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BORACHIO Proof enough to misuse the prince, to vex Claudio, to undo Hero and kill Leonato. DON PEDRO Why, what effects of passion shows she? CLAUDIO Good morrow, masters: each his several way. ANTONIO Therein do men from children nothing differ. That young start-up hath all the glory of my overthrow: if I can cross him any way, I bless myself every way. LEONATO I pray thee, peace. DON JOHN There is no measure in the occasion that breeds; therefore the sadness is without limit. DON PEDRO She cannot endure to hear tell of a husband. HERO Indeed, he hath an excellent good name. DON PEDRO You embrace your charge too willingly. Art thou sick, or angry? DON PEDRO Yea, that she did: but yet, for all that, an if she did not hate him deadly, she would love him dearly: the old man's daughter told us all. The lady is dead upon mine and my master's false accusation; and, briefly, I desire nothing but the reward of a villain. This is your charge: you shall comprehend all vagrom men; you are to bid any man stand, in the prince's name. BENEDICK Fare you well, boy: you know my mind. BORACHIO I think I told your lordship a year since, how much I am in the favour of Margaret, the waiting gentlewoman to Hero. CLAUDIO Is she not a modest young lady? DON JOHN I thank you: I am not of many words, but I thank you. BEATRICE Good morrow, sweet Hero. Go you and tell her of it. CONRADE Yes, it is apparel. ANTONIO To tell you true, I counterfeit him. CLAUDIO I pray you, leave me. BEATRICE Kill Claudio. Well I am sorry for your niece. HERO I do. BENEDICK Sir, I shall meet your wit in the career, and you charge it against me. LEONATO So are the prince and Claudio, who accused her Upon the error that you heard debated: But Margaret was in some fault for this, Although against her will, as it appears In the true course of all the question. BEATRICE How tartly that gentleman looks! I never can see him but I am heart-burned an hour after. BENEDICK God keep your ladyship still in that mind! so some gentleman or other shall 'scape a predestinate scratched face. O that I were a man! What, bear her in hand until they come to take hands; and then, with public accusation, uncovered slander, unmitigated rancour, --O God, that I were a man! I would eat his heart in the market-place. DON PEDRO But, soft you, let me be: pluck up, my heart, and be sad. My heart is sorry for your daughter's death: But, on my honour, she was charged with nothing But what was true and very full of proof. CLAUDIO I'll hold my mind, were she an Ethiope. BORACHIO Marry, it is your brother's right hand. Why had I not with charitable hand Took up a beggar's issue at my gates, Who smirch'd thus and mired with infamy, I might have said 'No part of it is mine; This shame derives itself from unknown loins'? DON JOHN [To CLAUDIO] Means your lordship to be married to-morrow? FRIAR FRANCIS Lady, what man is he you are accused of? BENEDICK Tarry, good Beatrice. Exit Boy I do much wonder that one man, seeing how much another man is a fool when he dedicates his behaviors to love, will, after he hath laughed at such shallow follies in others, become the argument of his own scorn by failing in love: and such a man is Claudio. CONRADE No; 'twas the vane on the house. O, one too much by thee! Why had I one? LEONATO No, not so, villain; thou beliest thyself: Here stand a pair of honourable men; A third is fled, that had a hand in it. BENEDICK Even to the next willow, about your own business, county. BENEDICK O, she misused me past the endurance of a block! an oak but with one green leaf on it would have answered her; my very visor began to assume life and scold with her. DON PEDRO Welcome, signior: you are almost come to part almost a fray. CLAUDIO Thou thinkest I am in sport: I pray thee tell me truly how thou likest her. DON JOHN Come, let us to the banquet. URSULA O, do not do your cousin such a wrong. Exit SCENE II. Watchman If we know him to be a thief, shall we not lay hands on him? BENEDICK First, of my word; therefore play, music. BENEDICK In so high a style, Margaret, that no man living shall come over it; for, in most comely truth, thou deservest it. Approaching the bower No, truly, Ursula, she is too disdainful; I know her spirits are as coy and wild As haggerds of the rock. CLAUDIO Most sincerely. BENEDICK Your answer, sir, is enigmatical: But, for my will, my will is your good will May stand with ours, this day to be conjoin'd In the state of honourable marriage: In which, good friar, I shall desire your help. Why ever wast thou lovely in my eyes? Would you not swear, All you that see her, that she were a maid, By these exterior shows? HERO's apartment. ANTONIO As the event stamps them: but they have a good cover; they show well outward. DON JOHN Fie, fie! they are not to be named, my lord, Not to be spoke of; There is not chastity enough in language Without offence to utter them. Lady, as you are mine, I am yours: I give away myself for you and dote upon the exchange. Come, bind them. DON PEDRO Ha, no, no, faith; thou singest well enough for a shift. well, all is one. Had we fought, I doubt we should have been too young for them. Exit BALTHASAR Come hither, Leonato. Prince, thou art sad; get thee a wife, get thee a wife: there is no staff more reverend than one tipped with horn. ANTONIO He shall kill two of us, and men indeed: But that's no matter; let him kill one first; Win me and wear me; let him answer me. Enter BEATRICE Sweet Beatrice, wouldst thou come when I called thee? Will you come presently? CLAUDIO All, all; and, moreover, God saw him when he was hid in the garden. DON PEDRO She shall be buried with her face upwards. He is in love. CLAUDIO