

William Shakespeare's
A MIDSUMMER
NIGHT'S DREAM

Adapted by Marieka Peterson Greene

CAST OF CHARACTERS

Theseus	Duke of Athens
Hippolyta	Bride of the Duke
Kios	Theseus's Court
Deimos	Theseus's Court
Iason	Theseus's Court
Nestor	Theseus's Court
Pavlos	Theseus's Court
Spiro	Theseus's Court
Hermia	In love with Lysander
Lysander	In love with Hermia
Helena	In love with Demetrius
Demetrius	In love with Hermia
Egeus	Hermia's father
Oberon	Fairy King
Titania	Fairy Queen
Puck	Oberon's assistant
Peaseblossom	Fairy
Cobweb	Fairy
Moth	Fairy
Bumble	Fairy
Mustardseed	Fairy
Dandelion	Fairy
Daffodil	Fairy
Peter Quince	Leader of the Mechanicals
Nick Bottom	Falls in love with Titania
Tom Snout	Mechanical
Robin Starveling	Mechanical
Francis Flute	Mechanical
Simon Snug	Mechanical
Henry Hoot	Mechanical

SCENE 1

Music plays and the lights come up on stage. PUCK enters.

PUCK

Who is it that watches there?
With hushed voices, that sit and stare?
Hello my friends, greetings to you all:
the old and young, the short and tall.

You've come to see a story, I see
About fairy mischief between the trees.
I hope our story will bring you as much pleasure
as a dream come true, or stolen treasure.

*FAIRIES peek from backstage and giggle because
they are nervous.*

Don't worry fairies, these friends are kind.
They come to listen with open minds.
I promise, they come with warm hearts.
So, go quick! Get ready to start!

Oh, I almost forgot, my name is Puck.
Here we go, wish us good luck!

SCENE 2

*The music goes down. A trumpet sounds.
THESEUS, and COURT enter.*

THESEUS

Good day, gentlemen of my court!

COURT

Good day, Duke Theseus!

THESEUS

Today is a special day, gentlemen.
My bride has arrived from the Amazon.

COURT

Good news, Duke Theseus!

THESEUS
Hippolyta, please come and meet the gentlemen of my court.

HIPPOLYTA enters. Trumpet sounds.

HIPPOLYTA
Good day, gentlemen.

COURT
Good day, Hippolyta, Queen of the Amazon.

THESEUS
In one day's time we shall be married.
Then you shall call her Duchess of Athens.

Trumpet sounds, again. EGEUS enters.

EGEUS
Good day, Duke Theseus!

THESEUS
Good day, Egeus. What brings you here?
Have you come to welcome my bride?

EGEUS
I am sorry to interrupt, great Duke.
I have a problem and I am in need of your help.

THESEUS
Tell me your problem.

EGEUS
I have promised my daughter Hermia to Demetrius.
They are to be married next month.

THESEUS
That doesn't sound like a problem. That sounds like good news!

EGEUS
It should be, my lord. But Hermia wants to marry another man.

THESEUS
Who is the other man she wants to marry?

EGEUS
The poet Lysander.

THESEUS
Did you bring them all here with you today?

EGEUS
They are here, sir.

THESEUS
Send them in!

Trumpet sounds again. HERMIA, LYSANDER, and DEMETRIUS enter the court. HERMIA drops on her knees in front of THESEUS.

HERMIA
Please, great Duke Theseus! Don't make me marry Demetrius!

THESEUS
But your father has already promised you to him.
You must obey your father's wishes.

LYSANDER
But great Duke, she does not love him!

DEMETRIUS
Quiet, Lysander!

HERMIA
But 'tis true! I love Lysander!

THESEUS
My dear Hermia, have you forgotten? A daughter is her father's property.
Your father may do with you as he pleases.

HIPPOLYTA
Oh Theseus, how can you deny a maiden in love?

THESEUS
Oh Hippolyta, my love, only you have the power to soften my heart.
Alright then, Hermia. I'll give you a choice.
You may marry Demetrius, or you must enter a nunnery.

DEMETRIUS

Come Hermia, surely you'll choose me!

HERMIA

Never shall I marry you!

*HERMIA cries, and runs off stage.
DEMETRIUS AND LYSANDER follow her.*

THESEUS

I don't know if I helped at all. Good luck, Egeus.

EGEUS

Thank you my Duke.

ALL exit the stage.

