



Dramatis Personae

Ferdinand - King of Navarre

Berowne - Lord of Navarre

Dumain - Lord of Navarre

Longaville - Lord of Navarre

Princess of France

Rosalind - Lady in Waiting

Katherine - Lady in Waiting

Maria - Lady in Waiting

Don Armado - Spanish Noble

Costard

Jaquenetta

Audience Members

Act I Scene 1

Enter FERDINAND, BEROWNE, LONGAVILLE and DUMAIN

FERDINAND Brave conquerors that war against your own affections, our late edict shall strongly stand in force. Navarre shall be the wonder of the world. Our court shall be a little Academe, still and contemplative in living arts. You three, my fellow-scholars, Berowne, Dumain and Longaville, have sworn, for three years' term, to live with me and to keep those statutes that are recorded in this schedule here. Your oaths are passed and now subscribe your names. May his own hand strike his honor down that violates the smallest branch herein. If you are armed to do as sworn to do, subscribe to your deep oaths.

LONGAVILLE I am resolved, 'tis but a three years' fast. The mind shall banquet, though the body pine.

DUMAIN To love, to wealth, to pomp, I pine and die with all these things, but live in philosophy.

BEROWNE So much, dear liege, I have already sworn. That is, to live and to study here for three years, but there are other strict observances that I question. As, not to see a woman in that term, and one day in a week to touch no food and but one meal on every day beside. And then, we will sleep but three hours in the night and not be seen to yawn of all the day. O, these are barren tasks, too hard to keep, not to see ladies, to study, to fast, not sleep!

FERDINAND Your oath is passed to pass away from all of these.

BEROWNE Let me say no, my liege, and if you please, I only swore to study with your grace and stay here in your court for three years' space.

LONGAVILLE You swore to that, Berowne, and to the rest.

BEROWNE By yea and nay, sir, for then I swore only in jest. What is the end of study? Let me know.

FERDINAND Why, that to know, which else we should not know.

BEROWNE Things hidden and barred, you mean, from common sense?

FERDINAND Ay, that is study's godlike recompense.

BEROWNE Then, I will swear to study to know the thing I am forbidden to know. As thus, I will study where to meet some mistress fine, because mistresses are hid from common sense.

FERDINAND These be the stops that hinder study and train our intellects to vain delight.

1 **BEROWNE** Why, all delights are vain. I will study how to please the
2 eye by fixing it upon some fairer eye. Study is like the heaven's
3 glorious sun. Too much to know is to know naught but fame.
4 **FERDINAND** How well he's read, to reason against reading! Well, sit
5 you out. Go home, Berowne. Adieu.
6 **BEROWNE** No, my good lord. I have sworn to stay with you, but
7 there are strict observances. Give me the paper. Let me read the
8 same. (*Reads*) 'Item. That no woman shall come within a mile of
9 my court.' Hath this been proclaimed?
10 **LONGAVILLE** Four days ago.
11 **BEROWNE** Let's see the penalty. (*Reads*) 'On pain of losing her
12 tongue.' Who devised this penalty?
13 **LONGAVILLE** Marry, that I did.
14 **BEROWNE** Sweet lord, but why?
15 **LONGAVILLE** To frighten them hence with that dread penalty.
16 **BEROWNE** A dangerous law against gentility! (*Reads*) 'Item. If any
17 man be seen to talk with a woman within the term of three years, he
18 shall endure such public shame as the rest of the court can possibly
19 devise.' This article, my liege, yourself must break. For you know
20 the French king's daughter, a maid of grace and complete majesty,
21 comes here in embassy to speak with you about surrender up of the
22 Aquitaine to her sick and bedridden father. Therefore this article is
23 made in vain, or vainly comes the admired princess hither.
24 **FERDINAND** What say you, lords? Why, was this quite forgotten?
25 We must dispense with this decree. She must lie here by mere
26 necessity.
27 **BEROWNE** Necessity will make us all forsworn three thousand times
28 over within this three years' space. If I break faith, these words
29 shall speak for me. I am forsworn by 'mere necessity.' So to the
30 laws at large I write my name. (*Subscribes*) And he that breaks
31 them in the least degree stands in attainment of eternal shame.
32 Suggestions are to others as to me. But I believe, although I seem
33 so loath, I am the last that will last keep his oath.

Act I Scene 2

*Enter PRINCESS, ROSALINE, MARIA,
KATHARINE, and BOYET*

BOYET Madam, summon up your dearest spirits. Consider whom the king, your father sends to parley with the king of Navarre.

PRINCESS Good Lord Boyet, you are not ignorant. You know well that the king of Navarre hath made a vow. Till painful study shall outwear three years, no woman may approach his silent court. Therefore it seems to us a needful course, before we enter his forbidden gates, to know his pleasure and, in that behalf, we single you as our best-moving fair solicitor. Tell him, the daughter of the King of France, on serious business, craving quick dispatch, importunes personal conference with his grace.

BOYET Proud of employment, willingly I go.

PRINCESS All pride is willing pride, and yours is so. (*Exit BOYET*)
Who are the votaries, my loving maids, that vow to follow this virtuous duke?

MARIA Lord Longaville is one.

PRINCESS Know you the man?

MARIA I know him, madam. Once at a marriage-feast in Normandy I saw Longaville. A man of sovereign parts well fitted in arts, glorious in arms. Nothing becomes him ill that he would well.

PRINCESS Some merry mocking lord?

MARIA They say so most his humors know.

PRINCESS Such short-lived wits do wither as they grow. Who are the rest?

KATHARINE The young Dumain, a well-accomplished youth, I saw him at the Duke Alencon's once.

ROSALINE Another of these students at that time was there with him, if I have heard a truth. Berowne they call him. For he hath the wit to make an ill shape good and shape to win grace when he has no wit.

PRINCESS God bless my ladies, are they in love? Everyone hath garnished her own with such bedecking of praise.

MARIA Here comes Boyet.

Re-enter BOYET

PRINCESS Now, what admittance, lord?

BOYET Navarre had notice of your fair approach and he and his competitors in oath were all addressed to meet you gentle lady

1 before I came. Marry, thus much I have learnt. Rather than allow
2 you to enter his prohibited sanctuary, he means to lodge you in the
3 field. Like one who comes here to besiege his court rather than one
4 seeking dispensation of his oath.

5 **PRINCESS** (*Remoove*)

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8 **Act II Scene 1**

9 *Enter PRINCESS, ROSALINE, KATHERINE, MARIA and BOYET*

10 *Enter FERDINAND, LONGAVILLE, DUMAIN, and BEROWNE*

11 **FERDINAND** Fair princess, welcome to the court of Navarre.

