
MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING

By WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

Edited by BARBARA A. MOWAT
and PAUL WERSTINE

Folger Shakespeare Library

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From the Director of the Folger Shakespeare Library

It is hard to imagine a world without Shakespeare. Since their composition four hundred years ago, Shakespeare's plays and poems have traveled the globe, inviting those who see and read his works to make them their own.

Readers of the New Folger Editions are part of this ongoing process of "taking up Shakespeare," finding our own thoughts and feelings in language that strikes us as old or unusual and, for that very reason, new. We still struggle to keep up with a writer who could think a mile a minute, whose words paint pictures that shift like clouds. These expertly edited texts are presented to the public as a resource for study, artistic adaptation, and enjoyment. By making the classic texts of the New Folger Editions available in electronic form as Folger Digital Texts, we place a trusted resource in the hands of anyone who wants them.

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I want to express my deep thanks to editors Barbara Mowat and Paul Werstine for creating these indispensable editions of Shakespeare's works, which incorporate the best of textual scholarship with a richness of commentary that is both inspired and engaging. Readers who want to know more about Shakespeare and his plays can follow the paths these distinguished scholars have tread by visiting the Folger either in-person or online, where a range of physical and digital resources exist to supplement the material in these texts. I commend to you these words, and hope that they inspire.

Michael Witmore
Director, Folger Shakespeare Library

Textual Introduction

By Barbara Mowat and Paul Werstine

Until now, with the release of the Folger Digital Texts, readers in search of a free online text of Shakespeare's plays had to be content primarily with using the Moby™ Text, which reproduces a late-nineteenth century version of the plays. What is the difference? Many ordinary readers assume that there is a single text for the plays: what Shakespeare wrote. But Shakespeare's plays were not published the way modern novels or plays are published today: as a single, authoritative text. In some cases, the plays have come down to us in multiple published versions, represented by various Quartos (Qq) and by the great collection put together by his colleagues in 1623, called the First Folio (F). There are, for example, three very different versions of *Hamlet*, two of *King Lear*, *Henry V*, *Romeo and Juliet*, and others. Editors choose which version to use as their base text, and then amend that text with words, lines or speech prefixes from the other versions that, in their judgment, make for a better or more accurate text.

Other editorial decisions involve choices about whether an unfamiliar word could be understood in light of other writings of the period or whether it should be changed; decisions about words that made it into Shakespeare's text by accident through four hundred years of printings and misprinting; and even decisions based on cultural preference and taste. When the Moby™ Text was created, for example, it was deemed "improper" and "indecent" for Miranda to chastise Caliban for having attempted to rape her. (See *The Tempest*, 1.2: "Abhorred slave,/Which any print of goodness wilt not take,/Being capable of all ill! I pitied thee..."). All Shakespeare editors at the time took the speech away from her and gave it to her father, Prospero.

The editors of the Moby™ Shakespeare produced their text long before scholars fully understood the proper grounds on which to make the thousands of decisions that Shakespeare editors face. The Folger Library Shakespeare Editions, on which the Folger Digital Texts depend, make this editorial process as nearly transparent as is possible, in contrast to older texts, like the Moby™, which hide editorial interventions. The reader of the Folger Shakespeare knows where the text has been altered because editorial interventions are signaled by square brackets (for example, from *Othello*: "[If she in chains of magic were not bound,]"), half-square brackets (for example, from *Henry V*: "With [blood] and sword and fire to win your

right,”), or angle brackets (for example, from *Hamlet*: “O farewell, honest <soldier.> Who hath relieved/you?”). At any point in the text, you can hover your cursor over a bracket for more information.

Because the Folger Digital Texts are edited in accord with twenty-first century knowledge about Shakespeare’s texts, the Folger here provides them to readers, scholars, teachers, actors, directors, and students, free of charge, confident of their quality as texts of the plays and pleased to be able to make this contribution to the study and enjoyment of Shakespeare.

Synopsis

The primary plot of *Much Ado About Nothing* turns on the courtship and scandal involving young Hero and her suitor, Claudio, but the witty war of words between Claudio's friend Benedick and Hero's cousin Beatrice often takes center stage.

Set in Messina, the play begins as Don Pedro's army returns after a victory. Benedick, a gentleman soldier, resumes a verbal duel with Beatrice, the niece of Messina's governor, Leonato. Count Claudio is smitten by Leonato's daughter, Hero. After Don Pedro woos her in disguise for Claudio, the two young lovers plan to marry in a week. To fill in the time until the wedding, Don Pedro and the others set about tricking Benedick and Beatrice into falling in love with each other. Meanwhile, Don Pedro's disgruntled brother, Don John, plots to ruin Hero and halt her wedding. Claudio believes Don John's deception, is convinced Hero has a lover, and, at the wedding, brutally rejects her.

With Hero in hiding and falsely reported dead, Beatrice persuades Benedick to fight Claudio. Tragedy is averted when the bumbling city watch, having discovered Don John's treachery, arrives and clears Hero's name. With Claudio forgiven, both couples are ready to get married.

Characters in the Play

LEONATO, Governor of Messina

HERO, his daughter

BEATRICE, his niece

LEONATO'S BROTHER

MARGARET } *waiting gentlewomen to Hero*
URSULA }

DON PEDRO, Prince of Aragon

COUNT CLAUDIO, a young lord from Florence

SIGNIOR BENEDICK, a gentleman from Padua

BALTHASAR

SIGNIOR ANTONIO

DON JOHN, Don Pedro's brother

BORACHIO } *Don John's followers*
CONRADE }

DOGBERRY, Master Constable in Messina

VERGES, Dogberry's partner

GEORGE SEACOAL, leader of the Watch

FIRST WATCHMAN

SECOND WATCHMAN

SEXTON

FRIAR FRANCIS

MESSENGER to Leonato

MESSENGER to Don Pedro

BOY

Musicians, Lords, Attendants, Son to Leonato's brother

「ACT I」

「Scene 1」

*Enter Leonato, Governor of Messina, Hero his daughter,
and Beatrice his niece, with a Messenger.*

FTLN 0001	LEONATO, 「with a letter」	I learn in this letter that Don	
FTLN 0002		Pedro of Aragon comes this night to Messina.	
FTLN 0003	MESSENGER	He is very near by this. He was not three	
FTLN 0004		leagues off when I left him.	
FTLN 0005	LEONATO	How many gentlemen have you lost in this	5
FTLN 0006		action?	
FTLN 0007	MESSENGER	But few of any sort, and none of name.	
FTLN 0008	LEONATO	A victory is twice itself when the achiever	
FTLN 0009		brings home full numbers. I find here that Don	
FTLN 0010		Pedro hath bestowed much honor on a young	10
FTLN 0011		Florentine called Claudio.	
FTLN 0012	MESSENGER	Much deserved on his part, and equally	
FTLN 0013		remembered by Don Pedro. He hath borne himself	
FTLN 0014		beyond the promise of his age, doing in the figure	
FTLN 0015		of a lamb the feats of a lion. He hath indeed better	15
FTLN 0016		bettered expectation than you must expect of me to	
FTLN 0017		tell you how.	
FTLN 0018	LEONATO	He hath an uncle here in Messina will be	
FTLN 0019		very much glad of it.	
FTLN 0020	MESSENGER	I have already delivered him letters, and	20
FTLN 0021		there appears much joy in him, even so much that	
FTLN 0022		joy could not show itself modest enough without a	
FTLN 0023		badge of bitterness.	

FTLN 0024	LEONATO	Did he break out into tears?	
FTLN 0025	MESSENGER	In great measure.	25
FTLN 0026	LEONATO	A kind overflow of kindness. There are no	
FTLN 0027		faces truer than those that are so washed. How	
FTLN 0028		much better is it to weep at joy than to joy at	
FTLN 0029		weeping!	
FTLN 0030	BEATRICE	I pray you, is Signior Mountanto returned	30
FTLN 0031		from the wars or no?	
FTLN 0032	MESSENGER	I know none of that name, lady. There	
FTLN 0033		was none such in the army of any sort.	
FTLN 0034	LEONATO	What is he that you ask for, niece?	
FTLN 0035	HERO	My cousin means Signior Benedick of Padua.	35
FTLN 0036	MESSENGER	O, he's returned, and as pleasant as ever	
FTLN 0037		he was.	
FTLN 0038	BEATRICE	He set up his bills here in Messina and	
FTLN 0039		challenged Cupid at the flight, and my uncle's Fool,	
FTLN 0040		reading the challenge, subscribed for Cupid and	40
FTLN 0041		challenged him at the bird-bolt. I pray you, how	
FTLN 0042		many hath he killed and eaten in these wars? But	
FTLN 0043		how many hath he killed? For indeed I promised to	
FTLN 0044		eat all of his killing.	
FTLN 0045	LEONATO	Faith, niece, you tax Signior Benedick too	45
FTLN 0046		much, but he'll be meet with you, I doubt it not.	
FTLN 0047	MESSENGER	He hath done good service, lady, in these	
FTLN 0048		wars.	
FTLN 0049	BEATRICE	You had musty victual, and he hath holp to	
FTLN 0050		eat it. He is a very valiant trencherman; he hath an	50
FTLN 0051		excellent stomach.	
FTLN 0052	MESSENGER	And a good soldier too, lady.	
FTLN 0053	BEATRICE	And a good soldier to a lady, but what is he	
FTLN 0054		to a lord?	
FTLN 0055	MESSENGER	A lord to a lord, a man to a man, stuffed	55
FTLN 0056		with all honorable virtues.	
FTLN 0057	BEATRICE	It is so indeed. He is no less than a stuffed	
FTLN 0058		man, but for the stuffing—well, we are all mortal.	

FTLN 0059 LEONATO You must not, sir, mistake my niece. There is
 FTLN 0060 a kind of merry war betwixt Signior Benedick and 60
 FTLN 0061 her. They never meet but there's a skirmish of wit
 FTLN 0062 between them.

FTLN 0063 BEATRICE Alas, he gets nothing by that. In our last
 FTLN 0064 conflict, four of his five wits went halting off, and
 FTLN 0065 now is the whole man governed with one, so that if 65
 FTLN 0066 he have wit enough to keep himself warm, let him
 FTLN 0067 bear it for a difference between himself and his
 FTLN 0068 horse, for it is all the wealth that he hath left to
 FTLN 0069 be known a reasonable creature. Who is his companion
 FTLN 0070 now? He hath every month a new sworn 70
 FTLN 0071 brother.

FTLN 0072 MESSENGER Is 't possible?

FTLN 0073 BEATRICE Very easily possible. He wears his faith but
 FTLN 0074 as the fashion of his hat; it ever changes with the
 FTLN 0075 next block. 75

FTLN 0076 MESSENGER I see, lady, the gentleman is not in your
 FTLN 0077 books.

FTLN 0078 BEATRICE No. An he were, I would burn my study. But
 FTLN 0079 I pray you, who is his companion? Is there no
 FTLN 0080 young squarer now that will make a voyage with 80
 FTLN 0081 him to the devil?

FTLN 0082 MESSENGER He is most in the company of the right
 FTLN 0083 noble Claudio.

FTLN 0084 BEATRICE O Lord, he will hang upon him like a
 FTLN 0085 disease! He is sooner caught than the pestilence, 85
 FTLN 0086 and the taker runs presently mad. God help the
 FTLN 0087 noble Claudio! If he have caught the Benedick, it
 FTLN 0088 will cost him a thousand pound ere he be cured.

FTLN 0089 MESSENGER I will hold friends with you, lady.

FTLN 0090 BEATRICE Do, good friend. 90

FTLN 0091 LEONATO You will never run mad, niece.

FTLN 0092 BEATRICE No, not till a hot January.

FTLN 0093 MESSENGER Don Pedro is approached.

*Enter Don Pedro, 「Prince of Aragon, with」 Claudio,
Benedick, Balthasar, and John the Bastard.*

FTLN 0094	PRINCE	Good Signior Leonato, are you come to meet	
FTLN 0095		your trouble? The fashion of the world is to avoid	95
FTLN 0096		cost, and you encounter it.	
FTLN 0097	LEONATO	Never came trouble to my house in the	
FTLN 0098		likeness of your Grace, for trouble being gone,	
FTLN 0099		comfort should remain, but when you depart from	
FTLN 0100		me, sorrow abides and happiness takes his leave.	100
FTLN 0101	PRINCE	You embrace your charge too willingly. 「Turning	
FTLN 0102		to Hero.」 I think this is your daughter.	
FTLN 0103	LEONATO	Her mother hath many times told me so.	
FTLN 0104	BENEDICK	Were you in doubt, sir, that you asked her?	
FTLN 0105	LEONATO	Signior Benedick, no, for then were you a	105
FTLN 0106		child.	
FTLN 0107	PRINCE	You have it full, Benedick. We may guess by	
FTLN 0108		this what you are, being a man. Truly the lady	
FTLN 0109		fathers herself.—Be happy, lady, for you are like	
FTLN 0110		an honorable father.	110
		<i>「Leonato and the Prince move aside.」</i>	
FTLN 0111	BENEDICK	If Signior Leonato be her father, she would	
FTLN 0112		not have his head on her shoulders for all Messina,	
FTLN 0113		as like him as she is.	
FTLN 0114	BEATRICE	I wonder that you will still be talking, Signior	
FTLN 0115		Benedick, nobody marks you.	115
FTLN 0116	BENEDICK	What, my dear Lady Disdain! Are you yet	
FTLN 0117		living?	
FTLN 0118	BEATRICE	Is it possible disdain should die while she	
FTLN 0119		hath such meet food to feed it as Signior Benedick?	
FTLN 0120		Courtesy itself must convert to disdain if you come	120
FTLN 0121		in her presence.	
FTLN 0122	BENEDICK	Then is courtesy a turncoat. But it is certain	
FTLN 0123		I am loved of all ladies, only you excepted; and	
FTLN 0124		I would I could find in my heart that I had not a	
FTLN 0125		hard heart, for truly I love none.	125

FTLN 0126 BEATRICE A dear happiness to women. They would
 FTLN 0127 else have been troubled with a pernicious suitor. I
 FTLN 0128 thank God and my cold blood I am of your humor
 FTLN 0129 for that. I had rather hear my dog bark at a crow
 FTLN 0130 than a man swear he loves me. 130

FTLN 0131 BENEDICK God keep your Ladyship still in that mind,
 FTLN 0132 so some gentleman or other shall 'scape a predestinate
 FTLN 0133 scratched face.

FTLN 0134 BEATRICE Scratching could not make it worse an
 FTLN 0135 'twere such a face as yours were. 135

FTLN 0136 BENEDICK Well, you are a rare parrot-teacher.

FTLN 0137 BEATRICE A bird of my tongue is better than a beast of
 FTLN 0138 yours.

FTLN 0139 BENEDICK I would my horse had the speed of your
 FTLN 0140 tongue and so good a continuer, but keep your 140
 FTLN 0141 way, i' God's name, I have done.

FTLN 0142 BEATRICE You always end with a jade's trick. I know
 FTLN 0143 you of old.

「Leonato and the Prince come forward.」

FTLN 0144 PRINCE That is the sum of all, Leonato.—Signior
 FTLN 0145 Claudio and Signior Benedick, my dear friend 145
 FTLN 0146 Leonato hath invited you all. I tell him we shall stay
 FTLN 0147 here at the least a month, and he heartily prays
 FTLN 0148 some occasion may detain us longer. I dare swear
 FTLN 0149 he is no hypocrite, but prays from his heart.

FTLN 0150 LEONATO If you swear, my lord, you shall not be 150
 FTLN 0151 forsworn. *「To Don John.」* Let me bid you welcome,
 FTLN 0152 my lord, being reconciled to the Prince your brother,
 FTLN 0153 I owe you all duty.

FTLN 0154 DON JOHN I thank you. I am not of many words, but I
 FTLN 0155 thank you. 155

FTLN 0156 LEONATO Please it your Grace lead on?

FTLN 0157 PRINCE Your hand, Leonato. We will go together.
「All」 exit except Benedick and Claudio.

FTLN 0158 CLAUDIO Benedick, didst thou note the daughter of
 FTLN 0159 Signior Leonato?

FTLN 0160	BENEDICK	I noted her not, but I looked on her.	160
FTLN 0161	CLAUDIO	Is she not a modest young lady?	
FTLN 0162	BENEDICK	Do you question me as an honest man	
FTLN 0163		should do, for my simple true judgment? Or would	
FTLN 0164		you have me speak after my custom, as being a	
FTLN 0165		professed tyrant to their sex?	165
FTLN 0166	CLAUDIO	No, I pray thee, speak in sober judgment.	
FTLN 0167	BENEDICK	Why, i' faith, methinks she's too low for a	
FTLN 0168		high praise, too brown for a fair praise, and too	
FTLN 0169		little for a great praise. Only this commendation I	
FTLN 0170		can afford her, that were she other than she is, she	170
FTLN 0171		were unhandsome, and being no other but as she is,	
FTLN 0172		I do not like her.	
FTLN 0173	CLAUDIO	Thou thinkest I am in sport. I pray thee tell	
FTLN 0174		me truly how thou lik'st her.	
FTLN 0175	BENEDICK	Would you buy her that you enquire after	175
FTLN 0176		her?	
FTLN 0177	CLAUDIO	Can the world buy such a jewel?	
FTLN 0178	BENEDICK	Yea, and a case to put it into. But speak you	
FTLN 0179		this with a sad brow? Or do you play the flouting	
FTLN 0180		jack, to tell us Cupid is a good hare-finder and	180
FTLN 0181		Vulcan a rare carpenter? Come, in what key shall a	
FTLN 0182		man take you to go in the song?	
FTLN 0183	CLAUDIO	In mine eye she is the sweetest lady that ever	
FTLN 0184		I looked on.	
FTLN 0185	BENEDICK	I can see yet without spectacles, and I see	185
FTLN 0186		no such matter. There's her cousin, an she were not	
FTLN 0187		possessed with a fury, exceeds her as much in	
FTLN 0188		beauty as the first of May doth the last of December.	
FTLN 0189		But I hope you have no intent to turn husband, have	
FTLN 0190		you?	190
FTLN 0191	CLAUDIO	I would scarce trust myself, though I had	
FTLN 0192		sworn the contrary, if Hero would be my wife.	
FTLN 0193	BENEDICK	Is 't come to this? In faith, hath not the	
FTLN 0194		world one man but he will wear his cap with	
FTLN 0195		suspicion? Shall I never see a bachelor of threescore	195

FTLN 0196 again? Go to, i' faith, an thou wilt needs thrust
 FTLN 0197 thy neck into a yoke, wear the print of it, and sigh
 FTLN 0198 away Sundays. Look, Don Pedro is returned to seek
 FTLN 0199 you.

Enter Don Pedro, 「Prince of Aragon.」

FTLN 0200	PRINCE	What secret hath held you here that you followed	200
FTLN 0201		not to Leonato's?	
FTLN 0202	BENEDICK	I would your Grace would constrain me to	
FTLN 0203		tell.	
FTLN 0204	PRINCE	I charge thee on thy allegiance.	
FTLN 0205	BENEDICK	You hear, Count Claudio, I can be secret as	205
FTLN 0206		a dumb man, I would have you think so, but on my	
FTLN 0207		allegiance—mark you this, on my allegiance—he	
FTLN 0208		is in love. With who? Now, that is your Grace's part.	
FTLN 0209		Mark how short his answer is: with Hero, Leonato's	
FTLN 0210		short daughter.	210
FTLN 0211	CLAUDIO	If this were so, so were it uttered.	
FTLN 0212	BENEDICK	Like the old tale, my lord: "It is not so, nor	
FTLN 0213		'twas not so, but, indeed, God forbid it should be	
FTLN 0214		so."	
FTLN 0215	CLAUDIO	If my passion change not shortly, God forbid	215
FTLN 0216		it should be otherwise.	
FTLN 0217	PRINCE	Amen, if you love her, for the lady is very well	
FTLN 0218		worthy.	
FTLN 0219	CLAUDIO	You speak this to fetch me in, my lord.	
FTLN 0220	PRINCE	By my troth, I speak my thought.	220
FTLN 0221	CLAUDIO	And in faith, my lord, I spoke mine.	
FTLN 0222	BENEDICK	And by my two faiths and troths, my lord, I	
FTLN 0223		spoke mine.	
FTLN 0224	CLAUDIO	That I love her, I feel.	
FTLN 0225	PRINCE	That she is worthy, I know.	225
FTLN 0226	BENEDICK	That I neither feel how she should be loved	
FTLN 0227		nor know how she should be worthy is the opinion	
FTLN 0228		that fire cannot melt out of me. I will die in it at the	
FTLN 0229		stake.	

FTLN 0230	PRINCE	Thou wast ever an obstinate heretic in the	230
FTLN 0231		despite of beauty.	
FTLN 0232	CLAUDIO	And never could maintain his part but in the	
FTLN 0233		force of his will.	
FTLN 0234	BENEDICK	That a woman conceived me, I thank her;	
FTLN 0235		that she brought me up, I likewise give her most	235
FTLN 0236		humble thanks. But that I will have a recheat	
FTLN 0237		winded in my forehead or hang my bugle in an	
FTLN 0238		invisible baldrick, all women shall pardon me.	
FTLN 0239		Because I will not do them the wrong to mistrust	
FTLN 0240		any, I will do myself the right to trust none. And the	240
FTLN 0241		fine is, for the which I may go the finer, I will live a	
FTLN 0242		bachelor.	
FTLN 0243	PRINCE	I shall see thee, ere I die, look pale with love.	
FTLN 0244	BENEDICK	With anger, with sickness, or with hunger,	
FTLN 0245		my lord, not with love. Prove that ever I lose more	245
FTLN 0246		blood with love than I will get again with drinking,	
FTLN 0247		pick out mine eyes with a ballad-maker's pen and	
FTLN 0248		hang me up at the door of a brothel house for the	
FTLN 0249		sign of blind Cupid.	
FTLN 0250	PRINCE	Well, if ever thou dost fall from this faith, thou	250
FTLN 0251		wilt prove a notable argument.	
FTLN 0252	BENEDICK	If I do, hang me in a bottle like a cat and	
FTLN 0253		shoot at me, and he that hits me, let him be clapped	
FTLN 0254		on the shoulder and called Adam.	
FTLN 0255	PRINCE	Well, as time shall try.	255
FTLN 0256		In time the savage bull doth bear the yoke.	
FTLN 0257	BENEDICK	The savage bull may, but if ever the sensible	
FTLN 0258		Benedick bear it, pluck off the bull's horns and set	
FTLN 0259		them in my forehead, and let me be vilely painted,	
FTLN 0260		and in such great letters as they write "Here is good	260
FTLN 0261		horse to hire" let them signify under my sign "Here	
FTLN 0262		you may see Benedick the married man."	
FTLN 0263	CLAUDIO	If this should ever happen, thou wouldst be	
FTLN 0264		horn-mad.	

