



**BRAVE SPIRITS THEATRE
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REHEARSAL SCRIPT
The Two Gentlemen of Verona
2011

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VALENTINE To be in love, where scorn is bought with groans;
Coy looks with heart-sore sighs; one fading moment's mirth
With twenty watchful, weary, tedious nights:
If haply won, perhaps a hapless gain;
If lost, why then a grievous labor won;
However, but a folly bought with wit,
Or else a wit by folly vanquished.

PROTEUS So, by your circumstance, you call me fool.

VALENTINE So, by your circumstance, I fear you'll prove.

PROTEUS 'Tis love you cavil at: I am not Love.

VALENTINE Love is your master, for he masters you:
And he that is so yoked by a fool,
Methinks, should not be chronicled for wise.
But wherefore waste I time to counsel thee,
That art a votary to fond desire?
Once more adieu! my father at the road
Expects my coming, there to see me shipp'd.

PROTEUS And thither will I bring thee, Valentine.

VALENTINE Sweet Proteus, no; now let us take our leave.
To Milan let me hear from thee by letters
Of thy success in love, and what news else
Betideth here in absence of thy friend;
And likewise will visit thee with mine.

PROTEUS All happiness bechance to thee in Milan!

VALENTINE As much to you at home! and so, farewell.

Exit

PROTEUS He after honor hunts, I after love:
He leaves his friends to dignify them more,
I leave myself, my friends and all, for love.
Thou, Julia, thou hast metamorphosed me,
Made me neglect my studies, lose my time,
War with good counsel, set the world at nought;
Made wit with musing weak, heart sick with thought.

Enter SPEED

SPEED Sir Proteus, save you! Saw you my master?

PROTEUS But now he parted hence, to embark for Milan.

SPEED Twenty to one then he is shipp'd already,
And I have play'd the sheep in losing him.

PROTEUS Indeed, a sheep doth very often stray,
An if the shepherd be a while away.

SPEED You conclude that my master is a shepherd, then,
and I a sheep?

PROTEUS I do.

SPEED Nay, that I can deny by a circumstance.

PROTEUS It shall go hard but I'll prove it by another.

SPEED The shepherd seeks the sheep, and not the sheep
the shepherd; but I seek my master, and my master
seeks not me: therefore I am no sheep.

PROTEUS The sheep for fodder follow the shepherd; the
shepherd for food follows not the sheep: thou for
wages followest thy master; thy master for wages
follows not thee: therefore thou art a sheep.

SPEED Such another proof will make me cry 'baa.'

PROTEUS Beshrew me, but you have a quick wit.

SPEED And yet it cannot overtake your slow purse.

PROTEUS Come come, open the matter in brief: gavest thou
my letter to Julia? what said she?

SPEED Open your purse, that the money and the matter
may be both at once delivered.

PROTEUS Well, sir, here is for your pains. What said she?

SPEED Truly, sir, I think you'll hardly win her.

PROTEUS Why, couldst thou perceive so much from her?

SPEED Sir, I could perceive nothing at all from her; no, not so much as a ducat for delivering your letter: and being so hard to me that brought your mind, I fear she'll prove as hard to you in telling your mind.

PROTEUS What said she? nothing?

SPEED No, not so much as 'Take this for thy pains.' To testify your bounty, I thank you, you have testerned me; in requital whereof, henceforth carry your letters yourself: and so, sir, I'll commend you to my master.

Exit SPEED

PROTEUS I must go send some better messenger:
I fear my Julia would not deign my lines,
Receiving them from such a worthless post.

Exit

**SCENE II. The same.
Garden of JULIA's house.**

Enter JULIA and LUCETTA

JULIA But say, Lucetta, now we are alone,
Wouldst thou then counsel me to fall in love?

LUCETTA Ay, madam, so you stumble not unheedfully.

JULIA Of all the fair resort of gentlemen
That every day with parle encounter me,
In thy opinion which is worthiest love?

LUCETTA Please you repeat their names, I'll show my mind
According to my shallow simple skill.

JULIA What think'st thou of the fair Sir Eglamour?

LUCETTA As of a knight well-spoken, neat and fine;
But, were I you, he never should be mine.

JULIA What think'st thou of the rich Mercatio?

LUCETTA Well of his wealth; but of himself, so so.

JULIA What think'st thou of the gentle Proteus?

LUCETTA Lord, Lord! to see what folly reigns in us!

JULIA How now! what means this passion at his name?

LUCETTA Pardon, dear madam: 'tis a passing shame
That I, unworthy body as I am,
Should censure thus on lovely gentlemen.

JULIA Why not on Proteus, as of all the rest?

LUCETTA Then thus: of many good I think him best.

JULIA Your reason?

LUCETTA I have no other, but a woman's reason;
I think him so because I think him so.

JULIA And wouldst thou have me cast my love on him?

LUCETTA Ay, if you thought your love not cast away.

JULIA Why he, of all the rest, hath never moved me.

LUCETTA Yet he, of all the rest, I think, best loves ye.

JULIA His little speaking shows his love but small.

LUCETTA Fire that's closest kept burns most of all.

JULIA They do not love that do not show their love.

LUCETTA O, they love least that let men know their love.

JULIA I would I knew his mind.

LUCETTA Peruse this paper, madam.

JULIA 'To Julia.' Say, from whom?

LUCETTA That the contents will show.

JULIA Say, say, who gave it thee?

LUCETTA Valentine's page; and sent, I think, from Proteus.
He would have given it you; but I, being in the way,
Did in your name receive it: pardon the fault I pray.

JULIA Now, by my modesty, a goodly broker!
Dare you presume to harbor wanton lines?
To whisper and conspire against my youth?
Now, trust me, 'tis an office of great worth
And you an officer fit for the place.
There, take the paper, see it be returned,
Or else return no more into my sight.

LUCETTA To plead for love deserves more fee than hate.

JULIA Will ye be gone?

LUCETTA That you may ruminate.

Exit

JULIA And yet I would I had o'erlooked the letter:
It were a shame to call her back again
And pray her to a fault for which I chid her.
What a fool is she, that knows I am a maid,
And would not force the letter to my view!
Since maids, in modesty, say 'no' to that
Which they would have the profferer construe 'ay.'
How churlishly I chid Lucetta hence,
When willingly I would have had her here!
My penance is to call Lucetta back
And ask remission for my folly past.
What ho! Lucetta!

Re-enter LUCETTA

LUCETTA What would your ladyship?

JULIA Is't near dinner-time?

LUCETTA I would it were,
That you might kill your stomach on your meat
And not upon your maid.

JULIA What is't that you took up so gingerly?

LUCETTA Nothing.

JULIA Why didst thou stoop, then?

LUCETTA To take a paper up that I let fall.

JULIA And is that paper nothing?

LUCETTA Nothing concerning me.

JULIA Then let it lie for those that it concerns.

LUCETTA Madam, it will not lie where it concerns
Unless it have a false interpreter.

JULIA This babble shall not henceforth trouble me.
Here is a coil with protestation!

Tears the letter

Go get you gone, and let the papers lie:
You would be fingering them, to anger me.

LUCETTA She makes it strange; but she would be best pleased
To be so anger'd with another letter.

Exit

JULIA Nay, would I were so anger'd with the same!
O hateful hands, to tear such loving words!
Injurious wasps, to feed on such sweet honey
And kill the bees that yield it with your stings!
I'll kiss each several paper for amends.
Look, here is writ 'kind Julia.' Unkind Julia!
As in revenge of thy ingratitude,
I throw thy name against the bruising stones,
Trampling contemptuously on thy disdain.
And here is writ 'love-wounded Proteus.'
Poor wounded name! my bosom as a bed
Shall lodge thee till thy wound be thoroughly heal'd;
And thus I search it with a sovereign kiss.
But twice or thrice was 'Proteus' written down.
Be calm, good wind, blow not a word away
Till I have found each letter in the letter,
Except mine own name: that some whirlwind bear
Unto a ragged fearful-hanging rock
And throw it thence into the raging sea!
Lo, here in one line is his name twice writ,
'Poor forlorn Proteus, passionate Proteus,

To the sweet Julia:' that I'll tear away.
And yet I will not, sith so prettily
He couples it to his complaining names.
Thus will I fold them one on another:
Now kiss, embrace, contend, do what you will.

