

All's Well that Ends Well abbreviated

Act 3, Scene 2

Prayer

Situation: Having received a serious threat from the king, Bertram married Helen and promptly said “They have married me! I’ll to the Tuscan wars.” He sent his wife back to Rossillion, and a letter to his mother and to his new wife. The letter included a line that will come to haunt Bertram: “When thou canst get the ring upon my finger, which never shall come off and show me a child begotten of thy body that I am father to, then call me husband.” The letter upsets his mother. It so upsets Helen that she makes plans to steal away from Rossillion that very night.

COUNTESS: Nothing in France until he have no wife! There’s nothing here that is too good for him but only she. Who was with him?

FIRST GENTLEMAN: A servant only, and a gentleman which I have sometime known.

COUNTESS: Parolles was it not?

FIRST GENTLEMAN: Ay, my good lady, he.

COUNTESS: A very tainted fellow, and full of wickedness. I will entreat you, gentlemen, when you see my son to tell him that his sword can never win the honor that he loses. More I’ll entreat you written to bear along.

SECOND GENTLEMAN: We serve you, madam.

COUNTESS: Will you draw near?

She exits with the Gentlemen.

Helen to Herself, No. 2

Poor lord, is it I that chase thee from thy
Country, exposing thee to war; ‘tis I
That drive thee from the amorous court where
Thou wast shot at with fair eyes, to be the
Mark of smoky muskets? I set him there
Subject to war’s miseries and would be
The cause, if his death were so effected,
Though I kill him not. Fly with false aim lead
Messengers that pierce the air; touch not my
Lord. No, come thou home, Bertram, with honor
And out of danger. I will be gone, for by
My being here, thou art not; do so for
Thy dear mother. Come night to end this day
That I may in the dark then steal away.