

## **As You Like It abbreviated**

Act 4, Scene 1

### **Love**

**Situation:** Rosalind as Ganymede ends a counseling session with Orlando, he saying he “must attend the duke at dinner, but by two o’clock I will be with thee again.” As Ganymede, Rosalind lets him know that he had better keep his promise to return by two or he’ll be in real trouble.

ROSALIND AS GANYMEDE: Then you must say “I take thee, Rosalind, for wife.”

ORLANDO: I take thee, Rosalind, for wife.

ROSALIND AS GANYMEDE: Now tell me how long you would have her after you have possessed her?

ORLANDO: Forever and a day.

ROSALIND AS GANYMEDE: Say “a day” without the “ever.” No, no, Orlando, men are April when they woo, December when they wed.

### **Rosalind as Ganymede to Orlando, No. 2**

**Maids are May when they are maids, but the sky  
Changes when they are wives. More jealous I  
Will be of thee than a pigeon over  
His hen, more clamorous than a parrot  
Against rain, more taunting than calls that lure  
Giddy monkeys. I’ll weep for nothing but  
To disturb you when merry and will laugh  
Loudly when thou doth choose to sleep. Distaff  
Have good minds and can be quick and clever.  
If you block their wit, ‘twill out a keyhole.  
Be here by two if to be a lover;  
Be among that gross band of unfaithful  
If by one minute behind your hour miss.  
Do beware my censure and keep your promise.**

ORLANDO: Ay, sweet Rosalind. I’ll keep my promise with no less fidelity than if thou wert indeed my Rosalind. So, adieu.

ROSALIND AS GANYMEDE: Well, time is the old justice than examines all such offenders, and let time try. Adieu.

Orlando exits.

CELIA: You have simply misused our sex in your love prate.

ROSALIND: O coz, if thou didst know how many fathom deep I am in love. My affection hath an unknown bottom, like the Bay of Portugal.