SCENE 3

*Forest music plays. FAIRIES enter, hiding behind trees.
OBERON and PUCK enter.*

OBERON

There you are good Puck. Where have you been?

PUCK

Over hill and dale King Oberon, making fairy mischief!

OBERON

Well Puck, I need you to go and find Queen Titania for me.
I need to speak with her.

PUCK

In two winks time, I'll have her here my king.

OBERON

Hush gentle Puck, here comes a young maiden. Go, be on your way!

PUCK exits the stage.

OBERON

Fairies, let us hide ourselves and see what is the trouble!

*OBERON hides behind the FAIRIES and trees.
HERMIA enters, followed by LYSANDER.*

LYSANDER

Hermia, you can rest now. Demetrius no longer follows.

HERMIA

Oh Lysander, what shall we do? The Duke gives me little choice.

LYSANDER

Don't worry, Hermia. We will flee Athens and be married.
We shall go where no one can find us.

HERMIA

But I am afraid. When will we go?

HELENA enters the stage.

LYSANDER

Hide yourself here and wait for my return.
I'll make plans and then come to you after night fall.

HELENA

Make plans for what?

LYSANDER

Helena, I am glad you are here. Take care of your friend.

LYSANDER exits.

HELENA

Hermia, what is happening? Where are you going?

HERMIA

The Duke said I must marry Demetrius or become a nun.
Lysander and I are going to flee Athens.

HELENA

Oh, how I wish Demetrius would have me. I still love him so!

HERMIA

You are welcome to him!

HELENA

'Tis not fair. Why does he now refuse my love?
He only has eyes for you!

HERMIA

I am sorry, Helena. I too wish he would love you again.

*DEMETIRUS enters upstage. He walks behind the trees.
He is looking for HERMIA.*

DEMETIRUS

Hermia? Why do you hide in these woods?

HELENA

Quick, hide yourself. Demetrius comes this way!

*HERMIA runs to hide offstage.
DEMETRIUS doesn't see HERMIA. HELENA waits for him.*

HELENA

Hello Demetrius!

DEMETRIUS

Oh no. Not you again.

HELENA

But why are you not glad to see me?

DEMETRIUS

I look for Hermia, not you.

HELENA

I wish you wouldn't look for her anymore.
I wish you'd look for me instead. I am easy to find!

DEMETRIUS

Helena! How many times must I tell you? I love you no more!

HELENA

Oh Demetrius, don't say so! I beg you, don't!

DEMETRIUS

Away from me, Helena. I am looking for Hermia.

HELENA

If I told you where she was, would you then love me?

DEMETRIUS

Never! Now stop this nonsense. Leave me be!

DEMETRIUS runs off stage.

HELENA

And so I follow!

HELENA follows DEMETRIUS off stage. HERMIA comes out of hiding.

HERMIA

She almost told him of my hiding place!
She cannot be trusted! I shall find another.

HERMIA runs off in the other direction.

OBERON

Fairies did you see? That poor maiden is not loved by that man.
I think I know a way to help her.

SCENE 4

PEASEBLOSSOM

Look now, King Oberon!

MOTH

She comes!

COBWEB

Titania comes!

ALL FAIRIES

Our queen comes this way!

PUCK enters with TITANIA followed by more FAIRIES.

PUCK

Over briar and brook, only minutes it took.
Oh king, I brought you your queen!

TITANIA

Oberon, what is it that you wish of me?

OBERON

Only to speak with you my lovely queen.

TITANIA

You only call me lovely when you want something.

OBERON

Come now, Titania. Is it possible I just want to look upon your beauty?

TITANIA

Impossible. Now, tell me, what is it that you want?

FAIRIES giggle.

OBERON glares at them. FAIRIES stop.

OBERON

Well, Titania, I guess it is true. There is something I'd like to ask of you.

PUCK

Fairies, hide yourselves from sight, I think I smell a royal fight!

FAIRIES hide behind the trees.

TITANIA

Yes?

OBERON

I was hoping you'd give me the young boy you've been raising.

TITANIA

And why would you want him?

OBERON

Well, he is getting older now. I was hoping he could be my henchman.

TITANIA

Oberon, his mother was one of my dearest friends.
How dare you! I will not allow him to become your henchman!

OBERON

He is getting too old to keep by your side, Titania.
You should leave him with me.

TITANIA

I shall not! I don't want to hear another word about it!

PUCK

Fairies, look away! Royal anger is here to stay!

FAIRIES hide their faces too.

OBERON

But Titania...

TITANIA

No!

OBERON

Titania...