Re-enter LUCETTA

LUCETTA Madam, dinner is ready, and your father stays.

JULIA Well, let us go.

LUCETTA What, shall these papers lie like tell-tales here?

JULIA If you respect them, best to take them up.

LUCETTA Nay, I was taken up for laying them down:
Yet here they shall not lie, for catching cold.

JULIA I see you have a month's mind to them.

LUCETTA Ay, madam, you may say what sights you see;
I see things too, although you judge I wink.

JULIA Come, come; will't please you go?

Exeunt

SCENE III. The same.

ANTONIO's house.

Enter ANTONIO and PANTHINO

ANTONIO Tell me, Panthino, what sad talk was that
Wherewith my brother held you in the cloister?

PANTHINO 'Twas of his nephew Proteus, your son.

ANTONIO Why, what of him?

PANTHINO He wonder'd that your lordship
Would suffer him to spend his youth at home,
While other men, of slender reputation,
Put forth their sons to seek preferment out:
Some to the wars, to try their fortune there;
Some to discover islands far away;

Some to the studious universities.
For any or for all these exercises,
He said that Proteus your son was meet,
And did request me to importune you
To let him spend his time no more at home,
Which would be great impeachment to his age,
In having known no travel in his youth.

ANTONIO Nor need'st thou much importune me to that
Whereon this month I have been hammering.
I have consider'd well his loss of time
And how he cannot be a perfect man,
Not being tried and tutor'd in the world:
Experience is by industry achieved
And perfected by the swift course of time.
Then tell me, whither were I best to send him?

PANTHINO I think your lordship is not ignorant
How his companion, youthful Valentine,
Attends the emperor in his royal court.

ANTONIO I know it well.

PANTHINO 'Twere good, I think, your lordship sent him thither:
There shall he practice tilts and tournaments,
Hear sweet discourse, converse with noblemen.
And be in eye of every exercise
Worthy his youth and nobleness of birth.

ANTONIO I like thy counsel; well hast thou advised:
And that thou mayst perceive how well I like it,
The execution of it shall make known.
Even with the speediest expedition
I will dispatch him to the emperor's court.

PANTHINO Tomorrow, may it please you, Don Alphonso,
With other gentlemen of good esteem,
Are journeying to salute the emperor
And to commend their service to his will.

ANTONIO Good company; with them shall Proteus go:
And, in good time! now will we break with him.

Enter PROTEUS

PROTEUS Sweet love! sweet lines! sweet life!
Here is her hand, the agent of her heart;
Here is her oath for love, her honor's pawn.
O, that our fathers would applaud our loves,
To seal our happiness with their consents!
O heavenly Julia!

ANTONIO How now! what letter are you reading there?

PROTEUS May't please your lordship, 'tis a word or two
Of commendations sent from Valentine,
Deliver'd by a friend that came from him.

ANTONIO Lend me the letter; let me see what news.

PROTEUS There is no news, my lord, but that he writes
How happily he lives, how well beloved
And daily graced by the emperor;
Wishing me with him, partner of his fortune.

ANTONIO And how stand you affected to his wish?

PROTEUS As one relying on your lordship's will
And not depending on his friendly wish.

ANTONIO My will is something sorted with his wish.
Muse not that I thus suddenly proceed;
For what I will, I will, and there an end.
I am resolved that thou shalt spend some time
With Valentinus in the emperor's court:
Tomorrow be in readiness to go

PROTEUS My lord, I cannot be so soon provided:
Please you, deliberate a day or two.

ANTONIO Look, what thou want'st shall be sent after thee:
No more of stay! tomorrow thou must go.
Come on, Panthino: you shall be employ'd
To hasten on his expedition.

Exeunt ANTONIO and PANTHINO

PROTEUS Thus have I shunn'd the fire for fear of burning,
And drench'd me in the sea, where I am drown'd.
I fear'd to show my father Julia's letter,
Lest he should take exceptions to my love;

VALENTINE Why, how know you that I am in love?

SPEED Marry, by these special marks: first, you have learned, like Sir Proteus, to wreath your arms, like a malecontent; to relish a love-song, like a robin-redbreast; to walk alone, like one that had the pestilence; to sigh, like a school-boy that had lost his A B C; to weep, like a young wench that had buried her grandam; to fast, like one that takes diet; to watch like one that fears robbing; You were wont, when you laughed, to crow like a cock; when you walked, to walk like one of the lions; when you fasted, it was presently after dinner; when you looked sadly, it was for want of money: and now you are metamorphosed with a mistress, that, when I look on you, I can hardly think you my master.

VALENTINE Are all these things perceived in me?

SPEED Not an eye that sees you but is a physician to comment on your malady.

VALENTINE But tell me, dost thou know my lady Silvia?

SPEED She that you gaze on so as she sits at supper?

VALENTINE Hast thou observed that? even she, I mean.

SPEED Is she not hard-favored, sir?

VALENTINE Not so fair, boy, as well-favored.

SPEED Sir, I know that well enough.

VALENTINE What dost thou know?

SPEED That she is not so fair as, of you, well-favored.

VALENTINE I mean that her beauty is exquisite, but her favor infinite.

SPEED You never saw her since she was deformed.

VALENTINE How long hath she been deformed?

SPEED Ever since you loved her.

VALENTINE I have loved her ever since I saw her; and still I see her beautiful.

SPEED If you love her, you cannot see her.

VALENTINE Why?

SPEED Because Love is blind. O, that you had mine eyes; or your own eyes had the lights they were wont to have when you chid at Sir Proteus for going ungartered!

VALENTINE What should I see then?

SPEED Your own present folly and her passing deformity: for he, being in love, could not see to garter his hose, and you, being in love, cannot see to put on your hose.

VALENTINE Belike, boy, then, you are in love; for last morning you could not see to wipe my shoes.

SPEED True, sir; I was in love with my bed: I thank you, you swunged me for my love, which makes me the bolder to chide you for yours.

VALENTINE Last night she enjoined me to write some lines to one she loves.

SPEED And have you?

VALENTINE I have.

SPEED Are they not lamely writ?

VALENTINE No, boy, but as well as I can do them. Peace! here she comes.

Enter SILVIA

VALENTINE Madam and mistress, a thousand good-morrrows.

SILVIA Sir Valentine and servant, to you two thousand.

SPEED [Aside] He should give her interest and she gives it him.

VALENTINE As you enjoin'd me, I have writ your letter
Unto the secret nameless friend of yours;
Which I was much unwilling to proceed in
But for my duty to your ladyship.

SILVIA I thank you gentle servant: 'tis very clerkly done.

VALENTINE Now trust me, madam, it came hardly off;
For being ignorant to whom it goes
I writ at random, very doubtfully.

SILVIA Perchance you think too much of so much pains?

VALENTINE No, madam; so it stead you, I will write
Please you command, a thousand times as much;
And yet--

SILVIA A pretty period! Well, I guess the sequel;
And yet I will not name it; and yet I care not;
And yet take this again; and yet I thank you,
Meaning henceforth to trouble you no more.

SPEED [Aside] And yet you will; and yet another 'yet.'

VALENTINE What means your ladyship? do you not like it?

SILVIA Yes, yes; the lines are very quaintly writ;
But since unwillingly, take them again.
Nay, take them.

VALENTINE Madam, they are for you.

SILVIA Ay, ay: you writ them, sir, at my request;
But I will none of them; they are for you;
I would have had them writ more movingly.

VALENTINE Please you, I'll write your ladyship another.

SILVIA And when it's writ, for my sake read it over,
And if it please you, so; if not, why, so.

VALENTINE If it please me, madam, what then?

SILVIA Why, if it please you, take it for your labor:
And so, good morrow, servant.

Exit

SPEED O jest unseen, inscrutable, invisible,
As a nose on a man's face, or a weathercock on a steeple!
My master sues to her, and she hath taught her suitor,
He being her pupil, to become her tutor.
O excellent device! was there ever heard a better,
That my master, being scribe, to himself should write the letter?

VALENTINE How now, sir? what are you reasoning with
yourself?

SPEED Nay, I was rhyming: 'tis you that have the reason.

VALENTINE To do what?

SPEED To be a spokesman for Madam Silvia.

VALENTINE To whom?