And I take him to be valiant. BORACHIO We'll wait upon your lordship. CLAUDIO And she is exceeding wise. ANTONIO He is very busy about it. DOGBERRY Dost thou not suspect my place? CONRADE BORACHIO Yea, sir, we hope. BENEDICK A miracle! here's our own hands against our hearts. HERO My cousin means Signior Benedick of Padua. You have of late stood out against your brother, and he hath ta'en you newly into his grace; where it is impossible you should take true root but by the fair weather that you make yourself: it is needful that you frame the season for your own harvest. DON PEDRO Why, what's the matter? DOGBERRY O villain! thou wilt be condemned into everlasting redemption for this. We have here recovered the most dangerous piece of lechery that ever was known in the commonwealth. BORACHIO And that is Claudio: I know him by his bearing. Let me hear from you. CLAUDIO Yea, my good lord. LEONATO Nay, that's impossible: she may wear her heart out first. Enter DON PEDRO, DON JOHN, LEONATO, FRIAR FRANCIS, CLAUDIO, BENEDICK, HERO, BEATRICE, and Attendants LEONATO Come, Friar Francis, be brief; only to the plain form of marriage, and you shall recount their particular duties afterwards. CLAUDIO How know you he loves her? They have the truth of this from Hero. MARGARET To have no man come over me! why, shall I always keep below stairs? ANTONIO Well, I am glad that all things sort so well. DON PEDRO The former Hero! Hero that is dead! LEONATO She died, my lord, but whiles her slander lived. BENEDICK Friar, I must entreat your pains, I think. I will teach you how to humour your cousin, that she shall fall in love with Benedick; and I, with your two helps, will so practise on Benedick that, in despite of his quick wit and his queasy stomach, he shall fall in love with Beatrice. DON PEDRO And Benedick is not the unhopefullest husband that I know. I said, thou hadst a fine wit: 'True,' said she, 'a fine little one.' 'No,' said I, 'a great wit:' 'Right,' says she, 'a great gross one.' 'Nay,' said I, 'a good wit:' 'Just,' said she, 'it hurts nobody.' 'Nay,' said I, 'the gentleman is wise:' 'Certain,' said she, 'a wise gentleman.' 'Nay,' said I, 'he hath the tongues:' 'That I believe,' said she, 'for he swore a thing to me on Monday night, which he forswore on Tuesday morning; there's a double tongue; there's two tongues.' Thus did she, an hour together, transshape thy particular virtues: yet at last she concluded with a sigh, thou wast the properest man in Italy. BENEDICK We'll be friends first. LEONATO'S garden. ANTONIO At a word, I am not. DOGBERRY I leave an arrant knave with your worship; which I beseech your worship to correct yourself, for the example of others. LEONATO My lord, my lord, I'll prove it on his body, if he dare, Despite his nice fence and his active practise, His May of youth and bloom of lustihood. They will scarcely believe this without trial: offer them instances; which shall bear no less likelihood than to see me at her chamber-window, hear me call Margaret Hero, hear Margaret term me Claudio; and bring them to see this the very night before the intended wedding,--for in the meantime I will so fashion the matter that Hero shall be absent,--and there shall appear such seeming truth of Hero's disloyalty that jealousy shall be called assurance and all the preparation overthrown. You are thought here to be the most senseless and fit man for the constable of the watch; therefore bear you the lantern. what will this do? LEONATO O Lord, my lord, if they were but a week married, they would talk themselves mad. So will it fare with Claudio: When he shall hear she died upon his words, The idea of her life shall sweetly creep Into his study of imagination, And every lovely organ of her life Shall come apparell'd in more precious habit, More moving-delicate and full of life, Into the eye and prospect of his soul, Than when she lived indeed; then shall he mourn, If ever love had interest in his liver, And wish he had not so accused her, No, though he thought his accusation true. DON PEDRO And, as I wooed for thee to obtain her, I will join with thee to disgrace her. CLAUDIO If he do not dote on her upon this, I will never trust my expectation. She dying, as it must so be maintain'd, Upon the instant that she was accused, Shall be lamented, pitied and excused Of every hearer: for it so falls out That what we have we prize not to the worth Whiles we enjoy it, but being lack'd and lost, Why, then we rack the value, then we find The virtue that possession would not show us Whiles it was ours. DON JOHN Who? Exit MARGARET Sings The god of love, That sits above, And knows me, and knows me, How pitiful I deserve,-- I mean in singing; but in loving, Leander the good swimmer, Troilus the first employer of panders, and a whole bookful of these quondam carpet-mangers, whose names yet run smoothly in the even road of a blank verse, why, they were never so truly turned over and over as my poor self in love. Dost thou affect her, Claudio? BENEDICK You take pleasure then in the message? BEATRICE O, on my soul, my cousin is belied! BENEDICK Lady, were you her bedfellow last night? DOGBERRY Truly, by your office, you may; but I think they that touch pitch will be defiled: the most peaceable way for you, if you do take a thief, is to let him show himself what he is and steal out of your company. HERO True! O God! CLAUDIO Leonato, stand I here? Farewell. Yours, sirrah? In brief, since I do purpose to marry, I will think nothing to any purpose that the world can say against it; and therefore never flout at me for what I have said against it; for man is a giddy thing, and this is my conclusion. Watchman Well, masters, we hear our charge: let us go sit here upon