FTLN 0265 PRINCE Nay, if Cupid have not spent all his quiver in 265
 FTLN 0266 Venice, thou wilt quake for this shortly.

FTLN 0267 BENEDICK I look for an earthquake too, then.

FTLN 0268 PRINCE Well, you will temporize with the hours. In the
 FTLN 0269 meantime, good Signior Benedick, repair to Leonato's.
 FTLN 0270 Commend me to him, and tell him I will not 270
 FTLN 0271 fail him at supper, for indeed he hath made great
 FTLN 0272 preparation.

FTLN 0273 BENEDICK I have almost matter enough in me for such
 FTLN 0274 an embassy, and so I commit you—

FTLN 0275 CLAUDIO To the tuition of God. From my house, if I had 275
 FTLN 0276 it—

FTLN 0277 PRINCE The sixth of July. Your loving friend,
 FTLN 0278 Benedick.

FTLN 0279 BENEDICK Nay, mock not, mock not. The body of your
 FTLN 0280 discourse is sometimes guarded with fragments, 280
 FTLN 0281 and the guards are but slightly basted on neither.
 FTLN 0282 Ere you flout old ends any further, examine your
 FTLN 0283 conscience. And so I leave you. *He exits.*

CLAUDIO

FTLN 0284 My liege, your Highness now may do me good.

PRINCE

FTLN 0285 My love is thine to teach. Teach it but how, 285
 FTLN 0286 And thou shalt see how apt it is to learn
 FTLN 0287 Any hard lesson that may do thee good.

CLAUDIO

FTLN 0288 Hath Leonato any son, my lord?

PRINCE

FTLN 0289 No child but Hero; she's his only heir.
 FTLN 0290 Dost thou affect her, Claudio? 290

FTLN 0291 CLAUDIO O, my lord,
 FTLN 0292 When you went onward on this ended action,
 FTLN 0293 I looked upon her with a soldier's eye,
 FTLN 0294 That liked, but had a rougher task in hand
 FTLN 0295 Than to drive liking to the name of love. 295
 FTLN 0296 But now I am returned and that war thoughts

FTLN 0297 Have left their places vacant, in their rooms
FTLN 0298 Come thronging soft and delicate desires,
FTLN 0299 All prompting me how fair young Hero is,
FTLN 0300 Saying I liked her ere I went to wars. 300

PRINCE

FTLN 0301 Thou wilt be like a lover presently
FTLN 0302 And tire the hearer with a book of words.
FTLN 0303 If thou dost love fair Hero, cherish it,
FTLN 0304 And I will break with her and with her father,
FTLN 0305 And thou shalt have her. Was 't not to this end 305
FTLN 0306 That thou began'st to twist so fine a story?

CLAUDIO

FTLN 0307 How sweetly you do minister to love,
FTLN 0308 That know love's grief by his complexion!
FTLN 0309 But lest my liking might too sudden seem,
FTLN 0310 I would have salved it with a longer treatise. 310

PRINCE

FTLN 0311 What need the bridge much broader than the flood?
FTLN 0312 The fairest grant is the necessity.
FTLN 0313 Look what will serve is fit. 'Tis once, thou lovest,
FTLN 0314 And I will fit thee with the remedy.
FTLN 0315 I know we shall have reveling tonight. 315
FTLN 0316 I will assume thy part in some disguise
FTLN 0317 And tell fair Hero I am Claudio,
FTLN 0318 And in her bosom I'll unclasp my heart
FTLN 0319 And take her hearing prisoner with the force
FTLN 0320 And strong encounter of my amorous tale. 320
FTLN 0321 Then after to her father will I break,
FTLN 0322 And the conclusion is, she shall be thine.
FTLN 0323 In practice let us put it presently.

They exit.

[Scene 2]

Enter Leonato, [meeting] an old man, brother to Leonato.

FTLN 0324	LEONATO	How now, brother, where is my cousin, your	
FTLN 0325		son? Hath he provided this music?	
FTLN 0326	LEONATO'S BROTHER	He is very busy about it. But,	
FTLN 0327		brother, I can tell you strange news that you yet	
FTLN 0328		dreamt not of.	5
FTLN 0329	LEONATO	Are they good?	
FTLN 0330	LEONATO'S BROTHER	As the events stamps them, but	
FTLN 0331		they have a good cover; they show well outward.	
FTLN 0332		The Prince and Count Claudio, walking in a thick-pleached	
FTLN 0333		alley in mine orchard, were thus much	10
FTLN 0334		overheard by a man of mine: the Prince discovered	
FTLN 0335		to Claudio that he loved my niece your daughter and	
FTLN 0336		meant to acknowledge it this night in a dance, and if	
FTLN 0337		he found her accordant, he meant to take the	
FTLN 0338		present time by the top and instantly break with you	15
FTLN 0339		of it.	
FTLN 0340	LEONATO	Hath the fellow any wit that told you this?	
FTLN 0341	LEONATO'S BROTHER	A good sharp fellow. I will send	
FTLN 0342		for him, and question him yourself.	
FTLN 0343	LEONATO	No, no, we will hold it as a dream till it	20
FTLN 0344		appear itself. But I will acquaint my daughter	
FTLN 0345		withal, that she may be the better prepared for an	
FTLN 0346		answer, if peradventure this be true. Go you and tell	
FTLN 0347		her of it.	

[Enter Antonio's son, with a Musician and Attendants.]

FTLN 0348		Cousins, you know what you have to do.—O, I cry	25
FTLN 0349		you mercy, friend. Go you with me and I will use	
FTLN 0350		your skill.—Good cousin, have a care this busy	
FTLN 0351		time.	

They exit.

[Scene 3]

Enter Sir John the Bastard, and Conrade, his companion.

FTLN 0352	CONRADE	What the goodyear, my lord, why are you	
FTLN 0353		thus out of measure sad?	
FTLN 0354	DON JOHN	There is no measure in the occasion that	
FTLN 0355		breeds. Therefore the sadness is without limit.	
FTLN 0356	CONRADE	You should hear reason.	5
FTLN 0357	DON JOHN	And when I have heard it, what blessing	
FTLN 0358		brings it?	
FTLN 0359	CONRADE	If not a present remedy, at least a patient	
FTLN 0360		sufferance.	
FTLN 0361	DON JOHN	I wonder that thou, being, as thou sayst thou	10
FTLN 0362		art, born under Saturn, goest about to apply a moral	
FTLN 0363		medicine to a mortifying mischief. I cannot hide	
FTLN 0364		what I am. I must be sad when I have cause, and	
FTLN 0365		smile at no man's jests; eat when I have stomach,	
FTLN 0366		and wait for no man's leisure; sleep when I am	15
FTLN 0367		drowsy, and tend on no man's business; laugh when	
FTLN 0368		I am merry, and claw no man in his humor.	
FTLN 0369	CONRADE	Yea, but you must not make the full show of	
FTLN 0370		this till you may do it without controlment. You	
FTLN 0371		have of late stood out against your brother, and he	20
FTLN 0372		hath ta'en you newly into his grace, where it is	
FTLN 0373		impossible you should take true root but by the fair	
FTLN 0374		weather that you make yourself. It is needful that	
FTLN 0375		you frame the season for your own harvest.	
FTLN 0376	DON JOHN	I had rather be a canker in a hedge than a	25
FTLN 0377		rose in his grace, and it better fits my blood to be	
FTLN 0378		disdained of all than to fashion a carriage to rob	
FTLN 0379		love from any. In this, though I cannot be said to be	
FTLN 0380		a flattering honest man, it must not be denied but I	
FTLN 0381		am a plain-dealing villain. I am trusted with a	30
FTLN 0382		muzzle and enfranchised with a clog; therefore I	
FTLN 0383		have decreed not to sing in my cage. If I had my	

FTLN 0384 mouth, I would bite; if I had my liberty, I would do
 FTLN 0385 my liking. In the meantime, let me be that I am, and
 FTLN 0386 seek not to alter me. 35
 FTLN 0387 CONRADE Can you make no use of your discontent?
 FTLN 0388 DON JOHN I make all use of it, for I use it only. Who
 FTLN 0389 comes here?

Enter Borachio.

FTLN 0390 What news, Borachio?
 FTLN 0391 BORACHIO I came yonder from a great supper. The 40
 FTLN 0392 Prince your brother is royally entertained by
 FTLN 0393 Leonato, and I can give you intelligence of an
 FTLN 0394 intended marriage.
 FTLN 0395 DON JOHN Will it serve for any model to build mischief
 FTLN 0396 on? What is he for a fool that betroths himself to 45
 FTLN 0397 unquietness?
 FTLN 0398 BORACHIO Marry, it is your brother's right hand.
 FTLN 0399 DON JOHN Who, the most exquisite Claudio?
 FTLN 0400 BORACHIO Even he.
 FTLN 0401 DON JOHN A proper squire. And who, and who? Which 50
 FTLN 0402 way looks he?
 FTLN 0403 BORACHIO Marry, on Hero, the daughter and heir of
 FTLN 0404 Leonato.
 FTLN 0405 DON JOHN A very forward March chick! How came you
 FTLN 0406 to this? 55
 FTLN 0407 BORACHIO Being entertained for a perfumer, as I was
 FTLN 0408 smoking a musty room, comes me the Prince and
 FTLN 0409 Claudio, hand in hand, in sad conference. I
 FTLN 0410 whipped me behind the arras, and there heard it
 FTLN 0411 agreed upon that the Prince should woo Hero for 60
 FTLN 0412 himself, and having obtained her, give her to Count
 FTLN 0413 Claudio.
 FTLN 0414 DON JOHN Come, come, let us thither. This may prove
 FTLN 0415 food to my displeasure. That young start-up hath
 FTLN 0416 all the glory of my overthrow. If I can cross him any 65

FTLN 0417 way, I bless myself every way. You are both sure, and
FTLN 0418 will assist me?
FTLN 0419 CONRADE To the death, my lord.
FTLN 0420 DON JOHN Let us to the great supper. Their cheer is the
FTLN 0421 greater that I am subdued. Would the cook were o' 70
FTLN 0422 my mind! Shall we go prove what's to be done?
FTLN 0423 BORACHIO We'll wait upon your Lordship.
「They」 exit.

「ACT 2」

「Scene 1」

Enter Leonato, his brother, Hero his daughter, and Beatrice his niece, 「with Ursula and Margaret.」

FTLN 0424	LEONATO	Was not Count John here at supper?	
FTLN 0425	LEONATO'S BROTHER	I saw him not.	
FTLN 0426	BEATRICE	How tartly that gentleman looks! I never	
FTLN 0427		can see him but I am heartburned an hour after.	
FTLN 0428	HERO	He is of a very melancholy disposition.	5
FTLN 0429	BEATRICE	He were an excellent man that were made	
FTLN 0430		just in the midway between him and Benedick. The	
FTLN 0431		one is too like an image and says nothing, and the	
FTLN 0432		other too like my lady's eldest son, evermore	
FTLN 0433		tattling.	10
FTLN 0434	LEONATO	Then half Signior Benedick's tongue in	
FTLN 0435		Count John's mouth, and half Count John's melancholy	
FTLN 0436		in Signior Benedick's face—	
FTLN 0437	BEATRICE	With a good leg and a good foot, uncle, and	
FTLN 0438		money enough in his purse, such a man would win	15
FTLN 0439		any woman in the world if he could get her	
FTLN 0440		goodwill.	
FTLN 0441	LEONATO	By my troth, niece, thou wilt never get thee a	
FTLN 0442		husband if thou be so shrewd of thy tongue.	
FTLN 0443	LEONATO'S BROTHER	In faith, she's too curst.	20
FTLN 0444	BEATRICE	Too curst is more than curst. I shall lessen	
FTLN 0445		God's sending that way, for it is said "God sends a	

FTLN 0446 curst cow short horns,” but to a cow too curst, he
 FTLN 0447 sends none.

FTLN 0448 LEONATO So, by being too curst, God will send you no 25
 FTLN 0449 horns.

FTLN 0450 BEATRICE Just, if He send me no husband, for the
 FTLN 0451 which blessing I am at Him upon my knees every
 FTLN 0452 morning and evening. Lord, I could not endure a
 FTLN 0453 husband with a beard on his face. I had rather lie in 30
 FTLN 0454 the woolen!

FTLN 0455 LEONATO You may light on a husband that hath no
 FTLN 0456 beard.

FTLN 0457 BEATRICE What should I do with him? Dress him in my
 FTLN 0458 apparel and make him my waiting gentlewoman? 35
 FTLN 0459 He that hath a beard is more than a youth, and he
 FTLN 0460 that hath no beard is less than a man; and he that is
 FTLN 0461 more than a youth is not for me, and he that is less
 FTLN 0462 than a man, I am not for him. Therefore I will even
 FTLN 0463 take sixpence in earnest of the bearherd, and lead 40
 FTLN 0464 his apes into hell.

FTLN 0465 LEONATO Well then, go you into hell?

FTLN 0466 BEATRICE No, but to the gate, and there will the devil
 FTLN 0467 meet me like an old cuckold with horns on his
 FTLN 0468 head, and say “Get you to heaven, Beatrice, get you 45
 FTLN 0469 to heaven; here’s no place for you maids.” So deliver
 FTLN 0470 I up my apes and away to Saint Peter; for the
 FTLN 0471 heavens, he shows me where the bachelors sit, and
 FTLN 0472 there live we as merry as the day is long.

FTLN 0473 LEONATO’S BROTHER, *to Hero* Well, niece, I trust you 50
 FTLN 0474 will be ruled by your father.

FTLN 0475 BEATRICE Yes, faith, it is my cousin’s duty to make
 FTLN 0476 curtsy and say “Father, as it please you.” But yet for
 FTLN 0477 all that, cousin, let him be a handsome fellow, or
 FTLN 0478 else make another curtsy and say “Father, as it 55
 FTLN 0479 please me.”

FTLN 0480 LEONATO Well, niece, I hope to see you one day fitted
 FTLN 0481 with a husband.

FTLN 0482 BEATRICE Not till God make men of some other metal
 FTLN 0483 than earth. Would it not grieve a woman to be 60
 FTLN 0484 overmastered with a piece of valiant dust? To make
 FTLN 0485 an account of her life to a clod of wayward marl?
 FTLN 0486 No, uncle, I'll none. Adam's sons are my brethren,
 FTLN 0487 and truly I hold it a sin to match in my kindred.
 FTLN 0488 LEONATO, *['to Hero']* Daughter, remember what I told 65
 FTLN 0489 you. If the Prince do solicit you in that kind, you
 FTLN 0490 know your answer.
 FTLN 0491 BEATRICE The fault will be in the music, cousin, if you
 FTLN 0492 be not wooed in good time. If the Prince be too
 FTLN 0493 important, tell him there is measure in everything, 70
 FTLN 0494 and so dance out the answer. For hear me, Hero,
 FTLN 0495 wooing, wedding, and repenting is as a Scotch jig, a
 FTLN 0496 measure, and a cinquepace. The first suit is hot and
 FTLN 0497 hasty like a Scotch jig, and full as fantastical; the
 FTLN 0498 wedding, mannerly modest as a measure, full of 75
 FTLN 0499 state and ancientry; and then comes repentance,
 FTLN 0500 and with his bad legs falls into the cinquepace faster
 FTLN 0501 and faster till he sink into his grave.
 FTLN 0502 LEONATO Cousin, you apprehend passing shrewdly.
 FTLN 0503 BEATRICE I have a good eye, uncle; I can see a church 80
 FTLN 0504 by daylight.
 FTLN 0505 LEONATO The revelers are entering, brother. Make
 FTLN 0506 good room. *['Leonato and his brother step aside.']*

*Enter, ['with a Drum,'] Prince Pedro, Claudio, and
 Benedick, ['Signior Antonio,'] and Balthasar, ['all in
 masks, with Borachio and Don'] John.*

FTLN 0507 PRINCE, *['to Hero']* Lady, will you walk a bout with your
 FTLN 0508 friend? *['They begin to dance.']* 85
 FTLN 0509 HERO So you walk softly, and look sweetly, and say
 FTLN 0510 nothing, I am yours for the walk, and especially
 FTLN 0511 when I walk away.
 FTLN 0512 PRINCE With me in your company?
 FTLN 0513 HERO I may say so when I please. 90

FTLN 0514 PRINCE And when please you to say so?

FTLN 0515 HERO When I like your favor, for God defend the lute

FTLN 0516 should be like the case.

FTLN 0517 PRINCE My visor is Philemon's roof; within the house

FTLN 0518 is Jove. 95

FTLN 0519 HERO Why, then, your visor should be thatched.

FTLN 0520 PRINCE Speak low if you speak love.

They move aside;
Benedick and Margaret move forward.

FTLN 0521 BENEDICK, *to Margaret* Well, I would you did like me.

FTLN 0522 MARGARET So would not I for your own sake, for I have

FTLN 0523 many ill qualities. 100

FTLN 0524 BENEDICK Which is one?

FTLN 0525 MARGARET I say my prayers aloud.

FTLN 0526 BENEDICK I love you the better; the hearers may cry

FTLN 0527 "Amen."

FTLN 0528 MARGARET God match me with a good dancer. 105

They separate; Benedick moves aside;
Balthasar moves forward.

FTLN 0529 BALTHASAR Amen.

FTLN 0530 MARGARET And God keep him out of my sight when the

FTLN 0531 dance is done. Answer, clerk.

FTLN 0532 BALTHASAR No more words. The clerk is answered.

They move aside;
Ursula and Antonio move forward.

FTLN 0533 URSULA I know you well enough. You are Signior 110

FTLN 0534 Antonio.

FTLN 0535 ANTONIO At a word, I am not.

FTLN 0536 URSULA I know you by the waggling of your head.

FTLN 0537 ANTONIO To tell you true, I counterfeit him.

FTLN 0538 URSULA You could never do him so ill-well unless you 115

FTLN 0539 were the very man. Here's his dry hand up and

FTLN 0540 down. You are he, you are he.

FTLN 0541 ANTONIO At a word, I am not.

FTLN 0542 URSULA Come, come, do you think I do not know you

FTLN 0543 by your excellent wit? Can virtue hide itself? Go to, 120

FTLN 0544 mum, you are he. Graces will appear, and there's an
FTLN 0545 end.

「*They move aside;*

Benedick and Beatrice move forward.」

FTLN 0546 BEATRICE Will you not tell me who told you so?

FTLN 0547 BENEDICK No, you shall pardon me.

FTLN 0548 BEATRICE Nor will you not tell me who you are? 125

FTLN 0549 BENEDICK Not now.

FTLN 0550 BEATRICE That I was disdainful, and that I had my
FTLN 0551 good wit out of *The Hundred Merry Tales*! Well, this
FTLN 0552 was Signior Benedick that said so.

FTLN 0553 BENEDICK What's he? 130

FTLN 0554 BEATRICE I am sure you know him well enough.

FTLN 0555 BENEDICK Not I, believe me.

FTLN 0556 BEATRICE Did he never make you laugh?

FTLN 0557 BENEDICK I pray you, what is he?

FTLN 0558 BEATRICE Why, he is the Prince's jester, a very dull 135
FTLN 0559 fool; only his gift is in devising impossible slanders.

FTLN 0560 None but libertines delight in him, and the commendation
FTLN 0561 is not in his wit but in his villainy, for he

FTLN 0562 both pleases men and angers them, and then they
FTLN 0563 laugh at him and beat him. I am sure he is in the 140
FTLN 0564 fleet. I would he had boarded me.

FTLN 0565 BENEDICK When I know the gentleman, I'll tell him
FTLN 0566 what you say.

FTLN 0567 BEATRICE Do, do. He'll but break a comparison or two 145
FTLN 0568 on me, which peradventure not marked or not

FTLN 0569 laughed at strikes him into melancholy, and then
FTLN 0570 there's a partridge wing saved, for the fool will eat
FTLN 0571 no supper that night. 「*Music for the dance.*」 We must
FTLN 0572 follow the leaders.

FTLN 0573 BENEDICK In every good thing. 150

FTLN 0574 BEATRICE Nay, if they lead to any ill, I will leave them
FTLN 0575 at the next turning.

*Dance. 「Then」 exit 「all except
Don John, Borachio, and Claudio.*」

FTLN 0576 DON JOHN, *['to Borachio']* Sure my brother is amorous
 FTLN 0577 on Hero, and hath withdrawn her father to break
 FTLN 0578 with him about it. The ladies follow her, and but one 155
 FTLN 0579 visor remains.

FTLN 0580 BORACHIO And that is Claudio. I know him by his
 FTLN 0581 bearing.

FTLN 0582 DON JOHN, *['to Claudio']* Are not you Signior Benedick?
 FTLN 0583 CLAUDIO You know me well. I am he. 160

FTLN 0584 DON JOHN Signior, you are very near my brother in his
 FTLN 0585 love. He is enamored on Hero. I pray you dissuade
 FTLN 0586 him from her. She is no equal for his birth. You
 FTLN 0587 may do the part of an honest man in it.

FTLN 0588 CLAUDIO How know you he loves her? 165

FTLN 0589 DON JOHN I heard him swear his affection.

FTLN 0590 BORACHIO So did I too, and he swore he would marry
 FTLN 0591 her tonight.

FTLN 0592 DON JOHN Come, let us to the banquet.

They exit. Claudio remains.

CLAUDIO, *['unmasking']*

FTLN 0593 Thus answer I in name of Benedick, 170
 FTLN 0594 But hear these ill news with the ears of Claudio.
 FTLN 0595 'Tis certain so. The Prince woos for himself.
 FTLN 0596 Friendship is constant in all other things
 FTLN 0597 Save in the office and affairs of love.
 FTLN 0598 Therefore all hearts in love use their own tongues. 175
 FTLN 0599 Let every eye negotiate for itself
 FTLN 0600 And trust no agent, for beauty is a witch
 FTLN 0601 Against whose charms faith melteth into blood.
 FTLN 0602 This is an accident of hourly proof,
 FTLN 0603 Which I mistrusted not. Farewell therefore, Hero. 180

Enter Benedick.

FTLN 0604 BENEDICK Count Claudio?
 FTLN 0605 CLAUDIO Yea, the same.
 FTLN 0606 BENEDICK Come, will you go with me?
 FTLN 0607 CLAUDIO Whither?

