

1

MUCH ADO 2 ABOUT NOTHING

3 by William Shakespeare

4 Prepared for Liverpool Playhouse 2007 by Phil Willmott

5
6 An English stately home and the surrounding village immediately
7 following World War II

8
9
10 Local Gentry

11 LEONATO

12 HERO, Daughter to Leonato.

13 BEATRICE, Niece to Leonato.

14
15 Staff

16 MARGARET, A maid

17 CONRADE, A gamekeeper

18
19 Visiting Foreign Royalty

20 DON PEDRO,

21 DON JOHN, his bastard Brother.

22
23 Returning Military

24 CLAUDIO,

25 BENEDICK,

26
27 Villagers

28 FRIAR DOGBERRY,

29 BOY SCOUTS (THE WATCH)

30
31

1 ACT ONE

2

3 Scene 1: The Railway Station.

4 The Village waits for Don Pedro's Arrival

5

6 Scene 2. In Front of the House.

7 2A Leonato welcomes all to his country house.

8 2B Friar Dogberry organises local kids into a neighbourhood watch.

9

10 Scene 3. A Shooting Party

11 3A. Benedick, Claudio and Don Pedro

12 3B. Conrade listens to Claudio and Don Pedro.

13 3C. Conrade reports to Don John

14

15 Scene 4. The Masked Ball. In Front of the House.

16

17 Preparations

18 4A. Leonato's household prepare the terrace for the masked ball.

19

20 At the Party

21 4B. Don Pedro and Hero

22 4C. Conrade and Margaret

23 4D. Beatrice and Benedick

24 4E. Don John, Conrade and Claudio

25 4F. Claudio and Bededict

26 4G. Den Pedro and Benedick

27 4H. Leonato, Beatrice, Hero, Don Pedro, Claudio and Benedick.

28 4I. Don John and Conrade plot.

29 4J. Benedick alone, Margaret sings.

30 4K. Don Pedro, Claudio and Leonato trick Benedick.

31 4L. Beatrice fetches Benedick to dinner.

32

33 Scene 5. The Garden Folly.

34 Hero and Margaret trick Beatrice

35

36 Scene 6. In Front of the House.

37 6A Leonato, Claudio and Don Pedro tease Benedick.

38 6B. Don John tricks Claudio and Don Pedro.

39

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ACT TWO

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2
3 Scene 7. The Garden Folly in the Rain.
4 The Watch arrest drunken Conrade in the rain.
5
6 Scene 8. In Front of the House.
7 8A. The Women prepare for the wedding
8 8B. Leonato is to busy to listen to the Watch on his way to the
9 wedding
10
11 Scene 9. The Church
12 9A. Claudio rejects Hero
13 9B. Reactions and a plan
14
15 Scene 10. The Garden Folly.
16 Beatrice enlists Benedick
17
18 Scene 11. The Vestry.
19 Dogberry and the Watch interrogate Conrade
20
21 Scene 12. In Front of the House.
22 Beatrice calms Leonato
23
24 Scene 13. The Railway Station
25 13A. Leonato confronts Claudio and Don Pedro
26 13B. Benedick challenges Claudio
27 13C. Dogberry delivers Conrade who reveals the truth.
28
29 Scene 14. In Front of the House.
30 Margaret brings Beatrice to Benedick
31
32 Scene 15. The Church.
33 A repentant Claudio, Don Pedro and the kids inside a church
34
35 Scene 16. The Vestry
36 Leonato's family plan a second wedding
37
38 Scene 17. The Church
39 Revelations and repercussions at the alter.
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ACT 1.

Scene 1.

A RAILWAY STATION PLATFORM.

LEONATO, HERO, BEATRICE, DOGBERRY AND LOCAL SCOUTS
WAIT FOR THE ARRIVAL OF DON PEDRO'S TRAIN.

LEONATO.

I learn in this letter that Don Pedro of Arragon comes today from
Messina. He is very near by this. How many gentlemen have we
lost in this action?

FRIAR DOGBERRY.

(CONSULTING THE NEWSPAPER) But few of any sort, and none of
name.

LEONATO.

A victory is twice itself when the achiever brings home full
numbers. (CONSULTING THE LETTER) I find here that Don Pedro
hath bestowed much honour on a young Florentine called Claudio.
"Much deserved on his part, and equally remembered by Don
Pedro. He hath borne himself beyond the promise of his age,
doing in the figure of a lamb the feats of a lion: he hath indeed
better bettered expectation than you must expect of me to tell you
how." He hath an uncle in Messina will be very much glad of it.
I have already delivered him letters, and there appears much joy
in him; even so much that joy could not show itself modest
enough without a badge of bitterness.

HERO.

Did he break out into tears?

LEONATO.

In great measure. A kind overflow of kindness. There are no faces
truer than those that are so washed; how much better is it to
weep at joy than to joy at weeping!

BEATRICE. (TO FRIAR DOGBERRY)

1 I pray you, is Signior Mountanto returned from the wars or no?
2
3 FRIAR DOGBERRY.
4 (CONSULTING THE NEWSPAPER IN VAIN)
5 I know none of that name, lady: there was none such in the army
6 of any sort.
7
8 LEONATO.
9 What is he that you ask for, niece?
10
11 HERO.
12 My cousin means Signior Benedick of Padua.
13
14 FRIAR DOGBERRY. (CONSULTING THE NEWSPAPER)
15 O! he is returned, and as pleasant as ever he was.
16
17 BEATRICE.
18 I pray you, how many hath he killed and eaten in these wars?
19 But how many hath he killed? For, indeed, I promised to eat all of
20 his killing.
21
22 LEONATO.
23 Faith, niece, you tax Signior Benedick too much; but he'll be meet
24 with you, I doubt it not. He hath done good service, Neice, in
25 these wars.
26
27 BEATRICE.
28 You had musty victual, and he hath holp to eat it; he is a very
29 valiant trencher-man; he hath an excellent stomach.
30
31 LEONATO.
32 And a good soldier too, lady.
33
34 BEATRICE.
35 And a good soldier to a lady; but what is he to a lord?
36
37 LEONATO.
38 A lord to a lord, a man to a man; stuffed with all honourable
39 virtues.
40

1 BEATRICE.
2 It is so indeed; he is no less than a stuffed man; but for the
3 stuffing,--well, we are all mortal.
4
5 LEONATO. (TO FRIAR DOGBERRY)
6 You must not, sir, mistake my niece. There is a kind of merry war
7 betwixt Signior Benedick and her; they never meet but there's a
8 skirmish of wit between them.
9
10 BEATRICE.
11 Alas! He gets nothing by that. In our last conflict four of his five
12 wits went halting off, and now is the whole man governed with
13 one! So that if he have wit enough to keep himself warm, let him
14 bear it for a difference between himself and his horse; for it is all
15 the wealth that he hath left to be known a reasonable creature.
16 Who is his companion now? He hath every month a new sworn
17 brother.
18
19 FRIAR DOGBERRY.
20 Is't possible?
21
22 BEATRICE.
23 Very easily possible: he wears his faith but as the fashion of his
24 hat; it ever changes with the next block.
25
26 FRIAR DOGBERRY.
27 I see, lady, the gentleman is not in your books.
28
29 BEATRICE.
30 No;an he were, I would burn my study. But, I pray you, who is his
31 companion? Is there no young squarer now that will make a
32 voyage with him to the devil?
33
34 FRIAR DOGBERRY.
35 (CONSULTS THE PAPER) He is most in the company of the right
36 noble Claudio.
37
38 BEATRICE.
39 O Lord, he will hang upon him like a disease: he is sooner caught
40 than the pestilence, and the taker runs presently mad. God help

1 the noble Claudio! If he have caught the Benedick, it will cost him
2 a thousand pound ere a' be cured.

3

4 FRIAR DOGBERRY.

5 I will hold friends with you, lady.

6

7 BEATRICE.

8 Do, good friend.

9

10 LEONATO.

11 You will never run mad, niece.

12

13 BEATRICE.

14 No, not till a hot January.

15

16 A TRAIN WHISTLE IN THE DISTANCE

17

18 LEONATO.

19 Don Pedro is approached.

20

21 BLACK OUT

22

23 F .X. THE TRAIN ARRIVES

24

25 Scene 2

26

27 2A

28

29 THE ENTRANCE TO LEONATO'S COUNTRY HOUSE.

30

31 LEONATO, BEATRICE AND HERO WELCOME DON PEDRO, DON

32 JOHN, CLAUDIO, BENEDICK AND CONRADE TO THEIR HOME

33

34 DON PEDRO.

35 Good Signior Leonato, you are come to meet your trouble: the

36 fashion of the world is to avoid cost, and you encounter it.

37

38 LEONATO.

39 Never came trouble to my house in the likeness of your Grace, for

1 trouble being gone, comfort should remain; but when you depart
2 from me, sorrow abides and happiness takes his leave.
3
4 DON PEDRO.
5 You embrace your charge too willingly. I think this is your
6 daughter.
7
8 LEONATO.
9 Her mother hath many times told me so.
10
11 BENEDICK.
12 Were you in doubt, sir, that you asked her?
13
14 LEONATO.
15 Signior Benedick, no; for then were you a child.
16
17 DON PEDRO.
18 You have it full, Benedick: we may guess by this what you are,
19 being a man. Truly the lady fathers herself. Be happy, lady, for
20 you are like an honourable father.
21
22 BENEDICK.
23 If Signior Leonato be her father, she would not have his head on
24 her shoulders for all Messina, as like him as she is.
25
26 BEATRICE.
27 I wonder that you will still be talking, Signior Benedick: nobody
28 marks you.
29
30 BENEDICK.
31 What! My dear Lady Disdain, are you yet living?
32
33 BEATRICE.
34 Is it possible Disdain should die while she hath such meet food to
35 feed it as Signior Benedick? Courtesy itself must convert to disdain
36 if you come in her presence.
37
38 BENEDICK.

1 Then is courtesy a turncoat. But it is certain I am loved of all
2 ladies, only you excepted; and I would I could find in my heart
3 that I had not a hard heart; for, truly, I love none.
4
5 BEATRICE.
6 A dear happiness to women: they would else have been troubled
7 with a pernicious suitor. I thank God and my cold blood, I am of
8 your humour for that. I had rather hear my dog bark at a crow
9 than a man swear he loves me.
10
11 BENEDICK.
12 God keep your ladyship still in that mind; so some gentleman or
13 other shallscape a predestinate scratched face.
14
15 BEATRICE.
16 Scratching could not make it worse, an 'twere such a face as yours
17 were.
18
19 BENEDICK.
20 Well, you are a rare parrot-teacher.
21
22 BEATRICE.
23 A bird of my tongue is better than a beast of yours.
24
25 BENEDICK.
26 I would my horse had the speed of your tongue, and so good a
27 continuer. But keep your way, I' God's name; I have done.
28
29 BEATRICE.
30 You always end with a jade's trick: I know you of old.
31
32 DON PEDRO.
33 That is the sum of all, Leonato: Signior Claudio, and Signior
34 Benedick, my dear friend Leonato hath invited you all. I tell him
35 we shall stay here at the least a month, and he heartily prays some
36 occasion may detain us longer: I dare swear he is no hypocrite,
37 but prays from his heart.
38
39 LEONATO.
40 If you swear, my lord, you shall not be forsworn.

1 (TO DON JOHN)
2 Let me bid you welcome, my lord: being reconciled to the prince
3 your brother, I owe you all duty.
4
5 DON JOHN.
6 I thank you: I am not of many words, but I thank you.
7
8 LEONATO.
9 Please it your Grace lead on?
10
11 DON PEDRO.
12 Your hand, Leonato; we will go together.
13
14 2B
15
16 FRIAR DOGBERRY ADDRESSES A MOTLEY GROUP OF LOCAL BOY
17 SCOUTS IN FRONT OF THE HOUSE.
18
19 DOGBERRY.
20 Are you good men and true? You are thought here to be the most
21 senseless and fit man for the constable of the watch; therefore
22 bear you the lanthorn. This is your charge: I pray you, watch
23 about Signior Leonato's door; for there is a great coil to-night. You
24 shall comprehend all vagrant men; you are to bid any man stand,
25 in the prince's name.
26
27 SCOUT. How if he will not stand?
28
29 DOGBERRY.
30 And if a' will not stand. Why, then, take no note of him, but let
31 him go; and presently call the rest of the watch together, and
32 thank God you are rid of a knave. If he will not stand when he is
33 bidden, he is none of the prince's subjects. And you are to meddle
34 with none but the prince's subjects.
35
36 You shall also make no noise in the streets: for, for the watch to
37 babble and to talk is most tolerable and not to be endured. I will
38 rather sleep than talk: I cannot see how sleeping should offend;
39 only have a care that your bills be not stolen. Well, you are to call
40 at all the alehouses, and bid those that are drunk get them to bed.

1
2 SCOUT.
3 How if they will not?
4
5 DOGBERRY.
6 Why then, let them alone till they are sober:
7
8 SCOUT.
9 Well sir.
10
11 DOGBERRY: If you meet a thief, you may suspect him, by virtue of
12 your office, to be no true man; and lay hands on him.
13
14 SCOUT.
15 If we know him to be a thief, shall we not
16 lay hands on him?
17
18 DOGBERRY.
19 Truly by your office you may, though I think they that touch pitch
20 will be defiled. The most peaceable way for you, if you do take a
21 thief, is to let him show himself what he is and steal out of your
22 company. Truly, I would not hang a dog by my will, much more a
23 man who hath any honesty in him. If you hear a child cry in the
24 night, you must call to the nurse and bid her still it.
25
26 SCOUT.
27 How if the nurse be asleep and will not hear us?
28
29 DOGBERRY.
30 Why then, depart in peace, and let the child wake her with crying;
31 for the ewe that will not hear her lamb when it baes, will never
32 answer a calf when he bleats.
33
34 SCOUT.
35 'Tis very true.
36
37 DOGBERRY
38 This is the end of the charge. If you meet the prince in the night,
39 you may stay him.
40

1 SCOUT.
2 Nay by our lady I think I cannot.
3
4 DOGBERRY.
5 Not without the prince be willing; for, indeed, the watch ought to
6 offend no man, and it is an offence to stay a man against his will.
7
8 SCOUT. By our Lady, I think it be so
9
10 Well, masters, good night: an there be any matter of weight
11 chances, call up me: keep your fellows' counsels and your own,
12 and good night. Adieu; be vigilant, I beseech you.
13
14 THE SCOUTS DISPERSE AND FROM THIS POINT ARE OFTEN SEEN
15 SNEAKING AROUND THE ACTION.

16
17 Scene 3

18
19 3A

20
21 THE COMPANY ENGAGED IN A SHOOTING PARTY.
22 CONRADE SERVICING THEM WITH GUNS ETC.

23
24 CLAUDIO AND BENEDICK ASIDE

25
26 CLAUDIO.
27 Benedick, didst thou note the daughter of Leonato?

28
29 BENEDICK.
30 I noted her not; but I looked on her.

31
32 CLAUDIO.
33 Is she not a modest young lady?

34
35 BENEDICK.
36 Do you question me, as an honest man should do, for my simple
37 true judgment; or would you have me speak after my custom, as
38 being a professed tyrant to their sex?

39
40 CLAUDIO.

1 No; I pray thee speak in sober judgment.
2
3 BENEDICK.
4 Why, I' faith, methinks she's too low for a high praise, too brown
5 for a fair praise, and too little for a great praise; only this
6 commendation I can afford her, that were she other than she is,
7 she were unhandsome, and being no other but as she is, I do not
8 like her.
9
10 CLAUDIO.
11 Thou thinkest I am in sport: I pray thee tell me truly how thou
12 likest her.
13
14 BENEDICK.
15 Would you buy her, that you enquire after her?
16
17 CLAUDIO.
18 Can the world buy such a jewel?
19
20 BENEDICK.
21 Yea, and a case to put it into. But speak you this with a sad brow,
22 or do you play the flouting Jack, to tell us Cupid is a good hare-
23 finder, and Vulcan a rare carpenter? Come, in what key shall a
24 man take you, to go in the song?
25
26 CLAUDIO.
27 In mine eye she is the sweetest lady that ever I looked on.
28
29 BENEDICK.
30 I can see yet without spectacles and I see no such matter: there's
31 her cousin an she were not possessed with a fury, exceeds her as
32 much in beauty as the first of May doth the last of December. But
33 I hope you have no intent to turn husband, have you?
34
35 CLAUDIO.
36 I would scarce trust myself, though I had sworn to the contrary, if
37 Hero would be my wife.
38
39 BENEDICK.

