**A MIDSUMMER NIGHT’S DREAM**

Adapted by Anne Donnelly

**ACT I SCENE I. Athens. The palace of THESEUS.**

*Enter THESEUS, HIPPOLYTA, and Attendants*

**THESEUS** Now, fair Hippolyta, our nuptial hour  
Draws on apace; four happy days bring in

Another moon. But, O, methinks, how slow

This old moon wanes! She lingers my desires

**HYPPOLYTA** Four days will quickly steep themselves in night;

Four nights will quickly dream away the time.

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

*Enter EGEUS, HERMIA, LYSANDER, and DEMETRIUS*

**EGEUS** Happy be Theseus, our renowned duke!

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

**EGEUS** Full of vexation come I, with complaint  
Against my child, my daughter Hermia.  
Stand forth, Demetrius. My noble lord,  
This man hath my consent to marry her.  
Stand forth, Lysander: and my gracious duke,  
This man hath bewitch'd the bosom of my child;

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

I beseech your grace that I may know  
The worst that may befall me in this case,  
If I refuse to wed Demetrius.

**THESEUS** Either to die the death or to abjure  
For ever the society of men.

**HERMIA** So will I grow, so live, so die, my lord,  
Ere I will my virgin patent up  
Unto his lordship, whose unwished yoke  
My soul consents not to give sovereignty.

**THESEUS** Take time to pause; and, by the next new moon--  
Upon that day…

**LYSANDER** I am beloved of beauteous Hermia.

Why should I not then prosecute my right?

You have her father’s love, Demetrius;

Let me have Hermia’s.

**EGEUS** Scornful Lysander!

**THESEUS** Egeus, come.

And come Demetrius; you shall go with me,

I have some private schooling for you both.

For you, fair Hermia, look you arm yourself

To fit your fancies to your father’s will;

Or else the law of Athens yields you up

To death, or to a vow of single life.

Come my Hippolyta. What cheer, my love?

*Exeunt all but LYSANDER and HERMIA*

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

The course of true love never did run smooth.

**HERMIA** O hell! to choose love by another's eyes.

**LYSANDER** Hear me, Hermia,

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

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

By his best arrow with the golden head,  
To-morrow truly will I meet with thee.

*Enter HELENA*

God speed fair Helena! whither away?

**HELENA** Call you me fair? that fair again unsay.  
Demetrius loves your fair: O happy fair!

Your eyes are lode-stars; and your tongue's sweet air  
O, teach me how you look, and with what art  
You sway the motion of Demetrius' heart.

**HERMIA** I frown upon him, yet he loves me still.

**HELENA** O that your frowns would teach my smiles such skill!

**HERMIA** I give him curses, yet he gives me love.

**HELENA** O that my prayers could such affection move!

**HERMIA** The more I hate, the more he follows me.

**HELENA** The more I love, the more he hateth me.

**HERMIA** Take comfort: he no more shall see my face;

Lysander and myself will fly this place.

**LYSANDER** Helen, to you our minds we will unfold:  
To-morrow night, when Phoebe doth behold  
Her silver visage in the watery glass,  
A time that lovers' flights doth still conceal,  
Through Athens' gates have we devised to steal.

**HERMIA** Farewell, sweet playfellow: pray thou for us;  
And good luck grant thee thy Demetrius!

*Exit HERMIA and LYSANDER*

**HELENA** How happy some o'er other some can be!  
Through Athens I am thought as fair as she.  
But what of that? Demetrius thinks not so;

He will not know what all but he do know:

For ere Demetrius look'd on Hermia's eyne,  
He hail'd down oaths that he was only mine;  
And when this hail some heat from Hermia felt,  
So he dissolved, and showers of oaths did melt.  
I will go tell him of fair Hermia's flight:  
Then to the wood will he to-morrow night  
Pursue her; and for this intelligence  
If I have thanks, it is a dear expense:  
But herein mean I to enrich my pain,  
To have his sight thither and back again.