12 **PRINCESS** 'Fair' I give you back again and 'welcome' I have not yet
13 had. The roof of this court is too high to be yours and welcome to
14 the wide fields too base to be mine.

15 **FERDINAND** You shall be welcome, madam, to my court.

16 **PRINCESS** I will be welcome? Then conduct me thither.

17 **FERDINAND** Hear me, dear lady. I have sworn an oath.

18 **PRINCESS** Our Lady help my lord! He'll be forsworn.

19 **FERDINAND** Not for the world, fair madam, by my will.

20 **PRINCESS** Why, your will shall break it. Your will and nothing else.

21 **FERDINAND** Your ladyship is ignorant what it is.

22 **PRINCESS** Were my lord so ignorance he were wise. 'Tis deadly sin
23 to keep that oath, my lord, and sin to break it. But pardon me. I am
24 too sudden bold. To teach a teacher speaks ill of me. Vouchsafe to
25 read the purpose of my coming and suddenly resolve me in my suit.

26 **FERDINAND** Madam, I will, if suddenly I may.

27 **PRINCESS** You will the sooner, that I were away. For you'll prove
28 perjured if you make me stay.

29 **BEROWNE** Did not I dance with you in Brabant once?

30 **ROSALINE** Did not I dance with you in Brabant once?

31 **BEROWNE** I know you did.

32 **ROSALINE** How needless was it then to ask the question!

33 **BEROWNE** You must not be so quick.

34 **ROSALINE** 'Tis long of you that spur me with such questions.

35 **BEROWNE** Your wit's too hot. It speeds too fast, 'twill tire.

36 **ROSALINE** Not till it leave the rider in the mire.

37 **BEROWNE** What time o' day?

38 **ROSALINE** The hour that fools should ask.

39 **BEROWNE** Now fair befall your mask!

1 **ROSALINE** Fair fall the face it covers!
2 **BEROWNE** And send you many lovers!
3 **ROSALINE** Amen, so you be none.
4 **BEROWNE** Nay, then will I be gone.
5 **FERDINAND** Madam, your father here doth intimate the payment of a
6 hundred thousand crowns, being but the one half of an entire sum
7 disbursed by my father in your wars. But say that he or we, as
8 neither have, received that sum, yet there remains unpaid a hundred
9 thousand more. One part of Aquitaine is bound to us, if then the
10 king, your father will restore but that one half which is unsatisfied,
11 we will give up our right in Aquitaine and hold fair friendship with
12 his majesty.
13 **PRINCESS** You do the king, my father too much wrong and wrong the
14 reputation of your name, in so unseeming to refuse receipt of that
15 which hath so faithfully been paid.
16 **FERDINAND** I do protest I never heard of it. And if you prove it, I'll
17 repay it back or yield up Aquitaine.
18 **PRINCESS** We arrest your word. Boyet, you can produce
19 acquittances for such a sum from special officers of Charles, his
20 father.
21 **FERDINAND** Satisfy me so.
22 **BOYET** So please your grace, the packet is not come where that and
23 other specialties are bound. Tomorrow you shall have a sight of
24 them.
25 **FERDINAND** It shall suffice me. Meantime receive such welcome at
26 my hand, as honor without breach of honor may make tender of thy
27 true worthiness. You may not come, fair princess, within my gates,
28 but here without, you shall be so received, as you shall deem
29 yourself lodged in my heart. Tomorrow we shall visit you again.
30 *Exit FERDINAND*
31 **BEROWNE** Lady, I will commend you to my heart.
32 **ROSALINE** Pray you do, I would be glad to see it.
33 **BEROWNE** Would that do it good?
34 **ROSALINE** My physic says 'ay.'
35 **BEROWNE** Will you prick it with your eye?
36 **ROSALINE** No point, with my knife.
37 **BEROWNE** Now, God save thy life!
38 **ROSALINE** And yours from long living!
39 **BEROWNE** I cannot stay thanksgiving.
40 *Retiring*

1 DUMAIN Sir, I pray you, a word. What lady is that same?
 2 BOYET The heir of Alencon, Katharine is her name.
 3 DUMAIN A gallant lady. Monsieur, fare you well.
 4 *Exit DUMAIN*
 5 LONGAVILLE I beseech you a word. What is she in the white?
 6 BOYET A woman.
 7 LONGAVILLE Nay, I pray you, sir, whose daughter?
 8 BOYET Her mother's, I have heard.
 9 LONGAVILLE God's blessing on your beard!
 10 BOYET Good sir, be not offended. She is an heir of Falconbridge.
 11 LONGAVILLE She is a most sweet lady.
 12 BOYET That may be, sir.
 13 *Exit LONGAVILLE*
 14 BEROWNE What's her name in the cap?
 15 BOYET Rosaline.
 16 BEROWNE Is she wedded or no?
 17 BOYET To her will, sir, or so.
 18 BEROWNE You are welcome, sir. Adieu.
 19 BOYET Farewell to me, sir, and welcome to you.
 20 *Exit BEROWNE*
 21 MARIA That last is Berowne, the merry madcap lord. Not a word with
 22 him but a jest.
 23 BOYET And every jest but a word.
 24 PRINCESS It was well done of you to take him at his word.
 25 BOYET I was as willing to grapple as he was to board.
 26 PRINCESS Good wits will be jangling but, gentles, agree, this civil
 27 war of wits were much better used on Navarre and his book-men,
 28 for here 'tis abused.
 29 BOYET If my observation, which very seldom lies, Navarre is infected.
 30 PRINCESS With what?
 31 BOYET With that which we followers entitle love.
 32 PRINCESS Your reason?
 33 BOYET His face's own margent did quote such amazes that all eyes
 34 saw his eyes enchanted with gazes. I'll give you Aquitaine and all
 35 that is his if you give him, for my sake, but one loving kiss.
 36 PRINCESS Come to our pavilion. Boyet is disposed.
 37 BOYET I only have made a mouth of his eye by adding a tongue which
 38 I know will not lie.
 39 MARIA Thou art an old love-monger and speakest skillfully.
 40 KATHERINE He is Cupid's grandfather and learns news from him.

1 ROSALINE Then was Venus like her mother for her father is but grim.
2 BOYET Do you hear, my mad wenches?
3 KATHERINE No.
4 BOYET What then, do you see?
5 ROSALINE Ay, our way to be gone.
6 BOYET You are too hard for me.

