

All's Well that Ends Well abbreviated

Act 4, Scene 2

Deception

Situation: The Widow and her daughter Diana agreed to Helen's plan, a plan where Helen will replace Diana, Diana having told Bertram that she will meet him in her bedroom at midnight. She will at that time require, among other requirements, that he give her his generations-old ancestral ring.

BERTRAM: Fair soul, in your fine frame is love not an attribute? Now you should be as your mother was when your sweet self was got.

DIANA: She then was honest.

BERTRAM: So should you be.

DIANA: No, my mother did but duty --- such, my lord, as you owe to your wife.

BERTRAM: No more o' that. I prithee do not strive against my vows. I was compelled to her, but I love thee. My integrity ne'er knew the crafts that you do charge men with. Say thou art mine, and ever my love as it begins shall so persevere. My house, mine honor, yea, my life be thine, and I'll be commanded by you.

Diana to Bertram

**'Tis not the many oaths that makes the truth,
But rather the plain vow that is in sooth
True. Your oaths are but words, at least in my
View. Give me that ring. My chastity is
Such a ring, bequeathed down to me. If I
Lost it, 'twould exceed each man's vows to his
Ancestors. Ah, the ring. Right at midnight
Knock at my window. Then, before first light,
Once you have conquered my yet maiden bed,
Remain quiet for an hour when then this
Ring shall be delivered. That being said,
That night on your finger and with a kiss
I'll put another ring, one dearly bought,
To speak to our past deeds. Till then, fail not.**

DIANA: You have won a wife of me, though there my hope be finished.

BERTRAM: A heaven on earth I have won by wooing thee.

DIANA: For which live long to thank both heaven and me! You may so in the end.