the church-bench till two, and then all to bed. DON PEDRO Nay, a' rubs himself with civet: can you smell him out by that? These things, come thus to light, Smother her spirits up. Re-enter ANTONIO, with the Ladies masked Which is the lady I must seize upon? DON PEDRO Nay, do not quarrel with us, good old man. CLAUDIO If there be any impediment, I pray you discover it. LEONATO Well, daughter, and you gentle-women all, Withdraw into a chamber by yourselves, And when I send for you, come hither mask'd. BENEDICK Only foul words; and thereupon I will kiss thee. MARGARET By my troth, 's not so good; and I warrant your cousin will say so. URSULA The pleasant'st angling is to see the fish Cut with her golden oars the silver stream, And greedily devour the treacherous bait: So angle we for Beatrice; who even now Is couched in the woodbine coverture. But if all aim but this be levell'd false, The supposition of the lady's death Will quench the wonder of her infamy: And if it sort not well, you may conceal her, As best befits her wounded reputation, In some reclusive and religious life, Out of all eyes, tongues, minds and injuries. Well, a horn for my money, when all's done. I am sorry for her, as I have just cause, being her uncle and her guardian. I did never think to marry: I must not seem proud: happy are they that hear their detractions and can put them to mending. LEONATO Art thou the slave that with thy breath hast kill'd Mine innocent child? LEONATO What shall become of this? LEONATO The sight whereof I think you had from me, From Claudio and the prince: but what's your will? BEATRICE No, sure, my lord, my mother cried; but then there was a star danced, and under that was I born. Exeunt DON JOHN and BORACHIO CLAUDIO Thus answer I in the name of Benedick, But hear these ill news with the ears of Claudio. By this hand, I love thee. BORACHIO Thou shouldst rather ask if it were possible any villany should be so rich; for when rich villains have need of poor ones, poor ones may make what price they will. HERO So you walk softly and look sweetly and say nothing, I am yours for the walk; and especially when I walk away. BORACHIO Not honestly, my lord; but so covertly that no dishonesty shall appear in me. LEONATO Daughter, remember what I told you: if the prince do solicit you in that kind, you know your answer. What is your will? BEATRICE I have a good eye, uncle; I can see a church by daylight. HERO There thou prickest her with a thistle. CLAUDIO Neither, my lord. Thanks to you all, and leave us: fare you well. DON PEDRO And hath challenged thee. Bring him away. Enter BEATRICE, behind Now begin; For look where Beatrice, like a lapwing, runs Close by the ground, to hear our conference. LEONATO There's for thy pains. Look, what will serve is fit: 'tis once, thou lovest, And I will fit thee with the remedy. CLAUDIO And, in faith, my lord, I spoke mine. LEONATO Wherefore! Why, doth not every earthly thing Cry shame upon her? BEATRICE I cry you mercy, uncle. CLAUDIO Marry, that can Hero; Hero itself can blot out Hero's virtue. DON PEDRO Nay, that would be as great a soil in the new gloss of your marriage as to show a child his new coat and forbid him to wear it. LEONATO Please it your grace lead on? Go in with me, and I will tell you my drift. Enter DON JOHN and BORACHIO DON JOHN It is so; the Count Claudio shall marry the daughter of Leonato. Exeunt all but BENEDICK and BEATRICE BENEDICK Lady Beatrice, have you wept all this while? LEONATO What is it, my good friends? CLAUDIO If he be not in love with some woman, there is no believing old signs: a' brushes his hat o' mornings; what should that bode? There is a kind of merry war betwixt Signior Benedick and her: they never meet but there's a skirmish of wit between them. Well, for your favour, sir, why, give God thanks, and make no boast of it; and for your writing and reading, let that appear when there is no need of such vanity. Thou hast kill'd my child: If thou kill'st me, boy, thou shalt kill a man. I would fain have it a match, and I doubt not but to fashion it, if you three will but minister such assistance as I shall give you direction. BENEDICK By my sword, Beatrice, thou lovest me. Enter BENEDICK and MARGARET, meeting BENEDICK Pray thee, sweet Mistress Margaret, deserve well at my hands by helping me to the speech of Beatrice. Hero and Margaret have by this played their parts with Beatrice; and then the two bears will not bite one another when they meet. If a man do not erect in this age his own tomb ere he dies, he shall live no longer in monument than the bell rings and the widow weeps. CLAUDIO And I, my lord. CLAUDIO That's as much as to say, the sweet youth's in love. CLAUDIO For this I owe you: here comes other reckonings. Sweet, let me see your face. Go you to the prince your brother; spare not to tell him that he hath wronged his honour in marrying the renowned Claudio--whose estimation do you mightily hold up--to a contaminated stale, such a one as Hero. CLAUDIO In mine eye she is the sweetest lady that ever I looked on. BALTHASAR I love you the better: the hearers may cry, Amen. Messenger And a good soldier too, lady. DOGBERRY Marry, this it is, sir. LEONATO A kind overflow of kindness: there are no faces truer than those that are so washed. DON PEDRO Do so: farewell. BENEDICK I will swear by it that you love me; and I will make him eat it that says I love not you. BENEDICK That I neither feel how she should be loved nor know how she should be worthy, is the opinion that fire cannot melt out of me: I will die in it at the stake. Exeunt all except BENEDICK and CLAUDIO CLAUDIO Benedick, didst thou note the daughter of Signior Leonato? DON JOHN Grow this to what adverse issue it