1 Is't come to this, I' faith? Hath not the world one man but he will
2 wear his cap with suspicion? Shall I never see a bachelor of
3 threescore again? Go to, I' faith; an thou wilt needs thrust thy
4 neck into a yoke, wear the print of it and sigh away Sundays.
5 Look! Don Pedro is returned to seek you.

6

7 ENTER DON PEDRO.

8

9 DON PEDRO.

10 What secret hath held you here?

11

12 BENEDICK.

13 I would your Grace would constrain me to tell.

14

15 DON PEDRO.

16 I charge thee on thy allegiance.

17

18 BENEDICK.

19 You hear, Count Claudio: I can be secret as a dumb man; I would
20 have you think so; but on my allegiance mark you this, on my
21 allegiance: he is in love. With who? Now that is your Grace's part.
22 Mark how short his answer is: with Hero, Leonato's short
23 daughter.

24

25 CLAUDIO.

26 If this were so, so were it uttered.

27

28 BENEDICK.

29 Like the old tale, my lord: 'it is not so, nor 'twas not so; but
30 indeed, God forbid it should be so.'

31

32 CLAUDIO.

33 If my passion change not shortly. God forbid it should be
34 otherwise.

35

36 DON PEDRO.

37 Amen, if you love her; for the lady is very well worthy.

38

39 CLAUDIO.

40 You speak this to fetch me in, my lord.

1
2 DON PEDRO.
3 By my troth, I speak my thought.
4
5 CLAUDIO.
6 And in faith, my lord, I spoke mine.
7
8 BENEDICK.
9 And by my two faiths and troths, my lord, I spoke mine.
10
11 CLAUDIO.
12 That I love her, I feel.
13
14 DON PEDRO.
15 That she is worthy, I know.
16
17 BENEDICK.
18 That I neither feel how she should be loved nor know how she
19 should be worthy, is the opinion that fire cannot melt out of me: I
20 will die in it at the stake.
21
22 DON PEDRO.
23 Thou wast ever an obstinate heretic in the despite of beauty.
24
25 CLAUDIO.
26 And never could maintain his part but in the force of his will.
27
28 BENEDICK.
29 That a woman conceived me, I thank her; that she brought me up,
30 I likewise give her most humble thanks; but that I will have a
31 recheat winded in my forehead, or hang my bugle in an invisible
32 baldrick, all women shall pardon me. Because I will not do them
33 the wrong to mistrust any, I will do myself the right to trust none;
34 and the fine is,--for the which I may go the finer,--I will live a
35 bachelor.
36
37 DON PEDRO.
38 I shall see thee, ere I die, look pale with love.
39
40 BENEDICK.

1 With anger, with sickness, or with hunger, my lord; not with love:
2 prove that ever I lose more blood with love than I will get again with
3 drinking, pick out mine eyes with a ballad-maker's pen and hang me
4 up at the door of a brothel-house for the sign of blind Cupid.
5
6 DON PEDRO.
7 Well, if ever thou dost fall from this faith, thou wilt prove a notable
8 argument.
9
10 BENEDICK.
11 If I do, hang me in a bottle like a cat and shoot at me; and he that
12 hits me, let him be clapped on the shoulder and called Adam.
13
14 DON PEDRO.
15 Well, as time shall try: 'In time the savage bull doth bear the
16 yoke.'
17
18 BENEDICK.
19 The savage bull may; but if ever the sensible Benedick bear it,
20 pluck off the bull's horns and set them in my forehead; and let me
21 be vilely painted, and in such great letters as they write, 'Here is
22 good horse to hire,' let them signify under my sign 'Here you may
23 see Benedick the married man.'
24
25 CLAUDIO.
26 If this should ever happen, thou wouldst be horn-mad.
27
28 DON PEDRO.
29 Nay, if Cupid have not spent all his quiver in Venice, thou wilt
30 quake for this shortly.
31
32 BENEDICK.
33 I look for an earthquake too then.
34
35 DON PEDRO.
36 Well, you will temporize with the hours. In the meantime, good
37 Signior Benedick, repair to Leonato's: commend me to him and tell
38 him I will not fail him at supper; for indeed he hath made great
39 preparation.
40

1 BENEDICK.
2 I have almost matter enough in me for such an embassy; and
3 so I commit you—
4
5 CLAUDIO.
6 To the tuition of God: from my house, if I had it,--
7
8 DON PEDRO.
9 The sixth of July: your loving friend, Benedick.
10
11 BENEDICK.
12 Nay, mock not, mock not. The body of your discourse is sometime
13 guarded with fragments, and the guards are but slightly basted on
14 neither: ere you flout old ends any further, examine your
15 conscience.
16
17 3B
18
19 CLAUDIO AND DON PEDRO ASIDE AT THE SHOOTING PARTY.
20 CONRADE ATTENDS THEM.
21
22 CLAUDIO.
23 My liege, your highness now may do me good.
24
25 DON PEDRO.
26 My love is thine to teach: teach it but how,
27 And thou shalt see how apt it is to learn
28 hard lesson that may do thee good.
29
30 CLAUDIO.
31 Hath Leonato any son, my lord?
32
33 DON PEDRO.
34 No child but Hero; he's his only heir.
35 Dost thou affect her, Claudio?
36
37 CLAUDIO.
38 O! my lord,
39 When you went onward on this ended action,
40 I looked upon her with a soldier's eye,

1 That lik'd, but had a rougher task in hand
2 Than to drive liking to the name of love;
3 But now I am return'd, and that war-thoughts
4 Have left their places vacant, in their rooms
5 Come thronging soft and delicate desires,
6 All prompting me how fair young Hero is,
7 Saying, I lik'd her ere I went to wars.

8

9 DON PEDRO.

10 Thou wilt be like a lover presently,
11 And tire the hearer with a book of words.
12 If thou dost love fair Hero, cherish it,
13 And I will break with her, and with her father,
14 And thou shalt have her. Was't not to this end
15 That thou began'st to twist so fine a story?

16

17 CLAUDIO.

18 How sweetly you do minister to love,
19 That know love's grief by his complexion!
20 But lest my liking might too sudden seem,
21 I would have salv'd it with a longer treatise.

22

23 DON PEDRO.

24 What need the bridge much broader than the flood?
25 The fairest grant is the necessity.
26 Look, what will serve is fit: 'tis once, thou lov'st,
27 And I will fit thee with the remedy.
28 I know we shall have revelling to-night:
29 I will assume thy part in some disguise,
30 And tell fair Hero I am Claudio;
31 And in her bosom I'll unclasp my heart,
32 And take her hearing prisoner with the force
33 And strong encounter of my amorous tale:
34 Then, after to her father will I break;
35 And the conclusion is, she shall be thine.
36 In practice let us put it presently.

37

38

3C

39

40 CONRADE ATTENDS DON JOHN

1
2 CONRADE.
3 What the good-year, my lord! Why are you thus out of measure
4 sad?
5
6 DON JOHN.
7 There is no measure in the occasion that breeds; therefore the
8 sadness is without limit.
9
10 CONRADE.
11 You should hear reason.
12
13 DON JOHN.
14 And when I have heard it, what blessings brings it?
15
16 CONRADE.
17 If not a present remedy, at least a patient sufferance.
18
19 DON JOHN.
20 I wonder that thou, being, -as thou say'st thou art,--born under
21 Saturn, goest about to apply a moral medicine to a mortifying
22 mischief. I cannot hide what I am: I must be sad when I have
23 cause, and smile at no man's jests; eat when I have stomach, and
24 wait for no man's leisure; sleep when I am drowsy, and tend on no
25 man's business; laugh when I am merry, and claw no man in his
26 humour.
27
28 CONRADE.
29 Yea; but you must not make the full show of this till you may do it
30 without controlment. You have of late stood out against your
31 brother, and he hath ta'en you newly into his grace; where it is
32 impossible you should take true root but by the fair weather that
33 you make yourself: it is needful that you frame the season for your
34 own harvest.
35
36 DON JOHN.
37 I had rather be a canker in a hedge than a rose in his grace; and it
38 better fits my blood to be disdained of all than to fashion a
39 carriage to rob love from any: in this, though I cannot be said to
40 be a flattering honest man, it must not be denied but I am a plain-

1 dealing villain. I am trusted with a muzzle and enfranchised with a
2 clog; therefore I have decreed not to sing in my cage. If I had my
3 mouth, I would bite; if I had my liberty, I would do my liking: in
4 the meantime, let me be that I am, and seek not to alter me.
5
6 CONRADE.
7 Can you make no use of your discontent? The prince your brother
8 is royally entertained by Leonato; and I can give you intelligence
9 of an intended marriage.
10
11 DON JOHN.
12 Will it serve for any model to build mischief on? What is he for a
13 fool that betroths himself to unquietness?
14
15 CONRADE.
16 Marry, it is your brother's right hand.
17
18 DON JOHN.
19 Who? The most exquisite Claudio?
20
21 CONRADE.
22 Even he.
23
24 DON JOHN.
25 A proper squire! And who, and who? Which way looks he?
26
27 CONRADE.
28 Marry, on Hero, the daughter and heir of Leonato.
29
30 DON JOHN.
31 A very forward March-chick! How came you to this?
32
33 CONRADE.
34 I heard it agreed upon that the prince should woo Hero for
35 himself, and having obtained her, give her to Count Claudio.
36
37 DON JOHN.
38 Come, come; let us thither: this may prove food to my displeasure.
39 That young start-up hath all the glory of my overthrow: if I can

1 cross him any way, I bless myself every way. You are sure you will
2 assist me?

3

4 CONRADE.

5 To the death, my lord.

6

7 DON JOHN.

8 Let us to the great supper: their cheer is the greater that I am
9 subdued. Would the cook were of my mind! Shall we go to prove
10 what's to be done?

11

12 BORACHIO.

13 I'll wait upon your lordship.

14

15

Scene 4

16

17

4A

18

19 LEONATO TALKS TO HERO AND BEATRICE AS MARGARET AND
20 THE SCOUTS PREPARE THE TERRACE FOR THE PARTY.

21

22 LEONATO.

23 Was not Count John here at supper?

24

25 BEATRICE.

26 How tartly that gentleman looks! I never can see him but I am
27 heart-burned an hour after.

28

29 HERO.

30 He is of a very melancholy disposition.

31

32 BEATRICE.

33 He were an excellent man that were made just in the mid-way
34 between him and Benedick: the one is too like an image, and says
35 nothing; and the other too like my lady's eldest son, evermore
36 tattling.

37

38 LEONATO.

39 Then half Signior Benedick's tongue in Count John's mouth, and
40 half Count John's melancholy in Signior Benedick's face,--

1
2 BEATRICE.
3 With a good leg and a good foot, uncle, and money enough in his
4 purse, such a man would win any woman in the world ifa' could
5 get her good will.
6
7 LEONATO.
8 By my troth, niece, thou wilt never get thee a husband, if thou be
9 so shrewd of thy tongue.
10
11 BEATRICE.
12 Too curst is more than curst: I shall lessen God's sending that
13 way; for it is said, 'God sends a curst cow short horns;' but to a
14 cow too curst he sends none.
15
16 LEONATO.
17 So, by being too curst, God will send you no horns?
18
19 BEATRICE.
20 Just, if he send me no husband; for the which blessing I am at him
21 upon my knees every morning and evening. Lord! I could not
22 endure a husband with a beard on his face: I had rather lie in the
23 woollen.
24
25 LEONATO.
26 You may light on a husband that hath no beard.
27
28 BEATRICE.
29 What should I do with him? Dress him in my apparel and make
30 him my waiting-gentlewoman? He that hath a beard is more than
31 a youth, and he that hath no beard is less than a man; and he that
32 is more than a youth is not for me; and he that is less than a man,
33 I am not for him: therefore I will even take sixpence in earnest of
34 the bear-ward, and lead his apes into hell.
35
36 LEONATO.
37 Well then, go you into hell?
38
39 BEATRICE.
40 No; but to the gate; and there will the devil meet me, like an old

1 cuckold, with horns on his head, and say, 'Get you to heaven,
2 Beatrice, get you to heaven; here's no place for you maids: 'so
3 deliver I up my apes, and away to Saint Peter for the heavens; he
4 shows me where the bachelors sit, and there live we as merry as
5 the day is long.

6

7 LEONATO.

8 (TO HERO) Well, Daughter, I trust you will be ruled by your
9 Father.

10

11 BEATRICE.

12 Yes, faith; it is my cousin's duty to make curtsy, and say,
13 'Father, as it please you:'—but yet for all that, cousin, let him
14 be a handsome fellow, or else make another curtsy, and say,
15 'Father, as it please me.'

16

17 LEONATO.

18 Well, niece, I hope to see you one day fitted with a husband.

19

20 BEATRICE.

21 Not till God make men of some other metal than earth. Would it
22 not grieve a woman to be over-mastered with a piece of valiant
23 dust? To make an account of her life to a clod of wayward marl?
24 No, uncle, I'll none: Adam's sons are my brethren; and truly, I
25 hold it a sin to match in my kindred.

26

27 LEONATO.

28 Daughter, remember what I told you: if the prince do solicit you
29 in that kind, you know your answer.

30

31 BEATRICE.

32 The fault will be in the music, cousin, if you be not wooed in good
33 time: if the prince be too important, tell him there is measure in
34 everything, and so dance out the answer. For, hear me, Hero:
35 wooing, wedding, and repenting is as a Scotch jig, a measure, and
36 a cinque-pace: the first suit is hot and hasty, like a Scotch jig, and
37 full as fantastical; the wedding, mannerly-modest, as a measure,
38 full of state and ancientry; and then comes Repentance, and with
39 his bad legs, falls into the cinque-pace faster and faster, till he sink
40 into his grave.

1
2 LEONATO.
3 Cousin, you apprehend passing shrewdly.
4
5 BEATRICE.
6 I have a good eye, uncle: I can see a church by daylight.
7
8 4B
9
10 IN FRONT OF THE HOUSE DURING THE PARTY
11
12 A MASKED DON PEDRO AND HERO
13
14 DON PEDRO.
15 Lady, will you walk about with your friend?
16
17 HERO.
18 So you walk softly and look sweetly and say nothing, I am yours
19 for the walk; and especially when I walk away.
20
21 DON PEDRO.
22 With me in your company?
23
24 HERO.
25 I may say so, when I please.
26
27 DON PEDRO.
28 And when please you to say so?
29
30 HERO.
31 When I like your favour; for God defend the lute should be like
32 the case!
33
34 DON PEDRO.
35 My visor is Philemon's roof; within the house is Jove.
36
37 HERO.
38 Why, then, your visor should be thatch'd.
39
40 DON PEDRO.

1 Speak low, if you speak love.
2
3 HE TAKES HER ASIDE
4
5 4C
6
7 CONRADE FLIRTS WITH MARGARET
8
9 CONRAD.
10 Well, I would you did like me.
11
12 MARGARET.
13 So would not I, for your own sake; for I have many ill qualities.
14
15 CONRAD.
16 Which is one?
17
18 MARGARET.
19 I say my prayers aloud.
20
21 CONRAD.
22 I love you the better; the hearers may cry Amen.
23
24 MARGARET.
25 God match me with a good dancer!
26
27 CONRAD.
28 Amen.
29
30 MARGARET.
31 And God keep him out of my sight when the dance is done!
32
33 MARGARET.
34 I know you well enough: you are Signior's Clerk. Answer, clerk.
35
36 CONRAD.
37 At a word, I am not.
38
39 MARGARET.
40 I know you by the wagging of your head.

1
2 CONRAD.
3 To tell you true, I counterfeit him.
4
5 MARGARET.
6 You could never do him so ill-well, unless you were the very man.
7 Here's his dry hand up and down: you are he, you are he.
8
9 CONRAD.
10 At a word, I am not.
11
12 MARGARET.
13 Come, come; do you think I do not know you by your excellent
14 wit? Can virtue hide itself? Go to, mum, you are he: graces will
15 appear, and there's an end.
16
17 THEY KISS
18
19 CONRAD.
20 No more words: the clerk is answered.
21
22 THEY EXIT
23
24 4D
25
26 BEATRICE AND BENEDICK APEAR, IN CONVERSATION
27
28 BEATRICE.
29 Will you not tell me who told you so?
30
31 BENEDICK.
32 No, you shall pardon me.
33
34 BEATRICE.
35 Nor will you not tell me who you are?
36
37 BENEDICK.
38 Not now.
39
40 BEATRICE.