Act II Scene 2

Enter ARMADO, COSTARD and AUDIENCE MEMBER

11 ARMADO Villain, you shall fast for your offences ere they be
12 pardoned.
13 COSTARD Well, sir, I hope I do it on a full stomach.
14 ARMADO You shall be heavily punished.
15 COSTARD Good sir, I am more bound to you than your fellows, for
16 they are but lightly rewarded.
17 ARMADO God's mercy, you have not so much brains as ear wax. The
18 king approaches.
19 FERDINAND Don Armado, I bid you welcome.
20 ARMADO Great deputy and sole dominator of Navarre, my soul's
21 earth's god and body's fostering patron. As I am a gentleman, I
22 betook myself to walk. The time when, about the sixth hour, when
23 beasts most graze, birds best peck, and men sit down to that
24 nourishment which is called supper, so much for the time when...
25 FERDINAND Don Armado, what befell at the hour? What's the
26 matter, good knight?
27 ARMADO The matter is to him, sir, as concerning Jaquenetta.
28 COSTARD The manner of it is, I was taken with the manner.
29 FERDINAND In what manner?
30 COSTARD In manner and form following, sir, all those three. I was
31 seen with her in the manor-house, sitting with her upon the form
32 and taken following her into the park, which, put together, is in
33 manner and form following.
34 ARMADO Then for the place where, where, I mean, I did encounter
35 that obscene and preposterous event...
36 COSTARD Not a word of Costard yet.
37 ARMADO So it is...
38 COSTARD It may be so, but if he say it is so, he is, in telling true, but
39 so.

1 **FERDINAND** Peace!

2 **COSTARD** Be to me and every man that dares not fight!

3 **FERDINAND** No words!

4 **COSTARD** Of other men's secrets, I beseech you.

5 **ARMADO** There from the west corner of thy curious-knotted garden, I

6 did see that low-spirited swain, that base minnow of thy mirth...

7 **COSTARD** Me?

8 **ARMADO** ...that unlettered small-knowing soul..

9 **COSTARD** Me?

10 **ARMADO** ...that shallow vassal...

11 **COSTARD** Still me?

12 **ARMADO** ...which, as I remember as Costard...

13 **COSTARD** O, me!

14 **ARMADO** ...sorted and consorted, contrary to thy established

15 proclaimed edict and continent canon, with...

16 **COSTARD** With a wench.

17 **ARMADO** ...with a child of our grandmother Eve, a female or, for

18 your more understanding, a woman. I bring him here to thee, to

19 receive the punishment, by thy sweet grace's officer, Master

20 Anthony Dull, a man of good repute, carriage, bearing, and

21 estimation.

22 **AUDIENCE MEMBER** Shall please you, my lord, I am Dull.

23 **ALL** Uh, yeah. (*ad lib*)

24 **ARMADO** For Jaquenetta, so is the weaker vessel called which I

25 apprehended with the aforesaid swain, I keep her as a vessel of the

26 law's fury and shall, at the least of your sweet notice, bring her to

27 trial. Yours, in all compliments of devoted and heart-burning heat

28 of duty, Don Adriano de Armado.

29 **FERDINAND** Sirrah, what say you to this?

30 **COSTARD** Sir, I confess the wench.

31 **FERDINAND** Did you hear the proclamation?

32 **COSTARD** I do confess much of the hearing it but little of the

33 marking of it.

34 **FERDINAND** It was proclaimed a year's imprisonment, if one is taken

35 with a wench.

36 **COSTARD** Oh, I was taken with none, sir. I was taken with a damsel.

37 **FERDINAND** Well, it was proclaimed damsel.

38 **COSTARD** This was no damsel, neither, sir. She was a mistress pure.

39 **FERDINAND** It is so varied too for it was proclaimed mistress.

40 **COSTARD** If it were, I deny her purity. I was taken with a maid.

1 **FERDINAND** This maid will not serve your turn, sir.
2 **COSTARD** This maid will serve anyone's turn, sir.
3 **FERDINAND** Goodman, Dull, you have not spoken a word all this
4 while.
5 **AUDIENCE MEMBER** Nor understood none neither.
6 **FERDINAND** Sir, I will pronounce your sentence. You shall fast a
7 week with bran and water.
8 **COSTARD** I had rather pray a month with mutton and porridge.
9 **FERDINAND** And Don Armado shall be your keeper.
10 **COSTARD** I suffer for the truth, sir, for true it is. I was taken with
11 Jaquenetta, and Jaquenetta is a true girl. Therefore welcome the
12 sour cup of prosperity! Affliction may one day smile again and
13 until then, sit thee down, sorrow!
14 *Exit FERDINAND*
15 **ARMADO** Come, you transgressing slave, away!
16 **COSTARD** Let me not be pent up, sir. I will fast, being loose.
17 **ARMADO** No, sirrah. That were fast and loose. You shall be to
18 prison.
19 **COSTARD** Well, if ever I do see the merry days of desolation that I
20 have seen, some shall see.
21 **ARMADO** What shall some see?
22 **COSTARD** Nay, nothing, Master Armado, but what they look upon. It
23 is not for prisoners to be too silent in their words and therefore I
24 will say nothing. I thank God I have as little patience as another
25 man and therefore I can be quiet.
26 *Exeunt*

Act II Scene 3

29 *Enter ARMADO, AUDIENCE MEMBER and COSTARD*
30 **ARMADO** Tell me, what sign is it when a man of great spirit grows
31 melancholy?
32 **COSTARD** A great sign, sir, that he will look sad.
33 **ARMADO** Pretty and apt. I have promised to study three years with
34 the king.
35 **AUDIENCE MEMBER** You are a gentleman and a gamester, sir.
36 **ARMADO** I confess both. They are both the varnish of a complete
37 man.
38 **COSTARD** A most fine figure!

1 **ARMADO** Leave me to my sorrows. (*Exit COSTARD and*
2 *AUDIENCE MEMBER*) I will hereupon confess I am in love and
3 as it is base for a soldier to love, so am I in love with a base wench.
4 I do love that country girl that I took in the park with the rational
5 hind Costard. If drawing my sword against the humor of affection
6 would deliver me from the reprobate thought of it, I would take
7 desire prisoner and ransom him to any French courtier for a new
8 devised my courtesy. My spirit grows heavy in love. (*Enter*
9 *JAQUENETTA*) Soft, she comes this way. I do love the very
10 ground, which is base, where her shoe, which is baser, guided by
11 her foot, which is basest, doth tread. I do betray myself with my
12 blushing. Maid!

13 **JAQUENETTA** Man?

14 **ARMADO** I will visit thee at the lodge.

15 **JAQUENETTA** That's hereby.

16 **ARMADO** I know where it is situated.

17 **JAQUENETTA** Lord, how wise you are!

18 **ARMADO** I will tell thee wonders.

19 **JAQUENETTA** With that face?

20 **ARMADO** I love thee.

21 **JAQUENETTA** So I heard you say.