TITANIA

Oberon, I'll speak with you no more. Fairies, away with us!

TITANIA exits with FAIRIES.

OBERON

Oh how my queen offends me!

PUCK

She does offend us both!

OBERON

What can I do? There must be something. I must teach her a lesson!

PUCK

Whatever you say, or wish me to do, I'll do it for you!

OBERON

My sweet Puck, I do appreciate your loyalty.

And, I think I have a thought!

PUCK

My master, tell me what you think!

OBERON

There is a flower, halfway around the world it grows.

It is a white and silver lily.

PUCK

I know the one.

A single drop of nectar from its center brings love to some.

OBERON

Find it Puck, and bring it back into our fairy wood.

Then, find Titania when she is sleeping.

Drop the nectar from the flower in her eyes.

When she wakes, she'll fall in love with the first fool she finds!

PUCK

Oh my king, what an excellent plan!

I'll start the journey from where I stand!

Around the world in thirty minutes I'll go

to find this flower the color of snow.

OBERON

But Puck, wait a bit. I have another use for the flower.

While you were gone I saw an Athenian man and maiden

running through the wood. The maiden loved the man,

but he would not love her back. After we make our

fun with Titania, go and find the Athenian couple.

PUCK

And if I use the nectar on this couple,

They'll fall in love and there'll be no more trouble?

OBERON

Exactly right, Puck.

PUCK

Then on I'll go, goodbye dear king.

OBERON

Report back to me as soon as you're done.

PUCK exits the stage. MECHANICAL music starts.

OBERON

What is this I hear? The sound of Athenians coming this way?

I hate their stomping through our woods. I'll be gone!

OBERON exits the stage.

SCENE 5

FAIRIES move the trees along as MECHANICALS enter.

PETER QUINCE

Stop your stomping gentlemen. This looks like a good spot.

SNUG

A good spot for what?

PETER QUINCE

Simon Snug, how many times do I have to tell you?

HOOT

He's only said it fifteen times!!!

FLUTE

Fifteen times!!!

PETER QUINCE

We are practicing a play to perform for the Duke on his wedding day.

BOTTOM

A play! A play! I love a play! I shall play all the play's parts!

PETER QUINCE

No Bottom, you may not play all the parts.

SNOUT

That's impossible!

FLUTE

Impossible!

SNUG

That much I do know!

PETER QUINCE

Hush now, I need to give you each your part. Everyone take a seat.

MECHANICALS sit, except PETER QUINCE.

STARVELING

What play shall we play for the Duke?

PETER QUINCE

I am getting to it. Won't you let me speak?

BOTTOM

We shall do a great history! One of war and blood!

FLUTE

One of war and blood!

BOTTOM

Or, how about a tragedy? I can play an excellent villain!

FLUTE

He can play an excellent villain!

PETER QUINCE

Quiet, quiet. Let me tell you all the story we shall do.
Because the Duke is getting married, we shall do a love story.

SNOUT

A love story?

STARVELING

A love story?

HOOT

A love story?

FLUTE

A love story?

SNUG

What kind of story?

ALL

A love story!!!

PETER QUINCE

We shall do the story of Pyramus and Thisbe.
You know, the story of the forbidden lovers that
speak through the hole in a wall?

STARVELING

And what parts will we play?

PETER QUINCE
You, Robin Starveling, shall play the moon.

STARVELING
The moon? Why the moon?

PETER QUINCE
Pyramus and Thisbe would talk through the wall at night.
So, you shall be the moon.

BOTTOM
What part shall I play Peter? I think I could play an excellent moon.
Look, I know how to shine really bright!

PETER QUINCE ignores BOTTOM.

PETER QUINCE
Tom Snout?

SNOUT
Yes, Peter?

PETER QUINCE
You shall play the wall that Pyramus and Thisbe talk through.

BOTTOM
But Peter, I can play the wall! Look how tall and strong I stand!

PETER QUINCE
Francis Flute?

FLUTE
That's me!

BOTTOM
What's his part?

FLUTE
What's my part?

PETER QUINCE
You shall play the beautiful Thisbe.

FLUTE
But I have a beard coming! I am too much a man to play a girl!

MECHANICALS laugh at FLUTE.

BOTTOM

I can play Thisbe!
(in a high voice) Look how sweet and gentle I am!

PETER QUINCE

No, Bottom. We need you to play Pyramus.

BOTTOM

I shall take the part quite seriously.
You'll be glad you gave it to me!

