

## All's Well that Ends Well abbreviated

Act 5, Scene 3

### Acceptance

**Situation:** Believing Helen to be dead, the king forgives Bertram for his past mistakes. In turn, Bertram accepts a suggestion from Lafew and the king that he marry Lafew's daughter. But plans change when the king sees that the ring Bertram plans to give to Lafew's daughter is the ring the king had earlier given to Helen. It was the ring she was to display if she ever needed his help. This was the ring that Helen had given to Bertram during the midnight encounter, when she had been a stand-in, so to speak, for Diana in the dark bedroom.

**King to Bertram, No. 3**

Distracted clouds must give way to sunny  
Beams. Let's take this instant before it be  
Gone; as we grow old the noiseless foot of  
Time, quiet as it is, steals our quickest  
Decrees before we can effect them. Love  
That comes too late turns into the saddest  
Cry: "That's good that's gone." Rash faults devalue  
The best we have, not knowing what we do  
Until we know their graves. Oft our displeasures,  
To ourselves unjust, destroy those we tell  
Goodbye before we weep their death. It assures  
We'll regret what's done. Be this Helen's knell  
And now we will forget her. Here we'll stay  
For our widower's second marriage day.

LAFEW: Come on, my son, give a favor from you to sparkle in the spirits of my daughter, that she may quickly come.

Bertram gives him a ring.

LAFEW: By my old beard and ev'ry hair that's on 't, Helen that's dead was a sweet creature. Such a ring as this, the last that e'er I took her leave at court, I saw upon her finger.

BERTRAM: Hers it was not.

KING: Now, pray you, let me see it.

Lafew passes the ring to the King.

KING: This ring was mine, and when I gave it Helen, I bade her if her fortunes ever stood in need of help, that by this token I would relieve her.