*Exit HELENA*

**SCENE II. Athens. QUINCE'S house.**

*Enter QUINCE, BOTTOM with SNUG, FLUTE, SNOUT, and STARVELING in a bag.*

*They are puppets. All played by BOTTOM.*

**QUINCE** Is all our company here?

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

**QUINCE** Here is the scroll of every man's name, which is thought fit, through all Athens, to play in our interlude before the duke and the duchess, on his wedding-day at night. Marry, our play is, The most lamentable comedy, and most cruel death of Pyramus and Thisbe. Answer as I call you. Nick Bottom, the weaver.

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

**QUINCE** You, Nick Bottom, are set down for Pyramus.

**BOTTOM** That will ask some tears in the true performing of it: if I do it, let the audience look to their eyes; I will move storms. This was lofty! Now name the rest of the players.

**QUINCE** Francis Flute, the bellows-mender.

**FLUTE** Here, Peter Quince.

**QUINCE** Flute, you must take Thisbe on you.

**FLUTE** What is Thisbe? a wandering knight?

**QUINCE** It is the lady that Pyramus must love.

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

**QUINCE** Robin Starveling, the tailor.

**STARVELING** Here, Peter Quince.

**QUINCE** Robin Starveling, you must play Thisbe's mother. Tom Snout, the tinker.

**SNOUT**Here, Peter Quince.

**QUINCE** You, Pyramus' father: myself, Thisbe's father: Snug, the joiner; you, the lion's part.

**BOTTOM** Let me play the lion too.

**QUINCE** You can play no part but Pyramus. I pray you, fail me not.

**BOTTOM** Well, I will undertake it. We will meet; and there we may rehearse most obscenely and courageously. Take pains; be perfect: adieu.

*Exeunt*

**ACT II SCENE I. A wood near Athens.**

*Enter, from opposite sides, a Fairy, and ROBIN*

**ROBIN** How now, spirit! whither wander you?

**Fairy** I do wander everywhere,  
Swifter than the moon's sphere;  
And I serve the fairy queen,

To dew her orbs upon the green.  
Farewell, thou lob of spirits; I'll be gone:  
Our queen and all our elves come here anon.

**ROBIN** The king doth keep his revels here to-night:  
Take heed the queen come not within his sight;  
For Oberon is passing fell and wrath,  
Because that she as her attendant hath  
A lovely boy, stolen from an Indian king;  
And jealous Oberon would have the child

**Fairy** Either I mistake your shape and making quite,

Or else you are that shrewd and knavish sprite

Called Robin Goodfellow. Are not you he?

**ROBIN** Thou speak’st aright;

I am that merry wanderer of the night.  
But, room, fairy! here comes Oberon.

**Fairy** And here my mistress. Would that he were gone!

*Enter, from one side, OBERON, with his train; from the other, TITANIA, with hers*

**OBERON** Ill met by moonlight, proud Titania.

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

**OBERON** Tarry, rash wanton: am not I thy lord?  
Why should Titania cross her Oberon?

**TITANIA** Why art thou here,

But that, forsooth, the bouncing Amazon,

Your buskin’d mistress and your warrior love,

To Theseus must be wedded?

**OBERON** How canst thou thus for shame, Titania,

Glance at my credit with Hippolyta,

Knowing I know thy love to Theseus?

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

**OBERON** I do but beg a little changeling boy.

**TITANIA** Set your heart at rest:  
The fairyland buys not the child of me.  
His mother was a votaress of my order:  
But she, being mortal, of that boy did die;  
And for her sake do I rear up her boy,  
And for her sake I will not part with him.

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

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

*Exit TITANIA with her train*

**OBERON** Well, go thy way. Thou shall not from this grove

Till I torment thee for this injury.

My gentle Puck, come hither. Thou rememberest  
Since once I sat upon a promontory,

That very time I saw, (but thou couldst not)  
Cupid all arm'd: a certain aim he took  
And loosed his love-shaft smartly from his bow.  
It fell upon a little western flower.  
Fetch me that flower; the herb I shew'd thee once:  
The juice of it on sleeping eye-lids laid  
Will make or man or woman madly dote  
Upon the next live creature that it sees.

*Exit ROBIN.*

**OBERON** Having once this juice,  
I'll watch Titania when she is asleep,  
And drop the liquor of it in her eyes.  
The next thing then she waking looks upon,  
Be it on lion, bear, or wolf, or bull,  
She shall pursue it with the soul of love:  
And ere I take this charm from off her sight,  
I'll make her render up her page to me.

