

A Midsummer Night's Dream abbreviated

Act 3, Scene 1

Fantasy

Situation: Oberon has successfully placed the nectar from the flower on a sleeping Titania's eyelids. When she awakens, she sees Bottom and immediately falls for him, his head having been converted by Robin to that of a jackass. Bottom and his buddies are there in the woods to practice for the play they plan to perform at the reception following Theseus' wedding.

ROBIN: I'll follow you. I'll lead you about a round, through bog, through bush, through brier.
He exits.

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

QUINCE: Bless thee, Bottom, bless thee! Thou art translated!
He exits.

BOTTOM: This is to make an ass of me, to fright me, if they could. I will sing, that they shall hear I am not afraid.

Titania awakens. Four fairies join her.

Titania to Bottom

What angel wakes me from my flowery bed?
Mine ear much enamored with what thy said;
Mine eye enthralled as thou are beautiful.
I am a spirit of no common rate,
So stay here, for yet I've roses to cull,
For summer still doth tend upon my state,
And I do love thee. Sit with me while I
Thy lovely cheeks do coy, while I kiss thy
Ears, my gentle joy. Sleep, as I do wind
Thee in my arms, as ivy so enrings
The barky fingers of the elm. You've lined
My dotting heart with tender love that brings
Me sweet bliss. Come, wait upon him for me,
And lead him to my bower silently.

TITANIA: I pray thee, gentle mortal, sing again. On the first view to say, to swear, I love thee.

BOTTOM: Methinks, mistress, you should have little reason for that. And yet, to say the truth, reason and love keep little company together nowadays.

TITANIA: Thou art as wise as thou art beautiful.

BOTTOM: Not so neither; but if I had wit enough to get out of this wood, I would.