

Victim (noun): a person who is tricked or duped; *the victim of a hoax*. - *New Oxford American Dictionary*.

In *The mid summer nights dream* play by William Shakespeare, we get introduced to relationships like Hermia's parents, the Fairies loyalty, and the 4 lovers relationships. Continuing in this thought, we find that Hermia's parents are perfectly happy (or so we can assume since her parents don't seem to have much couple trouble as the Fairies/Lovers) and since they don't contain much detail in the story. In the play, the lovers and the Fairies king and queen are not Victim's of love.

Victim's are generally referring to witnesses of a crime, so for example, people who are affected by a certain event would be victims of that event. If we take that definition of victim, we would classify Hermia's parents as victims. They witnessed their daughter prefer someone that they didn't agree. Therefore we can make the argument that Hermia's parents are a Victim of Love as they were present in the time that Hermia rejected Demetrius for Lysander. But this definition doesn't fit with the other lovers as they are the "criminals" in this story or the people that made the crime in the first place. For example, take Hermia and Lysander, Hermia was the one who chose Lysander over Demetrius. They are "the criminals" in this context. Taking Demetrius and Helena results in the same story, Demetrius was in love with Helena not Hermia. Therefore making the "crime" by Demetrius getting rejected by Hermia and leaving her parents as a victim in this context.

Even though witnesses is generally what we think of the word Victims (in the English Lexicon, it is the primary definition), the word has 2 other meaning. Victim's could mean living sacrifice but religion has close to nothing to do with the play *A Mid Summer Nights Dream*. The final definition and the one that makes the most sense is Victim as in a tricked or duped (according to the New Oxford American Dictionary).

If we take the Lovers Hermia and Lysander in this context of "victim" it starts making sense, farther in the story line, they escape from the village of their origin. Would this qualify for being a "victim" of love? Because reasoning behind why they left was because Hermia's family didn't accept them. If you rephrase the question, with our definition, it would be *Was Hermia and Lysander tricked into loving each other?* This question is easy to answer, no because there was no trick, unlike later in the story where the puck messes up, this relationship was purely intentional.

So what about the other lovers, Demetrius and Helena, the same reasoning occurs. If we rephrase this question to *Was Demetrius and Helena tricked into loving each other* the answer still remains a no because in the story it shows their attraction to each other and how much they love each other. Same towards the Fairies although they do show some contrast because they didn't exactly love each other in the book, but they weren't put in a spell to love/hate each other.

But then the story progresses and the King tells his servant (in the play he is referred to as "Robin the Puck") to add flower juice to the lovers eyes. Unexpectedly, the lovers Lysander and

Helena both fall into the question as the puck, instead of putting the flower juice on Demetrius's eyes, puts the juice in Lysander's eyes. When Helena comes to wake up Lysander, the Flower Juice causes him to fall in love with her. This begs the question, *Was Lysander tricked into loving Helena?* Where the answer is yes, Lysander didn't like her before the puck put that flower juice in his eyes and Helena didn't like him at all.

The rest of the story doesn't change much the timeline, all that happens to the lovers is that Lysander's Flower Juice effects on Helena gets reversed by the Queen of Fairies. So, to tie everything together, was the characters in the Play *A Mid Summer Nights Dream* Victims of love? No because the lovers genuinely loved their partners, they weren't tricked into loving them.