

As You Like It abbreviated

Act 4, Scene 3

Shock

Situation: Disguised Rosalind and Celia are on stage when Oliver, the oldest of the de Boys brothers, enters seeking as he says the young person “my brother calls his Rosalind.” He tells the two that he needs to find the person his brother “calls his Rosalind” so that he can let the person know why his brother Orlando missed his two o’clock appointment.

OLIVER: Good morrow, fair ones. Pray you, if you know, a sheep cottage fenced about with olive trees.

CELIA AS ALIENA: West of this place, down in the neighbor bottom.

OLIVER: If that an eye may profit by a tongue, then should I know you by description. Are not you the owner of the house I did inquire for?

CELIA AS ALIENA: It is no boast, being asked, to say we are.

OLIVER: Orlando doth commend him to you both, and to that youth he calls his Rosalind he sends this bloody handkerchief. Are you he?

ROSALIND AS GANYMEDE: I am. What must we understand by this?

OLIVER: Some of my shame, if you will know of me what man I am, and how, and why, and where this handkerchief was stained.

CELIA AS ALIENA: I pray you tell it.

Oliver to Rosalind as Ganymede

**When last the young Orlando parted from
Here, he said he would within an hour come
Back to you. Pacing through the forest he
Saw a wretched man sleeping on his back.
A lioness crouched near, and he did see
Him his elder brother. He did attack
The lioness, who quickly fell, waking
Me. Twice he had turned his back, but finding
Kindness nobler than revenge made him give
Battle. He then led me unto his cave
Where I saw flesh wounds and prayed that he live.
He fainted, crying Rosalind. I gave
Aid to his wounds; once he recovered he
Sent me, a stranger, to tell this story.**

OLIVER: He sent me hither that you might excuse his broken promise.

Rosalind faints.