SPEED To yourself: why, she woos you by a figure.

VALENTINE What figure?

SPEED By a letter, I should say.

VALENTINE Why, she hath not writ to me?

SPEED What need she, when she hath made you write to
yourself? Why, do you not perceive the jest?

VALENTINE No, believe me.

SPEED No believing you, indeed, sir. But did you perceive
her earnest?

VALENTINE She gave me none, except an angry word.

SPEED Why, she hath given you a letter.

VALENTINE That's the letter I writ to her friend.

SPEED And that letter hath she delivered, and there an
end.

VALENTINE I would it were no worse.

SPEED I'll warrant you, 'tis as well:
Why muse you, sir? 'tis dinner-time.

VALENTINE I have dined.

SPEED Ay, but hearken, sir; though the chameleon
Love can feed on the air, I am one that am
nourished by my victuals, and would fain have
meat. O, be not like your mistress; be moved, be
moved.

Exeunt

**SCENE II. Verona.
JULIA'S house.**

Enter PROTEUS and JULIA

PROTEUS Have patience, gentle Julia.

JULIA I must, where is no remedy.

PROTEUS When possibly I can, I will return.

JULIA If you turn not, you will return the sooner.
Keep this remembrance for thy Julia's sake.

Giving a ring

PROTEUS Why then, we'll make exchange; here, take you this.

JULIA And seal the bargain with a holy kiss.

PROTEUS Here is my hand for my true constancy;
And when that hour o'erslips me in the day
Wherein I sigh not, Julia, for thy sake,
The next ensuing hour some foul mischance
Torment me for my love's forgetfulness!
My father stays my coming; answer not;
The tide is now: nay, not thy tide of tears;

should not the shoe speak a word for weeping: now should I kiss my father; well, he weeps on. Now come I to my mother: Well, I kiss her; why, there 'tis; here's my mother's breath up and down. Now come I to my sister; mark the moan she makes. Now the dog all this while sheds not a tear nor speaks a word; but see how I lay the dust with my tears.

Enter PANTHINO

PANTHINO Launce, away, away, aboard! thy master is shipped and thou art to post after with oars. What's the matter? why weepest thou, man? Away, ass! You'll lose the tide, if you tarry any longer.

LAUNCE It is no matter if the tied were lost; for it is the unkindest tied that ever any man tied.

PANTHINO What's the unkindest tide?

LAUNCE Why, he that's tied here, Crab, my dog.

PANTHINO Tut, man, I mean thou'lt lose the flood, and, in losing the flood, lose thy voyage, and, in losing thy voyage, lose thy master, and, in losing thy master, lose thy service, and, in losing thy service,--Why dost thou stop my mouth?

LAUNCE For fear thou shouldst lose thy tongue.

PANTHINO Where should I lose my tongue?

LAUNCE In thy tale.

PANTHINO In thy tail!

LAUNCE Lose the tide, and the voyage, and the master, and the service, and the tied! Why, man, if the river were dry, I am able to fill it with my tears; if the wind were down, I could drive the boat with my sighs.

PANTHINO Come, come away, man; I was sent to call thee.

LAUNCE Sir, call me what thou darest.

PANTHINO Wilt thou go?

LAUNCE Well, I will go.

Exeunt

**SCENE IV. Milan.
The DUKE's palace.**

Enter SILVIA, VALENTINE, THURIO,

SILVIA Servant, you are sad.

VALENTINE Indeed, madam, I seem so.

THURIO Seem you that you are not?

VALENTINE Haply I do.

THURIO So do counterfeits.

VALENTINE So do you.

THURIO What seem I that I am not?

VALENTINE Wise.

THURIO What instance of the contrary?

VALENTINE Your folly.

THURIO How?

SILVIA What, angry, Sir Thurio! do you change color?

VALENTINE Give him leave, madam; he is a kind of chameleon.

THURIO That hath more mind to feed on your blood than
live in your air.

VALENTINE You have said, sir.

THURIO Ay, sir, and done too, for this time.

VALENTINE I know it well, sir; you always end ere you begin.

SILVIA A fine volley of words, gentlemen, and quickly
shot off.

VALENTINE 'Tis indeed, madam; we thank the giver.

SILVIA Who is that, servant?

VALENTINE Yourself, sweet lady; for you gave the fire. Sir
Thurio borrows his wit from your ladyship's looks,
and spends what he borrows kindly in your
company.

THURIO Sir, if you spend word for word with me, I shall
make your wit bankrupt.

VALENTINE I know it well, sir; you have an exchequer of
words, and, I think, no other treasure to give your
followers, for it appears by their bare liveries, that
they live by your bare words.

SILVIA No more, gentlemen, no more:--here comes my
father.

Enter DUKE

DUKE Now, daughter Silvia, you are hard beset.
Sir Valentine, your father's in good health:
What say you to a letter from your friends
Of much good news?

VALENTINE My lord, I will be thankful.
To any happy messenger from thence.

DUKE Know ye Don Antonio, your countryman?

VALENTINE Ay, my good lord, I know the gentleman
To be of worth and worthy estimation
And not without desert so well reputed.

DUKE Hath he not a son?

VALENTINE Ay, my good lord; a son that well deserves
The honor and regard of such a father.

DUKE You know him well?

VALENTINE I know him as myself; for from our infancy
We have conversed and spent our hours together:
And though myself have been an idle truant,
Yet hath Sir Proteus, for that's his name,
Made use and fair advantage of his days;
His years but young, but his experience old;
His head unmellow'd, but his judgment ripe;
And, in a word, for far behind his worth
Comes all the praises that I now bestow,
He is complete in feature and in mind
With all good grace to grace a gentleman.

DUKE Well, sir, this gentleman is come to me,
With commendation from great potentates;
And here he means to spend his time awhile:
I think 'tis no unwelcome news to you.

VALENTINE Should I have wish'd a thing, it had been he.

DUKE Welcome him then according to his worth.
Silvia, I speak to you, and you, Sir Thurio;
For Valentine, I need not cite him to it:
I will send him hither to you presently.

Exit

VALENTINE This is the gentleman I told your ladyship
Had come along with me, but that his mistress
Did hold his eyes lock'd in her crystal looks.

SILVIA Belike that now she hath enfranchised them
Upon some other pawn for fealty.

VALENTINE Nay, sure, I think she holds them prisoners still.

SILVIA Nay, then he should be blind; and, being blind
How could he see his way to seek out you?

VALENTINE Why, lady, Love hath twenty pair of eyes.

THURIO They say that Love hath not an eye at all.

VALENTINE To see such lovers, Thurio, as yourself:
Upon a homely object Love can wink.

SILVIA Have done, have done; here comes the gentleman.

VALENTINE Pardon me, Proteus: all I can is nothing
To her whose worth makes other worthies nothing;
She is alone.

PROTEUS Then let her alone.

VALENTINE Not for the world: why, man, she is mine own,
And I as rich in having such a jewel
As twenty seas, if all their sand were pearl,
The water nectar and the rocks pure gold.
Forgive me that I do not dream on thee,
Because thou see'st me dote upon my love.
My foolish rival, that her father likes
Only for his possessions are so huge,
Is gone with her along, and I must after,
For love, thou know'st, is full of jealousy.

PROTEUS But she loves you?

VALENTINE Ay, and we are betroth'd: nay, more, our, marriage-hour,
With all the cunning manner of our flight,
Determined of; how I must climb her window,
The ladder made of cords, and all the means
Plotted and 'greed on for my happiness.
Good Proteus, go with me to my chamber,
In these affairs to aid me with thy counsel.

PROTEUS Go on before; I shall inquire you forth:
I must unto the road, to disembark
Some necessaries that I needs must use,
And then I'll presently attend you.

VALENTINE Will you make haste?

PROTEUS I will.

Exit VALENTINE

Even as one heat another heat expels,
Or as one nail by strength drives out another,
So the remembrance of my former love
Is by a newer object quite forgotten.
Is it mine, or Valentine's praise,
Her true perfection, or my false transgression,
That makes me reasonless to reason thus?
She is fair; and so is Julia that I love--

That I did love, for now my love is thaw'd;
Which, like a waxen image, 'gainst a fire,
Bears no impression of the thing it was.
Methinks my zeal to Valentine is cold,
And that I love him not as I was wont.
O, but I love his lady too too much,
And that's the reason I love him so little.
How shall I dote on her with more advice,
That thus without advice begin to love her!
'Tis but her picture I have yet beheld,
And that hath dazzled my reason's light;
But when I look on her perfections,
There is no reason but I shall be blind.
If I can cheque my erring love, I will;
If not, to compass her I'll use my skill.

