

A Midsummer Night's Dream abbreviated

Act 2, Scene 1

Spurned

Situation: Helena is shamelessly in love with her long-time boyfriend Demetrius. We sadly learn that he has left her for Hermia, her friend from childhood. Helena irrationally pursues Demetrius through the forest, desperately crying out to him.

DEMETRIUS: I love thee not, therefore pursue me not. Where is Lysander and fair Hermia? Thou told'st me they were stol'n unto this wood, and here am I. Get thee gone, and follow me no more.

HELENA: Leave me your power to draw, and I shall have no power to follow you.

DEMETRIUS: Do I entice you? Do I speak you fair? Or rather do I not in plainest truth tell you I do not?

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

Helena to Demetrius, No. 1

**I am your spaniel, Demetrius. I'll
Fawn on you, and though unworthy, allow
Me to follow you. I beg in your love,
And place you in respect if you but treat
Me as you use your dog. I pray above
You spurn and strike me, and the more you beat
Me the more you draw me, you adamant,
So soft and true my heart, as to torment
Me. Your wrongs do make for us a scandal;
We cannot fight for love as men do;
We chase as cowards with our hopes so full;
We should be wooed and were not made to woo.
I'll follow to make a heaven of hell
To die upon the hand I love so well.**

DEMETRIUS: Tempt not too much the hatred of my spirit, for I am sick when I do look on thee. I'll run from thee and hide me in the thickets and leave thee to the mercy of wild beasts.

HELENA: The wildest hath not such a heart as you. Run when you will.