HOOT

But Peter, what about my part?

SNUG

And mine? What do I play?

FLUTE

I don't want to play a girl!

MECHANICALS all whine.

PETER QUINCE

Enough! That's it! I can't work here anymore. It's too noisy.

BOTTOM

Let's go looking for another place to practice.

STARVELING

A place that isn't so loud!

PETER QUINCE

Good idea!

FLUTE

Good idea!

PETER QUINCE

Let's go.

MECHANICALS all exit.

SCENE 6

LYSANDER enters calling for HERMIA.

LYSANDER

Hermia! Hermia! The time has come for us to leave.
Where do you hide? Hermia! Come out. It's me, Lysander!

HERMIA enters the stage.

HERMIA

Here I am, Lysander!
I am hiding from Helena and Demetrius. They are close by.

LYSANDER

Come, we must go. The dark of night is near.

*LYSANDER and HERMIA take hands and run off stage.
DEMETRIUS enters. HELENA is chasing him.*

DEMETRIUS

Helena, you must stop your chase.

HELENA

But Demetrius, I love you. I shall never stop chasing you.
Not until you return my love.

DEMETRIUS

I shall never return your love Helena.
I find you terribly annoying and disgusting.

HELENA

No matter what you say you can't -

DEMETRIUS

What if I said you were ugly? And smelly?
And tall and silly looking?!

HELENA

None of your words can hurt me, Demetrius.

DEMETRIUS

And what if I said you were like an obnoxious little dog,
and that I'd tie you up if you were!

HELENA

Oh, but Demetrius! You wouldn't do me harm, would you?

DEMETRIUS

Oh yes I would do you harm, you terrible, silly beast of a women!

HELENA

But Demetrius...

HELENA looks like she might cry.

DEMETRIUS

Go ahead and cry, if you must.

Maybe you'll finally see the truth: you are not worthy of my greatness.

DEMETRIUS runs off stage.

HELENA falls to the floor crying.

HELENA

Oh, woe is me, alone in the wood. Alas, no one loves me.

HELENA stands.

'Tis getting dark! Oh, what scary beasts wait in the wood at night?
I'd better be getting home. Oh, I am afraid I'll be lost!

HELENA exits the stage.

SCENE 7

HERMIA and LYSANDER enter.

HERMIA

Lysander, it's getting dark. I am afraid of the woods at night.

LYSANDER

Hermia, I promise there is nothing to fear.

HERMIA

But I can hardly see two feet in front of me. I am afraid I'll trip and fall.

LYSANDER

All right, then. We'll stop and rest for the night.

LYSANDER kneels down on the ground.

Look here! This ground is soft for a good night's sleep.

HERMIA

I'll lay right here. This is a soft enough spot for me.

LYSANDER and HERMIA lay down to sleep.

LYSANDER

Good night, Hermia.

HERMIA

Good night, Lysander.

They fall asleep. PUCK enters with a beautiful flower.

PUCK

Well, who is this that lays here?
An Athenian man with a young maiden sleeping near!
Here they both lay, fast asleep.
This must be the couple of which Oberon did speak!

Oh young man is it all true?
Is this poor maiden in love with you?
How is it that you don't love her back?
She is quite beautiful, I should give you a smack!

Poor girl, don't worry, I'll make it all better.
I'll take this flower and make his eyes a bit wetter
With the sweet nectar from its white center.

And when he wakes up, he'll look at you and see
Your beautiful hair, eyes and true beauty.

*PUCK drops a bit of nectar into LYSANDER'S eyes.
Puck exits the stage. HELENA enters crying.*

HELENA

Oh, no! I cannot see where I am going!

HELENA gets down on knees. She crawls towards LYSANDER.

It is too dark! Oh friends? Where can you be?

She accidentally touches LYSANDER in the dark.

What is this?

LYSANDER wakes up. He whispers into the dark.

LYSANDER

Who is that there? Who speaks?

HELENA

It is Helena who is here. I am lost in the dark.

LYSANDER falls instantly in love with HELENA.

LYSANDER

Oh Helena!

HELENA

Who speaks to me? Lysander is that you?

LYSANDER

I can see your bright face. How the moonlight touches it!

HELENA

But there is no moonlight in this dark part of the wood.

LYSANDER

Oh but Helena, you don't need
very much moonlight to see your beautiful face.
It is so much prettier than that of small and dwarfish Hermia.

HELENA

But Lysander, you love Hermia!

