

A Midsummer Night's Dream abbreviated

Act 3, Scene 2.2

Anger

Situation: Oberon had sent Robin to retrieve Helena, and he did. Robin also had applied the nectar to the eyelids of the sleeping Demetrius, who soon awakens and sees the retrieved Helena. Demetrius calls her divine, causing her to cry out at him, as well as at Lysander, imploring them not to mock her, leaving Demetrius and Lysander bewildered.

LYSANDER TO HELENA: Demetrius loves her, and he loves not you.

Demetrius awakens and sees Helena.

DEMETRIUS: O Helena, goddess, nymph, perfect, divine! O, let me kiss this princess of pure white, this seal of bliss!

Helena to Demetrius, No. 2

Oh now I see. I see you both are bent
To set against me for your merriment.
If you gentlemen and knew courtesy,
You'd treat me more civilly than you do.
Not only do I know how you hate me,
But now you join to mock me too. If you
Were kind you'd not use a gentle maid so,
To swear vows and speak of me with hollow
Praise, when I see in your hearts how you hate
Me, playing a game, exposing my fears
Bare. This is no manly ploy when you bait
And exploit me for your laughs, drawing tears
To a poor maid's eyes. None of noble sort
Would extort a virgin's soul all for sport.

LYSANDER: You are unkind, Demetrius. Be not so, for you love Hermia; this you know I know. In Hermia's love I yield you up my part. And yours of Helena to me bequeath, whom I do love and will do till my death.

DEMETRIUS: Lysander, keep thy Hermia. I will be none. If e'er I loved her, all that love is gone. My heart to Helena is home returned, there to remain.