

Much Ado About Nothing abbreviated

Act 1, Scene 1

Tease

Situation: The play opens with an introduction of the play's principals. Leonato, the governor of Messina, accompanied by his daughter Hero and his niece Beatrice, welcome Don Pedro and some of his soldiers to this coastal city in southern Italy. Claudio, one of the prince's soldiers, falls for the governor's daughter when he first sees her. He is promptly teased about it by his fellow soldier, Benedick.

CLAUDIO: Benedick, didst thou note the daughter of Signior Leonato?

BENEDICK: I noted her not, but I looked on her.

CLAUDIO: Is she not a modest young lady? In mine eye she is the sweetest lady that ever I looked on.

BENEDICK: I can see yet without spectacles, and I see no such matter.

CLAUDIO: I would scarce trust myself, though I had sworn contrary, if Hero would be my wife.

BENEDICK: Is 't come to this?

Benedick to Claudio

Do you question me for my simple true
Judgment? Being a professed tyrant to
Their sex, I'll speak my truth. I think she be
Too low for high praise, too brown for fair praise,
Too little for a great praise. But if she
Were other than she is, she would not raise
Men's eyes. I thank she that did conceive me;
Likewise I give most humble thanks to she
That brought me up. Pardon, but I'll not do
Them the wrong to mistrust me, and for me
I'll live a bachelor, with the right to
Trust none. Claudio, do I in thee see
An intent to turn husband? Shake your daze
Or wear a yoke and sigh away Sundays.