

Cymbeline abbreviated

Act 2, Scene 2

Accumulation

Situation: Well after midnight very clever Iachimo emerges from the trunk temporarily stored in Imogen's bedroom. He notices and mentally records many details of what he sees, some intimate. He slips her wedding bracelet off her wrist.

IMOGEN: What hour is it?

LADY: Almost midnight, madam.

IMOGEN: I have read three hours then. Mine eyes are weak.

She hands the Lady her book.

IMOGEN: To bed. Take not away the taper. And if thou canst awake by four o' th' clock, I prithee, call me.

The Lady exits.

IMOGEN: Sleep hath seized me wholly. To your protection, I commend me, gods.

She sleeps. Iachimo emerges from the trunk.

Iachimo to Himself

The crickets sing, and man's labored being
Repairs itself by rest. 'Tis her breathing
That perfumes the chamber. How beautifully
Thou becom'st thy bed, fresh lily, and
Whiter than the sheets. But my purpose be
To note the chamber. The small window fanned,
The arras, the ornaments and pictures,
And the bracelet. Come, 'tis mine. It assures
As evidence stronger than ever law
Could make. This secret will force him think I
Have picked the lock and taken what I saw:
The treasure of her honor. Now to my
Trunk and to shut the spring and lodge in fear.
Though she a heavenly angel, hell's here.

He enters the trunk and the trunk is removed.