Exit

SCENE V. The same.
A street.

Enter SPEED and LAUNCE severally

| | |
|--------|---|
| SPEED | Launce! by mine honesty, welcome to Milan! |
| LAUNCE | Forswear not thyself, sweet youth, for I am not welcome. I reckon this always, that a man is never undone till he be hanged, nor never welcome to a place till some certain shot be paid and the hostess say 'Welcome!' |
| SPEED | Come on, you madcap, I'll to the alehouse with you presently; where, for one shot of five pence, thou shalt have five thousand welcomes. But, sirrah, how did thy master part with Madam Julia? |
| LAUNCE | Marry, after they closed in earnest, they parted very fairly in jest. |
| SPEED | But shall she marry him? |
| LAUNCE | No. |
| SPEED | How then? shall he marry her? |
| LAUNCE | No, neither. |

SPEED Why, then, how stands the matter with them?

LAUNCE Marry, thus: when it stands well with him, it stands well with her.

SPEED What an ass art thou! I understand thee not.

LAUNCE What a block art thou, that thou canst not! My staff understands me.

SPEED What thou sayest?

LAUNCE Ay, and what I do too: look thee, I'll but lean, and my staff understands me.

SPEED It stands under thee, indeed.

LAUNCE Why, stand-under and under-stand is all one.

SPEED But tell me true, will't be a match?

LAUNCE Ask my dog: if he say ay, it will! if he say no, it will; if he shake his tail and say nothing, it will.

SPEED The conclusion is then that it will.

LAUNCE Thou shalt never get such a secret from me but by a parable.

SPEED 'Tis well that I get it so. But, Launce, how sayest thou, that my master is become a notable lover?

LAUNCE I never knew him otherwise.

SPEED Than how?

LAUNCE A notable lubber, as thou reportest him to be.

SPEED Why, thou whoreson ass, thou mistakest me.

LAUNCE Why, fool, I meant not thee; I meant thy master.

SPEED I tell thee, my master is become a hot lover.

LAUNCE Why, I tell thee, I care not though he burn himself
in love. If thou wilt, go with me to the alehouse;
Wilt thou go?

SPEED At thy service.

Exeunt

SCENE VI. The same.
The DUKE'S palace.

Enter PROTEUS

PROTEUS To leave my Julia, shall I be forsworn;
To love fair Silvia, shall I be forsworn;
To wrong my friend, I shall be much forsworn;
And even that power which gave me first my oath
Provokes me to this threefold perjury;
Love bade me swear and Love bids me forswear.
O sweet-suggesting Love, if thou hast sinned,
Teach me, thy tempted subject, to excuse it!
At first I did adore a twinkling star,
But now I worship a celestial sun.
Unheedful vows may heedfully be broken,
And he wants wit that wants resolved will
To learn his wit to exchange the bad for better.
Fie, fie, unreverend tongue! to call her bad,
Whose sovereignty so oft thou hast preferr'd
With twenty thousand soul-confirming oaths.
I cannot leave to love, and yet I do;
But there I leave to love where I should love.
Julia I lose and Valentine I lose:
If I keep them, I needs must lose myself;
If I lose them, thus find I by their loss
For Valentine myself, for Julia Silvia.
I to myself am dearer than a friend,
For love is still most precious in itself.
I will forget that Julia is alive,
Remembering that my love to her is dead;
And Valentine I'll hold an enemy,
Aiming at Silvia as a sweeter friend.
I cannot now prove constant to myself,
Without some treachery used to Valentine.
Now presently I'll give her father notice
Of their disguising and pretended flight;
Who, all enraged, will banish Valentine;

For Thurio, he intends, shall wed his daughter;
But, Valentine being gone, I'll quickly cross
By some sly trick blunt Thurio's dull proceeding.
Love, lend me wings to make my purpose swift,
As thou hast lent me wit to plot this drift!

Exit

SCENE VII. Verona.

JULIA'S house.

Enter JULIA and LUCETTA

JULIA Counsel, Lucetta; gentle girl, assist me;
And even in kind love I do conjure thee
To lesson me and tell me some good mean
How, with my honor, I may undertake
A journey to my loving Proteus.

LUCETTA Better forbear till Proteus make return.

JULIA O, know'st thou not his looks are my soul's food?
Didst thou but know the inly touch of love,
Thou wouldst as soon go kindle fire with snow
As seek to quench the fire of love with words.

LUCETTA I do not seek to quench your love's hot fire,
But qualify the fire's extreme rage,
Lest it should burn above the bounds of reason.

JULIA The more thou damm'st it up, the more it burns.
The current that with gentle murmur glides,
Thou know'st, being stopp'd, impatiently doth rage;
But when his fair course is not hindered,
He makes sweet music with the enamell'ed stones,
Then let me go and hinder not my course
I'll be as patient as a gentle stream
And make a pastime of each weary step,
Till the last step have brought me to my love.

LUCETTA But in what habit will you go along?

JULIA Not like a woman; for I would prevent
The loose encounters of lascivious men:
Gentle Lucetta, fit me with such weeds
As may beseem some well-reputed page.

LUCETTA What fashion, madam shall I make your breeches?

JULIA Why even what fashion thou best likest, Lucetta.

LUCETTA You must needs have them with a codpiece, madam.

JULIA Out, out, Lucetta! that would be ill-favor'd.
But tell me, wench, how will the world repute me
For undertaking so unstaid a journey?
I fear me, it will make me scandalized.

LUCETTA If you think so, then stay at home and go not.

JULIA Nay, that I will not.

LUCETTA Then never dream on infamy, but go.
If Proteus like your journey when you come,
No matter who's displeas'd when you are gone:
I fear me, he will scarce be pleas'd withal.

JULIA That is the least, Lucetta, of my fear:
A thousand oaths, an ocean of his tears
And instances of infinite of love
Warrant me welcome to my Proteus.

LUCETTA All these are servants to deceitful men.

JULIA Base men, that use them to so base effect!
But truer stars did govern Proteus' birth
His words are bonds, his oaths are oracles,
His love sincere, his thoughts immaculate,
His tears pure messengers sent from his heart,
His heart as far from fraud as heaven from earth.

LUCETTA Pray heaven he prove so, when you come to him!

JULIA Now, as thou lovest me, do him not that wrong
To bear a hard opinion of his truth:
Only deserve my love by loving him;
And presently go with me to my chamber,
To take a note of what I stand in need of,
To furnish me upon my longing journey.
Come, answer not, but to it presently!

Exeunt

ACT III.
SCENE I. Milan.
The DUKE's palace.

Enter DUKE, and PROTEUS

DUKE Now, tell me, Proteus, what's your will with me?

PROTEUS My gracious lord, that which I would discover
The law of friendship bids me to conceal;
But when I call to mind your gracious favors
Done to me, undeserving as I am,
My duty pricks me on to utter that
Which else no worldly good should draw from me.
Know, worthy prince, Sir Valentine, my friend,
This night intends to steal away your daughter:
Myself am one made privy to the plot.
I know you have determined to bestow her
On Thurio, whom your gentle daughter hates;
And should she thus be stol'n away from you,
It would be much vexation to your age.
Thus, for my duty's sake, I rather chose
To cross my friend in his intended drift
Than, by concealing it, heap on your head
A pack of sorrows which would press you down,
Being unprevented, to your timeless grave.

DUKE Proteus, I thank thee for thine honest care;
Which to requite, command me while I live.
This love of theirs myself have often seen,
Haply when they have judged me fast asleep,
And oftentimes have purposed to forbid
Sir Valentine her company and my court:
But fearing lest my jealous aim might err
And so unworthily disgrace the man,
A rashness that I ever yet have shunn'd,
I gave him gentle looks, thereby to find
That which thyself hast now disclosed to me.
And, that thou mayst perceive my fear of this,
Knowing that tender youth is soon suggested,
I nightly lodge her in an upper tower,
The key whereof myself have ever kept;
And thence she cannot be convey'd away.