*Enter DEMETRIUS, HELENA, following him*

**DEMETRIUS**I love thee not, therefore pursue me not.

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

**HELENA** And even for that do I love you the more.

**DEMETRIUS** Tempt not too much the hatred of my spirit;

For I am sick when I do look on thee.

**HELENA** And I am sick when I look not on you.  
I am your spaniel; and, Demetrius,  
The more you beat me, I will fawn on you:

**DEMETRIUS** Let me go!

**HELENA** I’ll follow thee and make a heaven of hell,

To die upon the hand I love so well.

*Exit. Re-Enter ROBIN*

**OBERON** Hast thou the flower there?

**ROBIN** Ay, there it is.

**OBERON** Take thou some of it, and seek through this grove:  
A sweet Athenian lady is in love  
With a disdainful youth. Anoint his eyes;  
But do it when the next thing he espies  
May be the lady. Thou shalt know the man  
By the Athenian garments he hath on.

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

*Exeunt*

**SCENE II. Another part of the wood.**

*Enter TITANIA. TITANIA sleeps*. *Enter OBERON and squeezes the flower on TITANIA's eyelids*

**OBERON** What thou seest when thou dost wake,  
Do it for thy true-love take.

*Exit OBERON*, *Enter LYSANDER and HERMIA*

**LYSANDER** Fair love, you faint with wandering in the wood.

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

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

In human modesty,

Such separation as may well be said

Becomes a virtuous bachelor and a maid.

*They sleep*. *Enter ROBIN*

**ROBIN** Who is here?

Weeds of Athens he doth wear.  
This is he, my master said,  
Despised the Athenian maid;  
And here the maiden, sleeping sound,  
On the dank and dirty ground.  
Churl, upon thy eyes I throw  
All the power this charm doth owe.

*Exit ROBIN*. *Enter DEMETRIUS and HELENA, running*

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

*Exit DEMETRIUS*

**HELENA** O, I am out of breath in this fond chase!  
But who is here? Lysander! On the ground!

**LYSANDER** *[Awaking]* Where is Demetrius? O, how fit a word  
Is that vile name to perish on my sword!

**HELENA** What though he love your Hermia?

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

**HELENA** Wherefore was I to this keen mockery born?  
O, that a lady, of one man refused.  
Should of another therefore be abused!

*Exit HELENA and LYSANDER*

**HERMIA** *[Awaking]* Lysander! what, removed? Lysander! lord!  
No? Then I well perceive you all not nigh.  
Either death or you I'll find immediately.

*Exit HERMIA*

**ACT III SCENE I. The wood. TITANIA lying asleep.**

*Enter QUINCE, SNUG, BOTTOM, FLUTE, SNOUT, and STARVELING*

**BOTTOM** Are we all met?

**QUINCE** Pat, pat; and here's a marvellous convenient place for our rehearsal.

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

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

**BOTTOM** Write me a prologue, and let the prologue seem to say, we will do no harm with our swords. This will put them out of fear.

**QUINCE** Well it shall be so. But there is two hard things, that is, to bring the moonlight into a chamber, for, you know, Pyramus and Thisbe meet by moonlight. One must come in with a bush of thorns and a lanthorn, and say he comes to disfigure, or to present, the person of Moonshine. Then, there is another thing: we must have a wall in the great chamber, for Pyramus and Thisbe, says the story, did talk through the chink of a wall.

**BOTTOM** Some man or other must present Wall.

**QUINCE** If that may be, then all is well. Come, sit down, and rehearse your parts.

*Enter ROBIN behind*

**ROBIN** What hempen home-spuns have we swaggering here?

**BOTTOM** Thisbe, the flowers of odious savours sweet,--

**QUINCE** Odours, odours.

**BOTTOM** --odours savours sweet:  
So hath thy breath, my dearest Thisbe dear.  
But hark, a voice! stay thou but here awhile,  
And by and by I will to thee appear.

**ROBIN** A stranger Pyramus than e'er played here.

**FLUTE** Most radiant Pyramus, most lily-white of hue,

As true as truest horse that yet would never tire,  
I'll meet thee, Pyramus, at Ninny's tomb.