FTLN 0608 BENEDICK Even to the next willow, about your own 185
 FTLN 0609 business, county. What fashion will you wear the
 FTLN 0610 garland of? About your neck like an usurer's chain?
 FTLN 0611 Or under your arm like a lieutenant's scarf? You
 FTLN 0612 must wear it one way, for the Prince hath got your
 FTLN 0613 Hero. 190
 FTLN 0614 CLAUDIO I wish him joy of her.
 FTLN 0615 BENEDICK Why, that's spoken like an honest drover; so
 FTLN 0616 they sell bullocks. But did you think the Prince
 FTLN 0617 would have served you thus?
 FTLN 0618 CLAUDIO I pray you, leave me. 195
 FTLN 0619 BENEDICK Ho, now you strike like the blind man.
 FTLN 0620 'Twas the boy that stole your meat, and you'll beat
 FTLN 0621 the post.
 FTLN 0622 CLAUDIO If it will not be, I'll leave you. *He exits.*
 FTLN 0623 BENEDICK Alas, poor hurt fowl, now will he creep into 200
 FTLN 0624 sedges. But that my Lady Beatrice should know
 FTLN 0625 me, and not know me! The Prince's fool! Ha, it may
 FTLN 0626 be I go under that title because I am merry. Yea, but
 FTLN 0627 so I am apt to do myself wrong. I am not so reputed!
 FTLN 0628 It is the base, though bitter, disposition of Beatrice 205
 FTLN 0629 that puts the world into her person and so gives me
 FTLN 0630 out. Well, I'll be revenged as I may.

Enter the Prince, Hero, [and] Leonato.

FTLN 0631 PRINCE Now, signior, where's the Count? Did you see
 FTLN 0632 him?
 FTLN 0633 BENEDICK Troth, my lord, I have played the part of 210
 FTLN 0634 Lady Fame. I found him here as melancholy as a
 FTLN 0635 lodge in a warren. I told him, and I think I told him
 FTLN 0636 true, that your Grace had got the goodwill of this
 FTLN 0637 young lady, and I offered him my company to a
 FTLN 0638 willow tree, either to make him a garland, as being 215
 FTLN 0639 forsaken, or to bind him up a rod, as being worthy to
 FTLN 0640 be whipped.
 FTLN 0641 PRINCE To be whipped? What's his fault?

FTLN 0642 BENEDICK The flat transgression of a schoolboy who,
 FTLN 0643 being overjoyed with finding a bird's nest, shows it 220
 FTLN 0644 his companion, and he steals it.

FTLN 0645 PRINCE Wilt thou make a trust a transgression? The
 FTLN 0646 transgression is in the stealer.

FTLN 0647 BENEDICK Yet it had not been amiss the rod had been
 FTLN 0648 made, and the garland too, for the garland he 225
 FTLN 0649 might have worn himself, and the rod he might
 FTLN 0650 have bestowed on you, who, as I take it, have stolen
 FTLN 0651 his bird's nest.

FTLN 0652 PRINCE I will but teach them to sing and restore them
 FTLN 0653 to the owner. 230

FTLN 0654 BENEDICK If their singing answer your saying, by my
 FTLN 0655 faith, you say honestly.

FTLN 0656 PRINCE The Lady Beatrice hath a quarrel to you. The
 FTLN 0657 gentleman that danced with her told her she is
 FTLN 0658 much wronged by you. 235

FTLN 0659 BENEDICK O, she misused me past the endurance of a
 FTLN 0660 block! An oak but with one green leaf on it would
 FTLN 0661 have answered her. My very visor began to assume
 FTLN 0662 life and scold with her. She told me, not thinking I
 FTLN 0663 had been myself, that I was the Prince's jester, that I 240
 FTLN 0664 was duller than a great thaw, huddling jest upon jest
 FTLN 0665 with such impossible conveyance upon me that I
 FTLN 0666 stood like a man at a mark with a whole army
 FTLN 0667 shooting at me. She speaks poniards, and every
 FTLN 0668 word stabs. If her breath were as terrible as her 245
 FTLN 0669 terminations, there were no living near her; she
 FTLN 0670 would infect to the North Star. I would not marry
 FTLN 0671 her though she were endowed with all that Adam
 FTLN 0672 had left him before he transgressed. She would have
 FTLN 0673 made Hercules have turned spit, yea, and have cleft 250
 FTLN 0674 his club to make the fire, too. Come, talk not of her.
 FTLN 0675 You shall find her the infernal Ate in good apparel. I
 FTLN 0676 would to God some scholar would conjure her, for
 FTLN 0677 certainly, while she is here, a man may live as quiet

FTLN 0711 nor well, but civil count, civil as an orange, and
 FTLN 0712 something of that jealous complexion.

FTLN 0713 PRINCE I' faith, lady, I think your blazon to be true, 290
 FTLN 0714 though I'll be sworn, if he be so, his conceit is
 FTLN 0715 false.—Here, Claudio, I have wooed in thy name,
 FTLN 0716 and fair Hero is won. I have broke with her father
 FTLN 0717 and his goodwill obtained. Name the day of marriage,
 FTLN 0718 and God give thee joy. 295

FTLN 0719 LEONATO Count, take of me my daughter, and with her
 FTLN 0720 my fortunes. His Grace hath made the match, and
 FTLN 0721 all grace say "Amen" to it.

FTLN 0722 BEATRICE Speak, count, 'tis your cue.

FTLN 0723 CLAUDIO Silence is the perfectest herald of joy. I were 300
 FTLN 0724 but little happy if I could say how much.—Lady, as
 FTLN 0725 you are mine, I am yours. I give away myself for you
 FTLN 0726 and dote upon the exchange.

FTLN 0727 BEATRICE Speak, cousin, or, if you cannot, stop his
 FTLN 0728 mouth with a kiss and let not him speak neither. 305

FTLN 0729 PRINCE In faith, lady, you have a merry heart.

FTLN 0730 BEATRICE Yea, my lord. I thank it, poor fool, it keeps on
 FTLN 0731 the windy side of care. My cousin tells him in his ear
 FTLN 0732 that he is in her heart.

FTLN 0733 CLAUDIO And so she doth, cousin. 310

FTLN 0734 BEATRICE Good Lord for alliance! Thus goes everyone
 FTLN 0735 to the world but I, and I am sunburnt. I may sit in a
 FTLN 0736 corner and cry "Heigh-ho for a husband!"

FTLN 0737 PRINCE Lady Beatrice, I will get you one.

FTLN 0738 BEATRICE I would rather have one of your father's 315
 FTLN 0739 getting. Hath your Grace ne'er a brother like you?
 FTLN 0740 Your father got excellent husbands, if a maid could
 FTLN 0741 come by them.

FTLN 0742 PRINCE Will you have me, lady?

FTLN 0743 BEATRICE No, my lord, unless I might have another for 320
 FTLN 0744 working days. Your Grace is too costly to wear
 FTLN 0745 every day. But I beseech your Grace pardon me. I
 FTLN 0746 was born to speak all mirth and no matter.

FTLN 0747 PRINCE Your silence most offends me, and to be merry
 FTLN 0748 best becomes you, for out o' question you were 325
 FTLN 0749 born in a merry hour.

FTLN 0750 BEATRICE No, sure, my lord, my mother cried, but then
 FTLN 0751 there was a star danced, and under that was I
 FTLN 0752 born.—Cousins, God give you joy!

FTLN 0753 LEONATO Niece, will you look to those things I told 330
 FTLN 0754 you of?

FTLN 0755 BEATRICE I cry you mercy, uncle.—By your Grace's
 FTLN 0756 pardon. *Beatrice exits.*

FTLN 0757 PRINCE By my troth, a pleasant-spirited lady.

FTLN 0758 LEONATO There's little of the melancholy element in 335
 FTLN 0759 her, my lord. She is never sad but when she sleeps,
 FTLN 0760 and not ever sad then, for I have heard my daughter
 FTLN 0761 say she hath often dreamt of unhappiness and
 FTLN 0762 waked herself with laughing.

FTLN 0763 PRINCE She cannot endure to hear tell of a husband. 340

FTLN 0764 LEONATO O, by no means. She mocks all her wooers
 FTLN 0765 out of suit.

FTLN 0766 PRINCE She were an excellent wife for Benedick.

FTLN 0767 LEONATO O Lord, my lord, if they were but a week
 FTLN 0768 married, they would talk themselves mad. 345

FTLN 0769 PRINCE County Claudio, when mean you to go to
 FTLN 0770 church?

FTLN 0771 CLAUDIO Tomorrow, my lord. Time goes on crutches
 FTLN 0772 till love have all his rites.

FTLN 0773 LEONATO Not till Monday, my dear son, which is hence 350
 FTLN 0774 a just sevensnight, and a time too brief, too, to have
 FTLN 0775 all things answer my mind.

FTLN 0776 PRINCE, *['to Claudio']* Come, you shake the head at so
 FTLN 0777 long a breathing, but I warrant thee, Claudio, the
 FTLN 0778 time shall not go dully by us. I will in the interim 355
 FTLN 0779 undertake one of Hercules' labors, which is to bring
 FTLN 0780 Signior Benedick and the Lady Beatrice into a
 FTLN 0781 mountain of affection, th' one with th' other. I
 FTLN 0782 would fain have it a match, and I doubt not but to

FTLN 0802	DON JOHN	It is so. The Count Claudio shall marry the	
FTLN 0803		daughter of Leonato.	
FTLN 0804	BORACHIO	Yea, my lord, but I can cross it.	
FTLN 0805	DON JOHN	Any bar, any cross, any impediment will be	
FTLN 0806		med'cinable to me. I am sick in displeasure to him,	5
FTLN 0807		and whatsoever comes athwart his affection ranges	
FTLN 0808		evenly with mine. How canst thou cross this	
FTLN 0809		marriage?	
FTLN 0810	BORACHIO	Not honestly, my lord, but so covertly that	
FTLN 0811		no dishonesty shall appear in me.	10
FTLN 0812	DON JOHN	Show me briefly how.	

FTLN 0813 BORACHIO I think I told your Lordship a year since,
 FTLN 0814 how much I am in the favor of Margaret, the
 FTLN 0815 waiting gentlewoman to Hero.
 FTLN 0816 DON JOHN I remember. 15
 FTLN 0817 BORACHIO I can, at any unseasonable instant of the
 FTLN 0818 night, appoint her to look out at her lady's chamber
 FTLN 0819 window.
 FTLN 0820 DON JOHN What life is in that to be the death of this
 FTLN 0821 marriage? 20
 FTLN 0822 BORACHIO The poison of that lies in you to temper. Go
 FTLN 0823 you to the Prince your brother; spare not to tell
 FTLN 0824 him that he hath wronged his honor in marrying
 FTLN 0825 the renowned Claudio, whose estimation do you
 FTLN 0826 mightily hold up, to a contaminated stale, such a 25
 FTLN 0827 one as Hero.
 FTLN 0828 DON JOHN What proof shall I make of that?
 FTLN 0829 BORACHIO Proof enough to misuse the Prince, to vex
 FTLN 0830 Claudio, to undo Hero, and kill Leonato. Look you
 FTLN 0831 for any other issue? 30
 FTLN 0832 DON JOHN Only to despite them I will endeavor
 FTLN 0833 anything.
 FTLN 0834 BORACHIO Go then, find me a meet hour to draw Don
 FTLN 0835 Pedro and the Count Claudio alone. Tell them that
 FTLN 0836 you know that Hero loves me; intend a kind of zeal 35
 FTLN 0837 both to the Prince and Claudio, as in love of your
 FTLN 0838 brother's honor, who hath made this match, and his
 FTLN 0839 friend's reputation, who is thus like to be cozened
 FTLN 0840 with the semblance of a maid, that you have discovered
 FTLN 0841 thus. They will scarcely believe this without 40
 FTLN 0842 trial. Offer them instances, which shall bear no less
 FTLN 0843 likelihood than to see me at her chamber window,
 FTLN 0844 hear me call Margaret "Hero," hear Margaret term
 FTLN 0845 me "Claudio," and bring them to see this the very
 FTLN 0846 night before the intended wedding, for in the meantime 45
 FTLN 0847 I will so fashion the matter that Hero shall be
 FTLN 0848 absent, and there shall appear such seeming truth

FTLN 0849 of Hero's disloyalty that jealousy shall be called
 FTLN 0850 assurance and all the preparation overthrown.
 FTLN 0851 DON JOHN Grow this to what adverse issue it can, I will 50
 FTLN 0852 put it in practice. Be cunning in the working this,
 FTLN 0853 and thy fee is a thousand ducats.
 FTLN 0854 BORACHIO Be you constant in the accusation, and my
 FTLN 0855 cunning shall not shame me.
 FTLN 0856 DON JOHN I will presently go learn their day of 55
 FTLN 0857 marriage.

「*They*」 *exit.*

「Scene 3」

Enter Benedick alone.

FTLN 0858 BENEDICK Boy!

「*Enter Boy.*」

FTLN 0859 BOY Signior?
 FTLN 0860 BENEDICK In my chamber window lies a book. Bring it
 FTLN 0861 hither to me in the orchard.
 FTLN 0862 BOY I am here already, sir. 5
 FTLN 0863 BENEDICK I know that, but I would have thee hence
 FTLN 0864 and here again. 「*Boy*」 *exits.*
 FTLN 0865 I do much wonder that one man, seeing how much
 FTLN 0866 another man is a fool when he dedicates his behaviors
 FTLN 0867 to love, will, after he hath laughed at such 10
 FTLN 0868 shallow follies in others, become the argument of
 FTLN 0869 his own scorn by falling in love—and such a man is
 FTLN 0870 Claudio. I have known when there was no music
 FTLN 0871 with him but the drum and the fife, and now had he
 FTLN 0872 rather hear the tabor and the pipe; I have known 15
 FTLN 0873 when he would have walked ten mile afoot to see a
 FTLN 0874 good armor, and now will he lie ten nights awake
 FTLN 0875 carving the fashion of a new doublet. He was wont
 FTLN 0876 to speak plain and to the purpose, like an honest

FTLN 0877 man and a soldier, and now is he turned orthography; 20
 FTLN 0878 his words are a very fantastical banquet, just so
 FTLN 0879 many strange dishes. May I be so converted and see
 FTLN 0880 with these eyes? I cannot tell; I think not. I will not
 FTLN 0881 be sworn but love may transform me to an oyster,
 FTLN 0882 but I'll take my oath on it, till he have made an 25
 FTLN 0883 oyster of me, he shall never make me such a fool.
 FTLN 0884 One woman is fair, yet I am well; another is wise, yet
 FTLN 0885 I am well; another virtuous, yet I am well; but till all
 FTLN 0886 graces be in one woman, one woman shall not
 FTLN 0887 come in my grace. Rich she shall be, that's certain; 30
 FTLN 0888 wise, or I'll none; virtuous, or I'll never cheapen
 FTLN 0889 her; fair, or I'll never look on her; mild, or come not
 FTLN 0890 near me; noble, or not I for an angel; of good
 FTLN 0891 discourse, an excellent musician, and her hair shall
 FTLN 0892 be of what color it please God. Ha! The Prince and 35
 FTLN 0893 Monsieur Love! I will hide me in the arbor.

「He hides.」

*Enter Prince, Leonato, Claudio, and Balthasar
with music.*

FTLN 0894 PRINCE Come, shall we hear this music?
 CLAUDIO
 FTLN 0895 Yea, my good lord. How still the evening is,
 FTLN 0896 As hushed on purpose to grace harmony!
 PRINCE, *「aside to Claudio」*
 FTLN 0897 See you where Benedick hath hid himself? 40
 CLAUDIO, *「aside to Prince」*
 FTLN 0898 O, very well my lord. The music ended,
 FTLN 0899 We'll fit the kid-fox with a pennyworth.
 PRINCE
 FTLN 0900 Come, Balthasar, we'll hear that song again.
 BALTHASAR
 FTLN 0901 O, good my lord, tax not so bad a voice
 FTLN 0902 To slander music any more than once. 45

PRINCE

FTLN 0903 It is the witness still of excellency
 FTLN 0904 To put a strange face on his own perfection.
 FTLN 0905 I pray thee, sing, and let me woo no more.

BALTHASAR

FTLN 0906 Because you talk of wooing, I will sing,
 FTLN 0907 Since many a wooer doth commence his suit 50
 FTLN 0908 To her he thinks not worthy, yet he woos,
 FTLN 0909 Yet will he swear he loves.

FTLN 0910 PRINCE Nay, pray thee, come,
 FTLN 0911 Or if thou wilt hold longer argument,
 FTLN 0912 Do it in notes. 55

FTLN 0913 BALTHASAR Note this before my notes:
 FTLN 0914 There's not a note of mine that's worth the noting.

PRINCE

FTLN 0915 Why, these are very crotchets that he speaks!
 FTLN 0916 Note notes, forsooth, and nothing. *「Music plays.」*

FTLN 0917 BENEDICK, *「aside」* Now, divine air! Now is his soul 60
 FTLN 0918 ravished. Is it not strange that sheeps' guts should
 FTLN 0919 hale souls out of men's bodies? Well, a horn for my
 FTLN 0920 money, when all's done.

「BALTHASAR sings」

FTLN 0921 *Sigh no more, ladies, sigh no more,*
 FTLN 0922 *Men were deceivers ever,* 65
 FTLN 0923 *One foot in sea and one on shore,*
 FTLN 0924 *To one thing constant never.*
 FTLN 0925 *Then sigh not so, but let them go,*
 FTLN 0926 *And be you blithe and bonny,*
 FTLN 0927 *Converting all your sounds of woe* 70
 FTLN 0928 *Into Hey, nonny nonny.*

FTLN 0929 *Sing no more ditties, sing no mo,*
 FTLN 0930 *Of dumps so dull and heavy.*
 FTLN 0931 *The fraud of men was ever so,*
 FTLN 0932 *Since summer first was leavy.* 75

FTLN 0933	<i>Then sigh not so, but let them go,</i>	
FTLN 0934	<i>And be you blithe and bonny,</i>	
FTLN 0935	<i>Converting all your sounds of woe</i>	
FTLN 0936	<i>Into Hey, nonny nonny.</i>	
FTLN 0937	PRINCE By my troth, a good song.	80
FTLN 0938	BALTHASAR And an ill singer, my lord.	
FTLN 0939	PRINCE Ha, no, no, faith, thou sing'st well enough for a	
FTLN 0940	shift.	
FTLN 0941	BENEDICK, <i>「aside」</i> An he had been a dog that should	
FTLN 0942	have howled thus, they would have hanged him. And	85
FTLN 0943	I pray God his bad voice bode no mischief. I had as	
FTLN 0944	lief have heard the night raven, come what plague	
FTLN 0945	could have come after it.	
FTLN 0946	PRINCE Yea, marry, dost thou hear, Balthasar? I pray	
FTLN 0947	thee get us some excellent music, for tomorrow	90
FTLN 0948	night we would have it at the Lady Hero's chamber	
FTLN 0949	window.	
FTLN 0950	BALTHASAR The best I can, my lord.	
FTLN 0951	PRINCE Do so. Farewell. <i>Balthasar exits.</i>	
FTLN 0952	Come hither, Leonato. What was it you told me of	95
FTLN 0953	today, that your niece Beatrice was in love with	
FTLN 0954	Signior Benedick?	
FTLN 0955	CLAUDIO O, ay. <i>「Aside to Prince.」</i> Stalk on, stalk on; the	
FTLN 0956	fowl sits.—I did never think that lady would have	
FTLN 0957	loved any man.	100
FTLN 0958	LEONATO No, nor I neither, but most wonderful that	
FTLN 0959	she should so dote on Signior Benedick, whom she	
FTLN 0960	hath in all outward behaviors seemed ever to	
FTLN 0961	abhor.	
FTLN 0962	BENEDICK, <i>「aside」</i> Is 't possible? Sits the wind in that	105
FTLN 0963	corner?	
FTLN 0964	LEONATO By my troth, my lord, I cannot tell what to	
FTLN 0965	think of it, but that she loves him with an enraged	
FTLN 0966	affection, it is past the infinite of thought.	
FTLN 0967	PRINCE Maybe she doth but counterfeit.	110
FTLN 0968	CLAUDIO Faith, like enough.	

FTLN 0969 LEONATO O God! Counterfeit? There was never counterfeit
 FTLN 0970 of passion came so near the life of passion as
 FTLN 0971 she discovers it.

FTLN 0972 PRINCE Why, what effects of passion shows she? 115

FTLN 0973 CLAUDIO, *aside to Leonato* Bait the hook well; this fish
 FTLN 0974 will bite.

FTLN 0975 LEONATO What effects, my lord? She will sit you—you
 FTLN 0976 heard my daughter tell you how.

FTLN 0977 CLAUDIO She did indeed. 120

FTLN 0978 PRINCE How, how I pray you? You amaze me. I would
 FTLN 0979 have thought her spirit had been invincible against
 FTLN 0980 all assaults of affection.

FTLN 0981 LEONATO I would have sworn it had, my lord, especially
 FTLN 0982 against Benedick. 125

FTLN 0983 BENEDICK, *aside* I should think this a gull but that the
 FTLN 0984 white-bearded fellow speaks it. Knavery cannot,
 FTLN 0985 sure, hide himself in such reverence.

FTLN 0986 CLAUDIO, *aside to Prince* He hath ta'en th' infection.
 FTLN 0987 Hold it up. 130

FTLN 0988 PRINCE Hath she made her affection known to
 FTLN 0989 Benedick?

FTLN 0990 LEONATO No, and swears she never will. That's her
 FTLN 0991 torment.

FTLN 0992 CLAUDIO 'Tis true indeed, so your daughter says. "Shall 135
 FTLN 0993 I," says she, "that have so oft encountered him with
 FTLN 0994 scorn, write to him that I love him?"

FTLN 0995 LEONATO This says she now when she is beginning to
 FTLN 0996 write to him, for she'll be up twenty times a night,
 FTLN 0997 and there will she sit in her smock till she have writ 140
 FTLN 0998 a sheet of paper. My daughter tells us all.

FTLN 0999 CLAUDIO Now you talk of a sheet of paper, I remember
 FTLN 1000 a pretty jest your daughter told *us of*.

FTLN 1001 LEONATO O, when she had writ it and was reading it
 FTLN 1002 over, she found "Benedick" and "Beatrice" between 145
 FTLN 1003 the sheet?

FTLN 1004 CLAUDIO That.

FTLN 1005 LEONATO O, she tore the letter into a thousand halfpence,
 FTLN 1006 railed at herself that she should be so
 FTLN 1007 immodest to write to one that she knew would flout 150
 FTLN 1008 her. "I measure him," says she, "by my own spirit,
 FTLN 1009 for I should flout him if he writ to me, yea, though I
 FTLN 1010 love him, I should."

FTLN 1011 CLAUDIO Then down upon her knees she falls, weeps,
 FTLN 1012 sobs, beats her heart, tears her hair, prays, curses: 155
 FTLN 1013 "O sweet Benedick, God give me patience!"