PROTEUS Know, noble lord, they have devised a mean
How he her chamber-window will ascend

And with a corded ladder fetch her down;
For which the youthful lover now is gone
And this way comes he with it presently;
Where, if it please you, you may intercept him.
But, good my Lord, do it so cunningly
That my discovery be not aimed at.

DUKE Upon mine honor, he shall never know
That I had any light from thee of this.

PROTEUS Adieu, my Lord; Sir Valentine is coming.

Exit PROTEUS. Enter VALENTINE

DUKE Sir Valentine, whither away so fast?

VALENTINE Please it your grace, there is a messenger
That stays to bear my letters to my friends,
And I am going to deliver them.

DUKE Be they of much import?

VALENTINE The tenor of them doth but signify
My health and happy being at your court.

DUKE Nay then, no matter; stay with me awhile;
I am to break with thee of some affairs
That touch me near, wherein thou must be secret.
'Tis not unknown to thee that I have sought
To match my friend Sir Thurio to my daughter.

VALENTINE I know it well, my Lord; and, sure, the match
Were rich and honorable; besides, the gentleman
Is full of virtue, bounty, worth and qualities
Beseeming such a wife as your fair daughter:
Cannot your Grace win her to fancy him?

DUKE No, trust me; she is peevish, sullen, froward,
Proud, disobedient, stubborn, lacking duty,
Neither regarding that she is my child
Nor fearing me as if I were her father;
And, may I say to thee, this pride of hers,
Upon advice, hath drawn my love from her;
And, where I thought the remnant of mine age
Should have been cherish'd by her child-like duty,
I now am full resolved to take a wife

And turn her out to who will take her in:
Then let her beauty be her wedding-dower;
For me and my possessions she esteems not.

VALENTINE What would your Grace have me to do in this?

DUKE There is a lady in Verona here
Whom I affect; but she is nice and coy
And nought esteems my aged eloquence:
Now therefore would I have thee to my tutor--
For long ago I have forgot to court.

VALENTINE Win her with gifts, if she respect not words:
Dumb jewels often in their silent kind
More than quick words do move a woman's mind.

DUKE But she did scorn a present that I sent her.

VALENTINE A woman sometimes scorns what best contents her.
Send her another; never give her o'er;
For scorn at first makes after-love the more.
Take no repulse, whatever she doth say;
For 'get you gone,' she doth not mean 'away!'
That man that hath a tongue, I say, is no man,
If with his tongue he cannot win a woman.

DUKE But she I mean is promised by her friends
Unto a youthful gentleman of worth,
And kept severely from resort of men,
That no man hath access by day to her.

VALENTINE Why, then, I would resort to her by night.

DUKE Ay, but the doors be lock'd and keys kept safe,
That no man hath recourse to her by night.

VALENTINE What lets but one may enter at her window?

DUKE Her chamber is aloft, far from the ground,
And built so shelving that one cannot climb it
Without apparent hazard of his life.

VALENTINE Why then, a ladder quaintly made of cords,
To cast up, with a pair of anchoring hooks,
Would serve to scale another Hero's tower,
So bold Leander would adventure it.

DUKE Now, as thou art a gentleman of blood,
Advise me where I may have such a ladder.

VALENTINE When would you use it? pray, sir, tell me that.

DUKE This very night; for Love is like a child,
That longs for every thing that he can come by.

VALENTINE By seven o'clock I'll get you such a ladder.

DUKE But, hark thee; I will go to her alone:
How shall I best convey the ladder thither?

VALENTINE It will be light, my lord, that you may bear it
Under a cloak that is of any length.

DUKE A cloak as long as thine will serve the turn?

VALENTINE Ay, my good lord.

DUKE Then let me see thy cloak:
I'll get me one of such another length.

VALENTINE Why, any cloak will serve the turn, my lord.

DUKE How shall I fashion me to wear a cloak?
I pray thee, let me feel thy cloak upon me.
What letter is this same? What's here? 'To Silvia!'
I'll be so bold to break the seal for once.

Reads

'My thoughts do harbor with my Silvia nightly,
And slaves they are to me that send them flying:
O, could their master come and go as lightly,
Himself would lodge where senseless they are lying!
My herald thoughts in thy pure bosom rest them:
While I, their king, that hither them importune,
Do curse the grace that with such grace hath bless'd them,
Because myself do want my servants' fortune:
I curse myself, for they are sent by me,
That they should harbor where their lord would be.'
What's here?
'Silvia, this night I will enfranchise thee.'
'Tis so; and here's the ladder for the purpose.
Go, base intruder! overweening slave!
Bestow thy fawning smiles on equal mates,
And think my patience, more than thy desert,

VALENTINE I pray thee, Launce, an if thou seest my boy,
 Bid him make haste and meet me at the North-gate.

PROTEUS Go, sirrah, find him out. Come, Valentine.

VALENTINE O my dear Silvia! Hapless Valentine!

Exeunt VALENTINE and PROTEUS

LAUNCE I am but a fool, look you; and yet I have the wit to
 think my master is a kind of a knave: but that's all
 one, if he be but one knave. He lives not now that
 knows me to be in love; yet I am in love; but a
 team of horse shall not pluck that from me; nor
 who 'tis I love; and yet 'tis a woman; but what
 woman, I will not tell myself; and yet 'tis a
 milkmaid. She hath more qualities than a water-
 spaniel.

Pulling out a paper

 Here is the cate-log of her condition. 'Imprimis:
 She can fetch and carry.' Why, a horse can do no
 more: nay, a horse cannot fetch, but only carry;
 therefore is she better than a jade. 'Item: She can
 milk;' look you, a sweet virtue in a maid with clean
 hands.

Enter SPEED

SPEED How now, Signior Launce! what news with your
 mastership?

LAUNCE With my master's ship? why, it is at sea.

SPEED Well, your old vice still; mistake the word. What
 news, then, in your paper?

LAUNCE The blackest news that ever thou heardest.

SPEED Why, man, how black?

LAUNCE Why, as black as ink.

SPEED Let me read them.

LAUNCE Fie on thee, jolt-head! thou canst not read.

SPEED Thou liest; I can.

LAUNCE I will try thee. Tell me this: who begot thee?

SPEED Marry, the son of my grandfather.

LAUNCE O illiterate loiterer! it was the son of thy
grandmother: this proves that thou canst not read.

SPEED Come, fool, come; try me in thy paper.

LAUNCE There; and St. Nicholas be thy speed!

SPEED [*Reads*] 'Imprimis: She can milk.'

LAUNCE Ay, that she can.

SPEED 'Item: She can sew.'

LAUNCE That's as much as to say, Can she so?

SPEED 'Item: She can spin.'

LAUNCE Then may I set the world on wheels, when she can
spin for her living.

SPEED 'Item: She hath many nameless virtues.'

LAUNCE That's as much as to say, bastard virtues; that,
indeed, know not their fathers and therefore have
no names.

SPEED 'Here follow her vices.'

LAUNCE Close at the heels of her virtues.

SPEED 'Item: She is not to be kissed fasting in respect of
her breath.'

LAUNCE Well, that fault may be mended with a breakfast.
Read on.

SPEED 'Item: She hath a sweet mouth.'

LAUNCE That makes amends for her sour breath.

SPEED 'Item: She is slow in words.'

LAUNCE O villain, that set this down among her vices! To be slow in words is a woman's only virtue: I pray thee, out with't, and place it for her chief virtue.

SPEED 'Item: She is proud.'

LAUNCE Out with that too; it was Eve's legacy, and cannot be ta'en from her.

SPEED 'Item: She hath no teeth.'

LAUNCE I care not for that neither, because I love crusts.

SPEED 'Item: She is curst.'

LAUNCE Well, the best is, she hath no teeth to bite.

SPEED 'Item: She is too liberal.'

LAUNCE Of her tongue she cannot, for that's writ down she is slow of; of her purse she shall not, for that I'll keep shut: now, of another thing she may, and that cannot I help. Well, proceed.

SPEED 'Item: She hath more hair than wit, and more faults than hairs, and more wealth than faults.'

LAUNCE Stop there; I'll have her: she was mine, and not mine, twice or thrice in that last article. Rehearse that once more.