22 **ARMADO** And so, farewell.

23 **JAQUENETTA** Fair weather after you!

24 *Exit JAQUENETTA*

25 **ARMADO** (*aside*) I shall be forsworn if I do show love. Love is but a
26 devil. There is no evil angel but Love. Was Samson so tempted,
27 yet he had an excellent strength? Was Solomon so seduced, yet he
28 had a very good wit? Cupid's arrow is too hard and therefore too
29 much for a Spaniard's rapier. Adieu, valor! Rust rapier! Be still
30 drum for your manager is in love. (*Remoove*)

31 *Exeunt*

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Act III Scene 1

Enter ARMADO and COSTARD

ARMADO Sirrah Costard, I will enfranchise thee.

COSTARD O, marry me to one Frances.

ARMADO There will be little learning die the day you are hanged. By my sweet soul, I mean setting you to your liberty. Enfreedoming your person. You are immured, restrained, captivated, bound.

COSTARD True, true and now you will be my purgation and let me loose.

ARMADO I give you your liberty, set you free from durance and, in lieu thereof, impose on you nothing but this, bear this significant (*Giving a letter*) to the country maid Jaquenetta. There is remuneration.

Exit ARMADO

COSTARD Now I will look to his remuneration. Remuneration! O, that's the Latin word for three farthings. three farthings--

Enter BEROWNE

BEROWNE O, my good knave Costard, you are exceedingly well met.

COSTARD Pray you, sir, how much carnation ribbon may a man buy for a remuneration?

BEROWNE What is a remuneration?

COSTARD Marry, sir, halfpenny farthing.

BEROWNE Why, then, three-farthing worth of silk.

COSTARD I thank your worship. God be with you!

BEROWNE Stay, slave. I must employ thee. As thou wilt win my favor, my good knave, do one thing for me that I shall entreat.

COSTARD When would you have it done, sir?

BEROWNE This afternoon.

COSTARD Well, I will do it, sir. Fare you well.

BEROWNE Hold, you know not what it is.

COSTARD I shall know, sir, when I have done it.

BEROWNE Why, villain, thou must know first.

COSTARD Very well, I will come to your worship tomorrow morning.

BEROWNE It must be done this afternoon. Hark, slave, it is but this.

The princess is lodged here in the park and in her train there is a gentle lady. When tongues speak sweetly, then they name her name. Rosaline they call her. Ask for her and to her white hand see thou do commend this sealed-up counsel. There's thy reward. Go. *Giving him a shilling*

1 *Exit BEROWNE*

2 **COSTARD** Gardon, O sweet reward! Better than remuneration,
3 eleven-pence farthing better. Most sweet reward, I will do it sir, in
4 print.

5 *Exit*

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8 **Act III Scene 2**

9 *Enter FERDINAND, LONGAVILLE and DUMAINE*

10 **FERDINAND** Let fame live registered upon our brazen tombs and
11 then grace us in that disgrace of death. You are to record your
12 observances in these journals here. When, in spite of devouring
13 time, this endeavor is past, may it buy that honor which shall abate
14 the scythe's keen edge and make us heirs to all eternity.

15 **LONGAVILLE** Fat paunches have lean pates and dainty bits make
16 rich the ribs, but bankrupt quite the wits. Let heaven bless our
17 quest.

18 **DUMAINE** My loving lord, I am mortified. The grosser manner of
19 these world's delights, I throw upon the gross world's baser slaves.

20 *Enter BEROWNE with hall pass.*

21 **FERDINAND** The world will long remember the name Navarre and
22 our advancements in Language, Sciences, History and the Arts. To
23 work my comrades, let this glass be our time-keeper.

24 *Song*

25 *Each man to his study.*

26 **LONGAVILLE** 'Utbay oftsay, atwhay ightlay oughthray onderay
27 indowway eaksbray? Itay isay ethay eastay anday Ulietjay isay
28 ethay unsay. Ariseay, airfay unsay anday illkay ethay enviousay
29 oonmay, owhay isay alreadyay icksay anday alepay ithway iefgray.'
30 *(But soft, what light through yonder window breaks? It is the east,*
31 *and Juliet is the sun. Arise, fair sun and kill the envious moon who*
32 *is already sick and pale with grief.)*

33 **BEROWNE** My Lord, to study evermore is overshot. While we study
34 to have what we would, we forget to do the things we should. Is
35 there no quick recreation granted?

36 **FERDINAND** Ay, that there is. Our court, you know, is haunted by a
37 refined traveller of Spain. A man that hath a mint of phrases in his
38 brain. One whom the music of his own vain tongue doth ravish like
39 enchanting harmony.

1 **BEROWNE** Armado is a most illustrious person, a man of fire new
2 words, fashion's own knight.
3 **DUMIAN** Costard, the swain, and he shall be our sport. And so to
4 study, three years is but short.
5 **LONGAVILLE** My, Lord....
6 **ALL** Study Break!!

7 *Exeunt*

Act III Scene 3

10 *Enter the PRINCESS, BOYET, ROSALINE,*
11 *MARIA, and KATHARINE*

12 **PRINCESS** Was that the king, that spurred his horse so hard against
13 the steep uprising of the hill?

14 **BOYET** I know not, but I think it was not he. Surely the king and his
15 fellows are hard at study.

16 **PRINCESS** Whoever it was showed a mounting mind. Well, ladies,
17 today we shall have our dispatch. On Saturday we will return to
18 France.

19 **BOYET** Here comes a member of the commonwealth.

20 *Enter COSTARD*

21 **COSTARD** Pray you, which is the head lady?

22 **PRINCESS** You shall know her, fellow, by the rest that have no heads.

23 **COSTARD** Which is the greatest lady, the highest?

24 **PRINCESS** The thickest and the tallest.

25 **COSTARD** The thickest and the tallest! It is so. Truth is truth. Are
26 you not the chief woman? You are the thickest here.

27 **PRINCESS** What's your will, sir? What's your will?

28 **COSTARD** I have a letter from Monsieur Berowne to one Lady
29 Rosaline.

30 **PRINCESS** Boyet, you can carve. Break up this capon.

31 **BOYET** I am bound to serve. (*Opens letter.*) This letter is mistook, it
32 importeth none here. It is writ to one Jaquenetta. It reads, 'By
33 heaven, that you are fair, is most infallible. True, that you are
34 beauteous. Truth itself, that you are lovely...'

35 **ARMADO** 'More fairer than fair, more beautiful than beauteous, truer
36 than truth itself, have commiseration on your heroical vassal! Shall
37 I command your love? I may. Shall I enforce your love? I could.
38 Shall I entreat your love? I will. What shall you exchange for
39

1 rags? Robes. For yourself? Me. Thus, expecting your reply, I
2 profane my lips on your foot. My eyes on your picture and my
3 heart on your every part. Yours, in the dearest design of industry,
4 Don Adriano de Armado.