can, I will put it in practise. BENEDICK If you use them, Margaret, you must put in the pikes with a vice; and they are dangerous weapons for maids. DOGBERRY First, who think you the most desertless man to be constable? URSULA She's limed, I warrant you: we have caught her, madam. Come, in what key shall a man take you, to go in the song? DON PEDRO Runs not this speech like iron through your blood? But, I beseech your grace, pardon me: I was born to speak all mirth and no matter. CONRADE I wonder at it. O that I had been writ down an ass! Exeunt ACT V SCENE I. BENEDICK The flat transgression of a schoolboy, who, being overjoyed with finding a birds' nest, shows it his companion, and he steals it. Thou knowest that the fashion of a doublet, or a hat, or a cloak, is nothing to a man. Well said, i' faith, neighbour Verges: well, God's a good man; an two men ride of a horse, one must ride behind. CLAUDIO Never tell him, my lord: let her wear it out with good counsel. URSULA I know you well enough; you are Signior Antonio. CONRADE Is it possible that any villany should be so dear? CONRADE A commodity in question, I warrant you. DOGBERRY Goodman Verges, sir, speaks a little off the matter: an old man, sir, and his wits are not so blunt as, God help, I would desire they were; but, in faith, honest as the skin between his brows. Enter BEATRICE BEATRICE Against my will I am sent to bid you come in to dinner. DOGBERRY This is the end of the charge:--you, constable, are to present the prince's own person: if you meet the prince in the night, you may stay him. BENEDICK Bull Jove, sir, had an amiable low; And some such strange bull leap'd your father's cow, And got a calf in that same noble feat Much like to you, for you have just his bleat. MARGARET Even since you left it. BALTHASAR Note this before my notes; There's not a note of mine that's worth the noting. BEATRICE Alas! he gets nothing by that. CLAUDIO Yea, and text underneath, 'Here dwells Benedick the married man'? VERGES Yea, by mass, that it is. CLAUDIO Yea, the same. May I be so converted and see with these eyes? FRIAR FRANCIS 'Tis well consented: presently away; For to strange sores strangely they strain the cure. If they speak but truth of her, These hands shall tear her; if they wrong her honour, The proudest of them shall well hear of it. DON PEDRO Officers, what offence have these men done? DON PEDRO I shall see thee, ere I die, look pale with love. DON PEDRO I would she had bestowed this dotage on me: I would have daffed all other respects and made her half myself. BENEDICK Is't come to this? BENEDICK Would you buy her, that you inquire after her? BEATRICE What pace is this that thy tongue keeps? CLAUDIO Another Hero! HERO Nothing certainer: One Hero died defiled, but I do live, And surely as I live, I am a maid. HERO O god of love! I know he doth deserve As much as may be yielded to a man: But Nature never framed a woman's heart Of prouder stuff than that of Beatrice; Disdain and scorn ride sparkling in her eyes, Misprising what they look on, and her wit Values itself so highly that to her All matter else seems weak: she cannot love, Nor take no shape nor project of affection, She is so self-endeared. BEATRICE Do not swear, and eat it. The sport will be, when they hold one an opinion of another's dotage, and no such matter: that's the scene that I would see, which will be merely a dumb-show. LEONATO Friar, it cannot be. BENEDICK I have the toothache. BALTHASAR O, good my lord, tax not so bad a voice To slander music any more than once. No, uncle, I'll none: Adam's sons are my brethren; and, truly, I hold it a sin to match in my kindred. DON PEDRO Dost thou wear thy wit by thy side? CLAUDIO Now, unto thy bones good night! Yearly will I do this rite. BEATRICE You have stayed me in a happy hour: I was about to protest I loved you. BORACHIO Yea, even I alone. I say thou hast belied mine innocent child; Thy slander hath gone through and through her heart, And she lies buried with her ancestors; O, in a tomb where never scandal slept, Save this of hers, framed by thy villany! CLAUDIO My villany? Signior Leonato, truth it is, good signior, Your niece regards me with an eye of favour. I find here that Don Peter hath bestowed much honour on a young Florentine called Claudio. DOGBERRY True, and they are to meddle with none but the prince's subjects. DON PEDRO How now? CLAUDIO Good day to both of you. BENEDICK An he had been a dog that should have howled thus, they would have hanged him: and I pray God his bad voice bode no mischief. DOGBERRY Come hither, neighbour Seacole. LEONATO Thine, Claudio; thine, I say. ANTONIO In faith, she's too curst. DON JOHN Show me briefly how. CLAUDIO For the which she wept heartily and said she cared not. dress him in my apparel and make him my waiting-gentlewoman? HERO I may say so, when I please. Let the watch come forth. She told me, not thinking I had been myself, that I was the prince's jester, that I was duller than a great thaw; huddling jest upon jest with such impossible conveyance upon me that I stood like a man at a mark, with a whole army shooting at me. I have deceived even your very eyes: what your wisdoms could not discover, these shallow fools have brought to light: who in the night overheard me confessing to this man how Don John your brother incensed me to slander the Lady Hero, how you were brought into the orchard and saw me court Margaret in Hero's garments, how you disgraced her, when you should marry her: my villany they have upon record; which I had rather seal with my death than repeat over to my shame. But keep your way, i' God's name; I have done. Did he not say, my brother was fled? You may think perchance that I think you are in