SPEED 'Item: She hath more hair than wit,'--

LAUNCE More hair than wit? It may be; I'll prove it. The cover of the salt hides the salt, and therefore it is more than the salt; the hair that covers the wit is more than the wit, for the greater hides the less. What's next?

SPEED 'And more faults than hairs,'--

LAUNCE That's monstrous: O, that that were out!

SPEED 'And more wealth than faults.'

LAUNCE Why, that word makes the faults gracious. Well,
I'll have her; and if it be a match, as nothing is
impossible,--

SPEED What then?

LAUNCE Why, then will I tell thee--that thy master stays for
thee at the North-gate.

SPEED For me?

LAUNCE For thee! ay, who art thou? he hath stayed for a
better man than thee.

SPEED And must I go to him?

LAUNCE Thou must run to him, for thou hast stayed so long
that going will scarce serve the turn.

SPEED Why didst not tell me sooner? pox of your love
letters!

Exit

LAUNCE Now will he be swung for reading my letter; an
unmannerly slave, that will thrust himself into
secrets! I'll after, to rejoice in the boy's correction.

Exit

SCENE II. The same.
The DUKE's palace.

Enter DUKE and THURIO

DUKE Sir Thurio, fear not but that she will love you,
Now Valentine is banish'd from her sight.

THURIO Since his exile she hath despised me most,
Forsworn my company and rail'd at me,
That I am desperate of obtaining her.

DUKE A little time will melt her frozen thoughts
And worthless Valentine shall be forgot.

Enter PROTEUS

DUKE How now, Sir Proteus! Is your countryman
According to our proclamation gone?

PROTEUS Gone, my good lord.

DUKE My daughter takes his going grievously.

PROTEUS A little time, my lord, will kill that grief.

DUKE So I believe; but Thurio thinks not so.
Proteus, the good conceit I hold of thee--
For thou hast shown some sign of good desert--
Makes me the better to confer with thee.

PROTEUS Longer than I prove loyal to your grace
Let me not live to look upon your grace.

DUKE Thou know'st how willingly I would effect
The match between Sir Thurio and my daughter.

PROTEUS I do, my lord.

DUKE And also, I think, thou art not ignorant
How she opposes her against my will

PROTEUS She did, my lord, when Valentine was here.

DUKE What might we do to make the girl forget
The love of Valentine and love Sir Thurio?

PROTEUS The best way is to slander Valentine
With falsehood, cowardice and poor descent,
Three things that women highly hold in hate.

DUKE Ay, but she'll think that it is spoke in hate.

PROTEUS Ay, if his enemy deliver it:
Therefore it must with circumstance be spoken
By one whom she esteemeth as his friend.

DUKE Then you must undertake to slander him.

PROTEUS And that, my lord, I shall be loath to do:
'Tis an ill office for a gentleman,
Especially against his very friend.

DUKE Where your good word cannot advantage him,
Your slander never can endamage him;
Therefore the office is indifferent,
Being entreated to it by your friend.

PROTEUS You have prevail'd, my lord; if I can do it
By ought that I can speak in his dispraise,
She shall not long continue love to him.
But say this weed her love from Valentine,
It follows not that she will love Sir Thurio.

THURIO Therefore, as you unwind her love from him,
Lest it should ravel and be good to none,
You must provide to bottom it on me;
Which must be done by praising me as much
As you in worth dispraise Sir Valentine.

DUKE And, Proteus, we dare trust you in this kind,
Because we know, on Valentine's report,
You are already Love's firm votary
And cannot soon revolt and change your mind.
Upon this warrant shall you have access
Where you with Silvia may confer at large;
Where you may temper her by your persuasion
To hate young Valentine and love my friend.

PROTEUS As much as I can do, I will effect:
But you, Sir Thurio, are not sharp enough;
You must lay lime to tangle her desires
By wailful sonnets, whose composed rhymes
Should be full-fraught with serviceable vows.

DUKE Ay, much is the force of heaven-bred poesy.

PROTEUS Write till your ink be dry, and with your tears
Moist it again, and frame some feeling line
That may discover such integrity:
After your dire-lamenting elegies,
Visit by night your lady's chamber-window
With some sweet concert; to their instruments
Tune a deploring dump: the night's dead silence
Will well become such sweet-complaining grievance.
This, or else nothing, will inherit her.

DUKE This discipline shows thou hast been in love.

THURIO And thy advice this night I'll put in practice.
 Therefore, sweet Proteus, my direction-giver,
 Let us into the city presently
 To sort some gentlemen well skill'd in music.
 I have a sonnet that will serve the turn
 To give the onset to thy good advice.

DUKE About it, gentlemen!

PROTEUS We'll wait upon your grace till after supper,
 And afterward determine our proceedings.

Exeunt

ACT IV
SCENE I. The frontiers of Mantua.
A forest.

Enter certain Outlaws

1ST OUTLAW Fellows, stand fast; I see a passenger.

2ND OUTLAW If there be ten, shrink not, but down with 'em.

Enter VALENTINE and SPEED

SPEED Sir, we are undone; these are the villains
 That all the travellers do fear so much.

VALENTINE My friends,--

1ST OUTLAW That's not so, sir: we are your enemies.

2ND OUTLAW Peace! we'll hear him.

VALENTINE Then know that I have little wealth to lose:
 A man I am cross'd with adversity;
 My riches are these poor habiliments,
 Of which if you should here disfurnish me,
 You take the sum and substance that I have.

2ND OUTLAW Whither travel you?

VALENTINE To Verona.

1ST OUTLAW Whence came you?

1ST OUTLAW And I for such like petty crimes as these,
But to the purpose--

2ND OUTLAW Are you content to be our general?
To make a virtue of necessity
And live, as we do, in this wilderness?

3RD OUTLAW What say'st thou? wilt thou be of our consort?
Say ay, and be the captain of us all:
We'll do thee homage and be ruled by thee,
Love thee as our commander and our king.

1ST OUTLAW But if thou scorn our courtesy, thou diest.

VALENTINE I take your offer and will live with you,
Provided that you do no outrages
On silly women or poor passengers.

3RD OUTLAW No, we detest such vile base practices.
Come, go with us, we'll bring thee to our crews,
And show thee all the treasure we have got,
Which, with ourselves, all rest at thy dispose.

Exeunt

SCENE II. Milan.
Outside the DUKE's palace, under SILVIA's chamber.

Enter PROTEUS

PROTEUS Already have I been false to Valentine
And now I must be as unjust to Thurio.
Under the color of commending him,
I have access my own love to prefer:
But Silvia is too fair, too true, too holy,
To be corrupted with my worthless gifts.
When I protest true loyalty to her,
She twits me with my falsehood to my friend;
When to her beauty I commend my vows,
She bids me think how I have been forsworn
In breaking faith with Julia whom I loved:
And notwithstanding all her sudden quips,
The least whereof would quell a lover's hope,
Yet, spaniel-like, the more she spurns my love,
The more it grows and fawneth on her still.

But here comes Thurio: now must we to her window,
And give some evening music to her ear.

Enter THURIO and Musicians

THURIO How now, Sir Proteus, are you crept before us?

PROTEUS Ay, gentle Thurio: for you know that love
Will creep in service where it cannot go.

THURIO Ay, but I hope, sir, that you love not here.

PROTEUS Sir, but I do; or else I would be hence.

THURIO Who? Silvia?

PROTEUS Ay, Silvia; for your sake.

THURIO I thank you for your own. Now, gentlemen,
Let's tune, and to it lustily awhile.

Enter, at a distance, Host, and JULIA in boy's clothes

HOST Now, my young guest, methinks you're
melancholy: I pray you, why is it?

JULIA Marry, mine host, because I cannot be merry.

HOST Come, we'll have you merry: I'll bring you where
you shall hear music and see the gentleman that
you asked for.

JULIA But shall I hear him speak?

HOST Ay, that you shall.

JULIA That will be music.

Music plays

JULIA Is he among these?

HOST Ay: but, peace! let's hear 'em.

SONG.

Who is Silvia? what is she,
That all our swains commend her?
Holy, fair and wise is she;
The heaven such grace did lend her,
That she might admired be.
Is she kind as she is fair?
For beauty lives with kindness.
Love doth to her eyes repair,
To help him of his blindness,
And, being help'd, inhabits there.
Then to Silvia let us sing,
That Silvia is excelling;
She excels each mortal thing
Upon the dull earth dwelling:
To her let us garlands bring.