5 **PRINCESS** You fellow, a word. Who gave thee this letter?

6 **COSTARD** I told you, my lord.

7 **PRINCESS** To whom shouldst you give it?

8 **COSTARD** From my lord to your lady.

9 **PRINCESS** But from which lord to which lady?

10 **COSTARD** From my lord Berowne, a good master of mine, to a lady
11 of France that he called Rosaline.

12 **PRINCESS** You hast mistaken his letter. (*To ROSALINE*) Here,
13 sweet, put up this 'twill be yours another day. Come, friends, away

14 **COSTARD** (*Remoove*)

15 *Exeunt*

16

17

18 **Act IV Scene 1**

19 *Enter JAQUENETTA and COSTARD*

20 **JAQUENETTA** God give you good morrow.

21 **AUDIENCE MEMBER** (*ad lib*)

22 **COSTARD** Marry, master schoolmaster, he that is likest to a hogshead.

23 **AUDIENCE MEMBER** (*ad lib*)

24 **JAQUENETTA** Good master Schoolmaster, be so good as read me
25 this letter. It was given me by Costard here, and sent me from Don
26 Armado. Neither he nor I can read. I beseech you, read it for us.

27 **AUDIENCE MEMBER** To the snow-white hand of the most
28 beauteous Lady Rosaline, ...

29 **BEROWNE** If love makes me forsworn, how shall I swear to love?
30 Though to myself forsworn, to you I'll prove faithful. If knowledge
31 be the mark, to know you shall suffice. Well learned is that tongue
32 that can commend you. Ignorant is that soul that sees you without
33 wonder.

34 **AUDIENCE MEMBER** Your servant in all employment, Berowne.
35 This Berowne is one of the lords with the king.

36 **COSTARD** Ay, but here he hath framed a letter to one of the Princess'
37 ladies. Trip and go, my sweet, deliver this paper into the royal hand
38 of the king. It may concern much.

1 **JAQUENETTA** Good Schoolmaster, Costard, go with me. Sir, God
2 save your life!
3 **COSTARD** Have with you, my girl.
4 *Exeunt*

Act IV Scene 2

Enter BEROWNE, with a paper

9 **BEROWNE** By the Lord, this love is as mad as Ajax. It kills me. I
10 will not love. If I do, hang me. O, but her eye, by this light, but for
11 her eye, I do love. Love hath taught me to rhyme and to be
12 melancholy. Well, she hath one o' my letters already. The clown
13 bore it, the fool sent it, and the lady hath it. Sweet clown, sweeter
14 fool, sweetest lady! By the world, I would not care a pin, if the
15 other three were in as I.

Enter FERDINAND, with a paper

17 **FERDINAND** Ay me!

18 **BEROWNE** (*Aside*) Shot, by heaven! Proceed, sweet Cupid. You
19 have thumped him with your bird-bolt under the left pap. (*Hides*)

20 **FERDINAND** 'So sweet a kiss the golden sun gives not to those fresh
21 morning drops upon the rose, as your eyes when their fresh rays
22 have smote the dew that on my cheeks. Behold the tears that swell
23 in me, and they your glory through my grief will show. O queen of
24 queens! No thought can think, nor tongue of mortal tell the love I
25 bear for you.' How shall she know my griefs? Merry, I'll drop the
26 paper along some path. Sweet leaves, shade folly. Who is he
27 comes here? Steps aside. What, Longaville and reading! (*Hides*)

28 **BEROWNE** Now, in my likeness, one more fool appears!

Enter LONGAVILLE, with a paper

30 **LONGAVILLE** Ay me, I am forsworn!

31 **BEROWNE** Why, he comes in like a perjure, wearing papers.

32 **FERDINAND** In love, I hope. The sweet fellowship of shame!

33 **BEROWNE** One drunkard loves another of the same name.

34 **LONGAVILLE** Am I the first that have been perjured so?

35 **BEROWNE** I could comfort him, but... nah.

36 **LONGAVILLE** I fear these stubborn lines lack power to move. O
37 sweet Maria, empress of my love 'Did not the heavenly rhetoric of
38 your eye, against whom the world cannot hold argument, persuade
39 my heart to this false perjury? You being a goddess, I forswore not

1 you. My vow was earthly, you a heavenly love. If broken then, 'tis
2 no fault of mine. If by me broke, what fool is not so wise to lose an
3 oath to win a paradise?' By whom shall I send this? Company!
4 Stay. (*Hides*)

5 *Enter DUMAIN, with a paper*

6 **DUMAIN** O most divine Kate! By heaven, the wonder in a mortal
7 eye! As fair as day. O that I had my wish!

8 **LONGAVILLE** And I had mine!

9 **FERDINAND** And I mine too!

10 **BEROWNE** Amen, so I had mine.

11 **DUMAIN** I would forget her, but a fever reigns in my blood. Once
12 more I'll read the ode that I have writ. 'On a day, alack the day!
13 Love, whose month is ever May, spied a blossom passing fair
14 playing in the wanton air. But, alack, my hand is sworn ne'er to
15 pluck you from your thorn. Do not call it sin in me, that I am
16 forsworn for you. You for whom Jove would swear from stone
17 turning mortal for your love.' This will I send to her. O, would the
18 king, Berowne, and Longaville, were lovers too!

19 **LONGAVILLE** (*Advancing*) Dumain, You may look pale, but I
20 should blush to be overheard so.

21 **FERDINAND** (*Advancing*) Come, sir, you chide at him while
22 offending twice as much. Do you not love Maria, Longaville? I
23 have been closely shrouded in this bush and marked you both and
24 for you both did blush. I heard your guilty rhymes. 'Ay me!' says
25 one. 'O Jove!' the other cries. (*To LONGAVILLE*) You would
26 for paradise break your faith. (*To DUMAIN*) And Jove, for your
27 love, would infringe an oath. What will Berowne say when both
28 you swore with such zeal. O, how will he scorn! How will he
29 spend his wit! How will he triumph, leap and laugh at you! For all
30 the wealth that ever I did see, I would not have him know so much
31 by me.

32 **BEROWNE** Ah, good my liege, I pray thee, pardon me, but are you
33 not as guilty as they? Did I not even now hear you lament for the
34 Princess? 'Do but behold the tears that swell in me.' O, what a
35 scene of foolery. I am betrayed by all of you. I am honest. I hold
36 it sin to break the vow I am engaged in. I am betrayed, by keeping
37 company with men of inconstancy. When shall you see me write a
38 thing in rhyme? Or groan for love? When shall you hear that I will
39 praise a hand, a foot, a face, an eye, a gait, a state, a brow, a waist,
40 a leg, a limb?

