*

*Now until the break of day,  
Through this house each fairy stray.  
So shall all the couples three  
Ever true in loving be.  
Trip away. Make no stay.  
Meet me all by break of day.*

**PUCK**

If we shadows have offended,  
Think but this, and all is mended—  
That you have but slumbered here  
While these visions did appear.  
And this weak and idle theme,  
No more yielding but a dream,  
Gentles, do not reprehend.  
If you pardon, we will mend.  
And as I am an honest Puck,  
If we have unearned luck  
Now to 'scape the serpent's tongue,  
We will make amends ere long.  
Else the Puck a liar call.  
So good night until you all.  
Give me your hands if we be friends,  
And Puck shall now restore amends.

**FINIS**