FTLN 1014 LEONATO She doth indeed, my daughter says so, and
 FTLN 1015 the ecstasy hath so much overborne her that my
 FTLN 1016 daughter is sometimes afeared she will do a desperate
 FTLN 1017 outrage to herself. It is very true. 160

FTLN 1018 PRINCE It were good that Benedick knew of it by some
 FTLN 1019 other, if she will not discover it.

FTLN 1020 CLAUDIO To what end? He would make but a sport of it
 FTLN 1021 and torment the poor lady worse.

FTLN 1022 PRINCE An he should, it were an alms to hang him. 165
 FTLN 1023 She's an excellent sweet lady, and, out of all suspicion,
 FTLN 1024 she is virtuous.

FTLN 1025 CLAUDIO And she is exceeding wise.

FTLN 1026 PRINCE In everything but in loving Benedick.

FTLN 1027 LEONATO O, my lord, wisdom and blood combating in 170
 FTLN 1028 so tender a body, we have ten proofs to one that
 FTLN 1029 blood hath the victory. I am sorry for her, as I have
 FTLN 1030 just cause, being her uncle and her guardian.

FTLN 1031 PRINCE I would she had bestowed this dotage on me. I
 FTLN 1032 would have daffed all other respects and made her 175
 FTLN 1033 half myself. I pray you tell Benedick of it, and hear
 FTLN 1034 what he will say.

FTLN 1035 LEONATO Were it good, think you?

FTLN 1036 CLAUDIO Hero thinks surely she will die, for she says
 FTLN 1037 she will die if he love her not, and she will die ere 180
 FTLN 1038 she make her love known, and she will die if he woo
 FTLN 1039 her rather than she will bate one breath of her
 FTLN 1040 accustomed crossness.

FTLN 1041 PRINCE She doth well. If she should make tender of
 FTLN 1042 her love, 'tis very possible he'll scorn it, for the man, 185
 FTLN 1043 as you know all, hath a contemptible spirit.
 FTLN 1044 CLAUDIO He is a very proper man.
 FTLN 1045 PRINCE He hath indeed a good outward happiness.
 FTLN 1046 CLAUDIO Before God, and in my mind, very wise.
 FTLN 1047 PRINCE He doth indeed show some sparks that are like 190
 FTLN 1048 wit.
 FTLN 1049 CLAUDIO And I take him to be valiant.
 FTLN 1050 PRINCE As Hector, I assure you, and in the managing
 FTLN 1051 of quarrels you may say he is wise, for either he
 FTLN 1052 avoids them with great discretion or undertakes 195
 FTLN 1053 them with a most Christianlike fear.
 FTLN 1054 LEONATO If he do fear God, he must necessarily keep
 FTLN 1055 peace. If he break the peace, he ought to enter into
 FTLN 1056 a quarrel with fear and trembling.
 FTLN 1057 PRINCE And so will he do, for the man doth fear God, 200
 FTLN 1058 howsoever it seems not in him by some large jests
 FTLN 1059 he will make. Well, I am sorry for your niece. Shall
 FTLN 1060 we go seek Benedick and tell him of her love?
 FTLN 1061 CLAUDIO Never tell him, my lord, let her wear it out
 FTLN 1062 with good counsel. 205
 FTLN 1063 LEONATO Nay, that's impossible; she may wear her
 FTLN 1064 heart out first.
 FTLN 1065 PRINCE Well, we will hear further of it by your daughter.
 FTLN 1066 Let it cool the while. I love Benedick well, and I
 FTLN 1067 could wish he would modestly examine himself to 210
 FTLN 1068 see how much he is unworthy so good a lady.
 FTLN 1069 LEONATO My lord, will you walk? Dinner is ready.
 「Leonato, Prince, and Claudio begin to exit.」
 FTLN 1070 CLAUDIO, *「aside to Prince and Leonato」* If he do not
 FTLN 1071 dote on her upon this, I will never trust my
 FTLN 1072 expectation. 215
 FTLN 1073 PRINCE, *「aside to Leonato」* Let there be the same net
 FTLN 1074 spread for her, and that must your daughter and her
 FTLN 1075 gentlewomen carry. The sport will be when they

FTLN 1076 hold one an opinion of another's dotage, and no
 FTLN 1077 such matter. That's the scene that I would see, 220
 FTLN 1078 which will be merely a dumb show. Let us send her
 FTLN 1079 to call him in to dinner.

['Prince, Leonato, and Claudio exit.']

FTLN 1080 BENEDICK, *['coming forward']* This can be no trick. The
 FTLN 1081 conference was sadly borne; they have the truth of
 FTLN 1082 this from Hero; they seem to pity the lady. It seems 225
 FTLN 1083 her affections have their full bent. Love me? Why, it
 FTLN 1084 must be requited! I hear how I am censured. They
 FTLN 1085 say I will bear myself proudly if I perceive the love
 FTLN 1086 come from her. They say, too, that she will rather
 FTLN 1087 die than give any sign of affection. I did never think 230
 FTLN 1088 to marry. I must not seem proud. Happy are they
 FTLN 1089 that hear their detractions and can put them to
 FTLN 1090 mending. They say the lady is fair; 'tis a truth, I can
 FTLN 1091 bear them witness. And virtuous; 'tis so, I cannot
 FTLN 1092 reprove it. And wise, but for loving me; by my troth, 235
 FTLN 1093 it is no addition to her wit, nor no great argument of
 FTLN 1094 her folly, for I will be horribly in love with her! I
 FTLN 1095 may chance have some odd quirks and remnants of
 FTLN 1096 wit broken on me because I have railed so long
 FTLN 1097 against marriage, but doth not the appetite alter? A 240
 FTLN 1098 man loves the meat in his youth that he cannot
 FTLN 1099 endure in his age. Shall quips and sentences and
 FTLN 1100 these paper bullets of the brain awe a man from the
 FTLN 1101 career of his humor? No! The world must be peopled.
 FTLN 1102 When I said I would die a bachelor, I did not 245
 FTLN 1103 think I should live till I were married. Here comes
 FTLN 1104 Beatrice. By this day, she's a fair lady. I do spy some
 FTLN 1105 marks of love in her.

Enter Beatrice.

FTLN 1106 BEATRICE Against my will, I am sent to bid you come
 FTLN 1107 in to dinner. 250
 FTLN 1108 BENEDICK Fair Beatrice, I thank you for your pains.

FTLN 1109 BEATRICE I took no more pains for those thanks than
FTLN 1110 you take pains to thank me. If it had been painful, I
FTLN 1111 would not have come.
FTLN 1112 BENEDICK You take pleasure then in the message? 255
FTLN 1113 BEATRICE Yea, just so much as you may take upon a
FTLN 1114 knife's point and choke a daw withal. You have no
FTLN 1115 stomach, signior. Fare you well. *She exits.*
FTLN 1116 BENEDICK Ha! "Against my will I am sent to bid you
FTLN 1117 come in to dinner." There's a double meaning in 260
FTLN 1118 that. "I took no more pains for those thanks than
FTLN 1119 you took pains to thank me." That's as much as to
FTLN 1120 say "Any pains that I take for you is as easy as
FTLN 1121 thanks." If I do not take pity of her, I am a villain; if I
FTLN 1122 do not love her, I am a Jew. I will go get her picture. 265
He exits.

「ACT 3」

「Scene 1」

Enter Hero and two gentlewomen, Margaret and Ursula.

HERO

FTLN 1123	Good Margaret, run thee to the parlor.	
FTLN 1124	There shalt thou find my cousin Beatrice	
FTLN 1125	Proposing with the Prince and Claudio.	
FTLN 1126	Whisper her ear and tell her I and Ursula	
FTLN 1127	Walk in the orchard, and our whole discourse	5
FTLN 1128	Is all of her. Say that thou overheardst us,	
FTLN 1129	And bid her steal into the pleachèd bower	
FTLN 1130	Where honeysuckles ripened by the sun	
FTLN 1131	Forbid the sun to enter, like favorites	
FTLN 1132	Made proud by princes, that advance their pride	10
FTLN 1133	Against that power that bred it. There will she hide	
FTLN 1134	her	
FTLN 1135	To listen our propose. This is thy office.	
FTLN 1136	Bear thee well in it, and leave us alone.	

MARGARET

FTLN 1137	I'll make her come, I warrant you, presently.	15
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「She exits.」

HERO

FTLN 1138	Now, Ursula, when Beatrice doth come,	
FTLN 1139	As we do trace this alley up and down,	
FTLN 1140	Our talk must only be of Benedick.	
FTLN 1141	When I do name him, let it be thy part	
FTLN 1142	To praise him more than ever man did merit.	20

FTLN 1143 My talk to thee must be how Benedick
 FTLN 1144 Is sick in love with Beatrice. Of this matter
 FTLN 1145 Is little Cupid's crafty arrow made,
 FTLN 1146 That only wounds by hearsay. Now begin,
 FTLN 1147 For look where Beatrice like a lapwing runs 25
 FTLN 1148 Close by the ground, to hear our conference.

Enter Beatrice, [who hides in the bower.]

URSULA, *[aside to Hero]*

FTLN 1149 The pleasant'st angling is to see the fish
 FTLN 1150 Cut with her golden oars the silver stream
 FTLN 1151 And greedily devour the treacherous bait.
 FTLN 1152 So angle we for Beatrice, who even now 30
 FTLN 1153 Is couchèd in the woodbine coverture.
 FTLN 1154 Fear you not my part of the dialogue.

HERO, *[aside to Ursula]*

FTLN 1155 Then go we near her, that her ear lose nothing
 FTLN 1156 Of the false sweet bait that we lay for it.—
[They walk near the bower.]

FTLN 1157 No, truly, Ursula, she is too disdainful. 35
 FTLN 1158 I know her spirits are as coy and wild
 FTLN 1159 As haggards of the rock.

FTLN 1160 URSULA But are you sure
 FTLN 1161 That Benedick loves Beatrice so entirely?

HERO

FTLN 1162 So says the Prince and my new-trothèd lord. 40

URSULA

FTLN 1163 And did they bid you tell her of it, madam?

HERO

FTLN 1164 They did entreat me to acquaint her of it,
 FTLN 1165 But I persuaded them, if they loved Benedick,
 FTLN 1166 To wish him wrestle with affection
 FTLN 1167 And never to let Beatrice know of it. 45

URSULA

FTLN 1168 Why did you so? Doth not the gentleman

FTLN 1201 She would mock me into air. O, she would laugh
 FTLN 1202 me 80

FTLN 1203 Out of myself, press me to death with wit.
 FTLN 1204 Therefore let Benedick, like covered fire,
 FTLN 1205 Consume away in sighs, waste inwardly.
 FTLN 1206 It were a better death than die with mocks,
 FTLN 1207 Which is as bad as die with tickling. 85

URSULA

FTLN 1208 Yet tell her of it. Hear what she will say.

HERO

FTLN 1209 No, rather I will go to Benedick
 FTLN 1210 And counsel him to fight against his passion;
 FTLN 1211 And truly I'll devise some honest slanders
 FTLN 1212 To stain my cousin with. One doth not know 90
 FTLN 1213 How much an ill word may empoison liking.

URSULA

FTLN 1214 O, do not do your cousin such a wrong!
 FTLN 1215 She cannot be so much without true judgment,
 FTLN 1216 Having so swift and excellent a wit
 FTLN 1217 As she is prized to have, as to refuse 95
 FTLN 1218 So rare a gentleman as Signior Benedick.

HERO

FTLN 1219 He is the only man of Italy,
 FTLN 1220 Always excepted my dear Claudio.

URSULA

FTLN 1221 I pray you be not angry with me, madam,
 FTLN 1222 Speaking my fancy: Signior Benedick, 100
 FTLN 1223 For shape, for bearing, argument, and valor,
 FTLN 1224 Goes foremost in report through Italy.

HERO

FTLN 1225 Indeed, he hath an excellent good name.

URSULA

FTLN 1226 His excellence did earn it ere he had it.
 FTLN 1227 When are you married, madam? 105

HERO

FTLN 1228 Why, every day, tomorrow. Come, go in.

FTLN 1229 I'll show thee some attires and have thy counsel
 FTLN 1230 Which is the best to furnish me tomorrow.
 「They move away from the bower.」

URSULA, *「aside to Hero」*

FTLN 1231 She's limed, I warrant you. We have caught her,
 FTLN 1232 madam. 110

HERO, *「aside to Ursula」*

FTLN 1233 If it prove so, then loving goes by haps;
 FTLN 1234 Some Cupid kills with arrows, some with traps.
 「Hero and Ursula exit.」

BEATRICE, *「coming forward」*

FTLN 1235 What fire is in mine ears? Can this be true?
 FTLN 1236 Stand I condemned for pride and scorn so much?
 FTLN 1237 Contempt, farewell, and maiden pride, adieu! 115
 FTLN 1238 No glory lives behind the back of such.
 FTLN 1239 And Benedick, love on; I will requite thee,
 FTLN 1240 Taming my wild heart to thy loving hand.
 FTLN 1241 If thou dost love, my kindness shall incite thee
 FTLN 1242 To bind our loves up in a holy band. 120
 FTLN 1243 For others say thou dost deserve, and I
 FTLN 1244 Believe it better than reportingly.

She exits.

*「Scene 2」**Enter Prince, Claudio, Benedick, and Leonato.*

FTLN 1245 PRINCE I do but stay till your marriage be consummate,
 FTLN 1246 and then go I toward Aragon.

FTLN 1247 CLAUDIO I'll bring you thither, my lord, if you'll vouchsafe
 FTLN 1248 me.

FTLN 1249 PRINCE Nay, that would be as great a soil in the new 5
 FTLN 1250 gloss of your marriage as to show a child his new
 FTLN 1251 coat and forbid him to wear it. I will only be bold
 FTLN 1252 with Benedick for his company, for from the crown
 FTLN 1253 of his head to the sole of his foot he is all mirth. He

FTLN 1254	hath twice or thrice cut Cupid's bowstring, and the	10
FTLN 1255	little hangman dare not shoot at him. He hath a	
FTLN 1256	heart as sound as a bell, and his tongue is the	
FTLN 1257	clapper, for what his heart thinks, his tongue	
FTLN 1258	speaks.	
FTLN 1259	BENEDICK Gallants, I am not as I have been.	15
FTLN 1260	LEONATO So say I. Methinks you are sadder.	
FTLN 1261	CLAUDIO I hope he be in love.	
FTLN 1262	PRINCE Hang him, truant! There's no true drop of	
FTLN 1263	blood in him to be truly touched with love. If he be	
FTLN 1264	sad, he wants money.	20
FTLN 1265	BENEDICK I have the toothache.	
FTLN 1266	PRINCE Draw it.	
FTLN 1267	BENEDICK Hang it!	
FTLN 1268	CLAUDIO You must hang it first, and draw it afterwards.	
FTLN 1269	PRINCE What, sigh for the toothache?	25
FTLN 1270	LEONATO Where is but a humor or a worm.	
FTLN 1271	BENEDICK Well, everyone 'can' master a grief but he	
FTLN 1272	that has it.	
FTLN 1273	CLAUDIO Yet say I, he is in love.	
FTLN 1274	PRINCE There is no appearance of fancy in him, unless	30
FTLN 1275	it be a fancy that he hath to strange disguises, as to	
FTLN 1276	be a Dutchman today, a Frenchman tomorrow, or	
FTLN 1277	in the shape of two countries at once, as a German	
FTLN 1278	from the waist downward, all slops, and a Spaniard	
FTLN 1279	from the hip upward, no doublet. Unless he have a	35
FTLN 1280	fancy to this foolery, as it appears he hath, he is no	
FTLN 1281	fool for fancy, as you would have it appear he is.	
FTLN 1282	CLAUDIO If he be not in love with some woman, there	
FTLN 1283	is no believing old signs. He brushes his hat o'	
FTLN 1284	mornings. What should that bode?	40
FTLN 1285	PRINCE Hath any man seen him at the barber's?	
FTLN 1286	CLAUDIO No, but the barber's man hath been seen	
FTLN 1287	with him, and the old ornament of his cheek hath	
FTLN 1288	already stuffed tennis balls.	

FTLN 1289 LEONATO Indeed he looks younger than he did, by the 45
 FTLN 1290 loss of a beard.
 FTLN 1291 PRINCE Nay, he rubs himself with civet. Can you smell
 FTLN 1292 him out by that?
 FTLN 1293 CLAUDIO That's as much as to say, the sweet youth's in
 FTLN 1294 love. 50
 FTLN 1295 「PRINCE」 The greatest note of it is his melancholy.
 FTLN 1296 CLAUDIO And when was he wont to wash his face?
 FTLN 1297 PRINCE Yea, or to paint himself? For the which I hear
 FTLN 1298 what they say of him.
 FTLN 1299 CLAUDIO Nay, but his jesting spirit, which is now crept 55
 FTLN 1300 into a lute string and now governed by stops—
 FTLN 1301 PRINCE Indeed, that tells a heavy tale for him. Conclude,
 FTLN 1302 conclude, he is in love.
 FTLN 1303 CLAUDIO Nay, but I know who loves him.
 FTLN 1304 PRINCE That would I know, too. I warrant, one that 60
 FTLN 1305 knows him not.
 FTLN 1306 CLAUDIO Yes, and his ill conditions; and, in despite of
 FTLN 1307 all, dies for him.
 FTLN 1308 PRINCE She shall be buried with her face upwards.
 FTLN 1309 BENEDICK Yet is this no charm for the toothache.— 65
 FTLN 1310 Old signior, walk aside with me. I have studied eight
 FTLN 1311 or nine wise words to speak to you, which these
 FTLN 1312 hobby-horses must not hear.

「*Benedick and Leonato exit.*」

FTLN 1313 PRINCE For my life, to break with him about Beatrice!
 FTLN 1314 CLAUDIO 'Tis even so. Hero and Margaret have by this 70
 FTLN 1315 played their parts with Beatrice, and then the two
 FTLN 1316 bears will not bite one another when they meet.

Enter John the Bastard.

FTLN 1317 DON JOHN My lord and brother, God save you.
 FTLN 1318 PRINCE Good e'en, brother.
 FTLN 1319 DON JOHN If your leisure served, I would speak with 75
 FTLN 1320 you.
 FTLN 1321 PRINCE In private?

FTLN 1322 DON JOHN If it please you. Yet Count Claudio may
 FTLN 1323 hear, for what I would speak of concerns him.
 FTLN 1324 PRINCE What's the matter? 80
 FTLN 1325 DON JOHN, *['to Claudio']* Means your Lordship to be
 FTLN 1326 married tomorrow?
 FTLN 1327 PRINCE You know he does.
 FTLN 1328 DON JOHN I know not that, when he knows what I
 FTLN 1329 know. 85
 FTLN 1330 CLAUDIO If there be any impediment, I pray you discover
 FTLN 1331 it.
 FTLN 1332 DON JOHN You may think I love you not. Let that
 FTLN 1333 appear hereafter, and aim better at me by that I
 FTLN 1334 now will manifest. For my brother, I think he holds 90
 FTLN 1335 you well, and in dearness of heart hath help to effect
 FTLN 1336 your ensuing marriage—surely suit ill spent and
 FTLN 1337 labor ill bestowed.
 FTLN 1338 PRINCE Why, what's the matter?
 FTLN 1339 DON JOHN I came hither to tell you; and, circumstances 95
 FTLN 1340 shortened, for she has been too long
 FTLN 1341 a-talking of, the lady is disloyal.
 FTLN 1342 CLAUDIO Who, Hero?
 FTLN 1343 DON JOHN Even she: Leonato's Hero, your Hero, every
 FTLN 1344 man's Hero. 100
 FTLN 1345 CLAUDIO Disloyal?
 FTLN 1346 DON JOHN The word is too good to paint out her
 FTLN 1347 wickedness. I could say she were worse. Think you
 FTLN 1348 of a worse title, and I will fit her to it. Wonder not
 FTLN 1349 till further warrant. Go but with me tonight, you 105
 FTLN 1350 shall see her chamber window entered, even the
 FTLN 1351 night before her wedding day. If you love her then,
 FTLN 1352 tomorrow wed her. But it would better fit your
 FTLN 1353 honor to change your mind.
 FTLN 1354 CLAUDIO, *['to Prince']* May this be so? 110
 FTLN 1355 PRINCE I will not think it.
 FTLN 1356 DON JOHN If you dare not trust that you see, confess
 FTLN 1357 not that you know. If you will follow me, I will

FTLN 1358 show you enough, and when you have seen more
 FTLN 1359 and heard more, proceed accordingly. 115
 FTLN 1360 CLAUDIO If I see anything tonight why I should not
 FTLN 1361 marry her, tomorrow in the congregation, where I
 FTLN 1362 should wed, there will I shame her.
 FTLN 1363 PRINCE And as I wooed for thee to obtain her, I will
 FTLN 1364 join with thee to disgrace her. 120
 FTLN 1365 DON JOHN I will disparage her no farther till you are
 FTLN 1366 my witnesses. Bear it coldly but till midnight, and
 FTLN 1367 let the issue show itself.
 FTLN 1368 PRINCE O day untowardly turned!
 FTLN 1369 CLAUDIO O mischief strangely thwarting! 125
 FTLN 1370 DON JOHN O plague right well prevented! So will you
 FTLN 1371 say when you have seen the sequel.

