

## Much Ado About Nothing abbreviated

Act 4, Scene 1

### Anger

**Situation:** Inside the church, with Leonato pressing the friar, saying “be brief, only to the plain form of marriage,” Claudio replays the charade as he heard and saw it played out by Borachio under Don John’s encouragement the night before. An infuriated Leonato shouts out at his crying daughter “farewell thou pure impiety and impious purity.” He believes what Claudio believes. As we say, Hero faints as her father continues to lash out at her.

BENEDICK: How doth the lady?

BEATRICE: Dead, I think. Help, uncle!

LEONATO: O Fate, take not away thy heavy hand! Death is the fairest cover for her shame that may be wished for.

Hero stirs.

BEATRICE: Cousin Hero?

LEONATO TO HERO: Dost thou look up?

FRIAR: Yea, wherefore should she not?

### Leonato to the Others

Wherefore? Doth not every earthly thing cry  
Shame upon her? With this reproach thought I  
Myself would strike at thy life. Hero, do  
Not ope thine eyes. Think I chided thrifty  
Nature, having had but one when one too  
Much by thee! Why ever wast thou lovely  
In my eyes? With charitable hand why  
Had I not a beggar’s issue at my  
Front gates taken up, who, smirched thus, I might  
Have said “no part of it is mine.” But then  
She’s mine, and mine I loved, and mine I quite  
Praised with father’s pride. O, she hath fallen  
Into such a pit of ink, that the mean,  
Wide sea hath drops too few to wash her clean.