love: nay, by'r lady, I am not such a fool to think what I list, nor I list not to think what I can, nor indeed I cannot think, if I would think my heart out of thinking, that you are in love or that you will be in love or that you can be in love. Exeunt DOGBERRY and VERGES LEONATO Until to-morrow morning, lords, farewell. DON JOHN If it please you: yet Count Claudio may hear; for what I would speak of concerns him. Exit ACT III SCENE I. HERO And bid her come hither. Watchman [Aside] Some treason, masters: yet stand close. Time hath not yet so dried this blood of mine, Nor age so eat up my invention, Nor fortune made such havoc of my means, Nor my bad life reft me so much of friends, But they shall find, awaked in such a kind, Both strength of limb and policy of mind, Ability in means and choice of friends, To quit me of them throughly. BENEDICK Peace! I will stop your mouth. Enter URSULA URSULA Madam, you must come to your uncle. for the which, I hear what they say of him. LEONATO Her mother hath many times told me so. DON PEDRO I will not think it. DOGBERRY Why, you speak like an ancient and most quiet watchman; for I cannot see how sleeping should offend: only, have a care that your bills be not stolen. the most exquisite Claudio? LEONATO Some haste, my lord! well, fare you well, my lord: Are you so hasty now? CLAUDIO Yet say I, he is in love. DON PEDRO And when please you to say so? Death is the fairest cover for her shame That may be wish'd for. BENEDICK Come, come, we are friends: let's have a dance ere we are married, that we may lighten our own hearts and our wives' heels. Here comes the prince and Claudio. DON PEDRO That she is worthy, I know. BENEDICK I know that; but I would have thee hence, and here again. You have no stomach, signior: fare you well. LEONATO No, nor I neither; but most wonderful that she should so dote on Signior Benedick, whom she hath in all outward behaviors seemed ever to abhor. BENEDICK I should think this a gull, but that the white-bearded fellow speaks it: knavery cannot, sure, hide himself in such reverence. Choose your revenge yourself; Impose me to what penance your invention Can lay upon my sin: yet sinn'd I not But in mistaking. DON PEDRO We will not fail. DOGBERRY Comparisons are odorous: palabras, neighbour Verges. You amaze me: I would have I thought her spirit had been invincible against all assaults of affection. DOGBERRY It shall be suffigance. LEONATO [To the Watch] Bring you these fellows on. LEONATO Then half Signior Benedick's tongue in Count John's mouth, and half Count John's melancholy in Signior Benedick's face,-- BEATRICE With a good leg and a good foot, uncle, and money enough in his purse, such a man would win any woman in the world, if a' could get her good-will. how giddily a' turns about all the hot bloods between fourteen and five-and-thirty? CLAUDIO Give me your hand: before this holy friar, I am your husband, if you like of me. BORACHIO I mean, the fashion. CLAUDIO You speak this to fetch me in, my lord. BEATRICE Dead, I think. DON PEDRO Thou wilt be like a lover presently And tire the hearer with a book of words. Re-enter DON PEDRO DON PEDRO Now, signior, where's the count? BENEDICK Were you in doubt, sir, that you asked her? LEONATO He hath an uncle here in Messina will be very much glad of it. BORACHIO Go, then; find me a meet hour to draw Don Pedro and the Count Claudio alone: tell them that you know that Hero loves me; intend a kind of zeal both to the prince and Claudio, as,--in love of your brother's honour, who hath made this match, and his friend's reputation, who is thus like to be cozened with the semblance of a maid,--that you have discovered thus. DON PEDRO I'll tell thee how Beatrice praised thy wit the other day. BENEDICK Well, you are a rare parrot-teacher. CLAUDIO Sweet prince, you learn me noble thankfulness. CLAUDIO He hath ta'en the infection: hold it up. Then you do not love me? DON PEDRO What! sigh for the toothache? I pray you choose another subject. DON PEDRO I' faith, lady, I think your blazon to be true; though, I'll be sworn, if he be so, his conceit is false. What, man! I know them, yea, And what they weigh, even to the utmost scruple,-- Scrambling, out-facing, fashion-monging boys, That lie and cog and flout, deprave and slander, Go anticly, show outward hideousness, And speak off half a dozen dangerous words, How they might hurt their enemies, if they durst; And this is all. BEATRICE [Unmasking] I answer to that name. DON PEDRO I charge thee on thy allegiance. VERGES O, a stool and a cushion for the sexton. BEATRICE No, truly not; although, until last night, I have this twelvemonth been her bedfellow. BORACHIO We are like to prove a goodly commodity, being taken up of these men's bills. Come, talk not of her: you shall find her the infernal Ate in good apparel. LEONATO Hath the fellow any wit that told you this? He hath every month a new sworn brother. DON PEDRO None, but to desire your good company. DON PEDRO Gentlemen both, we will not wake your patience. I know we shall have revelling to-night: I will assume thy part in some disguise And tell fair Hero I am Claudio, And in her bosom I'll unclasp my heart And take her hearing prisoner with the force And strong encounter of my amorous tale: Then after to her father will I break; And the conclusion is, she shall be thine. Why, what's the matter, That you have such a February face, So full of frost, of storm and cloudiness? LEONATO That eye my daughter lent her: 'tis most true. Here's his dry hand up and down: you are he, you are he. BEATRICE A very even way, but no such friend. URSULA Sure, sure, such carping is not commendable. LEONATO O, she tore the letter into a thousand halfpence; railed