1 *Enter JAQUENETTA, COSTARD and AUDIENCE MEMBER*
2 **JAQUENETTA** God bless the king!
3 **FERDINAND** What present have you there?
4 **COSTARD** Some certain treason.
5 **FERDINAND** What makes treason here?
6 **JAQUENETTA** I beseech your grace, let this letter be read. Our
7 schoolmaster said 'twas treason.
8 **FERDINAND** Please, read it over.
9 **AUDIENCE MEMBER** (*Reads*) If love makes me forsworn, how
10 shall I swear to love? Though to myself forsworn, to thee I'll prove
11 faithful.
12 **BEROWNE** Oh, you rouge. (*BEROWNE takes the letter.*)
13 **FERDINAND** How now! What is in you? Why do you tear it?
14 **BEROWNE** A toy, my liege, a toy. Your grace needs not fear it. (*Eats*
15 *letter.*)
16 **LONGAVILLE** It did move him to passion, and therefore let's hear it.
17 **DUMAIN** (*Taking letter.*) It is Berowne's writing, and here is his name.
18 **BEROWNE** Ah, you whoreson loggerhead! You were born to do me
19 shame. Guilty, my lord, guilty! I confess, I confess.
20 **FERDINAND** Confess what?
21 **BEROWNE** That you three fools lacked me, a fool to make up the
22 mess. He, he, and you, my liege, and I, are pick-purses in love and
23 we deserve to die. O, dismiss this audience, and I shall tell you
24 more.
25 **FERDINAND** Hence, away!
26 **COSTARD** Walk aside the true folk, and let the traitors stay.
27 *Exeunt COSTARD, JAQUENETTA and AUDIENCE MEMBER*
28 **DUMAIN** Now the number is even.
29 **BEROWNE** True, true. We are four. Sweet lords, sweet lovers, O, let
30 us embrace! As true we are as flesh and blood can be. We cannot
31 cross the cause why we were born. Therefore, we must be
32 forsworn.
33 **FERDINAND** What, did these rent lines show some love of yours?
34 **BEROWNE** Who sees the heavenly Rosaline, dares look upon the
35 heaven of her brow. They are blinded by her majesty.
36 **FERDINAND** What zeal, what fury has inspired you? My love, her
37 mistress, is as gracious as the moon. Yours is an attending star,
38 scarcely seen in the light.

1 **BEROWNE** My eyes are then no eyes, nor I not Berowne. O, but for
2 my love, day would turn to night! Your mistresses dare never
3 come out in the rain, for fear their colors should be washed away.
4 **FERDINAND** 'Twere good yours did. For, sir, to tell you plain, I'll
5 find a fairer face not washed today.
6 **BEROWNE** I'll prove her fair, or talk till doomsday.
7 **FERDINAND** No devil will frighten thee then so much as she.
8 **DUMAIN** I never knew man hold vile stuff so dear.
9 **LONGAVILLE** Look, here's thy love. My foot and her face see.
10 **DUMAIN** O, vile! Then, as she goes, what upward lies the street
11 should see as she walked overhead.
12 **FERDINAND** But what of this? Are we all in love?
13 **BEROWNE** Nothing so sure and thereby we are all forsworn.
14 **FERDINAND** Then leave this chat Good Berowne, now prove our
15 loving lawful, and our faith not torn.
16 **DUMAIN** Ay, marry, there some flattery for this evil.
17 **LONGAVILLE** O, some authority how to proceed. Some tricks how
18 to cheat the devil.
19 **DUMAIN** Some salve for perjury.
20 **BEROWNE** No, 'tis more than needed. Consider what you first did
21 swear to. To fast, to study, and to see no woman. Why that's flat
22 treason against the kingly state of youth. Say, can you fast? Your
23 stomachs are too young and abstinence engenders maladies. And
24 when would you, my lord, or you, or you, have found study's
25 excellence without the beauty of a woman's face? From women's
26 eyes this doctrine I derive. Their eyes are the ground, the books,
27 the academes from whence doth spring the true Promethean fire.
28 **LONGAVILLE** Shall we resolve to woo these girls of France?
29 **FERDINAND** And win them too. Therefore let us devise some
30 entertainment for them in their tents.
31 **BEROWNE** First, from the park let us conduct them thither. Then
32 homeward, every man attach the hand of his fair mistress. In the
33 afternoon, we will with some pastime solace them. For revels,
34 dances, masks and merry hours forerun fair love.
35 **FERDINAND** (*Rips Oath paper.*) Away, away! No time shall be
36 omitted that will betime, and may by us be fitted.
37 **ALL** (*Remoove*)

38 *Exeunt*

39

40

Act V Scene 1

Enter the PRINCESS, KATHARINE, ROSALINE, and MARIA

PRINCESS Sweet hearts, we shall be rich ere we depart. Look you I
what have from the loving king.

ROSALINE Madame, nothing else came along with that?

PRINCESS Nothing but this! As much love in rhyme as would be
crammed up in a sheet of paper. Writ o'er both sides the leaf,
margin and all. But Rosaline, you have a favor too. Who sent it
and what is it?

ROSALINE I have verses too and I thank Berowne. I am compared to
twenty thousand fairs. O, he has drawn my picture in his letter!

PRINCESS Anything like? Katharine, what was sent to you from fair
Dumain?

KATHARINE Madam, this glove.

PRINCESS Did he not send you the twain?

KATHARINE Yes, madam, and moreover some thousand verses of a
faithful lover, a huge translation of hypocrisy, vilely compiled in
profound simplicity.

MARIA This and these pearls sent to me by Longaville. The letter is
too long by half a mile.

PRINCESS I think no less. Do you not wish the chain were longer and
the letter shorter? We are wise girls to mock our lovers so.

ROSALINE They are worse fools to purchase the mocking so. That
same Berowne I'll torture ere I go. O that I knew he were but in by
the week! How I would make him fawn and beg. He should be my
fool and I his fate.

MARIA Folly in fools bears not so strong a note as foolery in the wise.

PRINCESS Here comes Boyet and mirth is in his face.

Enter BOYET

BOYET Prepare, madam, prepare! Arm, wenches, arm! Encounters
are mounted against your peace. Love doth approach, armed in
disguised arguments. You'll be surprised. I stole into a neighbor
thicket hard by and overheard what you shall overhear. The king
and his companions, by and by, will be here.

PRINCESS What, they come to visit us?