**QUINCE** 'Ninus' tomb,' man. Why, you must not speak that yet; that you answer to Pyramus. You speak all your part at once, cues and all. Pyramus enter. Your cue is past. It is, 'never tire.'

*Suddenly, BOTTOM with an ass's head*

**BOTTOM** If I were fair, Thisbe, I were only thine.

**QUINCE** O monstrous! O strange! Help!

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

I see their knavery. This is to make an ass of me, to fright me, if they could. But I will not stir from this place, I am not afraid. *[sings]*

**TITANIA** [*Awaking*] What angel wakes me from my flowery bed?

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

**BOTTOM** Methinks, mistress, you should have little reason for that.

**TITANIA** Thou art as wise as thou art beautiful.  
I'll give thee fairies to attend on thee,  
Peaseblossom! Cobweb! Moth! and Mustardseed!

Come, wait upon him; lead him to my bower.

**SCENE II. Another part of the wood.**

**OBERON** I wonder if Titania be awaked;  
Then, what it was that next came in her eye,

Which she must dote on in extremity.

*Enter ROBIN*

**ROBIN** My mistress with a monster is in love.  
Titania waked and straightway loved an ass.

**OBERON** This falls out better than I could devise.  
But hast thou yet latch'd the Athenian's eyes?

**ROBIN** I took him sleeping,--that is finish'd too,--

*Enter HERMIA and DEMETRIUS*

**OBERON** Stand close: this is the same Athenian.

**ROBIN** This is the woman, but not this the man.

**HERMIA** If thou hast slain Lysander in his sleep,  
Being o'er shoes in blood, plunge in the deep,  
And kill me too. Where is he?  
Ah, good Demetrius, wilt thou give him me?

**DEMETRIUS** I had rather give his carcass to my hounds.

**HERMIA** Out, dog! out, cur! thou drivest me past the bounds  
Of maiden's patience. Hast thou slain him, then?

**DEMETRIUS**You spend your passion on a misprised mood:

I am not guilty of Lysander's blood;  
Nor is he dead, for aught that I can tell.

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

**DEMETRIUS** An if I could, what should I get therefore?

**HERMIA** A privilege never to see me more.

*Exit HERMIA*

**DEMETRIUS** There is no following her in this fierce vein:  
Here therefore for a while I will remain.

*Lies down and sleeps*

**OBERON** What hast thou done? thou hast mistaken quite.

And laid the love-juice on some true-love’s sight.

About the wood go swifter than the wind,  
And Helena of Athens look thou find:

By some illusion see thou bring her here:  
I'll charm his eyes against she do appear.

**ROBIN** I go, I go; look how I go,  
Swifter than arrow from the Tartar's bow.

*Exit ROBIN*

**OBERON** Flower of this purple dye,  
Sink in apple of his eye.  
When thou wakest, if she be by,  
Beg of her for remedy.

*Re-enter ROBIN*

**ROBIN** Captain of our fairy band,  
Helena is here at hand;  
And the youth, mistook by me,  
Pleading for a lover's fee.  
Shall we their fond pageant see?  
Lord, what fools these mortals be!

*Enter LYSANDER and HELENA*

**LYSANDER** Look, when I vow, I weep; and vows so born,  
In their nativity all truth appears.

**HELENA** When truth kills truth, O devilish-holy fray!  
These vows are Hermia's: will you give her o'er?.

**LYSANDER** Demetrius loves her, and he loves not you.

**DEMETRIUS** [Awaking] O Helena, goddess, nymph, perfect, divine!

**HELENA** O spite! O hell! I see you all are bent

To set against me for your merriment:

You both are rivals, and love Hermia;  
And now both rivals, to mock Helena:  
A trim exploit, a manly enterprise,  
To conjure tears up in a poor maid's eyes

*Re-enter HERMIA*

**HERMIA** What love could press Lysander from my side?

**LYSANDER** Why seek'st thou me? could not this make thee know,  
The hate I bear thee made me leave thee so?

**HERMIA** You speak not as you think. It cannot be.

**HELENA** Lo, she is one of this confederacy!  
Injurious Hermia! most ungrateful maid!

And will you rent our ancient love asunder,  
To join with men in scorning your poor friend?  
It is not friendly, 'tis not maidenly:

**HERNIA** I am amazed at your passionate words.

**HELENA** Ay, do, persever, counterfeit sad looks,  
Wink each at other; hold the sweet jest up:  
This sport, well carried, shall be chronicled.