1 That I was disdainful, and that I had my good wit out of the
2 'Hundred Merry Tales.' Well, this was Signior Benedick that said
3 so.
4
5 BENEDICK.
6 What's he?
7
8 BEATRICE.
9 I am sure you know him well enough.
10
11 BENEDICK.
12 Not I, believe me.
13
14 BEATRICE.
15 Did he never make you laugh?
16
17 BENEDICK.
18 I pray you, what is he?
19
20 BEATRICE.
21 Why, he is the prince's jester: a very dull fool; only his gift is
22 in devising impossible slanders: none but libertines delight in him;
23 and the commendation is not in his wit, but in his villany; for he
24 both pleases men and angers them, and then they laugh at him
25 and beat him. I am sure he is in the fleet: I would he had boarded
26 me!
27
28 BENEDICK.
29 When I know the gentleman, I'll tell him what you say.
30
31 BEATRICE.
32 Do, do: he'll but break a comparison or two on me; which,
33 peradventure not marked or not laughed at, strikes him into
34 melancholy; and then there's a partridge wing saved, for the fool
35 will eat no supper that night.
36
37 MUSIC WITHIN.
38
39 We must follow the leaders.
40

1 BENEDICK.
2 In every good thing.
3
4 BEATRICE.
5 Nay, if they lead to any ill, I will leave them at the next turning.
6
7
8 4E
9
10 DON JOHN and CONRADE WATCH CLAUDIO
11
12 DON JOHN.
13 Sure my brother is amorous on Hero, and hath withdrawn her
14 father to break with him about it. The ladies follow her and but
15 one visor remains.
16
17 BORACHIO.
18 And that is Claudio: I know him by his bearing.
19
20 THEY APPROACH CLAUDIO
21
22 DON JOHN.
23 Are you not Signior Benedick?
24
25 CLAUDIO.
26 You know me well; I am he.
27
28 DON JOHN.
29 Signior, you are very near my brother in his love: he is enamoured
30 on Hero; I pray you, dissuade him from her; she is no equal for his
31 birth: you may do the part of an honest man in it.
32
33 CLAUDIO.
34 How know you he loves her?
35
36 DON JOHN.
37 I heard him swear his affection.
38
39 CONRAD.
40 So did I too; and he swore he would marry her to-night.

1
2 DON JOHN.
3 Come, let us to the banquet.
4
5 EXIT DON JOHN and CONRAD
6
7 4F
8
9 CLAUDIO.
10 Thus answer I in name of Benedick,
11 But hear these ill news with the ears of Claudio.
12 'Tis certain so; the prince wooes for himself.
13 Friendship is constant in all other things
14 Save in the office and affairs of love:
15 Herefore all hearts in love use their own tongues;
16 Let every eye negotiate for itself
17 And trust no agent; for beauty is a witch
18 Against whose charms faith melteth into blood.
19 This is an accident of hourly proof,
20 Which I mistrusted not. Farewell, therefore, Hero!

21
22 RE-ENTER BENEDICK.

23
24 BENEDICK.
25 Count Claudio?

26
27 CLAUDIO.
28 Yea, the same.

29
30 BENEDICK.
31 Come, will you go with me?

32
33 CLAUDIO.
34 Whither?

35
36 BENEDICK.
37 Even to the next willow, about your own business, count. What
38 fashion will you wear the garland of? About your neck, like a
39 usurer's chain? Or under your arm, like a lieutenant's scarf? You
40 must wear it one way, for the prince hath got your Hero.

1
2 CLAUDIO.
3 I wish him joy of her.
4
5 BENEDICK.
6 Why, that's spoken like an honest drovier: so they sell bullocks.
7 But did you think the prince would have served you thus?
8
9 CLAUDIO.
10 I pray you, leave me.
11
12 BENEDICK.
13 Ho! Now you strike like the blind man: 'twas the boy that stole
14 your meat, and you'll beat the post.
15
16 CLAUDIO.
17 If it will not be, I'll leave you.
18
19 HE EXITS
20
21 4G
22
23 BENEDICK.
24 Alas! Poor hurt fowl. Now will he creep into sedges. But, that my
25 Lady Beatrice should know me, and not know me! The prince's
26 fool! Ha! It may be I go under that title because I am merry. Yea,
27 but so I am apt to do myself wrong; I am not so reputed: it is the
28 base though bitter disposition of Beatrice that puts the world into
29 her person, and so gives me out. Well, I'll be revenged as I may.
30
31 DON PEDRO ARRIVES
32
33 DON PEDRO.
34 Now, signior, where's the count? Did you see him?
35
36 BENEDICK.
37 Troth, my lord, I have played the part of Lady Fame. I found him
38 here as melancholy as a lodge in a warren. I told him, and I think
39 I told him true, that your Grace had got the good will of this young
40 lady; and I offered him my company to a willow tree, either to

1 make him a garland, as being forsaken, or to bind him up a rod, as
2 being worthy to be whipped.
3
4 DON PEDRO.
5 To be whipped! What's his fault?
6
7 BENEDICK.
8 The flat transgression of a school-boy, who, being overjoy'd with
9 finding a bird's nest, shows it his companion, and he steals it.
10
11 DON PEDRO.
12 Wilt thou make a trust a transgression? The transgression is in
13 the stealer.
14
15 BENEDICK.
16 Yet it had not been amiss the rod had been made, and the garland
17 too; for the garland he might have worn himself, and the rod he
18 might have bestowed on you, who, as I take it, have stolen his
19 bird's nest.
20
21 DON PEDRO.
22 I will but teach them to sing, and restore them to the owner.
23
24 BENEDICK.
25 If their singing answer your saying, by my faith, you say honestly.
26
27 DON PEDRO.
28 The Lady Beatrice hath a quarrel to you: the gentleman that
29 danced with her told her she is much wronged by you.
30
31 BENEDICK.
32 O! she misused me past the endurance of a block: an oak but with
33 one green leaf on it, would have answered her: my very visor
34 began to assume life and scold with her. She told me, not thinking
35 I had been myself, that I was the prince's jester, that I was duller
36 than a great thaw; huddling jest upon jest with such impossible
37 conveyance upon me, that I stood like a man at a mark, with a
38 whole army shooting at me. She speaks poniards, and every word
39 stabs: if her breath were as terrible as her terminations, there
40 were no living near her; she would infect to the north star. I would

1 not marry her, though she were endowed with all that Adam had
2 left him before he transgressed: she would have made Hercules
3 have turned spit, yea, and have cleft his club to make the fire too.
4 Come, talk not of her; you shall find her the infernal Ate in good
5 apparel. I would to God some scholar would conjure her, for
6 certainly, while she is here, a man may live as quiet in hell
7 as in a sanctuary; and people sin upon purpose because they
8 would go thither; so indeed, all disquiet, horror and perturbation
9 follow her.

10

11

4H

12

13 ENRER CLAUDIO, BEATRICE, HERO, and LEONATO.

14

15 DON PEDRO.

16 Look! Here she comes.

17

18 BENEDICK.

19 Will your Grace command me any service to the world's end? I will
20 go on the slightest errand now to the Antipodes that you can
21 devise to send me on; I will fetch you a toothpicker now from the
22 furthest inch of Asia; bring you the length of Prester John's foot;
23 fetch you a hair off the Great Cham's beard; do you any
24 embassy to the Pygmies, rather than hold three words'
25 conference with this harpy. You have no employment for me?

26

27 DON PEDRO.

28 None, but to desire your good company.

29

30 BENEDICK.

31 O God, sir, here's a dish I love not: I cannot endure my Lady
32 Tongue.

33

34 HE EXITS

35

36 DON PEDRO.

37 Come, lady, come; you have lost the heart of Signior Benedick.

38

39 BEATRICE.

40 Indeed, my lord, he lent it me awhile; and I gave him use for it, a

1 double heart for a single one: marry, once before he won it of me
2 with false dice, therefore your Grace may well say I have lost it.
3
4 DON PEDRO.
5 You have put him down, lady, you have put him down.
6
7 BEATRICE.
8 So I would not he should do me, my lord, lest I should prove the
9 mother of fools. I have brought Count Claudio, whom you sent me
10 to seek.
11
12 DON PEDRO.
13 Why, how now, count! Wherefore are you sad?
14
15 CLAUDIO.
16 Not sad, my lord.
17
18 DON PEDRO.
19 How then? Sick?
20
21 CLAUDIO.
22 Neither, my lord.
23
24 BEATRICE.
25 The count is neither sad, nor sick, nor merry, nor well; but civil
26 count, civil as an orange, and something of that jealous
27 complexion.
28
29 DON PEDRO.
30 I' faith, lady, I think your blazon to be true; though, I'll be sworn,
31 if he be so, his conceit is false. Here, Claudio, I have wooed in thy
32 name, and fair Hero is won; I have broke with her father, and, his
33 good will obtained; name the day of marriage, and God give thee
34 joy!
35
36 LEONATO.
37 Count, take of me my daughter, and with her my fortunes: his
38 Grace hath made the match, and all grace say Amen to it!
39
40 BEATRICE.

1 Speak, Count, 'tis your cue.
2
3 CLAUDIO.
4 Silence is the perfectest herald of joy: I were but little happy, if I
5 could say how much. Lady, as you are mine, I am yours: I give
6 away myself for you and dote upon the exchange.
7
8 BEATRICE.
9 Speak, cousin; or, if you cannot, stop his mouth with a kiss, and
10 let not him speak neither.
11
12 DON PEDRO.
13 In faith, lady, you have a merry heart.
14
15 BEATRICE.
16 Yea, my lord; I thank it, poor fool, it keeps on the windy side of
17 care. My cousin tells him in his ear that he is in her heart.
18
19 CLAUDIO.
20 And so she doth, cousin.
21
22 BEATRICE.
23 Good Lord, for alliance! Thus goes every one to the world but I,
24 and I am sunburnt. I may sit in a corner and cry heigh-ho for a
25 husband!
26
27 DON PEDRO.
28 Lady Beatrice, I will get you one.
29
30 BEATRICE.
31 I would rather have one of your father's getting. Hath your Grace
32 ne'er a brother like you? Your father got excellent husbands, if a
33 maid could come by them.
34
35 DON PEDRO.
36 Will you have me, lady?
37
38 BEATRICE.

1 No, my lord, unless I might have another for working days: your
2 Grace is too costly to wear every day. But, I beseech your Grace,
3 pardon me; I was born to speak all mirth and no matter.
4
5 DON PEDRO.
6 Your silence most offends me, and to be merry best becomes you;
7 for out of question, you were born in a merry hour.
8
9 BEATRICE.
10 No, sure, my lord, my mother cried; but then there was a star
11 danced, and under that was I born. Cousins, God give you joy!
12
13 LEONATO.
14 Niece, will you look to those things I told you of?
15
16 BEATRICE.
17 I cry you mercy, uncle. By your Grace's pardon.
18
19 SHE EXITS
20
21 DON PEDRO.
22 By my troth, a pleasant spirited lady.
23
24 LEONATO.
25 There's little of the melancholy element in her, my lord: she is
26 never sad but when she sleeps; and not ever sad then, for I have
27 heard my daughter say, she hath often dreamed of unhappiness
28 and waked herself with laughing.
29
30 DON PEDRO.
31 She cannot endure to hear tell of a husband.
32
33 LEONATO.
34 O! by no means: she mocks all her wooers out of suit.
35
36 DON PEDRO.
37 She were an excellent wife for Benedick.
38
39 LEONATO.
40 O Lord! My lord, if they were but a week married, they would talk

1 themselves mad.
2
3 DON PEDRO.
4 Count Claudio, when mean you to go to church?
5
6 CLAUDIO.
7 To-morrow, my lord. Time goes on crutches till love have all his
8 rites.
9
10 LEONATO.
11 Not till Monday, my dear son, which is hence a just seven-night;
12 and a time too brief too, to have all things answer my mind.
13
14 DON PEDRO.
15 Come, you shake the head at so long a breathing; but, I warrant
16 thee, Claudio, the time shall not go dully by us. I will in the interim
17 undertake one of Hercules' labours, which is, to bring Signior
18 Benedick and the Lady Beatrice into a mountain of affection the
19 one with the other. I would fain have it a match; and I doubt not
20 but to fashion it, if you three will but minister such assistance as I
21 shall give you direction.
22
23 LEONATO.
24 My lord, I am for you, though it cost me ten nights' watchings.
25
26 CLAUDIO.
27 And I, my lord.
28
29 DON PEDRO.
30 And you too, gentle Hero?
31
32 HERO.
33 I will do any modest office, my lord, to help my cousin to a good
34 husband.
35
36 DON PEDRO.
37 And Benedick is not the unhopefullest husband that I know. Thus
38 far can I praise him; he is of a noble strain, of approved valour,
39 and confirmed honesty. I will teach you how to humour your
40 cousin, that she shall fall in love with Benedick; and I, with your

1 two helps, will so practise on Benedick that, in despite of his quick
2 wit and his queasy stomach, he shall fall in love with Beatrice. If
3 we can do this, Cupid is no longer an archer: his glory shall be
4 ours, for we are the only love-gods. Go in with me, and I will tell
5 you my drift.

6

7

41

8

9 DON JOHN AND CONRADE PLOT ON THE TERRACE AMONGST
10 THE DEBRIS OF THE PARTY

11

12 DON JOHN.

13 It is so; the Count Claudio shall marry the daughter of Leonato.

14

15 CONRAD.

16 Yea, my lord; but I can cross it.

17

18 DON JOHN.

19 Any bar, any cross, any impediment will be medicinable to me: I
20 am sick in displeasure to him, and whatsoever comes athwart his
21 affection ranges evenly with mine. How canst thou cross this
22 marriage?

23

24 CONRAD.

25 Not honestly, my lord; but so covertly that no dishonesty shall
26 appear in me.

27

28 DON JOHN.

29 Show me briefly how.

30

31 CONRAD.

32 I think I told your lordship how much I am in the
33 favour of Margaret, the waiting-gentlewoman to Hero.

34

35 DON JOHN.

36 I remember.

37

38 CONRAD.

39 I can, at any unseasonable instant of the night, appoint her to look
40 out at her lady's chamber window.

1
2 DON JOHN.
3 What life is in that, to be the death of this marriage?
4
5 CONRAD.
6 The poison of that lies in you to temper. Go you to the prince your
7 brother; spare not to tell him, that he hath wronged his honour in
8 marrying the renowned Claudio,--whose estimation do you
9 mightily hold up,--to a contaminated stale, such a one as Hero.
10
11 DON JOHN.
12 What proof shall I make of that?
13
14 CONRAD.
15 Proof enough to misuse the prince, to vex Claudio, to undo Hero,
16 and kill Leonato. Look you for any other issue?
17
18 DON JOHN.
19 Only to despise them, I will endeavour anything.
20
21 CONRAD.
22 Go then; find me a meet hour to draw Don Pedro and the Count
23 Claudio alone: tell them that you know that Hero loves me; intend
24 a kind of zeal both to the prince and Claudio, as—in love of your
25 brother's honour, who hath made this match, and his friend's
26 reputation, who is thus like to be cozened with the semblance of a
27 maid,--that you have discovered thus. They will scarcely believe
28 this without trial: offer them instances, which shall bear no less
29 likelihood than to see me at her chamber-window, hear me call
30 Margaret Hero, hear Margaret term me Claudio; and bring them to
31 see this the very night before the intended wedding: for in the
32 meantime I will so fashion the matter that Hero shall be absent;
33 and there shall appear such seeming truth of Hero's disloyalty,
34 that jealousy shall be called assurance, and all the preparation
35 overthrown.
36
37 DON JOHN.
38 Grow this to what adverse issue it can, I will put it in practice.
39 Be cunning in the working this, and thy fee is a thousand ducats.
40

1 CONRAD.
2 Be you constant in the accusation, and my cunning shall not
3 shame me.

4
5 DON JOHN.
6 I will presently go learn their day of marriage.

7
8 4J
9

10 BENEDICK ON THE TERRACE.

11
12 BENEDICK.
13 I do much wonder that one man, seeing how much another man is
14 a fool when he dedicates his behaviours to love, will, after he hath
15 laughed at such shallow follies in others, become the argument of
16 his own scorn by falling in love: and such a man is Claudio. I have
17 known, when there was no music with him but the drum and the
18 fife; and now had he rather hear the tabor and the pipe: I have
19 known when he would have walked ten mile afoot to see a good
20 armour; and now will he lie ten nights awake, carving the fashion
21 of a new doublet. He was wont to speak plain and to the purpose,
22 like an honest man and a soldier; and now is he turned
23 orthography; his words are a very fantastical banquet, just so
24 many strange dishes.