LYSANDER

Not anymore. I give myself to you in the moonlight!

HELENA

No Lysander, don't say such things! Do you mock your friend?
How dare you! I shall leave you here, with your Hermia.

HELENA runs offstage. LYSANDER follows.

LYSANDER

Helena, Wait!

HERMIA wakes up.

HERMIA

Lysander! Oh, what a terrible dream! Lysander? Where are you?
Have you gone? Did you leave me alone in this dark wood? Lysander!!!

HERMIA crawls and then walks slowly off stage.

SCENE 8

TITANIA enters with FAIRIES following her.

TITANIA

Fairies, I am tired from the royal fight.
Please, make my bed in this beautiful moonlight.

FAIRIES bring beautiful cloth and flowers to make TITANIA'S bed.

TITANIA

Thank you fairies. Now sing me a sweet song.
Help me to rest my tired head.
And make sure that while I sleep, no harm comes my way.

FAIRIES start to sing.

(Melody of Twinkle-Twinkle Little Star may be used).

DAFFODIL

You spotted snakes with double tongues...

BUMBLE

Thorny hedgehogs, be not seen...

MUSTARDSEED

Newts and blind worms do no wrong...

DANDELION

Come not near our fairy queen.

ALL FAIRIES

Come soft wind, with melody
Sing in our sweet lullaby.

PEASEBLOSSOM

Never harm

COBWEB AND MOTH
Nor spell, nor charm...

BUMBLE AND DANDELION
Come our lovely lady nigh.

ALL FAIRIES
So goodnight with lullaby!

FAIRIES exit to the trees.
MECHANICAL music starts. MECHANICALS enter.

PETER QUINCE
This looks like a much quieter place.

STARVELING
An excellent place to practice our play.

SNUG
What? We're doing a play?

ALL MECHANICALS (*except SNUG*)
How many times must we tell you?

PETER QUINCE
Simon Snug, you don't ever remember anything.
We are practicing a play for Duke Theseus.

HOOT
We are doing the story of Pyramus and Thisbe.

BOTTOM
And I am playing Pyramus. And I shall play it well!

STARVELING
And I shall play the moon!

SNOUT
And I shall play the wall!

FLUTE
And I have to play a girl!

PETER QUINCE

Francis Flute, it's not just any girl. Thisbe is a very important part!

SNUG

Now I remember, I think.

PETER QUINCE

Let us to work. Here are your rolls.
You must learn all of your parts.

QUINCE hands out rolls with lines on them.

HOOT

What do we do now, Peter?

PETER QUINCE

The play starts with only the Moon.
Everyone else, sit down and wait your turn.

All other MECHANICALS sit down.

Now, moon. Stand in the middle. Stand tall and bright.

STARVELING stands center with his arms in a circle above his head.

STARVELING

Is this right, Peter?

PETER QUINCE

That looks good. Now read your part.

STARVELING reads his lines.

STARVELING

I am the moon. I stand tall and bright.
I watch Pyramus and Thisbe talk at night.
Who is that? Who comes there?
Thisbe comes to stop and stare
Through the wall.

Stops reading to ask a question.

What rhymes with wall?

HOOT

That is a silly way to end the speech.

STARVELING

Something needs to rhyme with wall!

HOOT

Tall rhymes with wall.

SNOUT

So does call!

FLUTE

What about small? That works!

BOTTOM

I can re-write it! It will be perfect when I write it!

PETER QUINCE

No, no. It's perfect as it is.

The moon ends with wall to call out Wall. Who plays Wall?

SNOUT

I play the wall, Peter! Where do I stand?

PETER QUINCE

Right between the two lovers. Stand tall Wall!

PUCK enters.

MECHANICALS keep working, but they cannot be heard.

PUCK

Look at these strange and jolly fellows working here
If only they knew Titania, Queen of the Fairies, sleeps near!

PUCK walks quietly over to where TITANIA sleeps.

You look so peaceful my lady queen.
In a deep and quiet sleep it seems.

TITANIA snores.

What is that? My lady's snore?
Sounds a bit like a lion's roar!

PUCK

I've got the flower my king asked me to fetch
And with these drops a love fever she will catch!

PUCK drops flower nectar into TITANIA's eyes.

So here we go, one... two... three...
A little love mischief for her majesty!

PUCKS walks towards the MECHANICALS

What are these fools doing in the woods today?
Are they? Could they? Be practicing a play?

PUCK stands aside to watch.

PETER QUINCE

Okay Bottom, it's almost time for your line. Get ready!