at herself, that she should be so immodest to write to one that she knew would flout her; 'I measure him,' says she, 'by my own spirit; for I should flout him, if he writ to me; yea, though I love him, I should.' CLAUDIO Then down upon her knees she falls, weeps, sobs, beats her heart, tears her hair, prays, curses; 'O sweet Benedick! God give me patience!' LEONATO She doth indeed; my daughter says so: and the ecstasy hath so much overborne her that my daughter is sometime afeared she will do a desperate outrage to herself: it is very true. DOGBERRY Flat burglary as ever was committed. HERO Why, every day, to-morrow. Music We must follow the leaders. CLAUDIO Whither? Let us send her to call him in to dinner. BORACHIO Be you constant in the accusation, and my cunning shall not shame me. Yet Benedick was such another, and now is he become a man: he swore he would never marry, and yet now, in despite of his heart, he eats his meat without grudging: and how you may be converted I know not, but methinks you look with your eyes as other women do. Lord, I could not endure a husband with a beard on his face: I had rather lie in the woollen. DON PEDRO Why, then are you no maiden. Exeunt DOGBERRY and VERGES Enter BORACHIO and CONRADE BORACHIO What Conrade! Watchman [Aside] Peace! stir not. LEONATO Hear you. Here comes Beatrice. Kissing her DON PEDRO How dost thou, Benedick, the married man? Mark how short his answer is;--With Hero, Leonato's short daughter. CLAUDIO To-night I'll mourn with Hero. BENEDICK I noted her not; but I looked on her. DON JOHN What proof shall I make of that? BORACHIO Not so, neither: but know that I have to-night wooed Margaret, the Lady Hero's gentlewoman, by the name of Hero: she leans me out at her mistress' chamber-window, bids me a thousand times good night,--I tell this tale vilely:--I should first tell thee how the prince, Claudio and my master, planted and placed and possessed by my master Don John, saw afar off in the orchard this amiable encounter. CLAUDIO That. Air BENEDICK Now, divine air! now is his soul ravished! Is it not strange that sheeps' guts should hale souls out of men's bodies? CLAUDIO No; I pray thee speak in sober judgment. Who comes here? BENEDICK Not now. Prince John is this morning secretly stolen away; Hero was in this manner accused, in this very manner refused, and upon the grief of this suddenly died. Courtesy itself must convert to disdain, if you come in her presence. We'll talk with Margaret, How her acquaintance grew with this lewd fellow. Here, Claudio, I have wooed in thy name, and fair Hero is won: I have broke with her father, and his good will obtained: name the day of marriage, and God give thee joy! LEONATO Count, take of me my daughter, and with her my fortunes: his grace hath made the match, and an grace say Amen to it. Enter LEONATO and ANTONIO ANTONIO If you go on thus, you will kill yourself: And 'tis not wisdom thus to second grief Against yourself. Therefore give me no counsel: My griefs cry louder than advertisement. BENEDICK Why, then your uncle and the prince and Claudio Have been deceived; they swore you did. Exeunt DON PEDRO, CLAUDIO, and LEONATO BENEDICK [Coming forward] This can be no trick: the conference was sadly borne. BALTHASAR No more words: the clerk is answered. MARGARET And yours as blunt as the fencer's foils, which hit, but hurt not. DON JOHN The word is too good to paint out her wickedness; I could say she were worse: think you of a worse title, and I will fit her to it. CONRADE Masters,-- First Watchman Never speak: we charge you let us obey you to go with us. DON PEDRO Yea, or to paint himself? For my Lord Lackbeard there, he and I shall meet: and, till then, peace be with him. Do not live, Hero; do not ope thine eyes: For, did I think thou wouldst not quickly die, Thought I thy spirits were stronger than thy shames, Myself would, on the rearward of reproaches, Strike at thy life. VERGES Yes, in truth it is, sir. CLAUDIO May this be so? Enter BORACHIO What news, Borachio? I had as lief have heard the night-raven, come what plague could have come after it. Doth not the gentleman Deserve as full as fortunate a bed As ever Beatrice shall couch upon? MARGARET By my troth, 's but a night-gown in respect of yours: cloth o' gold, and cuts, and laced with silver, set with pearls, down sleeves, side sleeves, and skirts, round underborne with a bluish tinsel: but for a fine, quaint, graceful and excellent fashion, yours is worth ten on 't. Exeunt LEONATO and Messenger DOGBERRY Go, good partner, go, get you to Francis Seacole; bid him bring his pen and inkhorn to the gaol: we are now to examination these men. Messenger I have already delivered him letters, and there appears much joy in him; even so much that joy could not show itself modest enough without a badge of bitterness. DOGBERRY Ha, ha, ha! Well, masters, good night: an there be any matter of weight chances, call up me: keep your fellows' counsels and your own; and good night. Can this be true? LEONATO A victory is twice itself when the achiever brings home full numbers. Re-enter URSULA URSULA Madam, withdraw: the prince, the count, Signior Benedick, Don John, and all the gallants of the town, are come to fetch you to church. CLAUDIO Know you any, Hero? MARGARET Of what, lady? DON PEDRO My love is thine to teach: teach it but how, And thou shalt see how apt it is to learn Any hard lesson that may do thee good. Master constable, let these men be bound, and brought to Leonato's: I will go before and show him their examination. Marry, I cannot show it in rhyme; I have tried: I can find out no rhyme to 'lady' but 'baby,' an innocent rhyme; for 'scorn,' 'horn,' a hard rhyme; for, 'school,' 'fool,' a babbling