**LYSANDER** Helen, I love thee; by my life, I do:

**DEMETRIUS** I say I love thee more than he can do.

**HERMIA** Do you not jest?

**HELENA** Yes, sooth; and so do you.

**LYSANDER** Be certain, nothing truer; 'tis no jest  
That I do hate thee and love Helena.

**HERMIA** You thief of love! what, have you come by night  
And stolen my love's heart from him?

**HELENA** Fie, fie! you counterfeit, you puppet, you!

**HERMIA** Puppet? why so?

And are you grown so high in his esteem;  
Because I am so dwarfish and so low?  
How low am I? I am not yet so low  
But that my nails can reach unto thine eyes.

**HELENA** O, when she's angry, she is keen and shrewd!

And though she be but little, she is fierce.

**LYSANDER** Get you gone, you dwarf.  
Now follow, if thou darest, to try whose right,  
Of thine or mine, is most in Helena.

**DEMETRIUS** Follow! nay, I'll go with thee, cheek by jole.

*Exeunt LYSANDER and DEMETRIUS*

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

*Exit HELENA*

**HERMIA** I am amazed, and know not what to say.

*Exit HERMIA*

**OBERON** This is thy negligence.

**ROBIN** And so far am I glad it so did sort  
As this their jangling I esteem a sport.

**OBERON** Crush this herb into Lysander's eye;  
Whose liquor hath this virtuous property,  
To take from thence all error with his might,  
And make his eyeballs roll with wonted sight.  
When they next wake, all this derision  
Shall seem a dream and fruitless vision,  
Whiles I in this affair do thee employ,  
I'll to my queen and beg her Indian boy;  
And then I will her charmed eye release  
From monster's view, and all things shall be peace.

**ROBIN** Here comes one.

**LYSANDER** Where art thou, proud Demetrius? Speak thou now.

**ROBIN** Follow me, then,  
To plainer ground.

*Exit LYSANDER, as following the voice*; *Re-enter DEMETRIUS*

**DEMETRIUS** Lysander! speak again:

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

**ROBIN** Thou coward, art thou bragging to the stars,  
Come, recreant; come, thou child;

Follow my voice: we'll try no manhood here.

*Exeunt ROBIN and DEMETRIUS*. *Re-enter LYSANDER*

**LYSANDER** He goes before me and still dares me on:  
When I come where he calls, then he is gone.  
The villain is much lighter-heel'd than I:  
I follow'd fast, but faster he did fly;

[*Lies down*] Come, thou gentle day!  
For if but once thou show me thy grey light,  
I'll find Demetrius and revenge this spite.

*Sleeps*; *Re-enter ROBIN and DEMETRIUS*

**DEMETRIUS** If ever I thy face by daylight see:

By day's approach look to be visited.

*Lies down and sleeps*; *Re-enter HELENA*

**HELENA** O weary night, O long and tedious night,

Abate thy hour! Shine comforts from the east,  
That I may back to Athens by daylight.

*Lies down and sleeps*; *Re-enter HERMIA*

**HERMIA** Never so weary, never so in woe,  
Bedabbled with the dew and torn with briers,  
I can no further crawl, no further go;  
My legs can keep no pace with my desires.  
Here will I rest me till the break of day.  
Heavens shield Lysander, if they mean a fray!

*Lies down and sleeps*

**ROBIN** On the ground  
Sleep sound:  
I'll apply  
To your eye,  
Gentle lover, remedy.

*Squeezing the juice on LYSANDER's eyes*

Jack shall have Jill;  
Nought shall go ill;  
The man shall have his mare again, and all shall be well.

**ACT IV SCENE I. The same. LYSANDER, DEMETRIUS, HELENA, and HERMIA** **asleep**

**TITANIA** Come, sit thee down upon this flowery bed,

What, wilt thou hear some music, my sweet love?

