

Much Ado About Nothing abbreviated

Act 2, Scene 2

Deviousness

Situation: For no particular reason, hoping to break up the planned marriage between Claudio and Hero, Don John persuades Borachio to have Margaret, his girlfriend and Hero's gentlewoman, impersonate Hero that night in Hero's bedroom. Borachio's plan is to have Margaret cozy up to him behind thin curtains in Hero's bedroom. His nasty plan includes having Don Pedro and Claudio observe the goings-on from the orchard beneath the bedroom window.

BORACHIO: I think I told your Lordship a year since, how much I am in the favor of Margaret, the waiting gentlewoman to Hero.

DON JOHN: I remember.

BORACHIO: I can, at any unseasonable instant of the night, appoint her to look out at her lady's chamber window. Go you to the Prince your brother; spare not to tell him that he hath wronged his honor in marrying the renowned Claudio to a contaminated harlot, such a one as Hero.

DON JOHN: What proof shall I make of that?

BORACHIO: Proof enough to misuse the Prince, to vex Claudio, to undo Hero, and kill Leonato. Look you for any other issue?

DON JOHN: Only to despite them I will endeavor anything.

Borachio to Don John

**Okay then, draw together Don Pedro
And Count Claudio. Tell them that you know
That Hero loves me. With a kind of zeal
Tell them you're concerned for the love of a
Brother's honor, arranger of this deal,
And with Claudio's reputation, the
One likely to be tricked by the presence
Of her fair maid. Offer them evidence
By bringing them one night to her chamber
Window where they will hear fair Margaret
Call me Borachio and me call her
"Hero." Seeming truth shall appear and set
The scene for disloyalness yond the curtain,
Causing just suspicion to look certain.**

DON JOHN: Grow this to what adverse issue it can, I will put it in practice. Be cunning in the working this, and thy fee is a thousand ducats.

BORACHIO: Be you constant in the accusation, and my cunning shall not shame me.