「*They exit.*」

「Scene 3」

*Enter Dogberry and his compartner 「Verges」
 with the Watch.*

FTLN 1372 DOGBERRY Are you good men and true?
 FTLN 1373 VERGES Yea, or else it were pity but they should suffer
 FTLN 1374 salvation, body and soul.
 FTLN 1375 DOGBERRY Nay, that were a punishment too good for
 FTLN 1376 them if they should have any allegiance in them, 5
 FTLN 1377 being chosen for the Prince's watch.
 FTLN 1378 VERGES Well, give them their charge, neighbor
 FTLN 1379 Dogberry.
 FTLN 1380 DOGBERRY First, who think you the most desartless
 FTLN 1381 man to be constable? 10
 FTLN 1382 FIRST WATCHMAN Hugh Oatcake, sir, or George Seacoal,
 FTLN 1383 for they can write and read.
 FTLN 1384 DOGBERRY Come hither, neighbor Seacoal. 「*Seacoal*
 FTLN 1385 *steps forward.*」 God hath blessed you with a good

FTLN 1386	name. To be a well-favored man is the gift of	15
FTLN 1387	fortune, but to write and read comes by nature.	
FTLN 1388	「SEACOAL」 Both which, master constable—	
FTLN 1389	DOGBERRY You have. I knew it would be your answer.	
FTLN 1390	Well, for your favor, sir, why, give God thanks, and	
FTLN 1391	make no boast of it, and for your writing and	20
FTLN 1392	reading, let that appear when there is no need of	
FTLN 1393	such vanity. You are thought here to be the most	
FTLN 1394	senseless and fit man for the constable of the watch;	
FTLN 1395	therefore bear you the lantern. This is your charge:	
FTLN 1396	you shall comprehend all vagrom men; you are to	25
FTLN 1397	bid any man stand, in the Prince's name.	
FTLN 1398	「SEACOAL」 How if he will not stand?	
FTLN 1399	DOGBERRY Why, then, take no note of him, but let him	
FTLN 1400	go, and presently call the rest of the watch together	
FTLN 1401	and thank God you are rid of a knave.	30
FTLN 1402	VERGES If he will not stand when he is bidden, he is	
FTLN 1403	none of the Prince's subjects.	
FTLN 1404	DOGBERRY True, and they are to meddle with none but	
FTLN 1405	the Prince's subjects.—You shall also make no	
FTLN 1406	noise in the streets; for, for the watch to babble and	35
FTLN 1407	to talk is most tolerable and not to be endured.	
FTLN 1408	「SECOND」 WATCHMAN We will rather sleep than talk.	
FTLN 1409	We know what belongs to a watch.	
FTLN 1410	DOGBERRY Why, you speak like an ancient and most	
FTLN 1411	quiet watchman, for I cannot see how sleeping	40
FTLN 1412	should offend; only have a care that your bills be not	
FTLN 1413	stolen. Well, you are to call at all the alehouses and	
FTLN 1414	bid those that are drunk get them to bed.	
FTLN 1415	「SEACOAL」 How if they will not?	
FTLN 1416	DOGBERRY Why then, let them alone till they are sober.	45
FTLN 1417	If they make you not then the better answer, you	
FTLN 1418	may say they are not the men you took them for.	
FTLN 1419	「SEACOAL」 Well, sir.	
FTLN 1420	DOGBERRY If you meet a thief, you may suspect him, by	
FTLN 1421	virtue of your office, to be no true man, and for such	50

FTLN 1422	kind of men, the less you meddle or make with	
FTLN 1423	them, why, the more is for your honesty.	
FTLN 1424	「SEACOAL」 If we know him to be a thief, shall we not	
FTLN 1425	lay hands on him?	
FTLN 1426	DOGBERRY Truly, by your office you may, but I think	55
FTLN 1427	they that touch pitch will be defiled. The most	
FTLN 1428	peaceable way for you, if you do take a thief, is to	
FTLN 1429	let him show himself what he is and steal out of	
FTLN 1430	your company.	
FTLN 1431	VERGES You have been always called a merciful man,	60
FTLN 1432	partner.	
FTLN 1433	DOGBERRY Truly, I would not hang a dog by my will,	
FTLN 1434	much more a man who hath any honesty in him.	
FTLN 1435	VERGES, 「to the Watch」 If you hear a child cry in the	
FTLN 1436	night, you must call to the nurse and bid her still it.	65
FTLN 1437	「SECOND」 WATCHMAN How if the nurse be asleep and	
FTLN 1438	will not hear us?	
FTLN 1439	DOGBERRY Why, then depart in peace, and let the	
FTLN 1440	child wake her with crying, for the ewe that will	
FTLN 1441	not hear her lamb when it baas will never answer a	70
FTLN 1442	calf when he bleats.	
FTLN 1443	VERGES 'Tis very true.	
FTLN 1444	DOGBERRY This is the end of the charge. You, constable,	
FTLN 1445	are to present the Prince's own person. If you	
FTLN 1446	meet the Prince in the night, you may stay him.	75
FTLN 1447	VERGES Nay, by 'r Lady, that I think he cannot.	
FTLN 1448	DOGBERRY Five shillings to one on 't, with any man that	
FTLN 1449	knows the statutes, he may stay him—marry, not	
FTLN 1450	without the Prince be willing, for indeed the watch	
FTLN 1451	ought to offend no man, and it is an offense to stay a	80
FTLN 1452	man against his will.	
FTLN 1453	VERGES By 'r Lady, I think it be so.	
FTLN 1454	DOGBERRY Ha, ah ha!—Well, masters, goodnight. An	
FTLN 1455	there be any matter of weight chances, call up me.	
FTLN 1456	Keep your fellows' counsels and your own, and	85
FTLN 1457	goodnight.—Come, neighbor.	
	「Dogberry and Verges begin to exit.」	

FTLN 1458	「SEACOAL」	Well, masters, we hear our charge. Let us go	
FTLN 1459		sit here upon the church bench till two, and then all	
FTLN 1460		to bed.	
FTLN 1461	DOGBERRY	One word more, honest neighbors. I pray	90
FTLN 1462		you watch about Signior Leonato's door, for the	
FTLN 1463		wedding being there tomorrow, there is a great coil	
FTLN 1464		tonight. Adieu, be vigilant, I beseech you.	
		「Dogberry and Verges」 <i>exit</i> .	
		<i>Enter Borachio and Conrade.</i>	
FTLN 1465	BORACHIO	What, Conrade!	
FTLN 1466	「SEACOAL, <i>aside</i> 」	Peace, stir not.	95
FTLN 1467	BORACHIO	Conrade, I say!	
FTLN 1468	CONRADE	Here, man, I am at thy elbow.	
FTLN 1469	BORACHIO	Mass, and my elbow itched, I thought there	
FTLN 1470		would a scab follow.	
FTLN 1471	CONRADE	I will owe thee an answer for that. And now	100
FTLN 1472		forward with thy tale.	
FTLN 1473	BORACHIO	Stand thee close, then, under this penthouse,	
FTLN 1474		for it drizzles rain, and I will, like a true	
FTLN 1475		drunkard, utter all to thee.	
FTLN 1476	「SEACOAL, <i>aside</i> 」	Some treason, masters. Yet stand	105
FTLN 1477		close.	
FTLN 1478	BORACHIO	Therefore know, I have earned of 「Don」	
FTLN 1479		John a thousand ducats.	
FTLN 1480	CONRADE	Is it possible that any villainy should be so	
FTLN 1481		dear?	110
FTLN 1482	BORACHIO	Thou shouldst rather ask if it were possible	
FTLN 1483		any villainy should be so rich. For when rich	
FTLN 1484		villains have need of poor ones, poor ones may	
FTLN 1485		make what price they will.	
FTLN 1486	CONRADE	I wonder at it.	115
FTLN 1487	BORACHIO	That shows thou art unconfirmed. Thou	
FTLN 1488		knowest that the fashion of a doublet, or a hat, or a	
FTLN 1489		cloak, is nothing to a man.	

FTLN 1490	CONRADE	Yes, it is apparel.	
FTLN 1491	BORACHIO	I mean the fashion.	120
FTLN 1492	CONRADE	Yes, the fashion is the fashion.	
FTLN 1493	BORACHIO	Tush, I may as well say the fool's the fool.	
FTLN 1494		But seest thou not what a deformed thief this	
FTLN 1495		fashion is?	
FTLN 1496	「FIRST」 WATCHMAN, 「 <i>aside</i> 」	I know that Deformed. He	125
FTLN 1497		has been a vile thief this seven year. He goes up and	
FTLN 1498		down like a gentleman. I remember his name.	
FTLN 1499	BORACHIO	Didst thou not hear somebody?	
FTLN 1500	CONRADE	No, 'twas the vane on the house.	
FTLN 1501	BORACHIO	Seest thou not, I say, what a deformed thief	130
FTLN 1502		this fashion is, how giddily he turns about all the	
FTLN 1503		hot bloods between fourteen and five-and-thirty,	
FTLN 1504		sometimes fashioning them like Pharaoh's soldiers	
FTLN 1505		in the reechy painting, sometimes like god Bel's	
FTLN 1506		priests in the old church window, sometimes like	135
FTLN 1507		the shaven Hercules in the smirched worm-eaten	
FTLN 1508		tapestry, where his codpiece seems as massy as his	
FTLN 1509		club?	
FTLN 1510	CONRADE	All this I see, and I see that the fashion wears	
FTLN 1511		out more apparel than the man. But art not thou	140
FTLN 1512		thyself giddy with the fashion too, that thou hast	
FTLN 1513		shifted out of thy tale into telling me of the	
FTLN 1514		fashion?	
FTLN 1515	BORACHIO	Not so, neither. But know that I have tonight	
FTLN 1516		wooed Margaret, the Lady Hero's gentlewoman,	145
FTLN 1517		by the name of Hero. She leans me out at	
FTLN 1518		her mistress' chamber window, bids me a thousand	
FTLN 1519		times goodnight. I tell this tale vilely. I should first	
FTLN 1520		tell thee how the Prince, Claudio, and my master,	
FTLN 1521		planted and placed and possessed by my master	150
FTLN 1522		Don John, saw afar off in the orchard this amiable	
FTLN 1523		amiable encounter.	
FTLN 1524	CONRADE	And thought they Margaret was Hero?	
FTLN 1525	BORACHIO	Two of them did, the Prince and Claudio,	

FTLN 1526	but the devil my master knew she was Margaret;	155
FTLN 1527	and partly by his oaths, which first possessed them,	
FTLN 1528	partly by the dark night, which did deceive them,	
FTLN 1529	but chiefly by my villainy, which did confirm any	
FTLN 1530	slander that Don John had made, away went Claudio	
FTLN 1531	enraged, swore he would meet her as he was	160
FTLN 1532	appointed next morning at the temple, and there,	
FTLN 1533	before the whole congregation, shame her with	
FTLN 1534	what he saw o'ernight and send her home again	
FTLN 1535	without a husband.	
FTLN 1536	FIRST WATCHMAN We charge you in the Prince's name	165
FTLN 1537	stand!	
FTLN 1538	「SEACOAL」 Call up the right Master Constable. 「 <i>Second</i>	
FTLN 1539	<i>Watchman exits.</i> 」 We have here recovered the most	
FTLN 1540	dangerous piece of lechery that ever was known in	
FTLN 1541	the commonwealth.	170
FTLN 1542	FIRST WATCHMAN And one Deformed is one of them. I	
FTLN 1543	know him; he wears a lock.	
	 「 <i>Enter Dogberry, Verges, and Second Watchman.</i> 」	
FTLN 1544	「DOGBERRY」 Masters, masters—	
FTLN 1545	「FIRST」 WATCHMAN, 「 <i>to Borachio</i> 」 You'll be made bring	
FTLN 1546	Deformed forth, I warrant you.	175
FTLN 1547	「DOGBERRY, <i>to Borachio and Conrade</i> 」 Masters, never	
FTLN 1548	speak, we charge you, let us obey you to go with us.	
FTLN 1549	BORACHIO, 「 <i>to Conrade</i> 」 We are like to prove a goodly	
FTLN 1550	commodity, being taken up of these men's bills.	
FTLN 1551	CONRADE A commodity in question, I warrant you.—	180
FTLN 1552	Come, we'll obey you.	

They exit.

[Scene 4]

Enter Hero, and Margaret, and Ursula.

FTLN 1553	HERO	Good Ursula, wake my cousin Beatrice and	
FTLN 1554		desire her to rise.	
FTLN 1555	URSULA	I will, lady.	
FTLN 1556	HERO	And bid her come hither.	
FTLN 1557	URSULA	Well.	[Ursula exits.] 5
FTLN 1558	MARGARET	Troth, I think your other rebato were	
FTLN 1559		better.	
FTLN 1560	HERO	No, pray thee, good Meg, I'll wear this.	
FTLN 1561	MARGARET	By my troth, 's not so good, and I warrant	
FTLN 1562		your cousin will say so.	10
FTLN 1563	HERO	My cousin's a fool, and thou art another. I'll	
FTLN 1564		wear none but this.	
FTLN 1565	MARGARET	I like the new tire within excellently, if the	
FTLN 1566		hair were a thought browner; and your gown's a	
FTLN 1567		most rare fashion, i' faith. I saw the Duchess of	15
FTLN 1568		Milan's gown that they praise so.	
FTLN 1569	HERO	O, that exceeds, they say.	
FTLN 1570	MARGARET	By my troth, 's but a nightgown [in] respect	
FTLN 1571		of yours—cloth o' gold, and cuts, and laced with	
FTLN 1572		silver, set with pearls, down sleeves, side sleeves,	20
FTLN 1573		and skirts round underborne with a bluish tinsel.	
FTLN 1574		But for a fine, quaint, graceful, and excellent fashion,	
FTLN 1575		yours is worth ten on 't.	
FTLN 1576	HERO	God give me joy to wear it, for my heart is	
FTLN 1577		exceeding heavy.	25
FTLN 1578	MARGARET	'Twill be heavier soon by the weight of a	
FTLN 1579		man.	
FTLN 1580	HERO	Fie upon thee! Art not ashamed?	
FTLN 1581	MARGARET	Of what, lady? Of speaking honorably? Is	
FTLN 1582		not marriage honorable in a beggar? Is not your	30
FTLN 1583		lord honorable without marriage? I think you	
FTLN 1584		would have me say "Saving your reverence, a husband."	
FTLN 1585		An bad thinking do not wrest true speaking,	

FTLN 1586 I'll offend nobody. Is there any harm in "the heavier
 FTLN 1587 for a husband"? None, I think, an it be the right 35
 FTLN 1588 husband and the right wife. Otherwise, 'tis light and
 FTLN 1589 not heavy. Ask my lady Beatrice else. Here she
 FTLN 1590 comes.

Enter Beatrice.

FTLN 1591 HERO Good morrow, coz.
 FTLN 1592 BEATRICE Good morrow, sweet Hero. 40
 FTLN 1593 HERO Why, how now? Do you speak in the sick tune?
 FTLN 1594 BEATRICE I am out of all other tune, methinks.
 FTLN 1595 MARGARET Clap 's into "Light o' love." That goes
 FTLN 1596 without a burden. Do you sing it, and I'll dance it.
 FTLN 1597 BEATRICE You light o' love with your heels! Then, if 45
 FTLN 1598 your husband have stables enough, you'll see he
 FTLN 1599 shall lack no barns.
 FTLN 1600 MARGARET O, illegitimate construction! I scorn that
 FTLN 1601 with my heels.
 FTLN 1602 BEATRICE 'Tis almost five o'clock, cousin. 'Tis time 50
 FTLN 1603 you were ready. By my troth, I am exceeding ill.
 FTLN 1604 Heigh-ho!
 FTLN 1605 MARGARET For a hawk, a horse, or a husband?
 FTLN 1606 BEATRICE For the letter that begins them all, *H*.
 FTLN 1607 MARGARET Well, an you be not turned Turk, there's no 55
 FTLN 1608 more sailing by the star.
 FTLN 1609 BEATRICE What means the fool, trow?
 FTLN 1610 MARGARET Nothing, I; but God send everyone their
 FTLN 1611 heart's desire.
 FTLN 1612 HERO These gloves the Count sent me, they are an 60
 FTLN 1613 excellent perfume.
 FTLN 1614 BEATRICE I am stuffed, cousin. I cannot smell.
 FTLN 1615 MARGARET A maid, and stuffed! There's goodly catching
 FTLN 1616 of cold.
 FTLN 1617 BEATRICE O, God help me, God help me! How long 65
 FTLN 1618 have you professed apprehension?

FTLN 1619 MARGARET Ever since you left it. Doth not my wit
 FTLN 1620 become me rarely?
 FTLN 1621 BEATRICE It is not seen enough; you should wear it in
 FTLN 1622 your cap. By my troth, I am sick. 70
 FTLN 1623 MARGARET Get you some of this distilled *carduus benedictus*
 FTLN 1624 and lay it to your heart. It is the only thing for
 FTLN 1625 a qualm.
 FTLN 1626 HERO There thou prick'st her with a thistle.
 FTLN 1627 BEATRICE *Benedictus!* Why *benedictus*? You have some 75
 FTLN 1628 moral in this *benedictus*?
 FTLN 1629 MARGARET Moral? No, by my troth, I have no moral
 FTLN 1630 meaning; I meant plain holy thistle. You may think
 FTLN 1631 perchance that I think you are in love. Nay, by 'r
 FTLN 1632 Lady, I am not such a fool to think what I list, nor I 80
 FTLN 1633 list not to think what I can, nor indeed I cannot
 FTLN 1634 think, if I would think my heart out of thinking, that
 FTLN 1635 you are in love or that you will be in love or that you
 FTLN 1636 can be in love. Yet Benedick was such another, and
 FTLN 1637 now is he become a man. He swore he would never 85
 FTLN 1638 marry, and yet now, in despite of his heart, he eats
 FTLN 1639 his meat without grudging. And how you may be
 FTLN 1640 converted I know not, but methinks you look with
 FTLN 1641 your eyes as other women do.
 FTLN 1642 BEATRICE What pace is this that thy tongue keeps? 90
 FTLN 1643 MARGARET Not a false gallop.

Enter Ursula.

FTLN 1644 URSULA Madam, withdraw. The Prince, the Count,
 FTLN 1645 Signior Benedick, Don John, and all the gallants of
 FTLN 1646 the town are come to fetch you to church.
 FTLN 1647 HERO Help to dress me, good coz, good Meg, good 95
 FTLN 1648 Ursula.

They exit.

[Scene 5]

*Enter Leonato, and [Dogberry,] the Constable, and
[Verges,] the Headborough.*

FTLN 1649	LEONATO	What would you with me, honest neighbor?	
FTLN 1650	DOGBERRY	Marry, sir, I would have some confidence	
FTLN 1651		with you that decerns you nearly.	
FTLN 1652	LEONATO	Brief, I pray you, for you see it is a busy time	
FTLN 1653		with me.	5
FTLN 1654	DOGBERRY	Marry, this it is, sir.	
FTLN 1655	VERGES	Yes, in truth, it is, sir.	
FTLN 1656	LEONATO	What is it, my good friends?	
FTLN 1657	DOGBERRY	Goodman Verges, sir, speaks a little off the	
FTLN 1658		matter. An old man, sir, and his wits are not so blunt	10
FTLN 1659		as, God help, I would desire they were, but, in faith,	
FTLN 1660		honest as the skin between his brows.	
FTLN 1661	VERGES	Yes, I thank God I am as honest as any man	
FTLN 1662		living that is an old man and no honester than I.	
FTLN 1663	DOGBERRY	Comparisons are odorous. <i>Palabras</i> , neighbor	15
FTLN 1664		Verges.	
FTLN 1665	LEONATO	Neighbors, you are tedious.	
FTLN 1666	DOGBERRY	It pleases your Worship to say so, but we	
FTLN 1667		are the poor duke's officers. But truly, for mine	
FTLN 1668		own part, if I were as tedious as a king, I could find	20
FTLN 1669		in my heart to bestow it all of your Worship.	
FTLN 1670	LEONATO	All thy tediousness on me, ah?	
FTLN 1671	DOGBERRY	Yea, an 'twere a thousand pound more	
FTLN 1672		than 'tis, for I hear as good exclamation on your	
FTLN 1673		Worship as of any man in the city, and though I be	25
FTLN 1674		but a poor man, I am glad to hear it.	
FTLN 1675	VERGES	And so am I.	
FTLN 1676	LEONATO	I would fain know what you have to say.	
FTLN 1677	VERGES	Marry, sir, our watch tonight, excepting your	
FTLN 1678		Worship's presence, ha' ta'en a couple of as arrant	30
FTLN 1679		knaves as any in Messina.	
FTLN 1680	DOGBERRY	A good old man, sir. He will be talking. As	

FTLN 1681 they say, “When the age is in, the wit is out.” God
 FTLN 1682 help us, it is a world to see!—Well said, i’ faith,
 FTLN 1683 neighbor Verges.—Well, God’s a good man. An two 35
 FTLN 1684 men ride of a horse, one must ride behind. An
 FTLN 1685 honest soul, i’ faith, sir, by my troth he is, as ever
 FTLN 1686 broke bread, but God is to be worshiped, all men
 FTLN 1687 are not alike, alas, good neighbor.
 FTLN 1688 LEONATO Indeed, neighbor, he comes too short of you. 40
 FTLN 1689 DOGBERRY Gifts that God gives.
 FTLN 1690 LEONATO I must leave you.
 FTLN 1691 DOGBERRY One word, sir. Our watch, sir, have indeed
 FTLN 1692 comprehended two aspicious persons, and we
 FTLN 1693 would have them this morning examined before 45
 FTLN 1694 your Worship.
 FTLN 1695 LEONATO Take their examination yourself and bring it
 FTLN 1696 me. I am now in great haste, as it may appear unto
 FTLN 1697 you.
 FTLN 1698 DOGBERRY It shall be suffigance. 50
 FTLN 1699 LEONATO Drink some wine ere you go. Fare you well.

[*Enter a Messenger.*]

FTLN 1700 MESSENGER My lord, they stay for you to give your
 FTLN 1701 daughter to her husband.
 FTLN 1702 LEONATO I’ll wait upon them. I am ready.
He exits, [with the Messenger.]
 FTLN 1703 DOGBERRY Go, good partner, go, get you to Francis 55
 FTLN 1704 Seacoal. Bid him bring his pen and inkhorn to the
 FTLN 1705 jail. We are now to examination these men.
 FTLN 1706 VERGES And we must do it wisely.
 FTLN 1707 DOGBERRY We will spare for no wit, I warrant you.
 FTLN 1708 Here’s that shall drive some of them to a noncome. 60
 FTLN 1709 Only get the learned writer to set down our excommunication
 FTLN 1710 and meet me at the jail.

[*They exit.*]

「ACT 4」

「Scene 1」

*Enter Prince, 「John the」 Bastard, Leonato, Friar,
Claudio, Benedick, Hero, and Beatrice, 「with
Attendants.」*

FTLN 1711	LEONATO	Come, Friar Francis, be brief, only to the	
FTLN 1712		plain form of marriage, and you shall recount their	
FTLN 1713		particular duties afterwards.	
FTLN 1714	FRIAR, 「to Claudio」	You come hither, my lord, to marry	
FTLN 1715		this lady?	5
FTLN 1716	CLAUDIO	No.	
FTLN 1717	LEONATO	To be married to her.—Friar, you come to	
FTLN 1718		marry her.	
FTLN 1719	FRIAR	Lady, you come hither to be married to this	
FTLN 1720		count?	10
FTLN 1721	HERO	I do.	
FTLN 1722	FRIAR	If either of you know any inward impediment	
FTLN 1723		why you should not be conjoined, I charge you on	
FTLN 1724		your souls to utter it.	
FTLN 1725	CLAUDIO	Know you any, Hero?	15
FTLN 1726	HERO	None, my lord.	
FTLN 1727	FRIAR	Know you any, count?	
FTLN 1728	LEONATO	I dare make his answer, none.	
FTLN 1729	CLAUDIO	O, what men dare do! What men may do!	
FTLN 1730		What men daily do, not knowing what they do!	20
FTLN 1731	BENEDICK	How now, interjections? Why, then, some	
FTLN 1732		be of laughing, as ah, ha, he!	

