

All's Well that Ends Well abbreviated

Act 3, Scene 7

Proposal

Situation: On her way to St. Jaques, Helen has met the Widow of Florence and her daughter Diana. She soon learns that “the amorous Count Rossillion solicits her (Diana) in an unlawful purpose.” Quick-thinking Helen then comes up with a plan to deal with the situation.

HELEN: First, believe me, the Count is my husband.

WIDOW: I should believe you, for you have showed me that which well approves you're great in position and wealth.

HELEN: Take this purse of gold, and let me buy your friendly help thus far, which I will overpay and pay again when I have received your help.

Helen to Widow

The Count of Rossillion woos your daughter,
Firmly committed is he to win her,
Lustily besieging her beauty. Let
Her soon consent and, as we'll direct her,
How best 'tis for her to proceed. My bet
Is that his strong passion will not deter
Her demand. A ring he wears hath downward
Moved through his family and now moves forward,
Son to son, just as the first father wore
It. He holds this ring dear, yet, in his mad
Fire she could buy his will, he being sore
After. She sets a time to meet the lad,
But in the dark of the room I be sent,
Leaving your daughter chastely absent.

WIDOW: I see the nature of your purpose, and I yield. Instruct my daughter how she shall persevere that time and place with this deceit so lawful may prove coherent. Every night he comes with musics of all sorts and songs composed to her.

HELEN: Why then tonight let us assay our plot, which, if it speed, is wicked meaning in a lawful deed, and lawful meaning in a lawful act, where both not sin, and yet a sinful fact. But let's about it.