BOYET They do, they do and are disguised like masked delights or
revelers, as I guess. Their purpose is to parley, to court and dance.
And every one his love-feat will advance unto his mistress, which
they'll know by the favors that they did bestow upon you.

1 **PRINCESS** And will they so? The gallants shall be tasked. For, ladies,
2 we too shall be masked. Not a man of them shall have the grace to
3 see a lady's face. Hold, take you this, my sweet, and give me yours
4 and so shall Berowne take me for Rosaline. And change your
5 favors too so shall your loves woo contrary, deceived by these
6 removes.

7 **ROSALINE** Come on then, wear the favors most in sight.

8 **KATHARINE** But in this changing what is your intent?

9 **PRINCESS** The effect of my intent is to cross theirs. They do it but in
10 mocking merriment and mock for mock is only my intent.

11 *Exeunt Ladies*
12
13

14 **Act V Scene 2**

15 *Enter FERDINAND, BEROWNE, LONGAVILLE, DUMAIN masked*

16 *Enter Rosaline masked*

17 **FERINAND** All hail, the richest beauties on the earth!

18 **ROSALINE** Who are these strangers? Know their minds, Boyet. If
19 they do speak our language, 'tis our will that some plain man
20 recount their purposes. Know you what they would.

21 **BOYET** What would you with the princess?

22 **BEROWNE** Nothing but peace and gentle visitation.

23 **ROSALINE** What would they, they say?

24 **BOYET** Nothing but peace and gentle visitation, my lady.

25 **ROSALINE** Why, that they have, so bid them be gone.

26 **BOYET** She says, you have it, and you may be gone.

27 **FERDINAND** Say to her, we have measured many weary miles to
28 tread a measure with her upon this grass.

29 *Enter PRINCESS, MARIA, and KATHERINE, masked*

30 **BOYET** She hears for herself.

31 **ROSALINE** How many weary steps are numbered in the travel of one
32 mile?

33 **BEROWNE** We number nothing that we spend for you. Our duty is so
34 rich, so infinite, that we may do it still without accompaniment.
35 Vouchsafe to show the sunshine of your face that we, like savages,
36 may worship it.

37 **ROSALINE** My face is but a moon, and clouded too.

38 **FERDINAND** Blessed are clouds, to do as clouds do!

39 **ROSALINE** O vain petitioner, beg a greater matter.

1 **FERDINAND** Why take we hands, then?
 2 **ROSALINE** Only to part as friends. Curtsy, sweet hearts and so the
 3 measure ends.
 4 **FERDINAND** More measure of this measure be not nice.
 5 **ROSALINE** We can afford no more at such a price.
 6 **FERDINAND** What price buys your company?
 7 **ROSALINE** Only your absence.
 8 **FERDINAND** That can never be.
 9 **ROSALINE** Then we cannot be bought and so, adieu.
 10 **FERDINAND** Let's hold more chat.
 11 **ROSALINE** In private, then.
 12 **FERDINAND** I am best pleased with that.
 13 *They converse apart*
 14 **BEROWNE** White-handed mistress, one sweet word with you.
 15 **PRINCESS** Honey, and milk, and sugar, there are three.
 16 **BEROWNE** Nay, hold, sweetness, one word in secret.
 17 **PRINCESS** Let it not be so sweet.
 18 **BEROWNE** You grieve my gall.
 19 **PRINCESS** Gall! bitter.
 20 **BEROWNE** Therefore meet.
 21 *They converse apart*
 22 **DUMAIN** Will you vouchsafe with me to change a word?
 23 **MARIA** Name it.
 24 **DUMAIN** Fair lady,--
 25 **MARIA** Say you so? Fair lord, take that for your fair lady.
 26 **DUMAIN** Please it you, as much in private, and I'll bid adieu.
 27 *They converse apart*
 28 **KATHARINE** What, was your mask made without a tongue?
 29 **LONGAVILLE** I know the reason, lady, why you ask.
 30 **KATHARINE** O for your reason! Quickly, sir, I long to know.
 31 **LONGAVILLE** You have a double tongue within your mask. Let's
 32 part the word.
 33 *They converse apart*
 34 **BOYET** (*Aside*) The tongues of mocking wenches are as keen as is the
 35 razor's invisible edge. Cutting a smaller hair than may be seen.
 36 **ROSALINE** Not one word more, my maids, break off, break off.
 37 **FERDINAND** Retreat, retreat, we've been bested in this play.
 38 *Exeunt FERDINAND, BEROWNE, LONGAVILLE, DUMAIN*
 39 **PRINCESS** Are these the breed of wits so wondered at?
 40 **ROSALINE** The king is my love sworn.

1 **PRINCESS** And quick Berowne hath pledged faith to me.
2 **KATHARINE** Longaville was for my service born.
3 **MARIA** Dumain is mine, as sure as the bark on the tree.
4 **BOYET** Madam, give ear. Immediately they will again be here in their
5 own shapes for they will never digest this harsh indignity.
6 **PRINCESS** They will return?
7 **BOYET** They will, they will, God knows.
8 **PRINCESS** Avaunt, perplexity! What shall we do if they return in
9 their own shapes to woo?
10 **ROSALINE** Good madam, if by me you'll be advised, let's mock them
11 still, as well known as disguised. Let us complain to them what
12 fools were here.
13 **BOYET** Ladies, withdraw. The gallants are at hand.
14 *Exeunt PRINCESS, ROSALINE, KATHARINE, and MARIA*
15
16

Act V Scene 3

17
18 *Enter FERDINAND, BEROWNE, LONGAVILLE,*
19 *and DUMAIN, in their proper habits.*

20 **FERDINAND** Fair sir, God save you! Where's the princess?

21 **BOYET** Gone to her tent. Please it your majesty command me any
22 service to her thither?

23 **FERDINAND** That she vouchsafe me audience for one word.

24 **BOYET** I will and so will she, my lord.

25 *Exit BOYET*

26 *Re-enter the PRINCESS, BOYET, ROSALINE,*
27 *MARIA, and KATHARINE*

28 **FERDINAND** All hail, sweet madam, and fair time of day!

29 **PRINCESS** 'Fair' in 'all hail' is foul, as I conceive.

30 **FERDINAND** Construe my speeches better, if you may.

31 **PRINCESS** Then wish me better. I will give you leave.

32 **FERDINAND** Sweet Princess, we came to visit you and lead you to
33 our court. Vouchsafe it then.

34 **PRINCESS** Now by my maiden's honor, I protest. Though a world of
35 torments I should endure, I would not yield to be your house's guest.
36 So much I hate to be the cause of breaking heavenly oaths, vowed
37 with integrity.

38 **FERDINAND** O, you have lived here in desolation. Unseen, unvisited,
39 much to our shame.