rhyme; very ominous endings: no, I was not born under a rhyming planet, nor I cannot woo in festival terms. HERO And here's another Writ in my cousin's hand, stolen from her pocket, Containing her affection unto Benedick. BALTHASAR The best I can, my lord. But seest thou not what a deformed thief this fashion is? Hath your grace ne'er a brother like you? FRIAR FRANCIS Know you any, count? CLAUDIO Before God! and, in my mind, very wise. BENEDICK Do you question me, as an honest man should do, for my simple true judgment; or would you have me speak after my custom, as being a professed tyrant to their sex? to make an account of her life to a clod of wayward marl? If we can do this, Cupid is no longer an archer: hi s glory shall be ours, for we are the only love-gods. HERO Fie upon thee! art not ashamed? BEATRICE Yea, signior, and depart when you bid me. LEONATO Being that I flow in grief, The smallest twine may lead me. HERO O, that exceeds, they say. BENEDICK Thou and I are too wise to woo peaceably. HERO And when I lived, I was your other wife: Unmasking And when you loved, you were my other husband. Messenger He hath done good service, lady, in these wars. I will only be bold with Benedick for his company; for, from the crown of his head to the sole of his foot, he is all mirth: he hath twice or thrice cut Cupid's bow-string and the little hangman dare not shoot at him; he hath a heart as sound as a bell and his tongue is the clapper, for what his heart thinks his tongue speaks. But did you think the prince would have served you thus? If I should speak, She would mock me into air; O, she would laugh me Out of myself, press me to death with wit. By this hand, Claudio shall render me a dear account. HERO He is the only man of Italy. BEATRICE O Lord, he will hang upon him like a disease: he is sooner caught than the pestilence, and the taker runs presently mad. Father, by your leave: Will you with free and unconstrained soul Give me this maid, your daughter? It may be I go under that title because I am merry. BENEDICK Do not you love me? BENEDICK I would your grace would constrain me to tell. Friendship is constant in all other things Save in the office and affairs of love: Therefore, all hearts in love use their own tongues; Let every eye negotiate for itself And trust no agent; for beauty is a witch Against whose charms faith melteth into blood. BEATRICE For the letter that begins them all, H. DON PEDRO How then? DON PEDRO Well, you temporize with the hours. CONRADE Yes, the fashion is the fashion. It were as possible for me to say I loved nothing so well as you: but believe me not; and yet I lie not; I confess nothing, nor I deny nothing. Enter HERO, MARGARET, and URSULA HERO Good Margaret, run thee to the parlor; There shalt thou find my cousin Beatrice Proposing with the prince and Claudio: Whisper her ear and tell her, I and Ursula Walk in the orchard and our whole discourse Is all of her; say that thou overheard'st us; And bid her steal into the pleached bower, Where honeysuckles, ripen'd by the sun, Forbid the sun to enter, like favourites, Made proud by princes, that advance their pride Against that power that bred it: there will she hide her, To listen our purpose. and not marry her. The transgression is in the stealer. BORACHIO Even he. DOGBERRY Why, then, take no note of him, but let him go; and presently call the rest of the watch together and thank God you are rid of a knave. A church. I tell him we shall stay here at the least a month; and he heartily prays some occasion may detain us longer. DOGBERRY One word, sir: our watch, sir, have indeed comprehended two aspicious persons, and we would have them this morning examined before your worship. DON PEDRO Come, let us hence, and put on other weeds; And then to Leonato's we will go. BEATRICE Is it possible disdain should die while she hath such meet food to feed it as Signior Benedick? FRIAR FRANCIS You come hither, my lord, to marry this lady. FRIAR FRANCIS And my help. Withdraws Enter DON PEDRO, CLAUDIO, and LEONATO DON PEDRO Come, shall we hear this music? CONRADE And thought they Margaret was Hero? An honest soul, i' faith, sir; by my troth he is, as ever broke bread; but God is to be worshipped; all men are not alike; alas, good neighbour! LEONATO Indeed, neighbour, he comes too short of you. I think this is your daughter. DON PEDRO The greatest note of it is his melancholy. BENEDICK No, you shall pardon me. BEATRICE I am out of all other tune, methinks. let them come before master constable. BEATRICE Just, if he send me no husband; for the which blessing I am at him upon my knees every morning and evening. DON PEDRO And you too, gentle Hero? DON PEDRO He is composed and framed of treachery: And fled he is upon this villany. DON PEDRO You say not right, old man. LEONATO Marry, thou dost wrong me; thou dissembler, thou:-- Nay, never lay thy hand upon thy sword; I fear thee not. Exit CLAUDIO My liege, your highness now may do me good. The Song BALTHASAR Sigh no more, ladies, sigh no more, Men were deceivers ever, One foot in sea and one on shore, To one thing constant never: Then sigh not so, but let them go, And be you blithe and bonny, Converting all your sounds of woe Into Hey nonny, nonny. Then exeunt all except DON JOHN, BORACHIO, and CLAUDIO DON JOHN Sure my brother is amorous on Hero and hath withdrawn her father to break with him about it. BEATRICE You had musty victual, and he hath holp to eat it: he is a very valiant trencherman; he hath an excellent stomach. BORACHIO Tush! I may as well say the fool's the fool. To DON JOHN Let me bid you welcome, my lord: being reconciled to the prince your brother, I owe you all duty. BENEDICK And I do with an eye of love require