

「ACT I」

Enter fairies auditorium. Give out flowers.
Run around, giggling, lights on them
「Scene 1」

Enter Theseus, Hippolyta, 「and Philostrate,」 with others.

→ Hippolyta practicing with a
pell

THESEUS

Now, fair Hippolyta, our nuptial hour
Draws on apace. Four happy days bring in
Another moon. But, O, methinks how slow
This old moon 「waned!」 She lingers my desires
Like to a stepdame or a dowager
Long withering out a young man's revenue.

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HIPPOLYTA

Four days will quickly steep themselves in night;
Four nights will quickly dream away the time;
And then the moon, like to a silver bow
「New」-bent in heaven, shall behold the night
Of our solemnities.

10

THESEUS

Go, Philostrate,

Stir up the Athenian youth to merriments.
Awake the pert and nimble spirit of mirth.
Turn melancholy forth to funerals;
The pale companion is not for our pomp.

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「Philostrate exits.」

Hippolyta, I wooed thee with my sword
And won thy love doing thee injuries,
But I will wed thee in another key,
With pomp, with triumph, and with reveling.

- she laughs

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*Enter Egeus and his daughter Hermia, and Lysander
and Demetrius.*

EGEUS

Happy be Theseus, our renownèd duke!

THESEUS

Thanks, good Egeus. What's the news with thee?

EGEUS

Full of vexation come I, with complaint
Against my child, my daughter Hermia.—
Stand forth, Demetrius.—My noble lord, 25
This man hath my consent to marry her.—
Stand forth, Lysander.—And, my gracious duke,
This man hath bewitched the bosom of my child.—

~~Thou, thou, Lysander, thou hast given her rhymes~~

~~And interchanged love tokens with my child.~~ 30

~~Thou hast by moonlight at her window sung~~

~~With feigning voice verses of feigning love~~

~~And stol'n the impression of her fantasy~~

~~With braeelets of thy hair, rings, gauds, conceits,~~

~~Knaeks, trifles, nosegays, sweetmeats—messengers~~ 35

~~Of strong prevailment in unhardened youth.~~

With cunning hast thou filched my daughter's heart,

Turned her obedience (which is due to me)

To stubborn harshness.—And, my gracious duke,

Be it so she will not here before your Grace 40

Consent to marry with Demetrius,

I beg the ancient privilege of Athens:

As she is mine, I may dispose of her,

Which shall be either to this gentleman

Or to her death, ~~according to our law~~ 45

~~Immediately provided in that case.~~

THESEUS

What say you, Hermia? Be advised, fair maid.

To you, your father should be as a god,

~~One that composed your beauties, yea, and one~~