25
26 MARGARET IS SINGING

27
28 MARGARET.
29 Sigh no more, ladies, sigh no more,
30 Men were deceivers ever;
31 One foot in sea, and one on shore,
32 To one thing constant never.
33 Then sigh not so,
34 But let them go,
35 And be you blithe and bonny,
36 Converting all your sounds of woe
37 Into Hey nonny, nonny.

38
39
40 BENEDICK:

1 May I be so converted, and see with these eyes? I cannot tell; I
2 think not: I will not be sworn but love may transform me to an
3 oyster; but I'll take my oath on it, till he have made an oyster of
4 me, he shall never make me such a fool. One
5 woman is fair, yet I am well; another is wise, yet I am well;
6 another virtuous, yet I am well; but till all graces be in one
7 woman, one woman shall not come in my grace. Rich she shall be,
8 that's certain; wise, or I'll none; virtuous, or I'll never cheapen her;
9 fair, or I'll never look on her; mild, or come not near me; noble, or
10 not I for an angel; of good discourse, an excellent musician, and
11 her hair shall be of what colour it please God. Ha! The prince and
12 Monsieur Love! I will hide me in the arbour.

13

14 HE HIDES

15

16 MARGARET SINGS.

17

18 4K

19

20 AS DON PEDRO, LEONATO AND CLAUDIO ENTER

21

22 MARGARET.

23 Sing no more ditties, sing no mo
24 Of dumps so dull and heavy;
25 The fraud of men was ever so,
26 Since summer first was leavy.
27 Then sigh not so,
28 But let them go,
29 And be you blithe and bonny,
30 Converting all your sounds of woe
31 Into Hey nonny, nonny.

32

33 BENEDICK.

34 Is it not strange that sheep's guts should hale souls out of
35 women's bodies? Well, a horn for my money, when all's done.

36

37 DON PEDRO.

38 See you where Benedick hath hid himself? (TO MARGARET)

39 By my troth, a good song.

40

1 MARGARET.
2 And an ill singer, my lord.
3
4 DON PEDRO.
5 Ha, no, no, faith; thou singest well enough for a shift.
6
7 MARGARET.
8 The best I can, my lord.
9
10 SHE EXITS
11
12 BENEDICK.
13 (ASIDE) An she had been a dog that should have howled thus,
14 they would have hanged her; and I pray God her bad voice bode
15 no mischief. I had as lief have heard the night-raven, come what
16 plague could have come after it.
17
18 DON PEDRO.
19 Come hither, Leonato: what was it you told me of to-day, that
20 your niece Beatrice was in love with Signior Benedick?
21
22 CLAUDIO.
23 O! ay:-- (ASIDE TO DON PEDRO) Stalk on, stalk on; the fowl sits. I
24 did never think that lady would have loved any man.
25
26 LEONATO.
27 No, nor I neither; but most wonderful that she should so dote on
28 Signior Benedick, whom she hath in all outward behaviours
29 seemed ever to abhor.
30
31 BENEDICK.
32 (ASIDE) Is't possible? Sits the wind in that corner?
33
34 LEONATO.
35 By my troth, my lord, I cannot tell what to think of it but that she
36 loves him with an enraged affection: it is past the infinite of
37 thought.
38
39 DON PEDRO.
40 May be she doth but counterfeit.

1
2 CLAUDIO.
3 Faith, like enough.
4
5 LEONATO.
6 O God! Counterfeit! There was never counterfeit of passion came
7 so near the life of passion as she discovers it.
8
9 DON PEDRO.
10 Why, what effects of passion shows she?
11
12 CLAUDIO.
13 (ASIDE) Bait the hook well: this fish will bite.
14
15 LEONATO.
16 What effects, my lord? She will sit you; (TO CLAUDIO) You heard
17 my daughter tell you how.
18
19 CLAUDIO.
20 She did, indeed.
21
22 DON PEDRO.
23 How, how, I pray you? You amaze me: I would have thought her
24 spirit had been invincible against all assaults of affection.
25
26 LEONATO.
27 I would have sworn it had, my lord; especially against Benedick.
28
29 BENEDICK.
30 (ASIDE) I should think this a gull, but that the grey-headed
31 fellow speaks it: knavery cannot, sure, hide itself in such
32 reverence.
33
34 CLAUDIO.
35 (ASIDE) He hath ta'en the infection: hold it up.
36
37 DON PEDRO.
38 Hath she made her affection known to Benedick?
39
40 LEONATO.

1 No; and swears she never will: that's her torment.
2
3 CLAUDIO.
4 Tis true, indeed; so your daughter says: 'Shall I,' says she, 'that
5 have so oft encountered him with scorn, write to him that I love
6 him?'
7
8 LEONATO.
9 This says she now when she is beginning to write to him; for she'll
10 be up twenty times a night, and there will she sit in her smock till
11 she have writ a sheet of paper: my daughter tells us all.
12
13 CLAUDIO.
14 Now you talk of a sheet of paper, I remember a pretty jest your
15 daughter told us of.
16
17 LEONATO.
18 O! when she had writ it, and was reading it over, she found
19 Benedick and Beatrice between the sheet?
20
21 CLAUDIO.
22 That.
23
24 LEONATO.
25 O! she tore the letter into a thousand halfpence; railed at herself,
26 that she should be so immodest to write to one that she knew
27 would flout her: 'I measure him,' says she, 'by my own spirit; for I
28 should flout him, if he writ to me; yea, though I love him, I
29 should.'
30
31 CLAUDIO.
32 Then down upon her knees she falls, weeps, sobs, beats her heart,
33 tears her hair, prays, curses; 'O sweet Benedick! God give me
34 patience!'
35
36 LEONATO.
37 She doth indeed; my daughter says so; and the ecstasy hath so
38 much overborne her, that my daughter is sometimes afraid she
39 will do a desperate outrage to herself. It is very true.
40

1 DON PEDRO.
2 It were good that Benedick knew of it by some other, if she will
3 not discover it.
4
5 CLAUDIO.
6 To what end? He would make but a sport of it and torment the
7 poor lady worse.
8
9 DON PEDRO.
10 An he should, it were an alms to hang him. She's an excellent
11 sweet lady, and, out of all suspicion, she is virtuous.
12
13 CLAUDIO.
14 And she is exceeding wise.
15
16 DON PEDRO.
17 In everything but in loving Benedick.
18
19 LEONATO.
20 O! my lord, wisdom and blood combating in so tender a body, we
21 have ten proofs to one that blood hath the victory. I am sorry for
22 her, as I have just cause, being her uncle and her guardian.
23
24 DON PEDRO.
25 I would she had bestowed this dotage on me; I would have daffed
26 all other respects and made her half myself. I pray you, tell
27 Benedick of it, and hear what a' will say.
28
29 LEONATO.
30 Were it good, think you?
31
32 CLAUDIO.
33 Hero thinks surely she will die; for she says she will die if he love
34 her not, and she will die ere she make her love known, and she
35 will die if he woo her, rather than she will bate one breath of her
36 accustomed crossness.
37
38 DON PEDRO.
39 She doth well: if she should make tender of her love, 'tis very
40 possible he'll scorn it; for the man,--as you know all,--hath a

1 contemptible spirit.
2
3 CLAUDIO.
4 He is a very proper man.
5
6 DON PEDRO.
7 He hath indeed a good outward happiness.
8
9 CLAUDIO.
10 Fore God, and in my mind, very wise.
11
12 DON PEDRO.
13 He doth indeed show some sparks that are like wit.
14
15 CLAUDIO.
16 And I take him to be valiant.
17
18 DON PEDRO.
19 As Hector, I assure you: and in the managing of quarrels you may
20 say he is wise; for either he avoids them with great discretion, or
21 undertakes them with a most Christian-like fear.
22
23 LEONATO.
24 If he do fear God, a' must necessarily keep peace: if he break the
25 peace, he ought to enter into a quarrel with fear and trembling.
26
27 DON PEDRO.
28 And so will he do; for the man doth fear God, howsoever it seems
29 not in him by some large jests he will make. Well, I am sorry for
30 your niece. Shall we go seek Benedick and tell him of her love?
31
32 CLAUDIO.
33 Never tell him, my lord: let her wear it out with good counsel.
34
35 LEONATO.
36 Nay, that's impossible: she may wear her heart out first.
37
38 DON PEDRO.
39 Well, we will hear further of it by your daughter: let it cool the
40 while. I love Benedick well, and I could wish he would modestly

1 examine himself, to see how much he is unworthy so good a lady.

2

3 A GONG FROM THE HOUSE ANOUNCES FOOD.

4

5 LEONATO.

6 My lord, will you walk? Dinner is ready.

7

8 CLAUDIO.

9 (ASIDE) If he do not dote on her upon this, I will never trust my
10 expectation.

11

12 DON PEDRO.

13 (ASIDE) Let there be the same net spread for her; and that must
14 your daughter and her gentle-woman carry. The sport will be,
15 when they hold one an opinion of another's dotage, and no such
16 matter: that's the scene that I would see, which will be merely a
17 dumb-show. Let us send her to call him in to dinner.

18

19 (DON PEDRO, CLAUDIO, and LEONATO EXIT)

20

21

4L

22

23 BENEDICK.

24 (EMERGING) This can be no trick: the conference was sadly borne.
25 They have the truth of this from Hero. They seem to pity the lady:
26 it seems her affections have their full bent. Love me! Why, it must
27 be requited. I hear how I am censured: they say I will bear
28 myself proudly, if I perceive the love come from her; they say too
29 that she will rather die than give any sign of affection. I did never
30 think to marry: I must not seem proud: happy are they that hear
31 their detractions, and can put them to mending. They say the lady
32 is fair: 'tis a truth, I can bear them witness; and virtuous: 'tis so, I
33 cannot reprove it; and wise, but for loving me: by my troth, it is no
34 addition to her wit, nor no great argument of her folly, for I will be
35 horribly in love with her. I may chance have some odd quirks and
36 remnants of wit broken on me, because I have railed so long
37 against marriage; but doth not the appetite alter? A man loves the
38 meat in his youth that he cannot endure in his age. Shall quips
39 and sentences and these paper bullets of the brain awe a man
40 from the career of his humour? No; the world must be peopled.

1 When I said I would die a bachelor, I did not think I should live till
2 I were married. Here comes Beatrice. By this day! She's a fair
3 lady: I do spy some marks of love in her.

4

5 BEATRICE ENTERS

6

7 BEATRICE.

8 Against my will I am sent to bid you come in to dinner.

9

10 BENEDICK.

11 Fair Beatrice, I thank you for your pains.

12

13 BEATRICE.

14 I took no more pains for those thanks than you take pains to
15 thank me: if it had been painful, I would not have come.

16

17 BENEDICK.

18 You take pleasure then in the message?

19

20 BEATRICE.

21 Yea, just so much as you may take upon a knife's point, and choke
22 a daw withal. You have no stomach, signior: fare you well.

23

24 SHE EXITS

25

26 BENEDICK.

27 Ha! 'Against my will I am sent to bid you come in to dinner,'
28 there's a double meaning in that. 'I took no more pains for those
29 thanks than you took pains to thank me,' that's as much as to say,
30 Any pains that I take for you is as easy as thanks. If I do not take
31 pity of her, I am a villain; if I do not love her, I am a Jew. I
32 will go get her picture.

33

34

Scene 5

35

36 HERO MARGARET AND A BOY SCOUT AT A FOLLY IN LEONATO'S
37 GARDEN.

38

39 HERO (TO THE BOY SCOUT)

1 Run thee to the parlor;
2 There shalt thou find my cousin Beatrice
3 Proposing with the prince and Claudio:
4 Whisper her ear and tell her, I and Ursula
5 Walk in the orchard and our whole discourse
6 Is all of her; say that thou overheard'st us;
7 And bid her steal into the pleached bower,
8 Where honeysuckles, ripen'd by the sun,
9 Forbid the sun to enter, like favourites,
10 Made proud by princes, that advance their pride
11 Against that power that bred it: there will she hide her,
12 To listen our purpose. This is thy office;
13 Bear thee well in it and leave us alone.

14

15 SCOUT.

16 I'll make her come, I warrant you, presently.

17

18 HE EXITS

19

20 HERO.

21 Now, Margaret, when Beatrice doth come,
22 As we do trace this alley up and down,
23 Our talk must only be of Benedick:
24 When I do name him, let it be thy part
25 To praise him more than ever man did merit.
26 My talk to thee must be how Benedick
27 Is sick in love with Beatrice: of this matter
28 Is little Cupid's crafty arrow made,
29 That only wounds by hearsay.

30

31 BEATRICE ENTERS BEHIND THEM

32

33 Now begin;
34 For look where Beatrice, like a lapwing, runs
35 Close by the ground, to hear our conference.

36

37 MARGARET.

38 The pleasant'st angling is to see the fish
39 Cut with her golden oars the silver stream,
40 And greedily devour the treacherous bait:

1 So angle we for Beatrice; who even now
2 Is couched in the woodbine coverture.
3 Fear you not my part of the dialogue.
4
5 HERO.
6 Then go we near her, that her ear lose nothing
7 Of the false sweet bait that we lay for it.
8
9 THEY MOVE WITHIN BEATRICE'S HEARING
10
11 No, truly, Margaret, she is too disdainful;
12 I know her spirits are as coy and wild
13 As haggards of the rock.
14
15 MARGARET.
16 But are you sure
17 That Benedick loves Beatrice so entirely?
18
19 HERO.
20 So says the prince, and my new-trothed lord.
21
22 MARGARET.
23 And did they bid you tell her of it, madam?
24
25 HERO.
26 They did entreat me to acquaint her of it;
27 But I persuaded them, if they lov'd Benedick,
28 To wish him wrestle with affection,
29 And never to let Beatrice know of it.
30
31 MARGARET.
32 Why did you so? Doth not the gentleman
33 Deserve as full as fortunate a bed
34 As ever Beatrice shall couch upon?
35
36 HERO.
37 O god of love! I know he doth deserve
38 As much as may be yielded to a man;
39 But nature never fram'd a woman's heart
40 Of prouder stuff than that of Beatrice;

1 Disdain and scorn ride sparkling in her eyes,
2 Misprising what they look on, and her wit
3 Values itself so highly, that to her
4 All matter else seems weak. She cannot love,
5 Nor take no shape nor project of affection,
6 She is so self-endear'd.
7
8 MARGARET.
9 Sure I think so; And therefore certainly it were not good
10 She knew his love, lest she make sport at it.
11
12 HERO.
13 Why, you speak truth. I never yet saw man,
14 How wise, how noble, young, how rarely featur'd,
15 But she would spell him backward: if fair-fac'd,
16 She would swear the gentleman should be her sister;
17 If black, why, Nature, drawing of an antick,
18 Made a foul blot; if tall, a lance ill-headed;
19 If low, an agate very vilely cut;
20 If speaking, why, a vane blown with all winds;
21 If silent, why, a block moved with none.
22 So turns she every man the wrong side out,
23 And never gives to truth and virtue that
24 Which simpleness and merit purchaseth.
25
26 MARGARET.
27 Sure, sure, such carping is not commendable.
28
29 HERO.
30 No; not to be so odd, and from all fashions,
31 As Beatrice is, cannot be commendable.
32 But who dare tell her so? If I should speak,
33 She would mock me into air: O! she would laugh me
34 Out of myself, press me to death with wit.
35 Therefore let Benedick, like cover'd fire,
36 Consume away in sighs, waste inwardly:
37 It were a better death than die with mocks,
38 Which is as bad as die with tickling.
39
40 MARGARET.

1 Yet tell her of it: hear what she will say.
2
3 HERO.
4 No; rather I will go to Benedick,
5 And counsel him to fight against his passion.
6 And, truly, I'll devise some honest slanders
7 To stain my cousin with. One doth not know
8 How much an ill word may empoison liking.
9
10 MARGARET.
11 O! do not do your cousin such a wrong.
12 She cannot be so much without true judgment,--
13 Having so swift and excellent a wit
14 As she is priz'd to have,--as to refuse
15 So rare a gentleman as Signior Benedick.
16
17 HERO.
18 He is the only man of Italy,
19 Always excepted my dear Claudio.
20
21 MARGARET.
22 I pray you, be not angry with me, madam,
23 Speaking my fancy: Signior Benedick,
24 For shape, for bearing, argument and valour,
25 Goes foremost in report through Italy.
26
27 HERO.
28 Indeed, he hath an excellent good name.
29
30 MARGARET.
31 His excellence did earn it, ere he had it.
32 When are you married, madam?
33
34 HERO.
35 Why, every day, to-morrow. Come, go in:
36 I'll show thee some attires, and have thy counsel
37 Which is the best to furnish me to-morrow.
38
39 MARGARET.
40 She's lim'd, I warrant you: we have caught her, madam.