CLAUDIO

FTLN 1733 Stand thee by, friar.—Father, by your leave,
 FTLN 1734 Will you with free and unconstrained soul
 FTLN 1735 Give me this maid, your daughter? 25

LEONATO

FTLN 1736 As freely, son, as God did give her me.

CLAUDIO

FTLN 1737 And what have I to give you back whose worth
 FTLN 1738 May counterpoise this rich and precious gift?

PRINCE

FTLN 1739 Nothing, unless you render her again.

CLAUDIO

FTLN 1740 Sweet prince, you learn me noble thankfulness.— 30
 FTLN 1741 There, Leonato, take her back again.
 FTLN 1742 Give not this rotten orange to your friend.
 FTLN 1743 She's but the sign and semblance of her honor.
 FTLN 1744 Behold how like a maid she blushes here!
 FTLN 1745 O, what authority and show of truth 35
 FTLN 1746 Can cunning sin cover itself withal!
 FTLN 1747 Comes not that blood as modest evidence
 FTLN 1748 To witness simple virtue? Would you not swear,
 FTLN 1749 All you that see her, that she were a maid,
 FTLN 1750 By these exterior shows? But she is none. 40
 FTLN 1751 She knows the heat of a luxurious bed.
 FTLN 1752 Her blush is guiltiness, not modesty.

LEONATO

FTLN 1753 What do you mean, my lord?

CLAUDIO Not to be married,

FTLN 1754 Not to knit my soul to an approvèd wanton. 45
 FTLN 1755

LEONATO

FTLN 1756 Dear my lord, if you in your own proof
 FTLN 1757 Have vanquished the resistance of her youth,
 FTLN 1758 And made defeat of her virginity—

CLAUDIO

FTLN 1759 I know what you would say: if I have known her,
 FTLN 1760 You will say she did embrace me as a husband, 50

FTLN 1761	And so extenuate the forehand sin.	
FTLN 1762	No, Leonato,	
FTLN 1763	I never tempted her with word too large,	
FTLN 1764	But, as a brother to his sister, showed	
FTLN 1765	Bashful sincerity and comely love.	55
	HERO	
FTLN 1766	And seemed I ever otherwise to you?	
	CLAUDIO	
FTLN 1767	Out on thee, seeming! I will write against it.	
FTLN 1768	You seem to me as Dian in her orb,	
FTLN 1769	As chaste as is the bud ere it be blown.	
FTLN 1770	But you are more intemperate in your blood	60
FTLN 1771	Than Venus, or those pampered animals	
FTLN 1772	That rage in savage sensuality.	
	HERO	
FTLN 1773	Is my lord well that he doth speak so wide?	
	LEONATO	
FTLN 1774	Sweet prince, why speak not you?	
FTLN 1775	PRINCE	What should I
FTLN 1776	speak?	65
FTLN 1777	I stand dishonored that have gone about	
FTLN 1778	To link my dear friend to a common stale.	
	LEONATO	
FTLN 1779	Are these things spoken, or do I but dream?	
	DON JOHN	
FTLN 1780	Sir, they are spoken, and these things are true.	70
FTLN 1781	BENEDICK This looks not like a nuptial.	
FTLN 1782	HERO True! O God!	
FTLN 1783	CLAUDIO Leonato, stand I here?	
FTLN 1784	Is this the Prince? Is this the Prince's brother?	
FTLN 1785	Is this face Hero's? Are our eyes our own?	75
	LEONATO	
FTLN 1786	All this is so, but what of this, my lord?	
	CLAUDIO	
FTLN 1787	Let me but move one question to your daughter,	

FTLN 1788	And by that fatherly and kindly power	
FTLN 1789	That you have in her, bid her answer truly.	
	LEONATO	
FTLN 1790	I charge thee do so, as thou art my child.	80
	HERO	
FTLN 1791	O, God defend me, how am I beset!—	
FTLN 1792	What kind of catechizing call you this?	
	CLAUDIO	
FTLN 1793	To make you answer truly to your name.	
	HERO	
FTLN 1794	Is it not Hero? Who can blot that name	
FTLN 1795	With any just reproach?	85
FTLN 1796	CLAUDIO Marry, that can Hero!	
FTLN 1797	Hero itself can blot out Hero's virtue.	
FTLN 1798	What man was he talked with you yesternight	
FTLN 1799	Out at your window betwixt twelve and one?	
FTLN 1800	Now, if you are a maid, answer to this.	90
	HERO	
FTLN 1801	I talked with no man at that hour, my lord.	
	PRINCE	
FTLN 1802	Why, then, are you no maiden.—Leonato,	
FTLN 1803	I am sorry you must hear. Upon mine honor,	
FTLN 1804	Myself, my brother, and this grievèd count	
FTLN 1805	Did see her, hear her, at that hour last night	95
FTLN 1806	Talk with a ruffian at her chamber window,	
FTLN 1807	Who hath indeed, most like a liberal villain,	
FTLN 1808	Confessed the vile encounters they have had	
FTLN 1809	A thousand times in secret.	
	DON JOHN	
FTLN 1810	Fie, fie, they are not to be named, my lord,	100
FTLN 1811	Not to be spoke of!	
FTLN 1812	There is not chastity enough in language,	
FTLN 1813	Without offense, to utter them.—Thus, pretty lady,	
FTLN 1814	I am sorry for thy much misgovernment.	
	CLAUDIO	
FTLN 1815	O Hero, what a Hero hadst thou been	105

FTLN 1816	If half thy outward graces had been placed	
FTLN 1817	About thy thoughts and counsels of thy heart!	
FTLN 1818	But fare thee well, most foul, most fair. Farewell,	
FTLN 1819	Thou pure impiety and impious purity.	
FTLN 1820	For thee I'll lock up all the gates of love	110
FTLN 1821	And on my eyelids shall conjecture hang,	
FTLN 1822	To turn all beauty into thoughts of harm,	
FTLN 1823	And never shall it more be gracious.	
	LEONATO	
FTLN 1824	Hath no man's dagger here a point for me?	
	<i>「Hero falls.」</i>	
	BEATRICE	
FTLN 1825	Why, how now, cousin, wherefore sink you down?	115
	DON JOHN	
FTLN 1826	Come, let us go. These things, come thus to light,	
FTLN 1827	Smother her spirits up.	
	<i>「Claudio, Prince, and Don John exit.」</i>	
	BENEDICK	
FTLN 1828	How doth the lady?	
FTLN 1829	BEATRICE Dead, I think.—Help, uncle!—	
FTLN 1830	Hero, why Hero! Uncle! Signior Benedick! Friar!	120
	LEONATO	
FTLN 1831	O Fate, take not away thy heavy hand!	
FTLN 1832	Death is the fairest cover for her shame	
FTLN 1833	That may be wished for.	
FTLN 1834	BEATRICE How now, cousin Hero?	<i>「Hero stirs.」</i>
FTLN 1835	FRIAR, <i>「to Hero」</i> Have comfort, lady.	125
	LEONATO, <i>「to Hero」</i>	
FTLN 1836	Dost thou look up?	
FTLN 1837	FRIAR Yea, wherefore should she not?	
	LEONATO	
FTLN 1838	Wherefore? Why, doth not every earthly thing	
FTLN 1839	Cry shame upon her? Could she here deny	
FTLN 1840	The story that is printed in her blood?—	130
FTLN 1841	Do not live, Hero, do not ope thine eyes,	
FTLN 1842	For, did I think thou wouldst not quickly die,	

FTLN 1843	Thought I thy spirits were stronger than thy shames,	
FTLN 1844	Myself would, on the rearward of reproaches,	
FTLN 1845	Strike at thy life. Grieved I I had but one?	135
FTLN 1846	Chid I for that at frugal Nature's frame?	
FTLN 1847	O, one too much by thee! Why had I one?	
FTLN 1848	Why ever wast thou lovely in my eyes?	
FTLN 1849	Why had I not with charitable hand	
FTLN 1850	Took up a beggar's issue at my gates,	140
FTLN 1851	Who, smirchèd thus, and mired with infamy,	
FTLN 1852	I might have said "No part of it is mine;	
FTLN 1853	This shame derives itself from unknown loins"?	
FTLN 1854	But mine, and mine I loved, and mine I praised,	
FTLN 1855	And mine that I was proud on, mine so much	145
FTLN 1856	That I myself was to myself not mine,	
FTLN 1857	Valuing of her—why she, O she, is fall'n	
FTLN 1858	Into a pit of ink, that the wide sea	
FTLN 1859	Hath drops too few to wash her clean again,	
FTLN 1860	And salt too little which may season give	150
FTLN 1861	To her foul tainted flesh!	
FTLN 1862	BENEDICK Sir, sir, be patient.	
FTLN 1863	For my part, I am so attired in wonder	
FTLN 1864	I know not what to say.	
	BEATRICE	
FTLN 1865	O, on my soul, my cousin is belied!	155
	BENEDICK	
FTLN 1866	Lady, were you her bedfellow last night?	
	BEATRICE	
FTLN 1867	No, truly not, although until last night	
FTLN 1868	I have this twelvemonth been her bedfellow.	
	LEONATO	
FTLN 1869	Confirmed, confirmed! O, that is stronger made	
FTLN 1870	Which was before barred up with ribs of iron!	160
FTLN 1871	Would the two princes lie and Claudio lie,	
FTLN 1872	Who loved her so that, speaking of her foulness,	
FTLN 1873	Washed it with tears? Hence from her. Let her die!	
FTLN 1874	FRIAR Hear me a little,	

FTLN 1875	For I have only 'silent been' so long,	165
FTLN 1876	And given way unto this course of fortune,	
FTLN 1877	By noting of the lady. I have marked	
FTLN 1878	A thousand blushing apparitions	
FTLN 1879	To start into her face, a thousand innocent shames	
FTLN 1880	In angel whiteness beat away those blushes,	170
FTLN 1881	And in her eye there hath appeared a fire	
FTLN 1882	To burn the errors that these princes hold	
FTLN 1883	Against her maiden truth. Call me a fool,	
FTLN 1884	Trust not my reading nor my observations,	
FTLN 1885	Which with experimental seal doth warrant	175
FTLN 1886	The tenor of my book; trust not my age,	
FTLN 1887	My reverence, calling, nor divinity,	
FTLN 1888	If this sweet lady lie not guiltless here	
FTLN 1889	Under some biting error.	
FTLN 1890	LEONATO Friar, it cannot be.	180
FTLN 1891	Thou seest that all the grace that she hath left	
FTLN 1892	Is that she will not add to her damnation	
FTLN 1893	A sin of perjury. She not denies it.	
FTLN 1894	Why seek'st thou then to cover with excuse	
FTLN 1895	That which appears in proper nakedness?	185
	FRIAR	
FTLN 1896	Lady, what man is he you are accused of?	
	HERO	
FTLN 1897	They know that do accuse me. I know none.	
FTLN 1898	If I know more of any man alive	
FTLN 1899	Than that which maiden modesty doth warrant,	
FTLN 1900	Let all my sins lack mercy!—O my father,	190
FTLN 1901	Prove you that any man with me conversed	
FTLN 1902	At hours unmeet, or that I yesternight	
FTLN 1903	Maintained the change of words with any creature,	
FTLN 1904	Refuse me, hate me, torture me to death!	
	FRIAR	
FTLN 1905	There is some strange misprision in the princes.	195
	BENEDICK	
FTLN 1906	Two of them have the very bent of honor,	

FTLN 1907	And if their wisdoms be misled in this,	
FTLN 1908	The practice of it lives in John the Bastard,	
FTLN 1909	Whose spirits toil in frame of villainies.	
LEONATO		
FTLN 1910	I know not. If they speak but truth of her,	200
FTLN 1911	These hands shall tear her. If they wrong her honor,	
FTLN 1912	The proudest of them shall well hear of it.	
FTLN 1913	Time hath not yet so dried this blood of mine,	
FTLN 1914	Nor age so eat up my invention,	
FTLN 1915	Nor fortune made such havoc of my means,	205
FTLN 1916	Nor my bad life reft me so much of friends,	
FTLN 1917	But they shall find, awaked in such a kind,	
FTLN 1918	Both strength of limb and policy of mind,	
FTLN 1919	Ability in means and choice of friends,	
FTLN 1920	To quit me of them thoroughly.	210
FTLN 1921	FRIAR	Pause awhile,
FTLN 1922	And let my counsel sway you in this case.	
FTLN 1923	Your daughter here the princes left for dead.	
FTLN 1924	Let her awhile be secretly kept in,	
FTLN 1925	And publish it that she is dead indeed.	215
FTLN 1926	Maintain a mourning ostentation,	
FTLN 1927	And on your family's old monument	
FTLN 1928	Hang mournful epitaphs and do all rites	
FTLN 1929	That appertain unto a burial.	
LEONATO		
FTLN 1930	What shall become of this? What will this do?	220
FRIAR		
FTLN 1931	Marry, this well carried shall on her behalf	
FTLN 1932	Change slander to remorse. That is some good.	
FTLN 1933	But not for that dream I on this strange course,	
FTLN 1934	But on this travail look for greater birth.	
FTLN 1935	She, dying, as it must be so maintained,	225
FTLN 1936	Upon the instant that she was accused,	
FTLN 1937	Shall be lamented, pitied, and excused	
FTLN 1938	Of every hearer. For it so falls out	
FTLN 1939	That what we have we prize not to the worth	

FTLN 1940	Whiles we enjoy it, but being lacked and lost,	230
FTLN 1941	Why then we rack the value, then we find	
FTLN 1942	The virtue that possession would not show us	
FTLN 1943	Whiles it was ours. So will it fare with Claudio.	
FTLN 1944	When he shall hear she died upon his words,	
FTLN 1945	Th' idea of her life shall sweetly creep	235
FTLN 1946	Into his study of imagination,	
FTLN 1947	And every lovely organ of her life	
FTLN 1948	Shall come appareled in more precious habit,	
FTLN 1949	More moving, delicate, and full of life,	
FTLN 1950	Into the eye and prospect of his soul,	240
FTLN 1951	Than when she lived indeed. Then shall he mourn,	
FTLN 1952	If ever love had interest in his liver,	
FTLN 1953	And wish he had not so accused her,	
FTLN 1954	No, though he thought his accusation true.	
FTLN 1955	Let this be so, and doubt not but success	245
FTLN 1956	Will fashion the event in better shape	
FTLN 1957	Than I can lay it down in likelihood.	
FTLN 1958	But if all aim but this be leveled false,	
FTLN 1959	The supposition of the lady's death	
FTLN 1960	Will quench the wonder of her infamy.	250
FTLN 1961	And if it sort not well, you may conceal her,	
FTLN 1962	As best befits her wounded reputation,	
FTLN 1963	In some reclusive and religious life,	
FTLN 1964	Out of all eyes, tongues, minds, and injuries.	
	BENEDICK	
FTLN 1965	Signior Leonato, let the Friar advise you.	255
FTLN 1966	And though you know my inwardness and love	
FTLN 1967	Is very much unto the Prince and Claudio,	
FTLN 1968	Yet, by mine honor, I will deal in this	
FTLN 1969	As secretly and justly as your soul	
FTLN 1970	Should with your body.	260
FTLN 1971	LEONATO Being that I flow in grief,	
FTLN 1972	The smallest twine may lead me.	
	FRIAR	
FTLN 1973	'Tis well consented. Presently away,	

FTLN 1974	For to strange sores strangely they strain the	
FTLN 1975	cure.—	265
FTLN 1976	Come, lady, die to live. This wedding day	
FTLN 1977	Perhaps is but prolonged. Have patience and	
FTLN 1978	endure.	
	<i>‘All but Beatrice and Benedick’ exit.</i>	
FTLN 1979	BENEDICK Lady Beatrice, have you wept all this while?	
FTLN 1980	BEATRICE Yea, and I will weep a while longer.	270
FTLN 1981	BENEDICK I will not desire that.	
FTLN 1982	BEATRICE You have no reason. I do it freely.	
FTLN 1983	BENEDICK Surely I do believe your fair cousin is	
FTLN 1984	wronged.	
FTLN 1985	BEATRICE Ah, how much might the man deserve of me	275
FTLN 1986	that would right her!	
FTLN 1987	BENEDICK Is there any way to show such friendship?	
FTLN 1988	BEATRICE A very even way, but no such friend.	
FTLN 1989	BENEDICK May a man do it?	
FTLN 1990	BEATRICE It is a man’s office, but not yours.	280
FTLN 1991	BENEDICK I do love nothing in the world so well as	
FTLN 1992	you. Is not that strange?	
FTLN 1993	BEATRICE As strange as the thing I know not. It were as	
FTLN 1994	possible for me to say I loved nothing so well as you,	
FTLN 1995	but believe me not, and yet I lie not, I confess	285
FTLN 1996	nothing, nor I deny nothing. I am sorry for my	
FTLN 1997	cousin.	
FTLN 1998	BENEDICK By my sword, Beatrice, thou lovest me!	
FTLN 1999	BEATRICE Do not swear and eat it.	
FTLN 2000	BENEDICK I will swear by it that you love me, and I will	290
FTLN 2001	make him eat it that says I love not you.	
FTLN 2002	BEATRICE Will you not eat your word?	
FTLN 2003	BENEDICK With no sauce that can be devised to it. I	
FTLN 2004	protest I love thee.	
FTLN 2005	BEATRICE Why then, God forgive me.	295
FTLN 2006	BENEDICK What offense, sweet Beatrice?	
FTLN 2007	BEATRICE You have stayed me in a happy hour. I was	
FTLN 2008	about to protest I loved you.	

FTLN 2009	BENEDICK	And do it with all thy heart.	
FTLN 2010	BEATRICE	I love you with so much of my heart that	300
FTLN 2011		none is left to protest.	
FTLN 2012	BENEDICK	Come, bid me do anything for thee.	
FTLN 2013	BEATRICE	Kill Claudio.	
FTLN 2014	BENEDICK	Ha! Not for the wide world.	
FTLN 2015	BEATRICE	You kill me to deny it. Farewell.	305
		<i>「She begins to exit.」</i>	
FTLN 2016	BENEDICK	Tarry, sweet Beatrice.	
FTLN 2017	BEATRICE	I am gone, though I am here. There is no	
FTLN 2018		love in you. Nay, I pray you let me go.	
FTLN 2019	BENEDICK	Beatrice—	
FTLN 2020	BEATRICE	In faith, I will go.	310
FTLN 2021	BENEDICK	We'll be friends first.	
FTLN 2022	BEATRICE	You dare easier be friends with me than	
FTLN 2023		fight with mine enemy.	
FTLN 2024	BENEDICK	Is Claudio thine enemy?	
FTLN 2025	BEATRICE	Is he not approved in the height a villain	315
FTLN 2026		that hath slandered, scorned, dishonored my kinswoman?	
FTLN 2027		O, that I were a man! What, bear her in	
FTLN 2028		hand until they come to take hands, and then, with	
FTLN 2029		public accusation, uncovered slander, unmitigated	
FTLN 2030		rancor—O God, that I were a man! I would eat his	320
FTLN 2031		heart in the marketplace.	
FTLN 2032	BENEDICK	Hear me, Beatrice—	
FTLN 2033	BEATRICE	Talk with a man out at a window! A proper	
FTLN 2034		saying.	
FTLN 2035	BENEDICK	Nay, but Beatrice—	325
FTLN 2036	BEATRICE	Sweet Hero, she is wronged, she is slandered,	
FTLN 2037		she is undone.	
FTLN 2038	BENEDICK	Beat—	
FTLN 2039	BEATRICE	Princes and counties! Surely a princely testimony,	
FTLN 2040		a goodly count, Count Comfect, a sweet	330
FTLN 2041		gallant, surely! O, that I were a man for his sake! Or	
FTLN 2042		that I had any friend would be a man for my sake!	
FTLN 2043		But manhood is melted into curtsies, valor into	

FTLN 2044 compliment, and men are only turned into tongue,
 FTLN 2045 and trim ones, too. He is now as valiant as Hercules 335
 FTLN 2046 that only tells a lie and swears it. I cannot be a man
 FTLN 2047 with wishing; therefore I will die a woman with
 FTLN 2048 grieving.
 FTLN 2049 BENEDICK Tarry, good Beatrice. By this hand, I love
 FTLN 2050 thee. 340
 FTLN 2051 BEATRICE Use it for my love some other way than
 FTLN 2052 swearing by it.
 FTLN 2053 BENEDICK Think you in your soul the Count Claudio
 FTLN 2054 hath wronged Hero?
 FTLN 2055 BEATRICE Yea, as sure as I have a thought or a soul. 345
 FTLN 2056 BENEDICK Enough, I am engaged. I will challenge
 FTLN 2057 him. I will kiss your hand, and so I leave you. By
 FTLN 2058 this hand, Claudio shall render me a dear account.
 FTLN 2059 As you hear of me, so think of me. Go comfort your
 FTLN 2060 cousin. I must say she is dead, and so farewell. 350
「They exit.」

「Scene 2」

*Enter the Constables 「Dogberry and Verges,」 and the
 Town Clerk, 「or Sexton,」 in gowns, 「with the Watch,
 Conrade, and」 Borachio.*

FTLN 2061 「DOGBERRY」 Is our whole dissembly appeared?
 FTLN 2062 「VERGES」 O, a stool and a cushion for the Sexton.
「A stool is brought in; the Sexton sits.」
 FTLN 2063 SEXTON Which be the malefactors?
 FTLN 2064 「DOGBERRY」 Marry, that am I, and my partner.
 FTLN 2065 「VERGES」 Nay, that's certain, we have the exhibition to 5
 FTLN 2066 examine.
 FTLN 2067 SEXTON But which are the offenders that are to be
 FTLN 2068 examined? Let them come before Master
 FTLN 2069 Constable.