BOTTOM

Oh, don't have me start from where I stand.
Let me enter the stage like a real player!

PETER QUINCE

Very well, Bottom. Go take your place.

BOTTOM exits the stage.

PUCK

With these silly fellows there's opportunity to take
I'll use some fairy magic, and a trick I'll make!

PUCK gestures towards BOTTOM. There is a magical sound.

PETER QUINCE

Okay Bottom. We are all waiting. Make your entrance!

BOTTOM

It is I, Nick Bottom, as the great Pyramus!

BOTTOM enters with a donkey's head.

SNOUT

What is that ugly beast!?

PETER QUINCE
Bottom, you have changed! Oh No!

SNUG
What evil spirits live in these woods?

PETER QUINCE
Come friends, we have angered them! Quick, away!
All MECHANICALS run away yelling. TITANIA wakes up.

BOTTOM
Why leave me here? Why run so fast?
TITANIA sees BOTTOM and falls in love.

TITANIA
Who is that beautiful creature that stands there?

BOTTOM
I do not know my lady. You are the only beauty I see!

TITANIA
Silly man, come hear and rest yourself beside me.

BOTTOM
Who me? You want me to do what?

TITANIA
Oh come here, my love!

BOTTOM
My love? Why call me, "my love?"

TITANIA
Strange, I know it seems, for me to do so. But, I love you!

PUCK is laughing.

PUCK
I shall run over brook and stream as fast as I can
To tell my master his mistress has fallen in love with a donkey man!

PUCK runs off stage, still laughing.

TITANIA

"My love," I shall call you, so come take my hand!

BOTTOM

You are quite a fancy lady. I am afraid I'm too dirty.

TITANIA

Never mind that. Come, silly love.

TITANIA takes BOTTOM'S hand. They exit.

SCENE 9

DEMETRIUS enters.

DEMETRIUS

It's getting too dark for me to continue my chase.
I'll sleep here until morning comes.

OBERON enters.

OBERON

Who is this that rests here? Why, it's that young Athenian man.
Where is the maiden that was chasing him?
Perhaps she lost heart, poor girl. Where is Puck with the flower?

PUCK enters.

PUCK

Here I am, my lord!

OBERON

Puck, where have you been?

PUCK

Oh, wait till you hear my lord king,
Of what has happened to your queen.

OBERON

What!?! Has she fallen in love with some ugly creature?

PUCK

Oh my king, just wait till you hear
While my queen was sleeping, who was working near.
There was a group of silly fellows practicing a play.
I think 'twas meant for Duke Theseus's wedding day.

There was one very loud and boisterous fellow.
All of his lines he yelled strong with a bellow.

And as my queen awoke in her bed
I gave this loud man a donkey head!

And straight away she was cooing like a dove
My king, with a monster she is in love!

And that is the story, what I have just told.
And that is how it did unfold.

OBERON

Well done, sweet Puck.
Now tell me, what of the Athenian couple?

PUCK

They too were struck with love, and away they ran.
But now the maiden is chased by the man!

OBERON

But Puck, I am sure the man is not chasing the maiden.
He is lying right here, fast asleep.

PUCK takes a closer look at DEMETRIUS

PUCK

What's that? Oh no! I fear and I fret
I've made a mistake I shall regret!

OBERON

Puck! You must have cast the spell on the wrong man!

PUCK

Well, let's give this one drops then, an easy remedy!
Here you go, one...two...three!

PUCK drops nectar into DEMETRIUS's eyes.

OBERON

Puck, stand back. I hear a racket coming this way!

OBERON and PUCK hide in the trees.

HELENA enters. LYSANDER follows her. HERMIA follows him.

HELENA

Lysander please, let me be!

HERMIA

Lysander! Why do you follow her?

LYSANDER

I am done with you, Hermia. My heart is Helena's now.

HERMIA

Helena! How could you steal my love from me!

DEMETRIUS wakes up and sees HELENA.

DEMETRIUS

Is this an angel I see?

Helena, you are the most beautiful maiden I have ever seen!

HELENA

What? You too? What trick is this?

LYSANDER

You cannot have her Demetirus! I will die before I let you love her!

HERMIA

What's that my love!?

DEMETRIUS

Stand back, Lysander. I shall have Helena, or fight you for her!

LYSANDER and DEMETRIUS draw their swords.

HELENA

Oh, now I see! You were once both rivals to woo Hermia!
And now both rivals to mock Helena!