1
2 HERO.
3 If it prove so, then loving goes by haps:
4 Some Cupid kills with arrows, some with traps.
5
6 HERO and MARGARET LEAVE
7
8 BEATRICE.
9 (EMERGING) What fire is in mine ears? Can this be true?
10 Stand I condemn'd for pride and scorn so much?
11 Contempt, farewell! And maiden pride, adieu!
12 No glory lives behind the back of such.
13 And, Benedick, love on; I will requite thee,
14 Taming my wild heart to thy loving hand:
15 If thou dost love, my kindness shall incite thee
16 To bind our loves up in a holy band;
17 For others say thou dost deserve, and I
18 Believe it better than reportingly.

19

20

Scene 6

21

22

6A

23

24 THE STEPS OF LEONATO'S HOUSE.

25

26 DON PEDRO, CLAUDIO, BENEDICK, and LEONATO

27

28 DON PEDRO.

29 I do but stay till your marriage be consummate, and then go I
30 toward Arragon.

31

32 CLAUDIO.

33 I'll bring you thither, my lord, if you'll vouchsafe me.

34

35 DON PEDRO.

36 Nay, that would be as great a soil in the new gloss of your
37 marriage, as to show a child his new coat and forbid him to wear
38 it. I will only be bold with Benedick for his company; for, from the
39 crown of his head to the sole of his foot, he is all mirth; he hath
40 twice or thrice cut Cupid's bowstring, and the little hangman dare

1 not shoot at him. He hath a heart as sound as a bell, and his
2 tongue is the clapper; for what his heart thinks his tongue speaks.
3
4 BENEDICK.
5 Gallants, I am not as I have been.
6
7 LEONATO.
8 So say I: methinks you are sadder.
9
10 CLAUDIO.
11 I hope he be in love.
12
13 DON PEDRO.
14 Hang him, truant! There's no true drop of blood in him, to be truly
15 touched with love. If he be sad, he wants money.
16
17 BENEDICK.
18 I have the tooth-ache.
19
20 DON PEDRO.
21 Draw it.
22
23 BENEDICK.
24 Hang it.
25
26 CLAUDIO.
27 You must hang it first, and draw it afterwards.
28
29 DON PEDRO.
30 What! Sigh for the tooth-ache?
31
32 LEONATO.
33 Where is but a humour or a worm?
34
35 BENEDICK.
36 Well, every one can master a grief but he that has it.
37
38 CLAUDIO.
39 Yet say I, he is in love.
40

1 DON PEDRO.
2 There is no appearance of fancy in him, unless it be a fancy that
3 he hath to strange disguises; as to be a Dutchman to-day, a
4 Frenchman to-morrow; or in the shape of two countries at once,
5 as a German from the waist downward, all slops, and a Spaniard
6 from the hip upward, no doublet. Unless he have a fancy to this
7 foolery, as it appears he hath, he is no fool for fancy, as you would
8 have it appear he is.
9
10 CLAUDIO.
11 If he be not in love with some woman, there is no believing old
12 signs: a' brushes his hat a mornings; what should that bode?
13
14 DON PEDRO.
15 And, a' rubs himself with civet: can you smell him out by that?
16
17 CLAUDIO.
18 That's as much as to say the sweet youth's in love.
19
20 DON PEDRO.
21 The greatest note of it is his melancholy.
22
23 CLAUDIO.
24 And when was he wont to wash his face?
25
26 DON PEDRO.
27 Yea, or to paint himself? For the which, I hear what they say of
28 him.
29
30 CLAUDIO.
31 Nay, but his jesting spirit; which is now crept into a lute-string,
32 and new-governed by stops.
33
34 DON PEDRO.
35 Indeed, that tells a heavy tale for him. Conclude, conclude he is
36 in love.
37
38 CLAUDIO.
39 Nay, but I know who loves him.
40

1 DON PEDRO.
2 That would I know too: I warrant, one that knows him not.
3
4 CLAUDIO.
5 Yes, and his ill conditions; and in despite of all, dies for him.
6
7 DON PEDRO.
8 She shall be buried with her face upwards.
9
10 BENEDICK.
11 Yet is this no charm for the tooth-ache. Old signior, walk aside
12 with me: I have studied eight or nine wise words to speak to you,
13 which these hobby-horses must not hear.
14
15 BENEDICK and LEONATO LEAVE
16
17 DON PEDRO.
18 For my life, to break with him about Beatrice.
19
20 CLAUDIO.
21 'Tis even so. Hero and Margaret have by this played their parts
22 with Beatrice, and then the two bears will not bite one another
23 when they meet.
24
25 6B
26
27 DON JOHN APPROACHES DON PEDRO AND CLAUDUIO.
28
29 DON JOHN.
30 My lord and brother, God save you!
31
32 DON PEDRO.
33 Good den, brother.
34
35 DON JOHN.
36 If your leisure served, I would speak with you.
37
38 DON PEDRO.
39 In private?
40

1 DON JOHN.
2 If it please you; yet Count Claudio may hear, for what I would
3 speak of concerns him.
4
5 DON PEDRO.
6 What's the matter?
7
8 DON JOHN.
9 (TO CLAUDIO) Means your lordship to be married to-morrow?
10
11 DON PEDRO.
12 You know he does.
13
14 DON JOHN.
15 I know not that, when he knows what I know.
16
17 CLAUDIO.
18 If there be any impediment, I pray you discover it.
19
20 DON JOHN.
21 You may think I love you not: let that appear hereafter, and aim
22 better at me by that I now will manifest. For my brother, I think
23 he holds you well, and in dearness of heart hath help to effect
24 your ensuing marriage; surely suit ill-spent and labour ill
25 bestowed!
26
27 DON PEDRO.
28 Why, what's the matter?
29
30 DON JOHN.
31 I came hither to tell you; and circumstances shortened,--for she
32 has been too long a talking of,--the lady is disloyal.
33
34 CLAUDIO.
35 Who, Hero?
36
37 DON JOHN.
38 Even she: Leonato's Hero, your Hero, every man's Hero.
39
40 CLAUDIO.

1 Disloyal?
2
3 DON JOHN.
4 The word's too good to paint out her wickedness; I could say, she
5 were worse: think you of a worse title, and I will fit her to it.
6 Wonder not till further warrant: go but with me to-night, you shall
7 see her chamber-window entered, even the night before her
8 wedding-day: if you love her then, to-morrow wed her; but it
9 would better fit your honour to change your mind.
10
11 CLAUDIO.
12 May this be so?
13
14 DON PEDRO.
15 I will not think it.
16
17 DON JOHN.
18 If you dare not trust that you see, confess not that you know. If
19 you will follow me, I will show you enough; and when you have
20 seen more and heard more, proceed accordingly.
21
22 CLAUDIO.
23 If I see anything to-night why I should not marry her to-morrow,
24 in the congregation, where I should wed, there will I shame her.
25
26 DON PEDRO.
27 And, as I wooed for thee to obtain her, I will join with thee to
28 disgrace her.
29
30 DON JOHN.
31 I will disparage her no farther till you are my witnesses: bear it
32 coldly but till midnight, and let the issue show itself.
33
34 DON PEDRO.
35 O day untowardly turned!
36
37 CLAUDIO.
38 O mischief strangely thwarting!
39
40 DON JOHN.

1 O plague right well prevented! So will you say when you have seen
2 the sequel.

3

4

5

ACT TWO

6

7

Scene 7

8

9 THE FOLLY IN THE GARDEN. LATE AT NIGHT. IT'S RAINING.

10

11 CONRADE ENTERS DRUNK.

12

13 HE'S ACCOSTED BY THE SCOUTS.

14

15 SCOUT.

16 Peace! stir not.

17

18 UNINTIMIDATED HE PULLS THEM OUT OF THE RAIN.

19

20 CONRAD.

21 Stand thee close then under this penthouse, for it drizzles rain,
22 and I will, like a true drunkard, utter all to thee. Therefore know, I
23 have earned of Don John a thousand ducats. When rich villains
24 have need of poor ones, poor ones may make what price they will.
25 Know, that I have to-night wooed Margaret, the Lady Hero's
26 gentlewoman, by the name of Hero: she leans me out at her
27 mistress' chamber-window, bids me a thousand times good night,-
28 -I tell this tale vilely:-- I should first tell thee how the prince,
29 Claudio, and my master, planted and placed and possessed by my
30 master Don John, saw afar off in the orchard this amiable
31 encounter. And thought they Margaret was Hero? Nay, two of
32 them did, the prince and Claudio; but the devil my master, knew
33 she was Margaret; and partly by his oaths, which first possessed
34 them, partly by the dark night, which did deceive them, but chiefly
35 by my villany, which did confirm any slander that Don John had
36 made, away went Claudio enraged; swore he would meet her, as
37 he was appointed, next morning at the temple, and there, before
38 the whole congregation, shame her with what he saw o'er night,
39 and send her home again without a husband.

40

1 SCOUT.
2 We charge you in the prince's name, stand!
3
4 SCOUT.
5 We have here recovered the most dangerous piece of lechery that
6 ever was known in the commonwealth.
7
8 SCOUT.
9 Never speak: we charge you let us obey you to go with us.

10

11 Scene 8

12

13 8A

14

15 THE STEPS OF THE HOUSE. MARGARET AND HERO PREPARE FOR
16 THE WEDDING. A DRESS IS DELIVERED.

17

18 MARGARET.
19 Troth, I think your other rabato were better.

20

21 HERO.
22 No, pray thee, good Meg, I'll wear this.

23

24 MARGARET.
25 By my troth's not so good; and I warrant your cousin will say so.

26

27 HERO.
28 My cousin 's a fool, and thou art another: I'll wear none but this.

29

30 MARGARET.
31 I like the new tire within excellently, if the hair were a thought
32 browner; and your gown 's a most rare fashion, i' faith. I saw the
33 Duchess of Milan's gown that they praise so.

34

35 HERO.
36 O! that exceeds, they say.

37

38 MARGARET.
39 By my troth 's but a night-gown in respect of yours: cloth o' gold,
40 and cuts, and laced with silver, set with pearls, down sleeves, side

1 sleeves, and skirts round, underborne with a blush tinsel; but for a
2 fine, quaint, graceful, and excellent fashion, yours is worth ten
3 on't.
4
5 HERO.
6 God give me joy to wear it! for my heart is exceeding heavy.
7
8 MARGARET.
9 'Twill be heavier soon by the weight of a man.
10
11 HERO.
12 Fie upon thee! art not ashamed?
13
14 MARGARET.
15 Of what, lady? of speaking honourably? is not marriage
16 honourable in a beggar? Is not your lord honourable without
17 marriage? I think you would have me say, 'saving your reverence,
18 a husband:' an bad thinking do not wrest true speaking, I'll offend
19 nobody. Is there any harm in 'the heavier for a husband'? None, I
20 think, an it be the right husband and the right wife; otherwise 'tis
21 light, and not heavy: ask my Lady Beatrice else; here she comes.
22
23 BEATRICE ENTERS
24
25 HERO.
26 Good morrow, coz.
27
28 BEATRICE.
29 Good morrow, sweet Hero.
30
31 HERO.
32 Why, how now? do you speak in the sick tune?
33
34 BEATRICE.
35 I am out of all other tune, methinks.
36
37 MARGARET.
38 Clap's into 'Light o' love'; that goes without a burden: do you sing
39 it, and I'll dance it.
40

1 BEATRICE.
2 Ye, light o' love with your heels! then, if your husband have
3 stables enough, you'll see he shall lack no barnes.
4
5 MARGARET.
6 O illegitimate construction! I scorn that with my heels.
7
8 BEATRICE.
9 By my troth, I am exceeding ill. Heigh-ho!
10
11 MARGARET.
12 For a hawk, a horse, or a husband?
13
14 BEATRICE.
15 For the letter that begins them all, H.
16
17 MARGARET.
18 Well, an you be not turned Turk, there's no more sailing by the
19 star.
20
21 BEATRICE.
22 What means the fool, trow?
23
24 MARGARET.
25 Nothing I; but God send every one their heart's desire!
26
27 HERO.
28 These gloves the Count sent me; they are an excellent perfume.
29
30 BEATRICE.
31 I am stuffed, cousin, I cannot smell.
32
33 MARGARET.
34 A maid, and stuffed! there's goodly catching of cold.
35
36 BEATRICE.
37 O, God help me! God help me! how long have you professed
38 apprehension?
39
40 MARGARET.

1 Ever since you left it. Doth not my wit become me rarely!
2
3 BEATRICE.
4 It is not seen enough, you should wear it in your cap. By my troth,
5 I am sick.
6
7 MARGARET.
8 Get you some of this distilled Carduus Benedictus, and lay it to
9 your heart: it is the only thing for a qualm.
10
11 HERO.
12 There thou prick'st her with a thistle.
13
14 BEATRICE.
15 Benedictus! why benedictus? you have some moral in this
16 Benedictus.
17
18 MARGARET.
19 Moral! no, by my troth, I have no moral meaning; I meant, plain
20 holy-thistle. You may think, perchance, that I think you are in love:
21 nay, by'r lady, I am not such a fool to think what I list; nor I list
22 not to think what I can; nor, indeed, I cannot think, if I would
23 think my heart out of thinking, that you are in love, or that you
24 will be in love, or that you can be in love. Yet Benedick was such
25 another, and now is he become a man: he swore he would never
26 marry; and yet now, in despite of his heart, he eats his meat
27 without grudging: and how you may be converted, I know not; but
28 methinks you look with your eyes as other women do.
29
30 BEATRICE.
31 What pace is this that thy tongue keeps?
32
33 MARGARET.
34 Not a false gallop.
35
36 WE HEAR LEONATO APPROACHING FROM OFF, TALKING TO THE
37 SCOUTS.
38
39 LEONATO.
40 (OFF) What would you with me, honest neighbours?

1
2 MARGARET.
3 Madam, withdraw:
4
5 HERO.
6 Help to dress me, good coz, good Meg.
7
8 8B
9
10 SCOUT.
11 Marry, sir, I would have some confidence with you, that concerns
12 you nearly.
13
14 LEONATO.
15 Brief, I pray you; for you see it is a busy time with me.
16
17 SCOUT.
18 Marry, this it is, sir.
19
20 SCOUT.
21 Yes, in truth it is, sir.
22
23 LEONATO.
24 What is it, my good friends?
25
26 SCOUT.
27 Goodman Verges, sir, speaks a little off the matter: (TO ANOTHER
28 SCOUT ABOUT LEONATO) An old man, sir, and his wits are not so
29 blunt as, God help, I would desire they were; but, in faith, honest
30 as the skin between his brows.
31
32 LEONATO.
33 Yes, I thank God, I am as honest as any man living, that is an
34 old man and no honester than I.
35
36 SCOUT.
37 We are the poor duke's officers;
38
39 LEONATO.
40 I would fain know what you have to say.