FTLN 2070	「DOGBERRY」 Yea, marry, let them come before me.	10
	<i>「Conrade and Borachio are brought forward.」</i>	
FTLN 2071	What is your name, friend?	
FTLN 2072	BORACHIO Borachio.	
FTLN 2073	「DOGBERRY」 Pray, write down “Borachio.”—Yours,	
FTLN 2074	sirrah?	
FTLN 2075	CONRADE I am a gentleman, sir, and my name is	15
FTLN 2076	Conrade.	
FTLN 2077	「DOGBERRY」 Write down “Master Gentleman Conrade.”—	
FTLN 2078	Masters, do you serve God?	
FTLN 2079	BORACHIO/CONRADE Yea, sir, we hope.	
FTLN 2080	「DOGBERRY」 Write down that they hope they serve	20
FTLN 2081	God; and write God first, for God defend but God	
FTLN 2082	should go before such villains!—Masters, it is	
FTLN 2083	proved already that you are little better than false	
FTLN 2084	knaves, and it will go near to be thought so shortly.	
FTLN 2085	How answer you for yourselves?	25
FTLN 2086	CONRADE Marry, sir, we say we are none.	
FTLN 2087	「DOGBERRY」 A marvelous witty fellow, I assure you,	
FTLN 2088	but I will go about with him.—Come you hither,	
FTLN 2089	sirrah, a word in your ear. Sir, I say to you it is	
FTLN 2090	thought you are false knaves.	30
FTLN 2091	BORACHIO Sir, I say to you we are none.	
FTLN 2092	「DOGBERRY」 Well, stand aside.—’Fore God, they are	
FTLN 2093	both in a tale. Have you writ down that they are	
FTLN 2094	none?	
FTLN 2095	SEXTON Master constable, you go not the way to	35
FTLN 2096	examine. You must call forth the watch that are	
FTLN 2097	their accusers.	
FTLN 2098	「DOGBERRY」 Yea, marry, that’s the efastest way.—Let	
FTLN 2099	the watch come forth. Masters, I charge you in the	
FTLN 2100	Prince’s name, accuse these men.	40
FTLN 2101	FIRST WATCHMAN This man said, sir, that Don John, the	
FTLN 2102	Prince’s brother, was a villain.	
FTLN 2103	「DOGBERRY」 Write down Prince John a villain. Why,	
FTLN 2104	this is flat perjury, to call a prince’s brother villain!	

FTLN 2105	BORACHIO	Master constable—	45
FTLN 2106	「DOGBERRY」	Pray thee, fellow, peace. I do not like thy	
FTLN 2107		look, I promise thee.	
FTLN 2108	SEXTON, 「 <i>to Watch</i> 」	What heard you him say else?	
FTLN 2109	「SEACOAL」	Marry, that he had received a thousand	
FTLN 2110		ducats of Don John for accusing the Lady Hero	50
FTLN 2111		wrongfully.	
FTLN 2112	「DOGBERRY」	Flat burglary as ever was committed.	
FTLN 2113	「VERGES」	Yea, by Mass, that it is.	
FTLN 2114	SEXTON	What else, fellow?	
FTLN 2115	FIRST WATCHMAN	And that Count Claudio did mean,	55
FTLN 2116		upon his words, to disgrace Hero before the whole	
FTLN 2117		assembly, and not marry her.	
FTLN 2118	「DOGBERRY, <i>to Borachio</i> 」	O, villain! Thou wilt be condemned	
FTLN 2119		into everlasting redemption for this!	
FTLN 2120	SEXTON	What else?	60
FTLN 2121	「SEACOAL」	This is all.	
FTLN 2122	SEXTON	And this is more, masters, than you can deny.	
FTLN 2123		Prince John is this morning secretly stolen away.	
FTLN 2124		Hero was in this manner accused, in this very	
FTLN 2125		manner refused, and upon the grief of this suddenly	65
FTLN 2126		died.—Master constable, let these men be bound	
FTLN 2127		and brought to Leonato's. I will go before and show	
FTLN 2128		him their examination. 「 <i>He exits.</i> 」	
FTLN 2129	「DOGBERRY」	Come, let them be opinioned.	
FTLN 2130	「VERGES」	Let them be in the hands—	70
FTLN 2131	「CONRADE」	Off, coxcomb!	
FTLN 2132	「DOGBERRY」	God's my life, where's the Sexton? Let	
FTLN 2133		him write down the Prince's officer "coxcomb."	
FTLN 2134		Come, bind them.—Thou naughty varlet!	
FTLN 2135	「CONRADE」	Away! You are an ass, you are an ass!	75
FTLN 2136	「DOGBERRY」	Dost thou not suspect my place? Dost	
FTLN 2137		thou not suspect my years? O, that he were here to	
FTLN 2138		write me down an ass! But masters, remember that	
FTLN 2139		I am an ass, though it be not written down, yet	
FTLN 2140		forget not that I am an ass.—No, thou villain, thou	80

FTLN 2141
FTLN 2142
FTLN 2143
FTLN 2144
FTLN 2145
FTLN 2146
FTLN 2147
FTLN 2148
FTLN 2149

art full of piety, as shall be proved upon thee by
good witness. I am a wise fellow and, which is more,
an officer and, which is more, a householder and,
which is more, as pretty a piece of flesh as any is in
Messina, and one that knows the law, go to, and a
rich fellow enough, go to, and a fellow that hath had
losses, and one that hath two gowns and everything
handsome about him.—Bring him away.—O, that I
had been writ down an ass!

85

「*They*」 *exit.*

「ACT 5」

「Scene 1」

Enter Leonato and his brother.

LEONATO'S BROTHER

FTLN 2150 If you go on thus, you will kill yourself,
FTLN 2151 And 'tis not wisdom thus to second grief
FTLN 2152 Against yourself.

FTLN 2153 LEONATO I pray thee, cease thy counsel,
FTLN 2154 Which falls into mine ears as profitless 5
FTLN 2155 As water in a sieve. Give not me counsel,
FTLN 2156 Nor let no comforter delight mine ear
FTLN 2157 But such a one whose wrongs do suit with mine.
FTLN 2158 Bring me a father that so loved his child,
FTLN 2159 Whose joy of her is overwhelmed like mine, 10
FTLN 2160 And bid him speak of patience.
FTLN 2161 Measure his woe the length and breadth of mine,
FTLN 2162 And let it answer every strain for strain,
FTLN 2163 As thus for thus, and such a grief for such,
FTLN 2164 In every lineament, branch, shape, and form. 15
FTLN 2165 If such a one will smile and stroke his beard,
FTLN 2166 「Bid」 sorrow wag, cry “hem” when he should
FTLN 2167 groan,
FTLN 2168 Patch grief with proverbs, make misfortune drunk
FTLN 2169 With candle-wasters, bring him yet to me, 20
FTLN 2170 And I of him will gather patience.
FTLN 2171 But there is no such man. For, brother, men

FTLN 2172	Can counsel and speak comfort to that grief	
FTLN 2173	Which they themselves not feel, but tasting it,	
FTLN 2174	Their counsel turns to passion, which before	25
FTLN 2175	Would give preceptual med'cine to rage,	
FTLN 2176	Fetter strong madness in a silken thread,	
FTLN 2177	Charm ache with air and agony with words.	
FTLN 2178	No, no, 'tis all men's office to speak patience	
FTLN 2179	To those that wring under the load of sorrow,	30
FTLN 2180	But no man's virtue nor sufficiency	
FTLN 2181	To be so moral when he shall endure	
FTLN 2182	The like himself. Therefore give me no counsel.	
FTLN 2183	My griefs cry louder than advertisement.	
	LEONATO'S BROTHER	
FTLN 2184	Therein do men from children nothing differ.	35
	LEONATO	
FTLN 2185	I pray thee, peace. I will be flesh and blood,	
FTLN 2186	For there was never yet philosopher	
FTLN 2187	That could endure the toothache patiently,	
FTLN 2188	However they have writ the style of gods	
FTLN 2189	And made a push at chance and sufferance.	40
	LEONATO'S BROTHER	
FTLN 2190	Yet bend not all the harm upon yourself.	
FTLN 2191	Make those that do offend you suffer too.	
	LEONATO	
FTLN 2192	There thou speak'st reason. Nay, I will do so.	
FTLN 2193	My soul doth tell me Hero is belied,	
FTLN 2194	And that shall Claudio know; so shall the Prince	45
FTLN 2195	And all of them that thus dishonor her.	

Enter Prince and Claudio.

LEONATO'S BROTHER

FTLN 2196 Here comes the Prince and Claudio hastily.

PRINCE

FTLN 2197 Good e'en, good e'en.

FTLN 2198 CLAUDIO Good day to both of you.

LEONATO

FTLN 2199 Hear you, my lords— 50

FTLN 2200 PRINCE We have some haste,

FTLN 2201 Leonato.

LEONATO

FTLN 2202 Some haste, my lord! Well, fare you well, my lord.

FTLN 2203 Are you so hasty now? Well, all is one.

PRINCE

FTLN 2204 Nay, do not quarrel with us, good old man. 55

LEONATO'S BROTHER

FTLN 2205 If he could right himself with quarrelling,

FTLN 2206 Some of us would lie low.

FTLN 2207 CLAUDIO Who wrongs him?

LEONATO

FTLN 2208 Marry, thou dost wrong me, thou dissembler, thou.

FTLN 2209 Nay, never lay thy hand upon thy sword. 60

FTLN 2210 I fear thee not.

FTLN 2211 CLAUDIO Marry, beshrew my hand

FTLN 2212 If it should give your age such cause of fear.

FTLN 2213 In faith, my hand meant nothing to my sword.

LEONATO

FTLN 2214 Tush, tush, man, never fleer and jest at me. 65

FTLN 2215 I speak not like a dotard nor a fool,

FTLN 2216 As under privilege of age to brag

FTLN 2217 What I have done being young, or what would do

FTLN 2218 Were I not old. Know, Claudio, to thy head,

FTLN 2219 Thou hast so wronged mine innocent child and me 70

FTLN 2220 That I am forced to lay my reverence by,

FTLN 2221 And with gray hairs and bruise of many days

FTLN 2222 Do challenge thee to trial of a man.

FTLN 2223 I say thou hast belied mine innocent child.

FTLN 2224 Thy slander hath gone through and through her 75

FTLN 2225 heart,

FTLN 2226 And she lies buried with her ancestors,

FTLN 2227 O, in a tomb where never scandal slept,

FTLN 2228 Save this of hers, framed by thy villainy.

	CLAUDIO	
FTLN 2229	My villainy?	80
FTLN 2230	LEONATO Thine, Claudio, thine, I say.	
	PRINCE	
FTLN 2231	You say not right, old man.	
FTLN 2232	LEONATO My lord, my lord,	
FTLN 2233	I'll prove it on his body if he dare,	
FTLN 2234	Despite his nice fence and his active practice,	85
FTLN 2235	His May of youth and bloom of lustihood.	
	CLAUDIO	
FTLN 2236	Away! I will not have to do with you.	
	LEONATO	
FTLN 2237	Canst thou so daff me? Thou hast killed my child.	
FTLN 2238	If thou kill'st me, boy, thou shalt kill a man.	
	LEONATO'S BROTHER	
FTLN 2239	He shall kill two of us, and men indeed,	90
FTLN 2240	But that's no matter. Let him kill one first.	
FTLN 2241	Win me and wear me! Let him answer me.—	
FTLN 2242	Come, follow me, boy. Come, sir boy, come, follow	
FTLN 2243	me.	
FTLN 2244	Sir boy, I'll whip you from your foining fence,	95
FTLN 2245	Nay, as I am a gentleman, I will.	
FTLN 2246	LEONATO Brother—	
	LEONATO'S BROTHER	
FTLN 2247	Content yourself. God knows I loved my niece,	
FTLN 2248	And she is dead, slandered to death by villains	
FTLN 2249	That dare as well answer a man indeed	100
FTLN 2250	As I dare take a serpent by the tongue.—	
FTLN 2251	Boys, apes, braggarts, jacks, milksops!	
FTLN 2252	LEONATO Brother Anthony—	
	LEONATO'S BROTHER	
FTLN 2253	Hold you content. What, man! I know them, yea,	
FTLN 2254	And what they weigh, even to the utmost scruple—	105
FTLN 2255	Scambling, outfacing, fashionmonging boys,	
FTLN 2256	That lie and cog and flout, deprave and slander,	
FTLN 2257	Go anticly and show outward hideousness,	

FTLN 2258 And speak off half a dozen dang'rous words
 FTLN 2259 How they might hurt their enemies, if they durst, 110
 FTLN 2260 And this is all.
 FTLN 2261 LEONATO But brother Anthony—
 FTLN 2262 LEONATO'S BROTHER Come, 'tis no matter.
 FTLN 2263 Do not you meddle. Let me deal in this.
 PRINCE
 FTLN 2264 Gentlemen both, we will not wake your patience. 115
 FTLN 2265 My heart is sorry for your daughter's death,
 FTLN 2266 But, on my honor, she was charged with nothing
 FTLN 2267 But what was true and very full of proof.
 FTLN 2268 LEONATO My lord, my lord—
 FTLN 2269 PRINCE I will not hear you. 120
 LEONATO
 FTLN 2270 No? Come, brother, away. I will be heard.
 LEONATO'S BROTHER
 FTLN 2271 And shall, or some of us will smart for it.
 ['Leonato and his brother'] exit.

Enter Benedick.

PRINCE
 FTLN 2272 See, see, here comes the man we went to seek.
 FTLN 2273 CLAUDIO Now, signior, what news?
 FTLN 2274 BENEDICK, *['to Prince']* Good day, my lord. 125
 FTLN 2275 PRINCE Welcome, signior. You are almost come to
 FTLN 2276 part almost a fray.
 FTLN 2277 CLAUDIO We had *['like']* to have had our two noses
 FTLN 2278 snapped off with two old men without teeth.
 FTLN 2279 PRINCE Leonato and his brother. What think'st thou? 130
 FTLN 2280 Had we fought, I doubt we should have been too
 FTLN 2281 young for them.
 FTLN 2282 BENEDICK In a false quarrel there is no true valor. I
 FTLN 2283 came to seek you both.
 FTLN 2284 CLAUDIO We have been up and down to seek thee, for 135
 FTLN 2285 we are high-proof melancholy and would fain have
 FTLN 2286 it beaten away. Wilt thou use thy wit?

FTLN 2287	BENEDICK	It is in my scabbard. Shall I draw it?	
FTLN 2288	PRINCE	Dost thou wear thy wit by thy side?	
FTLN 2289	CLAUDIO	Never any did so, though very many have	140
FTLN 2290		been beside their wit. I will bid thee draw, as we do	
FTLN 2291		the minstrels: draw to pleasure us.	
FTLN 2292	PRINCE	As I am an honest man, he looks pale.—Art	
FTLN 2293		thou sick, or angry?	
FTLN 2294	CLAUDIO, <i>['to Benedick']</i>	What, courage, man! What	145
FTLN 2295		though care killed a cat? Thou hast mettle enough	
FTLN 2296		in thee to kill care.	
FTLN 2297	BENEDICK	Sir, I shall meet your wit in the career, an	
FTLN 2298		you charge it against me. I pray you, choose another	
FTLN 2299		subject.	150
FTLN 2300	CLAUDIO, <i>['to Prince']</i>	Nay, then, give him another staff.	
FTLN 2301		This last was broke 'cross.	
FTLN 2302	PRINCE	By this light, he changes more and more. I	
FTLN 2303		think he be angry indeed.	
FTLN 2304	CLAUDIO	If he be, he knows how to turn his girdle.	155
FTLN 2305	BENEDICK	Shall I speak a word in your ear?	
FTLN 2306	CLAUDIO	God bless me from a challenge!	
FTLN 2307	BENEDICK, <i>['aside to Claudio']</i>	You are a villain. I jest	
FTLN 2308		not. I will make it good how you dare, with what you	
FTLN 2309		dare, and when you dare. Do me right, or I will	160
FTLN 2310		protest your cowardice. You have killed a sweet	
FTLN 2311		lady, and her death shall fall heavy on you. Let me	
FTLN 2312		hear from you.	
FTLN 2313	CLAUDIO	Well, I will meet you, so I may have good	
FTLN 2314		cheer.	165
FTLN 2315	PRINCE	What, a feast, a feast?	
FTLN 2316	CLAUDIO	I' faith, I thank him. He hath bid me to a	
FTLN 2317		calf's head and a capon, the which if I do not carve	
FTLN 2318		most curiously, say my knife's naught. Shall I not	
FTLN 2319		find a woodcock too?	170
FTLN 2320	BENEDICK	Sir, your wit ambles well; it goes easily.	
FTLN 2321	PRINCE	I'll tell thee how Beatrice praised thy wit the	
FTLN 2322		other day. I said thou hadst a fine wit. "True," said	

FTLN 2323	she, "a fine little one." "No," said I, "a great wit."	
FTLN 2324	"Right," says she, "a great gross one." "Nay," said I,	175
FTLN 2325	"a good wit." "Just," said she, "it hurts nobody."	
FTLN 2326	"Nay," said I, "the gentleman is wise." "Certain,"	
FTLN 2327	said she, "a wise gentleman." "Nay," said I, "he	
FTLN 2328	hath the tongues." "That I believe," said she, "for he	
FTLN 2329	swore a thing to me on Monday night which he	180
FTLN 2330	forswore on Tuesday morning; there's a double	
FTLN 2331	tongue, there's two tongues." Thus did she an hour	
FTLN 2332	together transshape thy particular virtues. Yet at	
FTLN 2333	last she concluded with a sigh, thou wast the	
FTLN 2334	proper'st man in Italy.	185
FTLN 2335	CLAUDIO For the which she wept heartily and said she	
FTLN 2336	cared not.	
FTLN 2337	PRINCE Yea, that she did. But yet for all that, an if she	
FTLN 2338	did not hate him deadly, she would love him	
FTLN 2339	dearly. The old man's daughter told us all.	190
FTLN 2340	CLAUDIO All, all. And, moreover, God saw him when	
FTLN 2341	he was hid in the garden.	
FTLN 2342	PRINCE But when shall we set the savage bull's horns	
FTLN 2343	on the sensible Benedick's head?	
FTLN 2344	CLAUDIO Yea, and text underneath: "Here dwells Benedick,	195
FTLN 2345	the married man"?	
FTLN 2346	BENEDICK Fare you well, boy. You know my mind. I	
FTLN 2347	will leave you now to your gossip-like humor. You	
FTLN 2348	break jests as braggarts do their blades, which, God	
FTLN 2349	be thanked, hurt not.—My lord, for your many	200
FTLN 2350	courtesies I thank you. I must discontinue your	
FTLN 2351	company. Your brother the Bastard is fled from	
FTLN 2352	Messina. You have among you killed a sweet and	
FTLN 2353	innocent lady. For my Lord Lackbeard there, he and	
FTLN 2354	I shall meet, and till then peace be with him.	205
	<i>「Benedick exits.」</i>	
FTLN 2355	PRINCE He is in earnest.	
FTLN 2356	CLAUDIO In most profound earnest, and, I'll warrant	
FTLN 2357	you, for the love of Beatrice.	

FTLN 2358 PRINCE And hath challenged thee?
 FTLN 2359 CLAUDIO Most sincerely. 210
 FTLN 2360 PRINCE What a pretty thing man is when he goes in his
 FTLN 2361 doublet and hose and leaves off his wit!
 FTLN 2362 CLAUDIO He is then a giant to an ape; but then is an ape
 FTLN 2363 a doctor to such a man.
 FTLN 2364 PRINCE But soft you, let me be. Pluck up, my heart, 215
 FTLN 2365 and be sad. Did he not say my brother was fled?

*Enter Constables [Dogberry and Verges, and the Watch,
 with] Conrade and Borachio.*

FTLN 2366 [DOGBERRY] Come you, sir. If justice cannot tame you,
 FTLN 2367 she shall ne'er weigh more reasons in her balance.
 FTLN 2368 Nay, an you be a cursing hypocrite once, you must
 FTLN 2369 be looked to. 220
 FTLN 2370 PRINCE How now, two of my brother's men bound?
 FTLN 2371 Borachio one!
 FTLN 2372 CLAUDIO Hearken after their offense, my lord.
 FTLN 2373 PRINCE Officers, what offense have these men done?
 FTLN 2374 [DOGBERRY] Marry, sir, they have committed false 225
 FTLN 2375 report; moreover, they have spoken untruths;
 FTLN 2376 secondarily, they are slanders; sixth and lastly, they
 FTLN 2377 have belied a lady; thirdly, they have verified unjust
 FTLN 2378 things; and, to conclude, they are lying knaves.
 FTLN 2379 PRINCE First, I ask thee what they have done; thirdly, I 230
 FTLN 2380 ask thee what's their offense; sixth and lastly, why
 FTLN 2381 they are committed; and, to conclude, what you lay
 FTLN 2382 to their charge.
 FTLN 2383 CLAUDIO Rightly reasoned, and in his own division;
 FTLN 2384 and, by my troth, there's one meaning well suited. 235
 FTLN 2385 PRINCE, [to Borachio and Conrade] Who have you offended,
 FTLN 2386 masters, that you are thus bound to your
 FTLN 2387 answer? This learned constable is too cunning to be
 FTLN 2388 understood. What's your offense?
 FTLN 2389 BORACHIO Sweet prince, let me go no farther to mine 240
 FTLN 2390 answer. Do you hear me, and let this count kill me.

FTLN 2391 I have deceived even your very eyes. What your
 FTLN 2392 wisdoms could not discover, these shallow fools
 FTLN 2393 have brought to light, who in the night overheard
 FTLN 2394 me confessing to this man how Don John your 245
 FTLN 2395 brother incensed me to slander the Lady Hero, how
 FTLN 2396 you were brought into the orchard and saw me
 FTLN 2397 court Margaret in Hero's garments, how you disgraced
 FTLN 2398 her when you should marry her. My villainy
 FTLN 2399 they have upon record, which I had rather seal with 250
 FTLN 2400 my death than repeat over to my shame. The lady is
 FTLN 2401 dead upon mine and my master's false accusation.
 FTLN 2402 And, briefly, I desire nothing but the reward of a
 FTLN 2403 villain.

PRINCE, *['to Claudio']*

FTLN 2404 Runs not this speech like iron through your blood? 255
 CLAUDIO

FTLN 2405 I have drunk poison whiles he uttered it.

PRINCE, *['to Borachio']*

FTLN 2406 But did my brother set thee on to this?

FTLN 2407 BORACHIO Yea, and paid me richly for the practice of
 FTLN 2408 it.

PRINCE

FTLN 2409 He is composed and framed of treachery, 260
 FTLN 2410 And fled he is upon this villainy.

CLAUDIO

FTLN 2411 Sweet Hero, now thy image doth appear
 FTLN 2412 In the rare semblance that I loved it first.

FTLN 2413 *['DOGBERRY']* Come, bring away the plaintiffs. By this
 FTLN 2414 time our sexton hath reformed Signior Leonato of 265
 FTLN 2415 the matter. And, masters, do not forget to specify,
 FTLN 2416 when time and place shall serve, that I am an ass.

FTLN 2417 *['VERGES']* Here, here comes Master Signior Leonato,
 FTLN 2418 and the Sexton too.

Enter Leonato, his brother, and the Sexton.

LEONATO

FTLN 2419 Which is the villain? Let me see his eyes, 270
 FTLN 2420 That, when I note another man like him,
 FTLN 2421 I may avoid him. Which of these is he?