**BOTTOM** I have a reasonable good ear in music. Let's have the tongs and the bones.

**TITANIA** Or say, sweet love, what thou desirest to eat.

**BOTTOM** Truly, a peck of provender: I could munch your good dry oats. Methinks I have a great desire to a bottle of hay: good hay, sweet hay, hath no fellow. But, I pray you, let none of your people stir me: I have an exposition of sleep come upon me.

**TITANIA**Sleep thou, and I will wind thee in my arms.

O, how I love thee! how I dote on thee!

**OBERON** *[Advancing]* Her dotage now I do begin to pity:  
For, meeting her of late behind the wood,  
I then did ask of her her changeling child;  
Which straight she gave me,  
And now I have the boy, I will undo  
This hateful imperfection of her eyes:

**TITANIA** My Oberon! what visions have I seen!

Methought I was enamour'd of an ass.

**OBERON** There lies your love.

**TITANIA** O, how mine eyes do loathe his visage now!

**OBERON** Silence awhile. Robin, take off this head.

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

**OBERON** Sound, music! Come, my queen, take hands with me,  
And rock the ground whereon these sleepers be.  
There shall the pairs of faithful lovers be  
Wedded, with Theseus, all in jollity.

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

*Exeunt*; *Horns winded within*. *Enter THESEUS, HIPPOLYTA, EGEUS, and train*

**THESEUS** But, soft! what nymphs are these?

**EGEUS** My lord, this is my daughter here asleep;  
And this, Lysander; this Demetrius is;  
This Helena, old Nedar's Helena:  
I wonder of their being here together.

**THESEUS** But speak, Egeus; is not this the day  
That Hermia should give answer of her choice?

**EGEUS** It is, my lord.

*LYSANDER, DEMETRIUS, HELENA, and HERMIA wake and start up*

**THESEUS** How comes this gentle concord in the world,

**LYSANDER** I cannot truly say how I came here;

**DEMETRIUS** My lord, fair Helen told me of their stealth

And I in fury hither follow'd them,  
Fair Helena in fancy following me.

But, my good lord, I wot not by what power, --

My love to Hermia melted as the snow.   
The object and the pleasure of mine eye,  
Is only Helena.

**THESEUS** Fair lovers, you are fortunately met:  
Egeus, I will overbear your will;

For in the temple by and by with us  
These couples shall eternally be knit:

*Exeunt THESEUS, HIPPOLYTA, EGEUS, and train*

**DEMETRIUS** Are you sure

That we are awake? It seems to me

That yet we sleep, we dream.  Do not you think  
The duke was here, and bid us follow him?

**HERMIA**Yea; and my father.

**HELENA**And Hippolyta.

**LYSANDER**And he did bid us follow to the temple.

**DEMETRIUS**Why, then, we are awake: let's follow him  
And by the way let us recount our dreams.

*Exeunt DEMETRIUS, LYSANDER, HELENA and HERMIA*

**BOTTOM** *[Awaking]* I have had a most rare vision. I have had a dream, past the wit of man to say what dream it was: man is but an ass, if he go about to expound this dream. Methought I was-- and methought I had-- no man can tell what. I will get Peter Quince to write a ballad of this dream: it shall be called Bottom's Dream, because it hath no bottom.

**ACT V SCENE I. Athens. The palace of THESEUS.**

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

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

**HIPPOLYTA** But all the story of the night told over,  
And all their minds transfigured so together.

**THESEUS** Here come the lovers, full of joy and mirth.

Joy, gentle friends! joy and fresh days of love  
Accompany your hearts!

What revels are in hand? Is there no play,  
To ease the anguish of a torturing hour?  
Call Philostrate.

**PHILOSTRATE** Here, mighty Theseus.

**THESEUS** Say, what abridgement have you for this evening?

*Giving a paper*, *Reads*

'A tedious brief scene of young Pyramus  
And his love Thisbe; very tragical mirth.'  
Merry and tragical! tedious and brief!  
How shall we find the concord of this discord?