1
2 SCOUT.
3 Marry, sir, our watch to-night, excepting your worship's presence,
4 ha' ta'en a couple of as arrant knaves as any in Messina.
5
6 MARGARET ENTERS.
7
8 MARGARET.
9 My lord, they stay for you to give your daughter to her husband.
10
11 LEONATO.
12 I'll wait upon them: I am ready. (TO THE SCOUTS) I must leave
13 you.
14
15 SCOUT.
16 One word, sir: our watch, sir, hath indeed comprehended two
17 aspicuous persons, and we would have them this morning
18 examined before your worship.
19
20 LEONATO.
21 Take their examination yourself, and bring it me: I am now in
22 great haste, as may appear unto you.
23
24 SCOUT.
25 It shall be sufficient.
26
27 LEONATO.
28 Fare you well. (EXITS)
29
30 SCOUT.
31 Go, good partner, go, get you to Friar Dogberry; We are now to
32 examination this villain.
33
34 SCOUT.
35 And we must do it wisely.
36
37 Scene 9
38
39 9A
40

1 THE INSIDE OF A CHURCH.
2
3 DON PEDRO, DON JOHN, LEONATO, DOGBERRY, CLAUDIO,
4 BENEDICK, HERO, BEATRICE, MARGARET.
5
6 DOGBERRY.
7 You come hither, my lord, to marry this lady?
8
9 CLAUDIO.
10 No.
11
12 LEONATO.
13 To be married to her, friar; you come to marry her.
14
15 DOGBERRY.
16 Lady, you come hither to be married to this count?
17
18 HERO.
19 I do.
20
21 DOGBERRY.
22 If either of you know any inward impediment, why you should not
23 be conjoined, I charge you, on your souls, to utter it.
24
25 CLAUDIO.
26 Know you any, Hero?
27
28 HERO.
29 None, my lord.
30
31 DOGBERRY.
32 Know you any, count?
33
34 LEONATO.
35 I dare make his answer; none.
36
37 CLAUDIO.
38 O! what men dare do! what men may do! what men daily do, not
39 knowing what they do!
40

1 BENEDICK.
2 How now! Interjections? Why then, some be of laughing, as ah!
3 ha! he!
4
5 CLAUDIO.
6 (TO LEONATO) By your leave: Will you with free and
7 unconstrained soul give me this maid, your daughter?
8
9 LEONATO.
10 As freely, son, as God did give her me.
11
12 CLAUDIO.
13 And what have I to give you back whose worth
14 May counterpoise this rich and precious gift?
15
16 DON PEDRO.
17 Nothing, unless you render her again.
18
19 CLAUDIO.
20 Sweet prince, you learn me noble thankfulness.
21 There, Leonato, take her back again:
22 Give not this rotten orange to your friend;
23 She's but the sign and semblance of her honour.
24 Behold! how like a maid she blushes here.
25 O! what authority and show of truth
26 Can cunning sin cover itself withal.
27 Comes not that blood as modest evidence
28 To witness simple virtue? Would you not swear,
29 All you that see her, that she were a maid,
30 By these exterior shows? But she is none:
31 She knows the heat of a luxurious bed;
32 Her blush is guiltiness, not modesty.
33
34 LEONATO.
35 What do you mean, my lord?
36
37 CLAUDIO.
38 Not to be married,
39 Not to knit my soul to an approved wanton.
40

1 LEONATO.
2 Dear my lord, if you, in your own proof,
3 Have vanquish'd the resistance of her youth,
4 And made defeat of her virginity,--
5
6 CLAUDIO.
7 I know what you would say: if I have known her,
8 You'll say she did embrace me as a husband,
9 And so extenuate theforehand sin: No, Leonato,
10 I never tempted her with word too large;
11 But, as a brother to his sister, show'd
12 Bashful sincerity and comely love.
13
14 HERO.
15 And seem'd I ever otherwise to you?
16
17 CLAUDIO.
18 Out on thee! Seeming! I will write against it:
19 You seem to me as Dian in her orb,
20 As chaste as is the bud ere it be blown;
21 But you are more intemperate in your blood
22 Than Venus, or those pamper'd animals
23 That rage in savage sensuality.
24
25 HERO.
26 Is my lord well, that he doth speak so wide?
27
28 LEONATO.
29 Sweet prince, why speak not you?
30
31 DON PEDRO.
32 What should I speak?
33 I stand dishonour'd, that have gone about
34 To link my dear friend to a common stale.
35
36 LEONATO.
37 Are these things spoken, or do I but dream?
38
39 DON JOHN.
40 Sir, they are spoken, and these things are true.

1
2 BENEDICK.
3 This looks not like a nuptial.
4
5 HERO.
6 True! O God!
7
8 CLAUDIO.
9 Leonato, stand I here? Is this the prince?
10 Is this the prince's brother?
11 Is this face Hero's? Are our eyes our own?
12
13 LEONATO.
14 All this is so; but what of this, my lord?
15
16 CLAUDIO.
17 Let me but move one question to your daughter,
18 And by that fatherly and kindly power
19 That you have in her, bid her answer truly.
20
21 LEONATO.
22 I charge thee do so, as thou art my child.
23
24 HERO.
25 O, God defend me! how am I beset!
26 What kind of catechizing call you this?
27
28 CLAUDIO.
29 To make you answer truly to your name.
30
31 HERO.
32 Is it not Hero? Who can blot that name
33 With any just reproach?
34
35 CLAUDIO.
36 Marry, that can Hero:
37 Hero itself can blot out Hero's virtue.
38 That man was he talk'd with you yesternight
39 Out at your window, betwixt twelve and one?
40 Now, if you are a maid, answer to this.

1
2 HERO.
3 I talk'd with no man at that hour, my lord.
4
5 DON PEDRO.
6 Why, then are you no maiden.
7 Leonato, I am sorry you must hear: upon my honour,
8 Myself, my brother, and this grieved count,
9 Did see her, hear her, at that hour last night,
10 Talk with a ruffian at her chamber-window;
11 Who hath indeed, most like a liberal villain,
12 Confess'd the vile encounters they have had
13 A thousand times in secret.
14
15 DON JOHN.
16 Fie, fie! they are not to be nam'd, my lord,
17 Not to be spoke of;
18 There is not chastity enough in language
19 Without offence to utter them. Thus, pretty lady,
20 I am sorry for thy much misgovernment.
21
22 CLAUDIO.
23 O Hero! what a Hero hadst thou been,
24 If half thy outward graces had been plac'd
25 About thy thoughts and counsels of thy heart!
26 But fare thee well, most foul, most fair! farewell,
27 Thou pure impiety, and impious purity!
28 For thee I'll lock up all the gates of love,
29 And on my eyelids shall conjecture hang,
30 To turn all beauty into thoughts of harm,
31 And never shall it more be gracious.
32
33 LEONATO.
34 Hath no man's dagger here a point for me?
35
36 HERO FAINTS
37
38 BEATRICE.
39 Why, how now, cousin! wherefore sink you down?
40

1 DON JOHN.
2 Come, let us go. These things, come thus to light,
3 Smother her spirits up.
4
5 DON PEDRO, DON JOHN and CLAUDIO LEAVE
6
7 9B
8
9 BENEDICK.
10 How doth the lady?
11
12 BEATRICE.
13 Dead, I think! help, uncle! Hero! why, Hero! Uncle! Signior
14 Benedick! Friar!
15
16 LEONATO.
17 O Fate! take not away thy heavy hand:
18 Death is the fairest cover for her shame
19 That may be wish'd for.
20
21 BEATRICE.
22 How now, cousin Hero?
23
24 DOGBERRY.
25 Have comfort, lady.
26
27 LEONATO.
28 Dost thou look up?
29
30 DOGBERRY.
31 Yea; wherefore should she not?
32
33 LEONATO.
34 Wherefore! Why, doth not every earthly thing
35 Cry shame upon her? Could she here deny
36 The story that is printed in her blood?
37 Do not live, Hero; do not open thine eyes;
38 For, did I think thou wouldst not quickly die,
39 Thought I thy spirits were stronger than thy shames,
40 Myself would, on the rearward of reproaches,

1 Strike at thy life. Griev'd I, I had but one?
2 Chid I for that at frugal nature's frame?
3 O! one too much by thee. Why had I one?
4 Why ever wast thou lovely in mine eyes?
5 Why had I not with charitable hand
6 Took up a beggar's issue at my gates,
7 Who smirched thus, and mir'd with infamy,
8 I might have said, 'No part of it is mine;
9 This shame derives itself from unknown loins?'
10 But mine, and mine I lov'd, and mine I prais'd,
11 And mine that I was proud on, mine so much
12 That I myself was to myself not mine,
13 Valuing of her; why, she--O! she is fallen
14 Into a pit of ink, that the wide sea
15 Hath drops too few to wash her clean again,
16 And salt too little which may season give
17 To her foul-tainted flesh.
18
19 BENEDICK.
20 Sir, sir, be patient.
21 For my part, I am so attir'd in wonder,
22 I know not what to say.
23
24 BEATRICE.
25 O! on my soul, my cousin is belied!
26
27 BENEDICK.
28 Lady, were you her bedfellow last night?
29
30 BEATRICE.
31 No, truly, not; although, until last night I have this
32 twelvemonth been her bedfellow.
33
34 LEONATO.
35 Confirm'd, confirm'd! O! that is stronger made,
36 Which was before barr'd up with ribs of iron.
37 Would the two princes lie? and Claudio lie,
38 Who lov'd her so, that, speaking of her foulness,
39 Wash'd it with tears? Hence from her! let her die.
40

1 DOGBERRY.
2 Hear me a little;
3 For I have only been silent so long,
4 And given way unto this course of fortune,
5 By noting of the lady: I have mark'd
6 A thousand blushing apparitions
7 To start into her face; a thousand innocent shames
8 In angel whiteness bear away those blushes;
9 And in her eye there hath appear'd a fire,
10 To burn the errors that these princes hold
11 Against her maiden truth. Call me a fool;
12 Trust not my reading nor my observations,
13 Which with experimental seal doth warrant
14 The tenure of my book; trust not my age,
15 My reverence, calling, nor divinity,
16 If this sweet lady lie not guiltless here
17 Under some biting error.

18
19 LEONATO.
20 Friend, it cannot be.
21 Thou seest that all the grace that she hath left
22 Is that she will not add to her damnation
23 A sin of perjury: she not denies it.
24 Why seek'st thou then to cover with excuse
25 That which appears in proper nakedness?

26
27 DOGBERRY.
28 Lady, what man is he you are accus'd of?
29
30 HERO.
31 They know that do accuse me, I know none;
32 If I know more of any man alive
33 Than that which maiden modesty doth warrant,
34 Let all my sins lack mercy! O, my father!
35 Prove you that any man with me convers'd
36 At hours unmeet, or that I yesternight
37 Maintain'd the change of words with any creature,
38 Refuse me, hate me, torture me to death.

39
40 DOGBERRY.

1 There is some strange misprision in the princes.
2
3 BENEDICK.
4 Two of them have the very bent of honour;
5 And if their wisdoms be misled in this,
6 The practice of it lives in John the bastard,
7 Whose spirits toil in frame of villainies.
8
9 LEONATO.
10 I know not. If they speak but truth of her,
11 These hands shall tear her; if they wrong her honour,
12 The proudest of them shall well hear of it.
13 Time hath not yet so dried this blood of mine,
14 Nor age so eat up my invention,
15 Nor fortune made such havoc of my means,
16 Nor my bad life reft me so much of friends,
17 But they shall find, awak'd in such a kind,
18 Both strength of limb and policy of mind,
19 Ability in means and choice of friends,
20 To quit me of them thoroughly.
21
22 DOGBERRY.
23 Pause awhile, And let my counsel sway you in this case.
24 Your daughter here the princes left for dead;
25 Let her awhile be secretly kept in,
26 And publish it that she is dead indeed:
27 Maintain a mourning ostentation;
28 And on your family's old monument
29 Hang mournful epitaphs and do all rites
30 That appertain unto a burial.
31
32 LEONATO.
33 What shall become of this? What will this do?
34
35 DOGBERRY.
36 Marry, this well carried shall on her behalf
37 Change slander to remorse; that is some good.
38 But not for that dream I on this strange course,
39 But on this travail look for greater birth.
40 She dying, as it must be so maintain'd,

1 Upon the instant that she was accus'd,
2 Shall be lamented, pitied and excus'd
3 Of every hearer; for it so falls out
4 That what we have we prize not to the worth
5 Whiles we enjoy it, but being lack'd and lost,
6 Why, then we rack the value, then we find
7 The virtue that possession would not show us
8 Whiles it was ours. So will it fare with Claudio:
9 When he shall hear she died upon his words,
10 The idea of her life shall sweetly creep
11 Into his study of imagination,
12 And every lovely organ of her life
13 Shall come apparell'd in more precious habit,
14 More moving-delicate, and full of life
15 Into the eye and prospect of his soul,
16 Than when she liv'd indeed: then shall he mourn,--
17 If ever love had interest in his liver,--
18 And wish he had not so accused her,
19 No, though be thought his accusation true.
20 Let this be so, and doubt not but success
21 Will fashion the event in better shape
22 Than I can lay it down in likelihood.
23 But if all aim but this be levell'd false,
24 The supposition of the lady's death
25 Will quench the wonder of her infamy:
26 And if it sort not well, you may conceal her,--
27 As best befits her wounded reputation,--
28 In some reclusive and religious life,
29 Out of all eyes, tongues, minds, and injuries.

30

31 BENEDICK.

32 Signior Leonato, let the friar advise you:
33 And though you know my inwardness and love
34 Is very much unto the prince and Claudio,
35 Yet, by mine honour, I will deal in this
36 As secretly and justly as your soul
37 Should with your body.

38

39 LEONATO.

40 Being that I flow in grief, The smallest twine may lead me.

1
2 DOGBERRY.
3 'Tis well consented: presently away;
4 For to strange sores strangely they strain the cure.
5 Come, lady, die to live: this wedding day
6 Perhaps is but prolong'd: have patience and endure.

7
8 FRIAR DOGBERRY, HERO, and LEONATO LEAVE

9
10 SCENE 10

11
12 BENEDICK FINDS BEATRICE AT THE FOLLY.

13
14 BENEDICK.
15 Lady Beatrice, have you wept all this while?

16
17 BEATRICE.
18 Yea, and I will weep a while longer.

19
20 BENEDICK.
21 I will not desire that.

22
23 BEATRICE.
24 You have no reason; I do it freely.

25
26 BENEDICK.
27 Surely I do believe your fair cousin is wronged.

28
29 BEATRICE.
30 Ah! how much might the man deserve of me that would right her.

31
32 BENEDICK.
33 Is there any way to show such friendship?

34
35 BEATRICE.
36 A very even way, but no such friend.

37
38 BENEDICK.
39 May a man do it?

40

1 BEATRICE.
2 It is a man's office, but not yours.
3
4 BENEDICK.
5 I do love nothing in the world so well as you: is not that
6 strange?
7
8 BEATRICE.
9 As strange as the thing I know not. It were as possible for me to
10 say
11 I loved nothing so well as you; but believe me not, and yet I lie
12 not;
13 I confess nothing, nor I deny nothing. I am sorry for my cousin.
14
15 BENEDICK.
16 By my sword, Beatrice, thou lovest me.
17
18 BEATRICE.
19 Do not swear by it, and eat it.
20
21 BENEDICK.
22 I will swear by it that you love me; and I will make him eat it that
23 says I love not you.
24
25 BEATRICE.
26 Will you not eat your word?
27
28 BENEDICK.
29 With no sauce that can be devised to it. I protest I love thee.
30
31 BEATRICE.
32 Why then, God forgive me!
33
34 BENEDICK.
35 What offence, sweet Beatrice?
36
37 BEATRICE.
38 You have stayed me in a happy hour: I was about to protest I
39 loved
40 you.

1
2 BENEDICK.
3 And do it with all thy heart.
4
5 BEATRICE.
6 I love you with so much of my heart that none is left to protest.
7
8 BENEDICK.
9 Come, bid me do anything for thee.
10
11 BEATRICE.
12 Kill Claudio.
13
14 BENEDICK.
15 Ha! not for the wide world.
16
17 BEATRICE.
18 You kill me to deny it. Farewell.
19
20 BENEDICK.
21 Tarry, sweet Beatrice.
22
23 BEATRICE.
24 I am gone, though I am here: there is no love in you: nay, I pray
25 you, let me go.
26
27 BENEDICK.
28 Beatrice,--
29
30 BEATRICE.
31 In faith, I will go.
32
33 BENEDICK.
34 We'll be friends first.
35
36 BEATRICE.
37 You dare easier be friends with me than fight with mine enemy.
38
39 BENEDICK.
40 Is Claudio thine enemy?

1
2 BEATRICE.
3 Is he not approved in the height a villain, that hath slandered,
4 scorned, dishonoured my kinswoman? O! that I were a man.
5 What! Bear her in hand until they come to take hands, and then,
6 with public accusation, uncovered slander, unmitigated rancour,--O
7 God, that I were a man! I would eat his heart in the market-place.
8
9 BENEDICK.
10 Hear me, Beatrice,--
11
12 BEATRICE.
13 Talk with a man out at a window! a proper saying!
14
15 BENEDICK.
16 Nay, but Beatrice,--
17
18 BEATRICE.
19 Sweet Hero! she is wronged, she is slandered, she is undone.
20
21 BENEDICK.
22 Beat---
23
24 BEATRICE.
25 Princes and counties! Surely, a princely testimony, a goodly Count
26 Comfect; a sweet gallant, surely! O! that I were a man for his
27 sake, or that I had any friend would be a man for my sake! But
28 manhood is melted into cursies, valour into compliment, and men
29 are only turned into tongue, and trim ones too: he is now as
30 valiant as Hercules, that only tells a lie and swears it. I cannot be a
31 man with wishing, therefore I will die a woman with grieving.
32
33 BENEDICK.
34 Tarry, good Beatrice. By this hand, I love thee.
35
36 BEATRICE.
37 Use it for my love some other way than swearing by it.
38
39 BENEDICK.
40 Think you in your soul the Count Claudio hath wronged Hero?