HOST How do you, man? the music likes you not.

JULIA You mistake; the musician likes me not.

HOST Why, my pretty youth?

JULIA He plays false, father.

HOST How? out of tune on the strings?

JULIA Not so; but yet so false that he grieves my very
heart-strings.
But, host, doth this Sir Proteus that we talk on
Often resort unto this gentlewoman?

HOST I tell you what Launce, his man, told me: he loved
her out of all nick.

JULIA Peace! stand aside: the company parts.

PROTEUS Sir Thurio, fear not you: I will so plead
That you shall say my cunning drift excels.

THURIO Where meet we?

PROTEUS At Saint Gregory's well.

THURIO Farewell.

EGLAMOUR Where shall I meet you?

SILVIA At Friar Patrick's cell,
Where I intend holy confession.

EGLAMOUR I will not fail your ladyship. Good morrow, gentle
lady.

SILVIA Good morrow, kind Sir Eglamour.

Exeunt severally

SCENE IV. The same.

Enter LAUNCE, with his Dog

LAUNCE When a man's servant shall play the cur with him,
look you, it goes hard: one that I brought up of a
puppy; one that I saved from drowning, when three
or four of his blind brothers and sisters went to it. I
was sent to deliver him as a present to Mistress
Silvia from my master; and I came no sooner into
the dining-chamber but he steps me to her trencher
and steals her capon's leg: O, 'tis a foul thing when
a cur cannot keep himself in all companies! If I had
not had more wit than he, to take a fault upon me
that he did, I think verily he had been hanged for't;
sure as I live, he had suffered for't; you shall judge.
He thrusts me himself into the company of three or
four gentlemanlike dogs under the duke's table: he
had not been there--bless the mark!--a pissing
while, but all the chamber smelt him. 'Out with the
dog!' says one: 'What cur is that?' says another:
'Whip him out' says the third: 'Hang him up' says
the duke. I, having been acquainted with the smell
before, knew it was Crab, and goes me to the
fellow that whips the dogs: 'Friend,' quoth I, 'you
mean to whip the dog?' 'Ay, marry, do I,' quoth he.
'You do him the more wrong,' quoth I; "'twas I did
the thing you wot of.' He makes me no more ado,
but whips me out of the chamber. How many
masters would do this for his servant? Nay, I'll be
sworn, I have sat in the stocks for puddings he hath
stolen, otherwise he had been executed; I have
stood on the pillory for geese he hath killed,
otherwise he had suffered for't. Thou thinkest not

of this now. Nay, I remember the trick you served me when I took my leave of Madam Silvia: did not I bid thee still mark me and do as I do? when didst thou see me heave up my leg and make water against a gentlewoman's farthingale? didst thou ever see me do such a trick?

Enter PROTEUS and JULIA

PROTEUS Sebastian is thy name? I like thee well
And will employ thee in some service presently.

JULIA In what you please: I'll do what I can.

PROTEUS I hope thou wilt.
[*To LAUNCE*] How now, you whoreson peasant!
Where have you been these two days loitering?

LAUNCE Marry, sir, I carried Mistress Silvia the dog you bade me.

PROTEUS And what says she to my little jewel?

LAUNCE Marry, she says your dog was a cur, and tells you currish thanks is good enough for such a present.

PROTEUS But she received my dog?

LAUNCE No, indeed, did she not: here have I brought him back again.

PROTEUS What, didst thou offer her this from me?

LAUNCE Ay, sir: the other squirrel was stolen from me by the hangman boys in the market-place: and then I offered her mine own, who is a dog as big as ten of yours, and therefore the gift the greater.

PROTEUS Go get thee hence, and find my dog again,
Or ne'er return again into my sight.
Away, I say! stay'st thou to vex me here?

Exit LAUNCE

A slave, that still an end turns me to shame!
Sebastian, I have entertained thee,
Partly that I have need of such a youth

This ring I gave him when he parted from me,
To bind him to remember my good will;
And now am I, unhappy messenger,
To plead for that which I would not obtain,
To carry that which I would have refused,
To praise his faith which I would have dispraised.
I am my master's true-confirmed love;
But cannot be true servant to my master,
Unless I prove false traitor to myself.
Yet will I woo for him, but yet so coldly
As, heaven it knows, I would not have him speed.

Enter SILVIA, attended

Gentlewoman, good day! I pray you, be my mean
To bring me where to speak with Madam Silvia.

SILVIA What would you with her, if that I be she?

JULIA If you be she, I do entreat your patience
To hear me speak the message I am sent on.

SILVIA From whom?

JULIA From my master, Sir Proteus, madam.

SILVIA O, he sends you for a picture.

JULIA Ay, madam.

SILVIA Go give your master this: tell him from me,
One Julia, that his changing thoughts forget,
Would better fit his chamber than this shadow.

JULIA Madam, please you peruse this letter.--

SILVIA There, hold!
I will not look upon your master's lines:
I know they are stuff'd with protestations
And full of new-found oaths; which he will break
As easily as I do tear his paper.

JULIA Madam, he sends your ladyship this ring.

SILVIA The more shame for him that he sends it me;
For I have heard him say a thousand times
His Julia gave it him at his departure.

Though his false finger have profaned the ring,
Mine shall not do his Julia so much wrong.

JULIA She thanks you.

SILVIA What say'st thou?

JULIA I thank you, madam, that you tender her.
Poor gentlewoman! my master wrongs her much.

SILVIA Dost thou know her?

JULIA Almost as well as I do know myself:
To think upon her woes I do protest
That I have wept a hundred several times.

SILVIA Belike she thinks that Proteus hath forsook her.

JULIA I think she doth; and that's her cause of sorrow.

SILVIA Is she not passing fair?

JULIA She hath been fairer, madam, than she is:
When she did think my master loved her well,
She, in my judgment, was as fair as you.

SILVIA How tall was she?

JULIA About my stature; for at Pentecost,
When all our pageants of delight were play'd,
Our youth got me to play the woman's part,
And I was trimm'd in Madam Julia's gown,
Which served me as fit, by all men's judgments,
As if the garment had been made for me:
Therefore I know she is about my height.

SILVIA Alas, poor lady, desolate and left!
Here, youth, there is my purse; I give thee this
For thy sweet mistress' sake, because thou lovest her.
Farewell.

Exit SILVIA, with attendants

JULIA A virtuous gentlewoman, mild and beautiful
I hope my master's suit will be but cold,
Since she respects my mistress' love so much.

Alas, how love can trifle with itself!
Here is her picture: let me see; I think,
If I had such a tire, this face of mine
Were full as lovely as is this of hers:
And yet the painter flatter'd her a little,
Unless I flatter with myself too much.
Her hair is auburn, mine is perfect brown:
If that be all the difference in his love,
I'll get me such a color'd periwig.
What should it be that he respects in her
But I can make respective in myself,
If this fond Love were not a blinded god?
Come, shadow, come and take this shadow up,
For 'tis thy rival. O thou senseless form,
Thou shalt be worshipp'd, kiss'd, loved and adored!
I'll use thee kindly for thy mistress' sake,
That used me so; or else, by Jove I vow,
I should have scratch'd out your unseeing eyes
To make my master out of love with thee!

Exit

ACT V
SCENE I. Milan.
An abbey.

Enter EGLAMOUR

EGLAMOUR The sun begins to gild the western sky;
And now it is about the very hour
That Silvia, at Friar Patrick's cell, should meet me.
She will not fail, for lovers break not hours,
Unless it be to come before their time;
See where she comes.

Enter SILVIA

Lady, a happy evening!

SILVIA Amen, amen! Go on, good Eglamour,
I fear I am attended by some spies.

EGLAMOUR Fear not: the forest is not three leagues off;
If we recover that, we are sure enough.

Exeunt

SCENE II. The same.
The DUKE's palace.

Enter THURIO, PROTEUS, and JULIA

THURIO Sir Proteus, what says Silvia to my suit?

PROTEUS O, sir, I find her milder than she was;
And yet she takes exceptions at your person.

THURIO How likes she my discourse?

PROTEUS Ill, when you talk of war.

THURIO But well, when I discourse of love and peace?

