

A Midsummer Night's Dream abbreviated

Act 3, Scene 2.5

Anger

Situation: Taken back by Helena's outburst, a baffled Hermia reacts by crying out at Lysander. She's crushed, Lysander showing so much interest in Helena. She continues to take it out on Helena, convinced she has stolen Lysander's love, and for calling her little and a puppet.

HERMIA: Why are you grown so rude? What change is this, sweet love?

LYSANDER: Thy love? Out! Out loathed med'cine. O, hated potion, hence!

HERMIA: Do you not jest?

Lysander ignores her.

LYSANDER TO DEMETRIUS: Although I hate her, I'll not harm her.

Hermia to Lysander and Helena

What, can you do me greater harm than hate?
Hate? I am as fair now as I was late
Last night when most earnestly you did love
Me, yet since last night you have left me. And
Helena, you deceiver, you thief of
Love! Have you come to him by night and fanned
His passion, stealing my love's heart from him?
Why call you me "puppet?" Is this a whim
To demean me? Ay, I perceive she's made
Comparison between our statures and
Hath used her tall personage to invade
His heart, to grow in his esteem and band
Me from him. How low am I? My nail lies
Not so low as to reach unto thine eyes.

HELENA: I pray you, though you mock me, gentlemen, let her not hurt me. I have no gift at all in shrewishness. I am a right maid for my cowardice. Let her not strike me.

LYSANDER: Be not afraid. She shall not harm thee, Helena.

DEMETRIUS: No, sir, she shall not.

HELENA: O, when she is angry, she is keen and shrewd. She was a vixen when she went to school. And though she be but little, she is fierce.

HERMIA: "Little" again? Let me come to her.

LYSANDER: Get you gone, you dwarf, you minimus of hind'ring knotgrass made, you bead, you acorn.

DEMETRIUS: Let her alone. Speak not of Helena. Take not her part.