

The Two Gentlemen of Verona Shortened: Shakespeare Edited For Length

Pages: 60
Format: pdf, epub
Language: English

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THE
TWO
GENTLEMEN
OF
VERONA SHORTENED:

SHAKESPEARE
EDITED
FOR
LENGTH
BY
WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

EDITED BY
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THE TWO GENTLEMEN OF VERONA

CAST: DUKE (OF MILAN) -- FATHER TO SILVIA, VALENTINE and PROTEUS -- THE TWO GENTLEMEN, ANTONIO -- FATHER TO PROTEUS, THURIO -- A FOOLISH RIVAL TO VALENTINE, EGLAMOUR -- AGENT FOR SYLVIA IN HER ESCAPE, HOST -- WHERE JULIA LODGES (IN MILAN), OUTLAWS -- WITH VALENTINE, SPEED, JULIA -- BELOVED OF PROTEUS, SILVIA -- BELOVED OF VALENTINE, LUCETTA -- WAITING WOMAN TO JULIA, SERVANTS, MUSICIANS.

ACT I SCENE I

(Verona. An open place.)

(Enter VALENTINE and PROTEUS)

VALENTINE: Cease to persuade, my loving Proteus;

Home-keeping youth have ever homely wits.

PROTEUS: Wilt thou be gone? Sweet Valentine, adieu!

Think on thy Proteus, when thou haply seest

Some rare noteworthy object in thy travel.

VALENTINE: And on a love-book pray for my success?

PROTEUS: Upon some book I love I'll pray for thee.

VALENTINE: That's on some shallow story of deep love,

How young Leander cross'd the Hellespont.

PROTEUS: That's a deep story of a deeper love;

For he was more than over shoes in love.

VALENTINE: 'Tis true; for you are over boots in love,

And yet you never swum the Hellespont.

PROTEUS: Yet writers say, as in the sweetest bud

The eating canker dwells, so eating love

Inhabits in the finest wits of all.

VALENTINE: And writers say, as the most forward bud

Is eaten by the canker ere it blow,

Even so by love the young and tender wit

Is turned to folly, blasting in the bud,

Losing his verdure even in the prime,
And all the fair effects of future hopes.

Once more adieu! My father at the road
Expects my coming, there to see me shipp'd.

PROTEUS: And thither will I bring thee, Valentine.

VALENTINE: Sweet Proteus, no; now let us take our leave.
To Milan let me hear from thee by letters
Of thy success in love.

PROTEUS: All happiness bechance to thee in Milan!

VALENTINE: As much to you at home! and so, farewell. (Exit.)

PROTEUS: He after honour hunts, I after love.

He leaves his friends to dignify them more;

I leave myself, my friends, and all, for love.

Thou, Julia, thou hast metamorphos'd me;

Made me neglect my studies, lose my time,

War with good counsel, set the world at nought;

Made wit with musing weak, heart sick with thought.

(Exit.)

ACT I SCENE II

(Verona. The Garden of Julia's House)

(Enter Julia and Lucetta.)

JULIA: But say, Lucetta, now we are alone,
Wouldst thou then counsel me to fall in love?

LUCETTA: Ay, madam, so you stumble not unheedfully.

JULIA: What think'st thou of the gentle Proteus?

LUCETTA: Lord, Lord! to see what folly reigns in us!

JULIA: How now! what means this passion at his name?

LUCETTA: Pardon, dear madam; 'tis a passing shame

That I, unworthy body as I am,

Should censure thus on lovely gentlemen.

LUCETTA: Peruse this paper, madam. (Gives a letter.)

JULIA: 'To Julia.' -- Say from whom?

LUCETTA: That the contents will show.

JULIA: Say, say, who gave it thee?

LUCETTA: Sir Valentine's page, and sent, I think, from Proteus.

JULIA: Will ye be gone?

LUCETTA: That you may ruminate. (Exit.)

JULIA: And yet I would I had o'erlook'd the letter.

It were a shame to call her back again

And pray her to a fault for which I chid her.

What ho! Lucetta!

(Enter LUCETTA.)

LUCETTA: What would your ladyship?

JULIA: Is it near dinner-time?

LUCETTA: I would it were.

JULIA: What is 't that you took up so gingerly?

LUCETTA: Nothing.

JULIA: Why didst thou stoop, then?

LUCETTA: To take a paper up

That I let fall.

JULIA: Let's see your song. (Taking the letter.) How now,

minion!

LUCETTA: Keep tune there still, so you will sing it out.

And yet, methinks, I do not like this tune.

JULIA: You do not?

LUCETTA: No, madam; it is too sharp.

JULIA: You, minion, are too saucy.

This babble shall not henceforth trouble me.

Here is a coil with protestation! -- (Tears the letter.)

LUCETTA: She makes it strange; but she would be best pleas'd

To be so anger'd with another letter. (Exit.) *

Shakespeare's Comedy, *The Two Gentlemen of Verona*; is condensed into about an hour's traffic on the stage with all of the words and stage direction preserved from Shakespeare's work. *The Two Gentlemen of Verona Shortened*; is a great resource for actors and English teachers everywhere.

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