HELENA runs to LYSANDER and grabs his arm.

HERMIA

Lysander? Do you speak in jest? Why would you hurt me so?

LYSANDER

Away from me you dark and ugly dwarf!

LYSANDER throws HERMIA to the ground.

LYSANDER and DEMETRIUS start to duel.

HERMIA

Helena! I can't believe I called you friend!
I may be smaller than you, but I can still fight you!
Give me back my Lysander!

HERMIA runs at HELENA. She tries to grab her.

HELENA ducks away.

HELENA

Hermia, I did not try to steal him!
Gentlemen, though you mock me, save me!

The LOVERS run around the stage.

OBERON and PUCK step out of hiding.

OBERON

Oh, What mischief must we undo!

HELENA

Hermia, your hands are quick!
My legs are longer, though, to run away!

HELENA runs off stage.

HERMIA

Mock my height again?

HERMIA follows HELENA

DEMETRIUS and LYSANDER

Helena, wait!

DEMETRIUS and LYSANDER run off stage.
The LOVERS can be heard shouting off stage.

OBERON

Puck, this is all your doing. So I leave it to you to undo.

PUCK

My mistake has turned into a mess
But I have something to confess

This mess is fun and makes me glad
Though it does make others sad.

LYSANDER

(from off stage) Helena, I love you!

OBERON

You naughty spirit, hurry now.
Follow these lovers through the woods until they're too tired to fight.
Then, use the flower one last time and make what is wrong, right.

HELENA

(from off stage) Let me be!

OBERON

Quick, Puck, follow!

PUCK

Then quickly I must go, out of sight!
And finish before the end of night!

*OBERON steps aside to watch. PUCK exits up stage left.
LYSANDER enters down stage right with his sword drawn.*

LYSANDER

Demetrius! Where are you hiding? Come, face the fight!

PUCK enters and hides behind the trees.

PUCK

(imitating DEMETRIUS) Come this way, fool!
I am drawn and ready!

*LYSANDER turns towards PUCK's voice and follows.
PUCK runs and crosses downstage.*

PUCK

Up and down up and down,
I shall lead them up and down!

I make tricks in field and town,
Puck shall lead them up and down!

*PUCK exits stage right, LYSANDER follows
DEMETRIUS enters stage left.*

DEMETRIUS

Lysander, come and fight like a man!

PUCK

(from off stage) I wait for you here! Come this way!

DEMETRIUS exits down stage right. LYSANDER enters up stage right.

LYSANDER

Demetrius runs ahead of me and dares me to follow.
But then he is always gone!

PUCK enters up stage left.

My enemy is much faster than I.
I followed fast, but now I am tired.
I'll rest here until daylight comes.

*LYSANDER lays down to sleep down stage left.
DEMETRIUS enters up stage right.*

DEMETRIUS

I cannot chase him. He is too quick!
I shall sleep until the sunlight wakes me.

*DEMETRIUS lays down to sleep up stage right.
HELENA enters up stage left.*

HELENA

All night we've been running. My tired legs can run no more.
I shall sleep here. In the light of day I'll find my way back to Athens.

*HELENA lays down to sleep near DEMETRIUS.
HERMIA enters down stage right.*

HERMIA

Exhausted am I! I have no more fight in me.
I must rest here a while.

*HERMIA lays down to sleep near LYSANDER.
OBERON steps forward.*

OBERON

Quick, Puck! The morning is near!
Go and put the drops in that ones eyes.
We'll make sure he sees the right maiden when he wakes.

*PUCK puts the drops in LYSANDER'S eyes.
Lights change on stage. Birds sing.
All the LOVERS wake up.*

LYSANDER

What a strange sleep.

HERMIA

Lysander? Did we but dream?

LYSANDER

I think we did, my love.

HELENA

Lysander, will you say you love me still?

LYSANDER

No, Helena. My heart is Hermia's.

HERMIA

Oh Lysander, I thought you were forever lost!

HELENA

And Demetrius? Will you still say you love me?

DEMETRIUS

It feels strange, but yes, I do.
Lysander, I no longer wish to marry Hermia.
You may marry her yourself.

LYSANDER

Let us go to Duke Theseus and to your father.
We'll tell them the news!

HELENA
And Demetrius? Might you marry me?

DEMETRIUS
I feel as if I am meant to, dear Helena.

HELENA
Oh Demetrius, my heart sings with joy!

LYSANDER
Now all is well? Most wonderful!