1
2 BEATRICE.
3 Yea, as sure is I have a thought or a soul.
4
5 BENEDICK.
6 Enough! I am engaged, I will challenge him. I will kiss your hand,
7 and so leave you. By this hand, Claudio shall render me a dear
8 account. As you hear of me, so think of me. Go, comfort your
9 cousin: I must say she is dead; and so, farewell.

10

11

Scene 11

12

13 FRIAR DOGBERRY AND THE SCOUTS ARE INTEROGATING
14 CONRADE IN THE VESTRY.

15

16 DOGBERRY.

17 Is our whole dissembly appeared? Which be the malefactor? Let
18 them come before me. What is your name, friend?

19

20 CONRADE.

21 I am a gentleman, sir, and my name is Conrade.

22

23 DOGBERRY.

24 Write down Master gentleman Conrade. Master, do you serve
25 God?

26

27 CONRADE.

28 Yea, sir, I hope.

29

30 DOGBERRY.

31 Write down that he hope he serve God: and write God first; for
32 God defend but God should go before such a villain! It is
33 proved already that you are little better than a false knave, and it
34 will go near to be thought so shortly. How answer you for
35 yourself?

36

37 CONRADE.

38 Marry, sir, I say I am none.

39

40 DOGBERRY.

1 Well, stand aside. Fore God, he is in a tale. Let the watch come
2 forth. Masters, I charge you, in the prince's name, accuse these
3 men.
4
5 SCOUT.
6 This man said, sir, that Don John, the prince's brother, was a
7 villain.
8
9 DOGBERRY.
10 Write down Prince John a villain. Why, this is flat perjury, to
11 call a prince's brother villain. I do not like thy look, I promise thee.
12 What heard you him say else?
13
14 SCOUT.
15 Marry, that he had received a thousand ducats of Don John for
16 accusing the Lady Hero wrongfully.
17
18 DOGBERRY.
19 Flat burglary as ever was committed.
20
21 SCOUT.
22 Yea, by the mass, that it is.
23
24 DOGBERRY. What else, fellow?
25
26 SCOUT.
27 And that Count Claudio did mean, upon his words, to disgrace
28 Hero before the whole assembly, and not marry her.
29
30 DOGBERRY.
31 O villain! thou wilt be condemned into everlasting redemption for
32 this. What else?
33
34 SCOUT.
35 This is all.
36
37 DOGBERRY.
38 And this is more, masters, than you can deny. Prince John is this

1 morning secretly stolen away: Hero was in this manner accused, in
2 this manner refused, and, upon the grief of this, suddenly died.
3 Let these men be bound, and brought to Leonato's: I will go
4 before and show him their examination.
5
6 CONRADE.
7 Off, coxcomb!
8
9 DOGBERRY.
10 Come, bind him. Thou naughty varlet!
11
12 CONRADE.
13 Away! you are an ass; you are an ass.
14
15 DOGBERRY.
16 Dost thou not respect my place? Dost thou not respect my years?
17 O that he were here to write me down an ass! but, masters,
18 remember that I am an ass; though it be not written down, yet
19 forget not that I am an ass. No, thou villain, I am a wise fellow;
20 and, which is more a householder; and, which is more, as pretty a
21 piece of flesh as any; and one that knows the law, go to. O that I
22 had been writ down an ass!

23

24

25

Scene 12

26

27

28 THE STEPS TO THE HOUSE.

29 BEATRICE TRIES TO CALM LEONATO

30

31 BEATRICE.

32 If you go on thus, you will kill yourself
33 And 'tis not wisdom thus to second grief
34 Against yourself.

35

36 LEONATO.

37 I pray thee, cease thy counsel,
38 Which falls into mine ears as profitless
39 As water in a sieve: give not me counsel;
40 Nor let no comforter delight mine ear

1 But such a one whose wrongs do suit with mine:
2 Bring me a father that so lov'd his child,
3 Whose joy of her is overwhelm'd like mine,
4 And bid him speak to me of patience;
5 Measure his woe the length and breadth of mine,
6 And let it answer every strain for strain,
7 As thus for thus and such a grief for such,
8 In every lineament, branch, shape, and form:
9 If such a one will smile, and stroke his beard;
10 Bid sorrow wag, cry 'hem' when he should groan,
11 Patch grief with proverbs; make misfortune drunk
12 With candle-wasters; bring him yet to me,
13 And I of him will gather patience.
14 But there is no such man; for, brother, men
15 Can counsel and speak comfort to that grief
16 Which they themselves not feel; but, tasting it,
17 Their counsel turns to passion, which before
18 Would give preceptual medicine to rage,
19 Fetter strong madness in a silken thread,
20 Charm ache with air and agony with words.
21 No, no; 'tis all men's office to speak patience
22 To those that wring under the load of sorrow,
23 But no man's virtue nor sufficiency
24 To be so moral when he shall endure
25 The like himself. Therefore give me no counsel:
26 My griefs cry louder than advertisement.

27

28 BEATRICE.

29 Therein do men from children nothing differ.

30

31 LEONATO.

32 I pray thee peace! I will be flesh and blood;

33 For there was never yet philosopher

34 That could endure the toothache patiently,

35 However they have writ the style of gods

36 And made a push at chance and sufferance.

37

38 BEATRICE.

39 Yet bend not all the harm upon yourself;

40 Make those that do offend you suffer too.

1
2 SHE EXITS
3
4 LEONATO.
5 There thou speak'st reason: nay, I will do so.
6 My soul doth tell me Hero is belied;
7 And that shall Claudio know; so shall the prince,
8 And all of them that thus dishonour her.

9

10

11

SCENE 13

12

13

13A

14

15

16 DON PEDRO and CLAUDIO ON THE RAILWAY STATION
17 PLATFORM.

18

19 LEONATO ARRIVES.

20

21 DON PEDRO.

22 Good den, good den.

23

24 LEONATO.

25 Hear you, my lords,--

26

27 DON PEDRO.

28 We have some haste, Leonato.

29

30 LEONATO.

31 Some haste, my lord! well, fare you well, my lord:

32 Are you so hasty now?--well, all is one.

33

34 DON PEDRO.

35 Nay, do not quarrel with us, good old man.

36

37 LEONATO.

38 Marry, thou dost wrong me; thou dissembler, thou.

39 Nay, never lay thy hand upon thy sword; I fear thee not.

40

1 CLAUDIO.
2 Marry, beshrew my hand,
3 If it should give your age such cause of fear.
4 In faith, my hand meant nothing to my sword.
5
6 LEONATO.
7 Tush, tush, man! never fleer and jest at me:
8 I speak not like a dotard nor a fool,
9 As, under privilege of age, to brag
10 What I have done being young, or what would do,
11 Were I not old. Know, Claudio, to thy head,
12 Thou hast so wrong'd mine innocent child and me
13 That I am forc'd to lay my reverence by,
14 And, with grey hairs and bruise of many days,
15 Do challenge thee to trial of a man.
16 I say thou hast belied mine innocent child:
17 Thy slander hath gone through and through her heart,
18 And she lied buried with her ancestors;
19 O! in a tomb where never scandal slept,
20 Save this of hers, fram'd by thy villany!
21
22 CLAUDIO.
23 My villany?
24
25 LEONATO.
26 Thine, Claudio; thine, I say.
27
28 DON PEDRO.
29 You say not right, old man,
30
31 LEONATO.
32 My lord, my lord,
33 I'll prove it on his body, if he dare,
34 Despite his nice fence and his active practice,
35 His May of youth and bloom of lustihood.
36
37 CLAUDIO.
38 Away! I will not have to do with you.
39
40 LEONATO.

1 Canst thou so daff me? Thou hast kill'd my child;
2 If thou kill'st me, boy, thou shalt kill a man.
3
4 DON PEDRO.
5 My heart is sorry for your daughter's death;
6 But, on my honour, she was charg'd with nothing
7 But what was true and very full of proof.
8
9 LEONATO.
10 My lord, my lord--
11
12 DON PEDRO.
13 I will not hear you.
14
15 LEONATO.
16 No? Then I'll away but will be heard or some of us will smart for it.
17
18 LEONATO LEAVES
19
20 13B
21
22 BENEDICK ARRIVES
23
24 DON PEDRO.
25 See, see; here comes the man we went to seek.
26
27 CLAUDIO.
28 Now, signior, what news?
29
30 BENEDICK.
31 Good day, my lord.
32
33 DON PEDRO.
34 Welcome, signior: you are almost come to part almost a fray.
35
36 CLAUDIO.
37 We had like to have had our two noses snapped off by an old
38 man without teeth.
39
40 DON PEDRO.

1 Leonato. What think'st thou? Had we fought, I
2 doubt we should have been too young for him.
3
4 BENEDICK.
5 In a false quarrel there is no true valour. I came to seek you
6 both.
7
8 CLAUDIO.
9 We have been up and down to seek thee; for we are high-proof
10 melancholy, and would fain have it beaten away. Wilt thou use
11 thy wit?
12
13 BENEDICK.
14 It is in my scabbard; shall I draw it?
15
16 DON PEDRO.
17 Dost thou wear thy wit by thy side?
18
19 CLAUDIO.
20 Never any did so, though very many have been beside their wit. I
21 will bid thee draw, as we do the minstrels; draw, to pleasure us.
22
23 DON PEDRO.
24 As I am an honest man, he looks pale. Art thou sick, or angry?
25
26 CLAUDIO.
27 What, courage, man! What though care killed a cat, thou hast
28 mettle enough in thee to kill care.
29
30 BENEDICK.
31 Sir, I shall meet your wit in the career, an you charge it
32 against me. I pray you choose another subject.
33
34 CLAUDIO.
35 Nay then, give him another staff: this last was broke cross.
36
37 DON PEDRO.
38 By this light, he changes more and more: I think he be angry
39 indeed.
40

1 CLAUDIO.
2 If he be, he knows how to turn his girdle.
3
4 BENEDICK.
5 Shall I speak a word in your ear?
6
7 CLAUDIO.
8 God bless me from a challenge!
9
10 BENEDICK.
11 (ASIDE TO CLAUDIO)
12 You are a villain, I jest not: I will make it good how you dare,
13 with what you dare, and when you dare. Do me right, or I will
14 protest your cowardice. You have killed a sweet lady, and her
15 death shall fall heavy on you. Let me hear from you.
16
17 CLAUDIO.
18 Well I will meet you, so I may have good cheer.
19
20 DON PEDRO.
21 What, a feast, a feast?
22
23 CLAUDIO.
24 I' faith, I thank him; he hath bid me to a calf's-head and a capon,
25 the which if I do not carve most curiously, say my knife's naught.
26 Shall I not find a woodcock too?
27
28 BENEDICK.
29 Sir, your wit ambles well; it goes easily.
30
31 DON PEDRO.
32 I'll tell thee how Beatrice praised thy wit the other day. I said,
33 thou hadst a fine wit. 'True,' says she, 'a fine little one.'
34 'No,' said I, 'a great wit.'
35 'Right,' said she, 'a great gross one.'
36 'Nay,' said I, 'a good wit.'
37 'Just,' said she, 'it hurts nobody.'
38 'Nay,' said I, 'the gentleman is wise.'
39 'Certain,' said she, 'a wise gentleman.'
40 'Nay,' said I, 'he hath the tongues.'

1 'That I believe' said she, 'for he swore a thing to me on Monday
2 night, which he forswore on Tuesday morning: there's a double
3 tongue; there's two tongues.'
4 Thus did she, an hour together, trans-shape thy particular virtues;
5 yet at last she concluded with a sigh, thou wast the properest man
6 in Italy.
7
8 CLAUDIO.
9 For the which she wept heartily and said she cared not.
10
11 DON PEDRO.
12 Yea, that she did; but yet, for all that, an if she did not hate him
13 deadly, she would love him dearly. The old man's daughter told us
14 all.
15
16 CLAUDIO.
17 All, all; and moreover, God saw him when he was hid in the
18 garden.
19
20 DON PEDRO.
21 But when shall we set the savage bull's horns on the sensible
22 Benedick's head?
23
24 CLAUDIO.
25 Yea, and text underneath, 'Here dwells Benedick the married man!'
26
27 BENEDICK.
28 Fare you well, boy: you know my mind. I will leave you now to
29 your gossip-like humour; you break jests as braggarts do their
30 blades, which, God be thanked, hurt not. My lord, for your many
31 courtesies I thank you: I must discontinue your company. Your
32 brother the bastard is fled to Messina: you have, among you, killed
33 a sweet and innocent lady. For my Lord Lack-beard there, he and I
34 shall meet; and till then, peace be with him.
35
36 HE LEAVES
37
38 DON PEDRO.
39 He is in earnest.
40

1 CLAUDIO.
2 In most profound earnest; and, I'll warrant you, for the love of
3 Beatrice.
4
5 DON PEDRO.
6 And hath challenged thee?
7
8 CLAUDIO.
9 Most sincerely.
10
11 DON PEDRO.
12 What a pretty thing man is when he goes in his doublet and hose
13 and leaves off his wit!
14
15 CLAUDIO.
16 He is then a giant to an ape; but then is an ape a doctor to such
17 a man.
18
19 DON PEDRO.
20 But, soft you; let me be: pluck up, my heart, and be sad! Did he
21 not say my brother was fled?
22
23 13C
24
25 FRIAR DOGBERRY AND THE WATCH BRING IN CONRADE
26
27 DOGBERRY.
28 Come you, sir: if justice cannot tame you, she shall ne'er weigh
29 more reasons in her balance. Nay, an you be a cursing hypocrite
30 once, you must be looked to.
31
32 DON PEDRO.
33 How now! one of my brother's men bound!
34
35 CLAUDIO.
36 Hearken his offence, my lord.
37
38 DON PEDRO.
39 What offence have this man done?
40

1 DOGBERRY.
2 Marry, sir, he have committed false report; moreover, he have
3 spoken untruths; secondarily, he hath slandered and belied a lady;
4 and to conclude, he is a lying knaves.
5
6 DON PEDRO.
7 What's your offence?
8
9 CONRADE.
10 Sweet prince, let me go no further to mine answer: do you hear
11 me, and let this count kill me. I have deceived even your very
12 eyes: what your wisdoms could not discover, these shallow fools
13 have brought to light; who, in the night overheard me confessing
14 to this man how Don John your brother incensed me to slander
15 the Lady Hero; how you were brought into the orchard and saw
16 me court Margaret in Hero's garments; how you disgraced her,
17 when you should marry her. My villany they have upon record;
18 which I had rather seal with my death than repeat over to my
19 shame. The lady is dead upon mine and my master's false
20 accusation; and, briefly, I desire nothing but the reward of a
21 villain.
22
23 DON PEDRO.
24 Runs not this speech like iron through your blood?
25
26 CLAUDIO.
27 I have drunk poison whiles he utter'd it.
28
29 DON PEDRO.
30 But did my brother set thee on to this?
31
32 CONRADE.
33 Yea; and paid me richly for the practice of it.
34
35 DON PEDRO.
36 He is compos'd and fram'd of treachery:
37 And fled he is upon this villany.
38
39 CLAUDIO.

1 Sweet Hero! now thy image doth appear In the rare semblance
2 that I lov'd it first.
3
4 DOGBERRY.
5 Come, bring away the plaintiffs: by this time our sexton hath
6 informed Signior Leonato of the matter. (TO CONRADE) And
7 master, do not forget to specify, when time and place shall serve,
8 that I am an ass.
9
10 LEONATO ARRIVES
11
12 LEONATO.
13 Which is the villain? Let me see his eyes,
14 That, when I note another man like him,
15 I may avoid him.
16
17 CONRADE.
18 If you would know your wronger, look on me.
19
20 LEONATO.
21 Art thou the slave that with thy breath hast kill'd
22 Mine innocent child?
23
24 CONRADE.
25 Yea, even I alone.
26
27 LEONATO.
28 No, not so, villain; thou beliest thyself:
29 Here stand a pair of honourable men;
30 A third is fled, that had a hand in it.
31 I thank you, princes, for my daughter's death:
32 Record it with your high and worthy deeds.
33 'Twas bravely done, if you bethink you of it.
34
35 CLAUDIO.
36 I know not how to pray your patience;
37 Yet I must speak. Choose your revenge yourself;
38 Impose me to what penance your invention
39 Can lay upon my sin: yet sinn'd I not
40 But in mistaking.