BORACHIO

FTLN 2422 If you would know your wronger, look on me.

LEONATO

FTLN 2423 Art thou the slave that with thy breath hast killed
 FTLN 2424 Mine innocent child? 275

FTLN 2425 BORACHIO Yea, even I alone.

LEONATO

FTLN 2426 No, not so, villain, thou beliest thyself.
 FTLN 2427 Here stand a pair of honorable men—
 FTLN 2428 A third is fled—that had a hand in it.—
 FTLN 2429 I thank you, princes, for my daughter's death. 280
 FTLN 2430 Record it with your high and worthy deeds.
 FTLN 2431 'Twas bravely done, if you bethink you of it.

CLAUDIO

FTLN 2432 I know not how to pray your patience,
 FTLN 2433 Yet I must speak. Choose your revenge yourself.
 FTLN 2434 Impose me to what penance your invention 285
 FTLN 2435 Can lay upon my sin. Yet sinned I not
 FTLN 2436 But in mistaking.

PRINCE

FTLN 2437 By my soul, nor I,
 FTLN 2438 And yet to satisfy this good old man
 FTLN 2439 I would bend under any heavy weight 290
 FTLN 2440 That he'll enjoin me to.

LEONATO

FTLN 2441 I cannot bid you bid my daughter live—
 FTLN 2442 That were impossible—but, I pray you both,
 FTLN 2443 Possess the people in Messina here
 FTLN 2444 How innocent she died. And if your love 295
 FTLN 2445 Can labor aught in sad invention,
 FTLN 2446 Hang her an epitaph upon her tomb
 FTLN 2447 And sing it to her bones. Sing it tonight.
 FTLN 2448 Tomorrow morning come you to my house,

FTLN 2449	And since you could not be my son-in-law,	300
FTLN 2450	Be yet my nephew. My brother hath a daughter,	
FTLN 2451	Almost the copy of my child that's dead,	
FTLN 2452	And she alone is heir to both of us.	
FTLN 2453	Give her the right you should have giv'n her cousin,	
FTLN 2454	And so dies my revenge.	305
FTLN 2455	CLAUDIO O, noble sir!	
FTLN 2456	Your overkindness doth wring tears from me.	
FTLN 2457	I do embrace your offer and dispose	
FTLN 2458	For henceforth of poor Claudio.	
FTLN 2459	LEONATO Tomorrow then I will expect your coming.	310
FTLN 2460	Tonight I take my leave. This naughty man	
FTLN 2461	Shall face to face be brought to Margaret,	
FTLN 2462	Who I believe was packed in all this wrong,	
FTLN 2463	Hired to it by your brother.	
FTLN 2464	BORACHIO No, by my soul, she was not,	315
FTLN 2465	Nor knew not what she did when she spoke to me,	
FTLN 2466	But always hath been just and virtuous	
FTLN 2467	In anything that I do know by her.	
FTLN 2468	「DOGBERRY, to Leonato」 Moreover, sir, which indeed is	
FTLN 2469	not under white and black, this plaintiff here, the	320
FTLN 2470	offender, did call me ass. I beseech you, let it be	
FTLN 2471	remembered in his punishment. And also the watch	
FTLN 2472	heard them talk of one Deformed. They say he	
FTLN 2473	wears a key in his ear and a lock hanging by it and	
FTLN 2474	borrows money in God's name, the which he hath	325
FTLN 2475	used so long and never paid that now men grow	
FTLN 2476	hardhearted and will lend nothing for God's sake.	
FTLN 2477	Pray you, examine him upon that point.	
FTLN 2478	LEONATO I thank thee for thy care and honest pains.	
FTLN 2479	「DOGBERRY」 Your Worship speaks like a most thankful	330
FTLN 2480	and reverent youth, and I praise God for you.	
FTLN 2481	LEONATO, 「giving him money」 There's for thy pains.	
FTLN 2482	「DOGBERRY」 God save the foundation.	

FTLN 2483 LEONATO Go, I discharge thee of thy prisoner, and I
 FTLN 2484 thank thee. 335
 FTLN 2485 「DOGBERRY」 I leave an arrant knave with your Worship,
 FTLN 2486 which I beseech your Worship to correct
 FTLN 2487 yourself, for the example of others. God keep your
 FTLN 2488 Worship! I wish your Worship well. God restore you
 FTLN 2489 to health. I humbly give you leave to depart, and if a 340
 FTLN 2490 merry meeting may be wished, God prohibit it.—
 FTLN 2491 Come, neighbor. 「*Dogberry and Verges exit.*」

LEONATO
 FTLN 2492 Until tomorrow morning, lords, farewell.
 LEONATO'S BROTHER
 FTLN 2493 Farewell, my lords. We look for you tomorrow.
 PRINCE
 FTLN 2494 We will not fail. 345
 FTLN 2495 CLAUDIO Tonight I'll mourn with Hero.
 LEONATO, 「*to Watch*」
 FTLN 2496 Bring you these fellows on.—We'll talk with
 FTLN 2497 Margaret,
 FTLN 2498 How her acquaintance grew with this lewd fellow.
They exit.

「Scene 2」

Enter Benedick and Margaret.

FTLN 2499 BENEDICK Pray thee, sweet Mistress Margaret, deserve
 FTLN 2500 well at my hands by helping me to the speech of
 FTLN 2501 Beatrice.
 FTLN 2502 MARGARET Will you then write me a sonnet in praise
 FTLN 2503 of my beauty? 5
 FTLN 2504 BENEDICK In so high a style, Margaret, that no man
 FTLN 2505 living shall come over it, for in most comely truth
 FTLN 2506 thou deservest it.
 FTLN 2507 MARGARET To have no man come over me? Why, shall I
 FTLN 2508 always keep below stairs? 10

FTLN 2509 BENEDICK Thy wit is as quick as the greyhound's
 FTLN 2510 mouth; it catches.
 FTLN 2511 MARGARET And yours as blunt as the fencer's foils,
 FTLN 2512 which hit but hurt not.
 FTLN 2513 BENEDICK A most manly wit, Margaret; it will not hurt 15
 FTLN 2514 a woman. And so, I pray thee, call Beatrice. I give
 FTLN 2515 thee the bucklers.
 FTLN 2516 MARGARET Give us the swords; we have bucklers of our
 FTLN 2517 own.
 FTLN 2518 BENEDICK If you use them, Margaret, you must put in 20
 FTLN 2519 the pikes with a vice, and they are dangerous
 FTLN 2520 weapons for maids.
 FTLN 2521 MARGARET Well, I will call Beatrice to you, who I
 FTLN 2522 think hath legs.
 FTLN 2523 BENEDICK And therefore will come. 25

Margaret exits.

FTLN 2524 「Sings」 *The god of love*
 FTLN 2525 *That sits above,*
 FTLN 2526 *And knows me, and knows me,*
 FTLN 2527 *How pitiful I deserve—*
 FTLN 2528 I mean in singing. But in loving, Leander the good 30
 FTLN 2529 swimmer, Troilus the first employer of panders, and
 FTLN 2530 a whole book full of these quondam carpetmongers,
 FTLN 2531 whose names yet run smoothly in the even
 FTLN 2532 road of a blank verse, why, they were never so truly
 FTLN 2533 turned over and over as my poor self in love. Marry, 35
 FTLN 2534 I cannot show it in rhyme. I have tried. I can find out
 FTLN 2535 no rhyme to “lady” but “baby”—an innocent
 FTLN 2536 rhyme; for “scorn,” “horn”—a hard rhyme; for
 FTLN 2537 “school,” “fool”—a babbling rhyme; very ominous
 FTLN 2538 endings. No, I was not born under a rhyming 40
 FTLN 2539 planet, nor I cannot woo in festival terms.

Enter Beatrice.

FTLN 2540 Sweet Beatrice, wouldst thou come when I called
 FTLN 2541 thee?

FTLN 2542	BEATRICE	Yea, signior, and depart when you bid me.	
FTLN 2543	BENEDICK	O, stay but till then!	45
FTLN 2544	BEATRICE	“Then” is spoken. Fare you well now. And	
FTLN 2545		yet, ere I go, let me go with that I came, which is,	
FTLN 2546		with knowing what hath passed between you and	
FTLN 2547		Claudio.	
FTLN 2548	BENEDICK	Only foul words, and thereupon I will kiss	50
FTLN 2549		thee.	
FTLN 2550	BEATRICE	Foul words is but foul wind, and foul wind is	
FTLN 2551		but foul breath, and foul breath is noisome. Therefore	
FTLN 2552		I will depart unkissed.	
FTLN 2553	BENEDICK	Thou hast frightened the word out of his right	55
FTLN 2554		sense, so forcible is thy wit. But I must tell thee	
FTLN 2555		plainly, Claudio undergoes my challenge, and either	
FTLN 2556		I must shortly hear from him, or I will subscribe	
FTLN 2557		him a coward. And I pray thee now tell me, for	
FTLN 2558		which of my bad parts didst thou first fall in love	60
FTLN 2559		with me?	
FTLN 2560	BEATRICE	For them all together, which maintained so	
FTLN 2561		politic a state of evil that they will not admit any	
FTLN 2562		good part to intermingle with them. But for which	
FTLN 2563		of my good parts did you first suffer love for me?	65
FTLN 2564	BENEDICK	Suffer love! A good epithet. I do suffer love	
FTLN 2565		indeed, for I love thee against my will.	
FTLN 2566	BEATRICE	In spite of your heart, I think. Alas, poor	
FTLN 2567		heart, if you spite it for my sake, I will spite it for	
FTLN 2568		yours, for I will never love that which my friend	70
FTLN 2569		hates.	
FTLN 2570	BENEDICK	Thou and I are too wise to woo peaceably.	
FTLN 2571	BEATRICE	It appears not in this confession. There’s not	
FTLN 2572		one wise man among twenty that will praise	
FTLN 2573		himself.	75
FTLN 2574	BENEDICK	An old, an old instance, Beatrice, that lived	
FTLN 2575		in the time of good neighbors. If a man do not erect	
FTLN 2576		in this age his own tomb ere he dies, he shall live no	
FTLN 2577		longer in monument than the bell rings and the	
FTLN 2578		widow weeps.	80

FTLN 2579 BEATRICE And how long is that, think you?
 FTLN 2580 BENEDICK Question: why, an hour in clamor and a
 FTLN 2581 quarter in rheum. Therefore is it most expedient for
 FTLN 2582 the wise, if Don Worm, his conscience, find no
 FTLN 2583 impediment to the contrary, to be the trumpet of 85
 FTLN 2584 his own virtues, as I am to myself. So much for
 FTLN 2585 praising myself, who, I myself will bear witness, is
 FTLN 2586 praiseworthy. And now tell me, how doth your
 FTLN 2587 cousin?
 FTLN 2588 BEATRICE Very ill. 90
 FTLN 2589 BENEDICK And how do you?
 FTLN 2590 BEATRICE Very ill, too.
 FTLN 2591 BENEDICK Serve God, love me, and mend. There will I
 FTLN 2592 leave you too, for here comes one in haste.

Enter Ursula.

FTLN 2593 URSULA Madam, you must come to your uncle. Yonder's 95
 FTLN 2594 old coil at home. It is proved my Lady Hero
 FTLN 2595 hath been falsely accused, the Prince and Claudio
 FTLN 2596 mightily abused, and Don John is the author of all,
 FTLN 2597 who is fled and gone. Will you come presently?
「Ursula exits.」
 FTLN 2598 BEATRICE Will you go hear this news, signior? 100
 FTLN 2599 BENEDICK I will live in thy heart, die in thy lap, and be
 FTLN 2600 buried in thy eyes—and, moreover, I will go with
 FTLN 2601 thee to thy uncle's.
「They」 exit.

「Scene 3」

*Enter Claudio, Prince, and three or four 「Lords」 with
 tapers, 「and Musicians.」*

FTLN 2602 CLAUDIO Is this the monument of Leonato?
 FTLN 2603 「FIRST」 LORD It is, my lord.

「CLAUDIO, *reading an*」 *Epitaph.*

*Done to death by slanderous tongues
Was the Hero that here lies.
Death, in guerdon of her wrongs,
Gives her fame which never dies.
So the life that died with shame
Lives in death with glorious fame.*

5

「*He hangs up the scroll.*」

Hang thou there upon the tomb,
Praising her when I am 「dumb.」
Now music, sound, and sing your solemn hymn.

10

Song

*Pardon, goddess of the night,
Those that slew thy virgin knight,
For the which with songs of woe,
Round about her tomb they go.
Midnight, assist our moan.
Help us to sigh and groan
Heavily, heavily.
Graves, yawn and yield your dead,
Till death be utterèd,
Heavily, heavily.*

15

20

「CLAUDIO」

Now, unto thy bones, goodnight.
Yearly will I do this rite.

PRINCE

Good morrow, masters. Put your torches out.
The wolves have preyed, and look, the gentle day
Before the wheels of Phoebus, round about
Dapples the drowsy east with spots of gray.
Thanks to you all, and leave us. Fare you well.

25

CLAUDIO

Good morrow, masters. Each his several way.

「*Lords and Musicians exit.*」

PRINCE

FTLN 2631 Come, let us hence, and put on other weeds, 30
 FTLN 2632 And then to Leonato's we will go.

CLAUDIO

FTLN 2633 And Hymen now with luckier issue speed 's,
 FTLN 2634 Than this for whom we rendered up this woe.

They exit.

「Scene 4」

*Enter Leonato, Benedick, 「Beatrice,」 Margaret, Ursula,
 「Leonato's brother,」 Friar, Hero.*

FRIAR

FTLN 2635 Did I not tell you she was innocent?

LEONATO

FTLN 2636 So are the Prince and Claudio, who accused her
 FTLN 2637 Upon the error that you heard debated.
 FTLN 2638 But Margaret was in some fault for this,
 FTLN 2639 Although against her will, as it appears 5
 FTLN 2640 In the true course of all the question.

LEONATO'S BROTHER

FTLN 2641 Well, I am glad that all things sorts so well.

BENEDICK

FTLN 2642 And so am I, being else by faith enforced
 FTLN 2643 To call young Claudio to a reckoning for it.

LEONATO

FTLN 2644 Well, daughter, and you gentlewomen all, 10
 FTLN 2645 Withdraw into a chamber by yourselves,
 FTLN 2646 And when I send for you, come hither masked.
 FTLN 2647 The Prince and Claudio promised by this hour
 FTLN 2648 To visit me.—You know your office, brother.
 FTLN 2649 You must be father to your brother's daughter, 15
 FTLN 2650 And give her to young Claudio. *The ladies exit.*

LEONATO'S BROTHER

FTLN 2651 Which I will do with confirmed countenance.

BENEDICK

FTLN 2652 Friar, I must entreat your pains, I think.

FTLN 2653 FRIAR To do what, signior?

BENEDICK

FTLN 2654 To bind me, or undo me, one of them.— 20

FTLN 2655 Signior Leonato, truth it is, good signior,

FTLN 2656 Your niece regards me with an eye of favor.

LEONATO

FTLN 2657 That eye my daughter lent her; 'tis most true.

BENEDICK

FTLN 2658 And I do with an eye of love requite her.

LEONATO

FTLN 2659 The sight whereof I think you had from me, 25

FTLN 2660 From Claudio, and the Prince. But what's your will?

BENEDICK

FTLN 2661 Your answer, sir, is enigmatical.

FTLN 2662 But for my will, my will is your goodwill

FTLN 2663 May stand with ours, this day to be conjoined

FTLN 2664 In the state of honorable marriage— 30

FTLN 2665 In which, good friar, I shall desire your help.

LEONATO

FTLN 2666 My heart is with your liking.

FTLN 2667 FRIAR And my help.

FTLN 2668 Here comes the Prince and Claudio.

Enter Prince, and Claudio, and two or three other.

FTLN 2669 PRINCE Good morrow to this fair assembly. 35

LEONATO

FTLN 2670 Good morrow, prince; good morrow, Claudio.

FTLN 2671 We here attend you. Are you yet determined

FTLN 2672 Today to marry with my brother's daughter?

CLAUDIO

FTLN 2673 I'll hold my mind were she an Ethiope.

LEONATO

FTLN 2674 Call her forth, brother. Here's the Friar ready. 40
「Leonato's brother exits.」

PRINCE

FTLN 2675 Good morrow, Benedick. Why, what's the matter
 FTLN 2676 That you have such a February face,
 FTLN 2677 So full of frost, of storm, and cloudiness?

CLAUDIO

FTLN 2678 I think he thinks upon the savage bull.
 FTLN 2679 Tush, fear not, man. We'll tip thy horns with gold, 45
 FTLN 2680 And all Europa shall rejoice at thee,
 FTLN 2681 As once Europa did at lusty Jove
 FTLN 2682 When he would play the noble beast in love.

BENEDICK

FTLN 2683 Bull Jove, sir, had an amiable low,
 FTLN 2684 And some such strange bull leapt your father's cow 50
 FTLN 2685 And got a calf in that same noble feat
 FTLN 2686 Much like to you, for you have just his bleat.

CLAUDIO

FTLN 2687 For this I owe you. Here comes other reck'nings.

*Enter 「Leonato's」 brother, Hero, Beatrice, Margaret,
 Ursula, 「the ladies masked.」*

FTLN 2688 Which is the lady I must seize upon?

LEONATO

FTLN 2689 This same is she, and I do give you her. 55

CLAUDIO

FTLN 2690 Why, then, she's mine.—Sweet, let me see your face.

LEONATO

FTLN 2691 No, that you shall not till you take her hand
 FTLN 2692 Before this friar and swear to marry her.

CLAUDIO, *「to Hero」*

FTLN 2693 Give me your hand before this holy friar.
「They take hands.」
 FTLN 2694 I am your husband, if you like of me. 60

HERO

FTLN 2695 And when I lived, I was your other wife,
 FTLN 2696 And when you loved, you were my other husband.

「She unmaskes.」

CLAUDIO

FTLN 2697 Another Hero!

FTLN 2698 HERO Nothing certainer.

FTLN 2699 One Hero died defiled, but I do live, 65

FTLN 2700 And surely as I live, I am a maid.

PRINCE

FTLN 2701 The former Hero! Hero that is dead!

LEONATO

FTLN 2702 She died, my lord, but whiles her slander lived.

FRIAR

FTLN 2703 All this amazement can I qualify,

FTLN 2704 When after that the holy rites are ended, 70

FTLN 2705 I'll tell you largely of fair Hero's death.

FTLN 2706 Meantime let wonder seem familiar,

FTLN 2707 And to the chapel let us presently.

BENEDICK

FTLN 2708 Soft and fair, friar.—Which is Beatrice?

BEATRICE, *「unmasking」*

FTLN 2709 I answer to that name. What is your will? 75

BENEDICK

FTLN 2710 Do not you love me?

FTLN 2711 BEATRICE Why no, no more than reason.

BENEDICK

FTLN 2712 Why then, your uncle and the Prince and Claudio

FTLN 2713 Have been deceived. They swore you did.

BEATRICE

FTLN 2714 Do not you love me? 80

FTLN 2715 BENEDICK Troth, no, no more than reason.

BEATRICE

FTLN 2716 Why then, my cousin, Margaret, and Ursula

FTLN 2717 Are much deceived, for they did swear you did.

BENEDICK

FTLN 2718 They swore that you were almost sick for me.

BEATRICE

FTLN 2719 They swore that you were well-nigh dead for me. 85

BENEDICK

FTLN 2720 'Tis no such matter. Then you do not love me?

BEATRICE

FTLN 2721 No, truly, but in friendly recompense.

LEONATO

FTLN 2722 Come, cousin, I am sure you love the gentleman.

CLAUDIO

FTLN 2723 And I'll be sworn upon 't that he loves her,

FTLN 2724 For here's a paper written in his hand, 90

FTLN 2725 A halting sonnet of his own pure brain,

FTLN 2726 Fashioned to Beatrice. *「He shows a paper.」*

FTLN 2727 HERO And here's another,

FTLN 2728 Writ in my cousin's hand, stol'n from her pocket,

FTLN 2729 Containing her affection unto Benedick. 95

「She shows a paper.」

FTLN 2730 BENEDICK A miracle! Here's our own hands against

FTLN 2731 our hearts. Come, I will have thee, but by this light

FTLN 2732 I take thee for pity.

FTLN 2733 BEATRICE I would not deny you, but by this good day, I

FTLN 2734 yield upon great persuasion, and partly to save your 100

FTLN 2735 life, for I was told you were in a consumption.

FTLN 2736 *「BENEDICK」* Peace! I will stop your mouth.

「They kiss.」

PRINCE

FTLN 2737 How dost thou, Benedick, the married man?

FTLN 2738 BENEDICK I'll tell thee what, prince: a college of

FTLN 2739 wit-crackers cannot flout me out of my humor. 105

FTLN 2740 Dost thou think I care for a satire or an epigram?

FTLN 2741 No. If a man will be beaten with brains, he shall

FTLN 2742 wear nothing handsome about him. In brief, since I

FTLN 2743 do purpose to marry, I will think nothing to any

FTLN 2744 purpose that the world can say against it, and 110

FTLN 2745 therefore never flout at me for what I have said
 FTLN 2746 against it. For man is a giddy thing, and this is my
 FTLN 2747 conclusion.—For thy part, Claudio, I did think to
 FTLN 2748 have beaten thee, but in that thou art like to be my
 FTLN 2749 kinsman, live unbruised, and love my cousin. 115
 FTLN 2750 CLAUDIO I had well hoped thou wouldst have denied
 FTLN 2751 Beatrice, that I might have cudged thee out of thy
 FTLN 2752 single life, to make thee a double-dealer, which out
 FTLN 2753 of question thou wilt be, if my cousin do not look
 FTLN 2754 exceeding narrowly to thee. 120
 FTLN 2755 BENEDICK Come, come, we are friends. Let's have a
 FTLN 2756 dance ere we are married, that we may lighten our
 FTLN 2757 own hearts and our wives' heels.
 FTLN 2758 LEONATO We'll have dancing afterward.
 FTLN 2759 BENEDICK First, of my word! Therefore play, music.— 125
 FTLN 2760 Prince, thou art sad. Get thee a wife, get thee a wife.
 FTLN 2761 There is no staff more reverend than one tipped
 FTLN 2762 with horn.

Enter Messenger.

FTLN 2763 MESSENGER, *['to Prince']*
 My lord, your brother John is ta'en in flight,
 FTLN 2764 And brought with armed men back to Messina. 130
 FTLN 2765 BENEDICK, *['to Prince']* Think not on him till tomorrow.
 FTLN 2766 I'll devise thee brave punishments for him.—Strike
 FTLN 2767 up, pipers! *['Music plays. They'] dance.*
['They exit.']