

## Twelfth Night abbreviated

Act 2, Scene 4

### Chauvinism

**Situation:** Absolutely focused on winning Olivia's heart and blind to the beautiful being in his presence, a very persistent Orsino sends Cesario back to Olivia to woo her even harder. Orsino gives Cesario a jewel to give her, saying "accept no denial." Viola wryly suggests he ought to look for love closer to home.

ORSINO: Once more, Cesario, get thee to yond same sovereign cruelty. Tell her of my love, more noble than the world. 'Tis that miracle and queen of gems that nature pranks her in attracts my soul.

VIOLA: But if she cannot love you, sir-----

ORSINO: I cannot be so answered.

VIOLA: Sooth, but you must. Say that some lady, as perhaps there is, hath for your love as great a pang of heart as you have for Olivia. You cannot love her; as you have for Olivia. Must she not then be answered?

#### Orsino to Viola, No. 2

Women have neither the sides nor heart so  
Strong to so endure the passion this woe  
Of love doth give my heart. Their hearts can't hold  
So much, where mine's as hungry as the sea  
And can digest as much. I won't be told  
That a woman can love me as I she.  
Ay, but I know well what love women to  
Men may owe. In faith, women are as true  
Of heart as we. My father's one daughter  
Who loved a man, but never told her love,  
Lest concealment, like a worm, feed on her  
Damask cheek. She pined in thought with smiles of  
Grief. O, we men swear more and speak much of  
Our vows, but then prove little in our love.

VIOLA: Sir, shall I to this lady?

ORSINO: Ay, that's the theme. To her in haste. Give her this jewel. Say my love can give no place. Accept no denial.