1 **PRINCESS** Not so, my lord. It is not so, I swear. We have had
2 pastimes here and pleasant game.
3 **FERDINAND** How, madam!
4 **PRINCESS** Ay, in truth, my lord. Trim gallants, full of courtship and
5 of state.
6 **ROSALINE** Madam, speak true. Here they stayed an hour and talked
7 apace. Within that hour, my lord, they did not bless us with one
8 happy word. I dare not call them fools, but I think this, when they
9 are thirsty, fools would fain have drink.
10 **BEROWNE** I am a fool.
11 **ROSALINE** Which of the masks was it that you wore?
12 **BEROWNE** Where? When? What mask? Why demand you this?
13 **ROSALINE** There, then, that mask that that hid the worse and showed
14 the better face.
15 **FERDINAND** We are descried. They'll mock us now downright.
16 **DUMAIN** Let us confess and turn it into a jest.
17 **PRINCESS** Amazed, my lord? Why looks your highness sad?
18 **ROSALINE** Why look you so pale?
19 **BEROWNE** I see the trick on it. Knowing aforehand of our merriment,
20 some carry-tale, some please-man, some slight zany, that smiles his
21 cheek in years told our intents before, which once disclosed, the
22 ladies did change favors and then we, following the signs, wooed
23 the wrong lady.
24 **FERDINAND** Berowne, they will shame us. Let us not approach.
25 **BEROWNE** We are shame-proof, my lord. 'Tis some policy to have
26 one show worse than the king and his company.
27 *Enter AUDIENCE MEMBER*
28 **AUDIENCE MEMBER** God save you, madam! (*Hands note to*
29 *Boyet*)
30 **PRINCESS** Welcome, Mercade, but that thou interrupts our merriment.
31 **BOYET** I am sorry, madam. The news is heavy in my tongue. The
32 king your father is...
33 **PRINCESS** Dead, for my life!
34 **BOYET** Even so, the tale is told.
35 *Exit AUDIENCE MEMBER, and BOYET*
36 **BEROWNE** The scene begins to cloud.
37 **FERDINAND** How fares your majesty?
38 **PRINCESS** Boyet, prepare. I will away tonight.
39 **FERDINAND** Madam, not so, I do beseech you, stay.

1 **PRINCESS** Prepare, I say. I thank you, gracious lords, for all your fair
2 endeavors. Farewell worthy lord! A heavy heart bears not a
3 nimble tongue. So excuse me, coming too short of thanks.

4 **FERDINAND** The extreme parts of time extremely forms all causes to
5 the purpose of his speed, since love's argument was on foot, let not
6 the cloud of sorrow jostle it from what it first purposed.

7 **PRINCESS** I understand you not.

8 **BEROWNE** Honest plain words best pierce the ear of grief. For your
9 fair sakes have we neglected time, played foul with our oaths.
10 Your beauty, ladies, hath much deformed us, fashioning our
11 humors even to the opposed end of our intents. Therefore, ladies,
12 our love being yours, the error that love makes is likewise yours.

13 **PRINCESS** We have received your letters full of love. Your favors
14 are the ambassadors of love. And, in our maiden council, rated
15 them at courtship, pleasant jest and courtesy.

16 **DUMAIN** Our letters, madam, showed much more than jest.

17 **LONGAVILLE** So did our looks.

18 **ROSALINE** We did not quote them so.

19 **FERDINAND** Now, at the latest minute of the hour, Grant us your
20 love.

21 **PRINCESS** The time, methinks, is too short to make a world-without-
22 end bargain in. No, no, my lord, your grace has perjured much.
23 Your oath I will not trust but go with speed to some forlorn and
24 naked hermitage. There you'll stay until the twelve celestial signs
25 have brought about the annual reckoning. If this austere, insociable
26 life changes not your offer made in heat of blood, then, at the
27 expiration of that year, come challenge me and I will be yours.
28 Until that instant I'll shut my woeful self up in a mourning house
29 raining the tears of lamentation for the remembrance of my father's
30 death. If this you do deny, let our hands part, neither entitled in the
31 other's heart.

32 **FERDINAND** Hence ever then my heart is in your breast.

33 **LONGAVILLE** But what to me, my love? What to me? A wife?

34 **MARIA** A beard, fair health, and honesty. With three-fold love I wish
35 you all these three.

36 **LONGAVILLE** O, shall I say, I thank you, gentle wife?

37 **MARIA** For twelve months and a day I'll mark no words that smooth-
38 faced wooers say. Come when the king doth to my lady come.
39 Then, if I have much love, I'll give you some.

40 **LONGAVILLE** I'll serve thee true and faithfully till then.

1 **MARIA** Yet swear not, lest ye be forsworn yet again.

2 **DUMAIN** What says Katherine?

3 **KATHERINE** At the twelvemonth's end I'll change my black gown for
4 a faithful friend.

5 **DUMAIN** I'll stay with patience but the time is long.

6 **BEROWNE** Mistress, look on me. Behold the window of my heart,
7 mine eye. What humble suit attends thy answer there? Impose
8 some service on me for thy love.

9 **ROSALINE** Oft have I heard of you, my Lord Berowne, before I saw
10 you. The world's large tongue proclaims you for a man replete with
11 mocks, which you on all estates will execute that lie within the
12 bounds of your wit. To win me, if you please, you shall this
13 twelvemonth term from day to day visit the speechless sick and
14 converse with groaning wretches. Your task shall be, with all the
15 fierce endeavor of your wit, to enforce the pained impotent to smile.

16 **BEROWNE** To move wild laughter in the throat of death? It cannot be.
17 It is impossible. Mirth cannot move a soul in agony.

18 **ROSALINE** A jest's prosperity lies in the ear of him that hears it,
19 never in the tongue of him that makes it. If sickly ears, deafened
20 with the clamors of their own groans will hear your idle scorns,
21 continue then and I will have you and that fault withal. But if they
22 will not, throw away that spirit, and I shall find you empty of that
23 fault.

24 **BEROWNE** A twelvemonth! Well, befall what will befall. I'll jest
25 twelve months in a hospital.

26 **PRINCESS** (*To FERDINAND*) So, sweet my lord and I will take my
27 leave.

28 *Exit PRINCESS, ROSALINE, MARIA, KATHERINE and BOYET*

29 **FERDINAND** Adieu, you that way, we this way.

30 **BEROWNE** Our wooing doth not end like an old play. Jack hath not
31 his Jill.

32 **FERDINAND** Come, sir, it wants a twelvemonth and a day and then
33 'twill end.

34 **BEROWNE** That's far too long for a play.
35 *Exeunt*