JULIA [*Aside*] But better, indeed, when you hold your peace.

THURIO What says she to my valor?

PROTEUS O, sir, she makes no doubt of that.

JULIA [*Aside*] She needs not, when she knows it cowardice.

THURIO What says she to my birth?

PROTEUS That you are well derived.

JULIA [*Aside*] True; from a gentleman to a fool.

THURIO Considers she my possessions?

PROTEUS O, ay; and pities them.

THURIO Wherefore?

JULIA [*Aside*] That such an ass should owe them.
Here comes the duke.

Enter DUKE

DUKE How now, Sir Proteus! how now, Thurio!
Which of you saw Sir Eglamour of late?

THURIO Not I.

PROTEUS Nor I.

DUKE Saw you my daughter?

PROTEUS Neither.

DUKE Why then, she's fled unto that peasant Valentine;
And Eglamour is in her company.
'Tis true; for Friar Laurence met them both,
As he in penance wander'd through the forest;
Him he knew well, and guess'd that it was she,
But, being mask'd, he was not sure of it;
Besides, she did intend confession
At Patrick's cell this even; and there she was not;
These likelihoods confirm her flight from hence.
Therefore, I pray you, stand not to discourse,
But mount you presently and meet with me
Upon the rising of the mountain-foot
That leads towards Mantua, whither they are fled:
Dispatch, sweet gentlemen, and follow me.

Exit

THURIO Why, this it is to be a peevish girl,
That flies her fortune when it follows her.
I'll after, more to be revenged on Eglamour
Than for the love of reckless Silvia.

Exit

PROTEUS And I will follow, more for Silvia's love
Than hate of Eglamour that goes with her.

Exit

JULIA And I will follow, more to cross that love
Than hate for Silvia that is gone for love.

Exit

**SCENE III. The frontiers of Mantua.
The forest.**

Enter Outlaws with SILVIA

1ST OUTLAW Come, come, be patient; we must bring you to our captain.

SILVIA A thousand more mischances than this one
Have learn'd me how to brook this patiently.

1ST OUTLAW Where is the gentleman that was with her?

3RD OUTLAW Being nimble-footed, he hath outrun us,
Go thou with her to the west end of the wood;
There is our captain: we'll follow him that's fled;
The thicket is beset; he cannot 'scape.

1ST OUTLAW Come, I must bring you to our captain's cave:
Fear not; he bears an honorable mind,
And will not use a woman lawlessly.

SILVIA O Valentine, this I endure for thee!

Exeunt

SCENE IV. Another part of the forest.

Enter VALENTINE

VALENTINE How use doth breed a habit in a man!
This shadowy desert, unfrequented woods,
I better brook than flourishing peopled towns:
Here can I sit alone, unseen of any,
And to the nightingale's complaining notes
Tune my distresses and record my woes.
Repair me with thy presence, Silvia;
What halloing and what stir is this to-day?
These are my mates, that make their wills their law,
Have some unhappy passenger in chase.
They love me well; yet I have much to do
To keep them from uncivil outrages.
Withdraw thee, Valentine: who's this comes here?

Enter PROTEUS, SILVIA, and JULIA

PROTEUS Madam, this service I have done for you,
To hazard life and rescue you from him
That would have forced your honor and your love;
Vouchsafe me, for my meed, but one fair look;

I'll woo you like a soldier, at arms' end,
And love you 'gainst the nature of love,--force ye.

SILVIA O heaven!

PROTEUS I'll force thee yield to my desire.

VALENTINE Ruffian, let go that rude uncivil touch,
Thou friend of an ill fashion!

PROTEUS Valentine!

VALENTINE Thou common friend, that's without faith or love,
For such is a friend now; treacherous man!
Thou hast beguiled my hopes; nought but mine eye
Could have persuaded me: now I dare not say
I have one friend alive; thou wouldst disprove me.
Who should be trusted, when one's own right hand
Is perjured to the bosom? Proteus,
I am sorry I must never trust thee more,
But count the world a stranger for thy sake.
The private wound is deepest: O time most accurst,
'Mongst all foes that a friend should be the worst!

PROTEUS My shame and guilt confounds me.
Forgive me, Valentine: if hearty sorrow
Be a sufficient ransom for offence,
I tender 't here; I do as truly suffer
As e'er I did commit.

VALENTINE Then I am paid;
And once again I do receive thee honest.
Who by repentance is not satisfied
Is nor of heaven nor earth, for these are pleased.
By penitence the Eternal's wrath's appeased:
And, that my love may appear plain and free,
All that was mine in Silvia I give thee.

JULIA O me unhappy!

Swoons

PROTEUS Look to the boy.

VALENTINE Why, boy!
Why, wag! how now! what's the matter? Look up; speak.

JULIA O good sir, my master charged me to deliver a ring
to Madam Silvia, which, out of my neglect, was
never done.

PROTEUS Where is that ring, boy?

JULIA Here 'tis; this is it.

PROTEUS How! let me see:
Why, this is the ring I gave to Julia.

JULIA O, cry you mercy, sir, I have mistook:
This is the ring you sent to Silvia.

PROTEUS But how camest thou by this ring? At my depart
I gave this unto Julia.

JULIA And Julia herself did give it me;
And Julia herself hath brought it hither.

PROTEUS How! Julia!

JULIA Behold her that gave aim to all thy oaths,
And entertain'd 'em deeply in her heart.
How oft hast thou with perjury cleft the root!
O Proteus, let this habit make thee blush!
Be thou ashamed that I have took upon me
Such an immodest raiment, if shame live
In a disguise of love:
It is the lesser blot, modesty finds,
Women to change their shapes than men their minds.

PROTEUS Than men their minds! 'tis true. O heaven! were man
But constant, he were perfect. That one error
Fills him with faults; makes him run through all the sins:
Inconstancy falls off ere it begins.
What is in Silvia's face, but I may spy
More fresh in Julia's with a constant eye?

VALENTINE Come, come, a hand from either:
Let me be blest to make this happy close;
'Twere pity two such friends should be long foes.

PROTEUS Bear witness, Heaven, I have my wish for ever.

JULIA And I mine.

Enter Outlaws, with DUKE and THURIO

OUTLAWS A prize, a prize, a prize!

VALENTINE Forbear, forbear, I say! it is my lord the duke.
Your grace is welcome to a man disgraced,
Banished Valentine.

DUKE Sir Valentine!

THURIO Yonder is Silvia; and Silvia's mine.

VALENTINE Thurio, give back, or else embrace thy death;
Come not within the measure of my wrath;
Do not name Silvia thine; if once again,
Verona shall not hold thee. Here she stands;
I dare thee but to breathe upon my love.

THURIO Sir Valentine, I care not for her, I;
I hold him but a fool that will endanger
His body for a girl that loves him not:
I claim her not, and therefore she is thine.

DUKE The more degenerate and base art thou,
To make such means for her as thou hast done
And leave her on such slight conditions.
I do applaud thy spirit, Valentine,
And think thee worthy of an empress' love:
Know then, I here forget all former griefs,
Cancel all grudge, repeal thee home again,
Thou art a gentleman and well derived;
Take thou thy Silvia, for thou hast deserved her.

VALENTINE I thank your grace; the gift hath made me happy.
I now beseech you, for your daughter's sake,
To grant one boon that I shall ask of you.

DUKE I grant it, for thine own, whate'er it be.

VALENTINE These banish'd men that I have kept withal
Are men endued with worthy qualities:
Forgive them what they have committed here
And let them be recall'd from their exile:
They are reformed, civil, full of good
And fit for great employment, worthy lord.

DUKE Thou hast prevail'd; I pardon them and thee.
Come, let us go: we will include all jars
With triumphs, mirth and rare solemnity.

VALENTINE And, as we walk along, I dare be bold
With our discourse to make your grace to smile.
What think you of this page, my lord?

DUKE I think the boy hath grace in him; he blushes.

VALENTINE I warrant you, my lord, more grace than boy.

DUKE What mean you by that saying?

VALENTINE Please you, I'll tell you as we pass along,
That you will wonder what hath fortun'd.
Come, Proteus; 'tis your penance but to hear
The story of your loves discovered:
That done, our day of marriage shall be yours;
One feast, one house, one mutual happiness.

Exeunt