HELENA
All is well! Surely good spirits have been making magic.

HERMIA
Let us go, then. Back to Athens!

LOVERS exit the stage holding hands.

SCENE 10

PUCK
There they go! All is mended!

OBERON
Now, I wonder how Titania is doing with her love.

PUCK
Lucky be you my king, she comes this way!

TITANIA enters. She holds BOTTOM's hand.

TITANIA
Come, my sweet. There is a lovely stream near by.
I'll have my fairies bring you a sip of cool water.

BOTTOM
And more berries?

TITANIA
Is it more berries you'd like?
I'll have my fairies bring you more of those as well.

BOTTOM

All this walking, I am exhausted.

TITANIA

Then rest here, my dear!

PUCK

Listen, my king. She call's him dear!

OBERON

We've had good fun. Perhaps it is time to reverse the spell.

Spreads his arms to cast a spell.

Titania, fall to sleep and when you wake
You'll see you've made a big mistake!

TITANIA falls asleep.

Now, awake!

TITANIA wakes up.

TITANIA

Who are you? And what is this? You ugly creature!
Why do you lay in my arms?

BOTTOM

But you said you loved me!

TITANIA

Love you? I do not! Get away from me you beast!

BOTTOM

But you called me your love!

TITANIA

Oberon, save me from this creature!

TITANIA runs to OBERON.

OBERON

Puck, lead the poor fellow away and restore him.

PUCK

Come with me, my good man
And Puck shall do the best (s)he can.

PUCK leads BOTTOM off stage.

TITANIA

Oh Oberon, what a horrible dream I had!

OBERON

Hush now, your king is here. Come, my queen. Let us away.
We both need sleep to pass this day.

TITANIA and OBERON exit.

SCENE 11

The trumpet sounds.

DUKE THESEUS enters with HIPPOLYTA and his COURT.

COURT

All hail Duke Theseus and the duchess, his bride!

THESEUS

My dear Hippolyta, I am glad to call you my bride!

HIPPOLYTA

And I am glad to call you my groom!

IASON enters.

IASON

Duke, you have four visitors that wish to speak with you.

THESEUS

Then send them in!

Trumpet sounds again. LOVERS enter.

These faces look familiar

NESTOR

They were here yesterday!

PAVLOS

There was an argument about who could marry who.

THESEUS

Ah yes, now I remember! Why have you come before me today?

DEMETRIUS

Great Duke, I no long want to marry Hermia.

LYSANDER

He gives her to me to marry.

SPIRO enters.

SPIRO

Duke Theseus, the maiden's father is here.

THESEUS

Then send him in too!

Trumpet sounds. EGEUS enters.

EGEUS

Good day, great Duke!
I've been told my daughter has returned to see you.

THESEUS

Egeus, it appears this man no longer wishes to marry your daughter.

EGEUS

But Demetrius, I thought-

DEMETRIUS

I no longer love her. I would rather marry Helena.

HERMIA

Father, may I please marry Lysander?

EGEUS

What a strange change.

LYSANDER

Strange things happen in the woods at night.

EGEUS

If Demetrius no longer wants to marry Hermia,
then you may have her Lysander.

THESEUS

There you have it. All's well!

KIOS

Duke Theseus, there is a group of players
who would like to speak with you.

DEIMOS

They have a wedding gift for you.

THESEUS

Send them in!

Trumpet sounds. MECHANICALS enter.

PETER QUINCE

Good day Duke Theseus.
We have a prepared a play for you and your bride.

HIPPOLYTA

How lovely, I love plays!

BOTTOM

We shall present Pyrimus and Thisbe!
A great -

MECHANICALS

Love story!

BOTTOM

And I shall play Pyrimus!

SNOUT

And I shall play the wall!

STARVELING

And I shall play the moon!

PETER QUINCE

Enough, enough! The play shall show all your parts.

THESEUS

What a marvelous surprise! Thank you for coming.
Let's go to my great hall and enjoy your show.
Come all, join in the merriment!

ALL

All hail Duke Theseus and his bride!

ALL exit happily.

SCENE 12

Forest music plays. PUCK enters.

PUCK

Did you like our story? Please, pray tell?
Do you think it all ends well?

We the fairies did mischief make
Love and fun, with one mistake

If our story has offended
Think but this and all is mended

That you were just dreaming here
While these visions did appear.

Let us take hands and make amends
And in the end, we'll all be friends.

PUCK extends his hands as other players join.

CURTAIN CALL

THE END