**PHILOSTRATE** A play there is, my lord, some ten words long,

Which is as brief as I have known a play;  
But by ten words, my lord, it is too long,

**THESEUS** I will hear that play;  
Go, bring them in: and take your places, ladies.

*Exit PHILOSTRATE*, *Flourish of trumpets*, *Enter QUINCE for the Prologue*

**Prologue** If we offend, it is with our good will.  
That you should think, we come not to offend,  
But with good will. To show our simple skill,  
That is the true beginning of our end.  
The actors are at hand and by their show  
You shall know all that you are like to know.

*Enter Pyramus*

**Pyramus** O grim-look'd night! O night with hue so black!  
O night, which ever art when day is not!  
O night, O night! alack, alack, alack,

I fear my Thisbe's promise is forgot!  
And thou, O wall, O sweet, O lovely wall,  
That stand'st between her father's ground and mine!  
Show me thy chink, to blink through with mine eyne!

*Wall holds up his fingers*

But what see I? No Thisbe do I see.

O wicked wall, through whom I see no bliss!  
Cursed be thy stones for thus deceiving me!

**QUINCE** 'Deceiving me' is Thisbe's cue: she is to enter now,

and you are to spy her through the wall.

*Enter Thisbe*

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

**Pyramus** I see a voice: now will I to the chink, Thisbe!

**Thisbe** My love thou art, my love I think.

**Pyramus** O kiss me through the hole of this vile wall!

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

**Pyramus** Wilt thou at Ninny's tomb meet me straightway?

**Thisbe** 'Tide life, 'tide death, I come without delay.

*Exeunt Pyramus and Thisbe*, *Enter Lion and Moonshine*. *Enter Thisbe*

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

**Lion** *[Roaring]* Oh—

*Thisbe runs off*. *The Lion shakes Thisbe's mantle, and exit*. *Enter Pyramus*

**Pyramus** Sweet Moon, I thank thee for thy sunny beams;  
For, by thy gracious, golden, glittering gleams,  
I trust to take of truest Thisby sight.  
But stay, O spite!  
But mark, poor knight,  
What dreadful dole is here!  
Eyes, do you see?  
How can it be?  
O dainty duck! O dear!  
Thy mantle good,  
What, stain'd with blood!  
Approach, ye Furies fell!  
O Fates, come, come,  
Cut thread and thrum;  
Quail, crush, conclude, and quell!

*Stabs himself*

Thus die I, thus, thus, thus.  
Now am I dead,

Now am I fled  
Now die, die, die, die, die.

*Dies*, *Re-enter Thisbe*

**Thisbe** Asleep, my love?  
O Pyramus, arise!  
Dead, dead?

Lovers, make moan:  
His eyes were green as leeks.

Come, trusty sword;  
Come, blade, my breast imbrue:

*Stabs herself*;

And, farewell, friends;  
Thus Thisby ends:  
Adieu, adieu, adieu.

*Dies.*

**BOTTOM** *[Starting up]* Will it please you to see the epilogue, or to hear a Bergomask dance between two of our company?

**THESEUS** No epilogue, I pray you; for your play needs no excuse. But come, your Bergomask: let your epilogue alone.

*A dance*

The iron tongue of midnight hath told twelve:  
Lovers, to bed; 'tis almost fairy time.

*Exeunt*; *Enter ROBIN*, *OBERON and TITANIA with their train*

**OBERON** Through the house give gathering light,  
By the dead and drowsy fire:  
Every elf and fairy sprite  
Hop as light as bird from brier;  
And this ditty, after me,  
Sing, and dance it trippingly.

**TITANIA** First, rehearse your song by rote  
To each word a warbling note:  
Hand in hand, with fairy grace,  
Will we sing, and bless this place.

*Song and dance*

**OBERON** So shall all the couples three  
Ever true in loving be;  
With this field-dew consecrate,  
Every fairy take his gait;  
And each several chamber bless,  
Through this palace, with sweet peace;  
And the owner of it blest  
Ever shall in safety rest.  
Trip away; make no stay;  
Meet me all by break of day.

*Exeunt OBERON, TITANIA, and train*

**ROBIN** If we shadows have offended,  
Think but this, and all is mended,  
That you have but slumber'd here  
While these visions did appear.

Give me your hands, if we be friends,  
And Robin shall restore amends.