

## All's Well that Ends Well abbreviated

Act 3, Scene 4

### Grief

**Situation:** Helen has left Rossillion under the cover of a dark night, just as she had planned, having left behind a letter for the Countess.

STEWARD READS: I am Saint Jaques' pilgrim, thither gone. Ambitious love hath so in my offended that barefoot plod I with sainted vow my faults to have amended. Write, write, that from the bloody course of war my dearest master, your dear son, may hasten. Bless him at home in peace, whilst I from far his name with zealous fervor sanctify. I sent him forth from courtly friends, with camping foes to live where death and danger dogs the heels of worth. He is too good and fair for death and me, whom I myself embrace to set him free.

COUNTESS: Ah, what sharp stings are in her mildest words! Rinaldo, you did never lack advice so much as letter her pass so. Had I spoke with her, I could have well diverted her intents, which thus she hath prevented.

STEWARD: Pardon me, madam. She writes pursuit would be but vain.

### Countess to Rinaldo

Unless her prayers, whom heaven loves to grant,  
Relieve him from the wrath of God, he can't  
Thrive. Write, write Rinaldo to this husband  
Unworthy of his wife, for he does owe  
Much to her that he does weigh too light, and  
Set down sharply this my greatest grief, though  
Little he doth feel it. When he hears that  
She is gone he may return. I hope at  
Hearing so much she'll do what women do  
For love and speed her foot home, hoping she  
May enter his heart. I have no skill to  
Decide which of them is dearest to me.  
My heart's heavy and this grief makes me weak.  
Grief sheds these tears and sorrow bids me speak.