1
2 DON PEDRO.
3 By my soul, nor I:
4 And yet, to satisfy this good old man,
5 I would bend under any heavy weight
6 That he'll enjoin me to.
7
8 LEONATO.
9 I cannot bid you bid my daughter live;
10 That were impossible; but, I pray you both,
11 Possess those people who would hear the truth
12 How innocent she died; and if your love
13 Can labour aught in sad invention,
14 Hang her an epitaph upon her tomb,
15 And sing it to her bones: sing it to-night.
16 To-morrow morning come you to my house,
17 And since you could not be my son-in-law,
18 Be yet my nephew. My brother hath a daughter,
19 Almost the copy of my child that's dead,
20 And she alone is heir to both of us:
21 Give her the right you should have given her cousin,
22 And so dies my revenge.
23
24 CLAUDIO.
25 O noble sir,
26 Your over-kindness doth wring tears from me!
27 I do embrace your offer; and dispose
28 For henceforth of poor Claudio.
29
30 LEONATO.
31 To-morrow then I will expect your coming;
32 To-night I take my leave. This naughty man
33 Shall face to face be brought to Margaret,
34 Who, I believe, was pack'd in all this wrong,
35 Hir'd to it by your brother.
36
37 CONRADE.
38 No, by my soul she was not;
39 Nor knew not what she did when she spoke to me;
40 But always hath been just and virtuous

1 In anything that I do know by her.
2
3 DOGBERRY.
4 Moreover, sir,--which, indeed, is not under white and black,--
5 this plaintiff here, the offender, did call me ass: I beseech you,
6 let it be remembered in his punishment.
7
8 LEONATO.
9 I thank thee for thy care and honest pains.
10
11 DOGBERRY.
12 Your worship speaks like a most thankful and reverent youth, and
13 I praise God for you.
14
15 LEONATO.
16 There's for thy pains.
17
18 DOGBERRY.
19 God save the foundation!
20
21 LEONATO.
22 Go, I discharge thee of thy prisoner, and I thank thee.
23
24 DOGBERRY.
25 I leave an arrant knave with your worship; which I beseech your
26 worship to correct yourself, for the example of others. God keep
27 your worship! I wish your worship well; God restore you to health!
28
29 LEONATO.
30 Until to-morrow morning, lords, farewell.
31
32 DON PEDRO.
33 We will not fail.
34
35 CLAUDIO.
36 To-night I'll mourn with Hero.
37
38 DON PEDRO and CLAUDIO LEAVE
39
40 LEONATO.

1 (TO THE WATCH) Bring you this fellow on. We'll talk with
2 Margaret, How her acquaintance grew with this lewd fellow.

3

4

Scene 14

5

6 BENEDICK AND MARGARET IN FRONT OF THE HOUSE.

7

8 BENEDICK.

9 Pray thee, sweet Mistress Margaret, deserve well at my hands by
10 helping me to the speech of Beatrice.

11

12 MARGARET.

13 Will you then write me a sonnet in praise of my beauty?

14

15 BENEDICK.

16 In so high a style, Margaret, that no man living shall come over
17 it; for, in most comely truth, thou deservest it.

18

19 MARGARET.

20 To have no man come over me! why, shall I always keep below
21 stairs?

22

23 BENEDICK.

24 Thy wit is as quick as the greyhound's mouth; it catches.

25

26 MARGARET.

27 And yours as blunt as the fencer's foils, which hit, but hurt not.

28

29 BENEDICK.

30 A most manly wit, Margaret; it will not hurt a woman: and so, I
31 pray thee, call Beatrice. I give thee the bucklers.

32

33 MARGARET.

34 Give us the swords, we have bucklers of our own.

35

36 BENEDICK.

37 If you use them, Margaret, you must put in the pikes with a vice;
38 and they are dangerous weapons for maids.

39

40 MARGARET.

1 Well, I will call Beatrice to you, who I think hath legs.
2
3 BENEDICK.
4 And therefore will come.
5
6 MARGARET LEAVES
7
8 The god of love,
9 That sits above,
10 And knows me, and knows me,
11 How pitiful I deserve,--
12
13 I mean, in singing: but in loving, Leander the good swimmer,
14 Troilus the first employer of panders, and a whole book full of
15 these quondam carpet-mongers, whose names yet run smoothly in
16 the even road of a blank verse, why, they were never so truly
17 turned over and over as my poor self in love. Marry, I cannot show
18 it in rime; I have tried: I can find out no rime to 'lady' but 'baby',
19 an innocent rhyme; for 'scorn,' 'horn', a hard rime; for 'school',
20 'fool', a babbling rhyme; very ominous endings: no, I was not born
21 under a riming planet, nor I cannot woo in festival terms.
22
23 BEATRICE ARRIVES
24
25 Sweet Beatrice, wouldst thou come when I called thee?
26
27 BEATRICE.
28 Yea, signior; and depart when you bid me.
29
30 BENEDICK.
31 O, stay but till then!
32
33 BEATRICE.
34 'Then' is spoken; fare you well now: and yet, ere I go, let me go
35 with that I came for; which is, with knowing what hath passed
36 between you and Claudio.
37
38 BENEDICK.
39 Only foul words; and thereupon I will kiss thee.
40

1 BEATRICE.
2 Foul words is but foul wind, and foul wind is but foul breath, and
3 foul breath is noisome; therefore I will depart unknissed.
4
5 BENEDICK.
6 Thou hast frighted the word out of his right sense, so forcible is
7 thy wit. But I must tell thee plainly, Claudio undergoes my
8 challenge, and either I must shortly hear from him, or I will
9 subscribe him a coward. And, I pray thee now, tell me, for which
10 of my bad parts didst thou first fall in love with me?
11
12 BEATRICE.
13 For them all together; which maintained so politic a state of evil
14 that they will not admit any good part to intermingle with them.
15 But for which of my good parts did you first suffer love for me?
16
17 BENEDICK.
18 'Suffer love,' a good epithet! I do suffer love indeed, for I love
19 thee against my will.
20
21 BEATRICE.
22 In spite of your heart, I think. Alas, poor heart! If you spite it
23 for my sake, I will spite it for yours; for I will never love that
24 which my friend hates.
25
26 BENEDICK.
27 Thou and I are too wise to woo peaceably.
28
29 BEATRICE.
30 It appears not in this confession: there's not one wise man among
31 twenty that will praise himself.
32
33 BENEDICK.
34 An old, an old instance, Beatrice, that lived in the time of good
35 neighbours. If a man do not erect in this age his own tomb ere he
36 dies, he shall live no longer in monument than the bell rings and
37 the widow weeps.
38
39 BEATRICE.
40 And how long is that think you?

1
2 BENEDICK.
3 Question: why, an hour in clamour and a quarter in rheum:
4 therefore is it most expedient for the wise,--if Don Worm, his
5 conscience, find no impediment to the contrary,--to be the trumpet
6 of his own virtues, as I am to myself. So much for praising myself,
7 who, I myself will bear witness, is praiseworthy. And now tell me,
8 how doth your cousin?
9
10 BEATRICE.
11 Very ill.
12
13 BENEDICK.
14 And how do you?
15
16 BEATRICE.
17 Very ill too.
18
19 BENEDICK.
20 Serve God, love me, and mend. There will I leave you too, for here
21 comes one in haste.
22
23 MARGARET ARRIVES
24
25 MARGARET.
26 Madam, you must come to your uncle. It is proved, my Lady Hero
27 hath been falsely accused, the prince and Claudio mightily abused;
28 and Don John is the author of all, who is fled and gone. Will you
29 come presently?
30
31 BEATRICE.
32 Will you go hear this news, signior?
33
34 BENEDICK.
35 I will live in thy heart, die in thy lap, and be buried in thy eyes;
36 and moreover I will go with thee to thy uncle's.
37
38 Scene 15.
39
40 CLAUDIO, DON PEDRO AND THE SCOUTS INSIDE A CHURCH

1
2 CLAUDIO.
3 Is this the monument of Leonato?
4
5 DON PEDRO.
6 It is.
7
8 CLAUDIO.
9 (READS)
10 Done to death by slanderous tongues
11 Was the Hero that here lies:
12 Death, in guerdon of her wrongs,
13 Gives her fame which never dies.
14 So the life that died with shame
15 Lives in death with glorious fame.
16
17 Hang thou there upon the tomb,
18 Praising her when I am dumb.
19
20 Now, music, sound, and sing your solemn hymn.
21
22 SONG.
23 Pardon, goddess of the night,
24 Those that slew thy virgin knight;
25 For the which, with songs of woe,
26 Round about her tomb they go.
27 Midnight, assist our moan;
28 Help us to sigh and groan,
29 Heavily, heavily:
30 Graves, yawn and yield your dead,
31 Till death be uttered,
32 Heavily, heavily.
33
34 CLAUDIO.
35 Now, unto thy bones good night!
36 Yearly will I do this rite.
37
38 DON PEDRO.
39 Good morrow, masters: put your torches out.
40 The wolves have prey'd; and look, the gentle day,

1 Before the wheels of Phoebus, round about
2 Dapples the drowsy east with spots of grey.
3 Thanks to you all, and leave us: fare you well.
4
5 CLAUDIO.
6 Good morrow, masters: each his several way.
7
8 DON PEDRO.
9 Come, let us hence, and put on other weeds; And then to
10 Leonato's we will go.
11
12 CLAUDIO.
13 And Hymen now with luckier issue speed's,
14 Than this for whom we rend'ed up this woe!15

16 Scene 16

17
18 LEONATO, BENEDICK, BEATRICE, MARGARET, DOGBERRY,
19 and HERO ARE GATHERED IN THE VESTRY
20 DOGBERRY.
21 Did I not tell you she was innocent?
22
23 LEONATO.
24 So are the prince and Claudio, who accus'd her
25 Upon the error that you heard debated:
26 But Margaret was in some fault for this,
27 Although against her will, as it appears
28 In the true course of all the question.
29
30 ANTONIO.
31 Well, I am glad that all things sort so well.
32
33 BENEDICK.
34 And so am I, being else by faith enforc'd
35 To call young Claudio to a reckoning for it.
36
37 LEONATO.
38 Well, daughter, and you gentlewomen all,
39 Withdraw into a chamber by yourselves,
40 And when I send for you, come hither mask'd:

1 The prince and Claudio promis'd by this hour
2 To visit me.
3
4 THE WOMEN LEAVE
5
6 BENEDICK.
7 Friar, I must entreat your pains, I think.
8
9 DOGBERRY.
10 To do what, signior?
11
12 BENEDICK.
13 To bind me, or undo me; one of them.
14 Signior Leonato, truth it is, good signior,
15 Your niece regards me with an eye of favour.
16
17 LEONATO.
18 That eye my daughter lent her: 'tis most true.
19
20 BENEDICK.
21 And I do with an eye of love requite her.
22
23 LEONATO.
24 The sight whereof I think, you had from me,
25 From Claudio, and the prince. But what's your will?
26
27 BENEDICK.
28 Your answer, sir, is enigmatical:
29 But, for my will, my will is your good will
30 May stand with ours, this day to be conjoin'd
31 In the state of honourable marriage:
32 In which, good friar, I shall desire your help.
33
34 LEONATO.
35 My heart is with your liking.
36
37 Scene 17
38
39 EVERYONE GATHERED IN THE CHURCH.
40

1 DON PEDRO.
2 Good morrow to this fair assembly.
3
4 LEONATO.
5 Good morrow, prince; good morrow, Claudio:
6 We here attend you. Are you yet determin'd
7 To-day to marry with my brother's daughter?
8
9 CLAUDIO.
10 I'll hold my mind, were she an Ethiope.
11
12 LEONATO.
13 Call her forth, here's the friar ready.
14
15 DON PEDRO.
16 Good morrow, Benedick. Why, what's the matter,
17 That you have such a February face,
18 So full of frost, of storm and cloudiness?
19
20 CLAUDIO.
21 I think he thinks upon the savage bull.
22 Tush! fear not, man, we'll tip thy horns with gold,
23 And all Europa shall rejoice at thee,
24 As once Europa did at lusty Jove,
25 When he would play the noble beast in love.
26
27 BENEDICK.
28 Bull Jove, sir, had an amiable low:
29 And some such strange bull leap'd your father's cow,
30 And got a calf in that same noble feat,
31 Much like to you, for you have just his bleat.
32
33 CLAUDIO.
34 For this I owe you: here comes other reckonings.
35
36 THE WOMEN ENTER IN MASKS
37
38 Which is the lady I must seize upon?
39
40 LEONATO.

1 This same is she, and I do give you her.
2
3 CLAUDIO.
4 Why then, she's mine. Sweet, let me see your face.
5
6 LEONATO.
7 No, that you shall not, till you take her hand
8 Before this friar, and swear to marry her.
9
10 CLAUDIO.
11 Give me your hand: before this holy friar,
12 I am your husband, if you like of me.
13
14 HERO.
15 And when I liv'd, I was your other wife:
16 (UNMASKING) And when you lov'd, you were my other husband.
17
18 CLAUDIO.
19 Another Hero!
20
21 HERO.
22 Nothing certainer:
23 One Hero died defil'd, but I do live,
24 And surely as I live, I am a maid.
25
26 DON PEDRO.
27 The former Hero! Hero that is dead!
28
29 LEONATO.
30 She died, my lord, but whiles her slander liv'd.
31
32 DOGBERRY.
33 All this amazement can I qualify:
34 When after that the holy rites are ended,
35 I'll tell you largely of fair Hero's death:
36 Meantime, let wonder seem familiar,
37 And to the chapel let us presently.
38
39 BENEDICK.
40 Soft and fair, friar. Which is Beatrice?

1
2 BEATRICE.
3 (UNMASKING) I answer to that name. What is your will?
4
5 BENEDICK.
6 Do not you love me?
7
8 BEATRICE.
9 Why, no; no more than reason.
10
11 BENEDICK.
12 Why, then, your uncle and the prince and Claudio
13 Have been deceived; for they swore you did.
14
15 BEATRICE.
16 Do not you love me?
17
18 BENEDICK.
19 Troth, no; no more than reason.
20
21 BEATRICE.
22 Why, then my cousin, Margaret, and Ursula,
23 Are much deceiv'd; for they did swear you did.
24
25 BENEDICK.
26 They swore that you were almost sick for me.
27
28 BEATRICE.
29 They swore that you were well-nigh dead for me.
30
31 BENEDICK.
32 Tis no such matter. Then you do not love me?
33
34 BEATRICE.
35 No, truly, but in friendly recompense.
36
37 LEONATO.
38 Come, cousin, I am sure you love the gentleman.
39
40 CLAUDIO.

1 And I'll be sworn upon 't that he loves her;
2 For here's a paper written in his hand,
3 A halting sonnet of his own pure brain,
4 Fashion'd to Beatrice.
5
6 HERO.
7 And here's another,
8 Writ in my cousin's hand, stolen from her pocket,
9 Containing her affection unto Benedick.
10
11 BENEDICK.
12 A miracle! here's our own hands against our hearts. Come, I will
13 have thee; but, by this light, I take thee for pity.
14
15 BEATRICE.
16 I would not deny you; but, by this good day, I yield upon great
17 persuasion, and partly to save your life, for I was told you were
18 in a consumption.
19
20 BENEDICK.
21 Peace! I will stop your mouth.
22
23 THEY KISS
24
25 BENEDICK.
26 I'll tell thee what, prince; a college of witcrackers cannot flout
27 me out of my humour. Dost thou think I care for a satire or an
28 epigram? No; if man will be beaten with brains, a' shall wear
29 nothing handsome about him. In brief, since I do purpose to
30 marry, I will think nothing to any purpose that the world can say
31 against it; and therefore never flout at me for what I have said
32 against it, for man is a giddy thing, and this is my conclusion. For
33 thy part, Claudio, I did think to have beaten thee; but, in that thou
34 art like to be my kinsman, live unbruised, and love my cousin.
35
36 CLAUDIO.
37 I had well hoped thou wouldst have denied Beatrice, that I might
38 have cudgelled thee out of thy single life, to make thee a double-
39 dealer; which, out of question, thou wilt be, if my cousin do not
40 look exceeding narrowly to thee.

1
2 BENEDICK.
3 Come, come, we are friends. Let's have a dance ere we are
4 married, that we may lighten our own hearts and our wives' heels.
5
6 LEONATO. (HAS RECEIVED A NOTE)
7 We'll have dancing afterward.
8
9 BENEDICK.
10 First, of my word; therefore play, music! Prince, thou art sad; get
11 thee a wife, get thee a wife: there is no staff more reverent than
12 one tipped with horn.
13
14 LEONATO. (REFERING TO THE NOTE)
15 My lord, your brother John is ta'en in flight,
16 And brought with armed men back to Messina.
17
18 BENEDICK.
19 Think not on him till to-morrow: I'll devise thee brave
20 punishments for him.
21 Strike up, pipers!
22
23 THE END