her. Now, music, sound, and sing your solemn hymn. I will bid thee draw, as we do the minstrels; draw, to pleasure us. Thus, pretty lady, I am sorry for thy much misgovernment. Enter a Messenger Messenger My lord, your brother John is ta'en in flight, And brought with armed men back to Messina. DON PEDRO There is no appearance of fancy in him, unless it be a fancy that he hath to strange disguises; as, to be a Dutchman today, a Frenchman to-morrow, or in the shape of two countries at once, as, a German from the waist downward, all slops, and a Spaniard from the hip upward, no doublet. HERO No; rather I will go to Benedick And counsel him to fight against his passion. MARGARET A maid, and stuffed! there's goodly catching of cold. I am trusted with a muzzle and enfranchised with a clog; therefore I have decreed not to sing in my cage. DON PEDRO Nay, if Cupid have not spent all his quiver in Venice, thou wilt quake for this shortly. He would make but a sport of it and torment the poor lady worse. DOGBERRY Marry, sir, they have committed false report; moreover, they have spoken untruths; secondarily, they are slanders; sixth and lastly, they have belied a lady; thirdly, they have verified unjust things; and, to conclude, they are lying knaves. LEONATO There thou speak'st reason: nay, I will do so. Exeunt SCENE II. BEATRICE And a good soldier to a lady: but what is he to a lord? BENEDICK Troth, no; no more than reason. Have you writ down, that they are none? DOGBERRY One word more, honest neighbours. BEATRICE Did he never make you laugh? BENEDICK I'll tell thee what, prince; a college of wit-crackers cannot flout me out of my humour. BALTHASAR And an ill singer, my lord. ANTONIO Here comes the prince and Claudio hastily. VERGES Well, give them their charge, neighbour Dogberry. CLAUDIO I' faith, I thank him; he hath bid me to a calf's head and a capon; the which if I do not carve most curiously, say my knife's naught. I pray you watch about Signior Leonato's door; for the wedding being there to-morrow, there is a great coil to-night. Exit BENEDICK Ha! 'Against my will I am sent to bid you come in to dinner;' there's a double meaning in that 'I took no more pains for those thanks than you took pains to thank me.' that's as much as to say, Any pains that I take for you is as easy as thanks. DON PEDRO Wilt thou make a trust a transgression? ANTONIO This same is she, and I do give you her. If I had

shall not come in my grace. CLAUDIO Never any did so, though very many have been beside their wit. Stand I condemn'd for pride and scorn so much? VERGES Nay, that's certain; we have the exhibition to examine. Sexton What heard you him say else? CLAUDIO And Hymen now with luckier issue speed's Than this for whom we render'd up this woe. CLAUDIO If I see any thing to-night why I should not marry her to-morrow in the congregation, where I should wed, there will I shame her. HERO He is of a very melancholy disposition. BENEDICK And, by my two faiths and troths, my lord, I spoke mine. HERO Why how now? VERGES You have been always called a merciful man, partner. DON JOHN I will disparage her no farther till you are my witnesses: bear it coldly but till midnight, and let the issue show itself. DON PEDRO She were an excellent wife for Benedict. BEATRICE What should I do with him? I cannot be a man with wishing, therefore I will die a woman with grieving. HERO Then go we near her, that her ear lose nothing Of the false sweet bait that we lay for it. DON PEDRO Well, if ever thou dost fall from this faith, thou wilt prove a notable argument. Exeunt Ladies The prince and Claudio promised by this hour To visit me. Messenger Much deserved on his part and equally remembered by Don Pedro: he hath borne himself beyond the promise of his age, doing, in the figure of a lamb, the feats of a lion: he hath indeed better bettered expectation than you must expect of me to tell you how. But there is no such man: for, brother, men Can counsel and speak comfort to that grief Which they themselves not feel; but, tasting it, Their counsel turns to passion, which before Would give preceptial medicine to rage, Fetter strong madness in a silken thread, Charm ache with air and agony with words: No, no; 'tis all men's office to speak patience To those that wring under the load of sorrow, But no man's virtue nor sufficiency To be so moral when he shall endure The like himself. DON PEDRO It is the witness still of excellency To put a strange face on his own perfection. Now, if you are a maid, answer to this. CONRADE All this I see; and I see that the fashion wears out more apparel than the man. DON PEDRO Amen, if you love her; for the lady is very well worthy. BENEDICK Enough, I am engaged; I will challenge him. LEONATO Come, cousin, I am sure you love the gentleman. Farewell, therefore, Hero! Re-enter BENEDICK BENEDICK Count Claudio? I thank God and my cold blood, I am of your humour for that: I had rather hear my dog bark at a crow than a man swear he loves me. And, Benedick, love on; I will requite thee, Taming my wild heart to thy loving hand: If thou dost love, my kindness shall incite thee To bind our loves up in a holy band; For others say thou dost deserve, and I Believe it better than reportingly. BEATRICE The fault will be in the music, cousin, if you be not wooed in good time: if the prince be too important, tell him there is measure in every thing and so dance out the answer. BENEDICK I have almost matter enough in me for such an embassage; and so I commit you-- CLAUDIO To the tuition of God: From my house, if I had it,-- DON PEDRO The sixth of July: Your loving friend, Benedick. Tush, fear not, man; we'll tip thy horns with gold And all Europa shall rejoice at thee, As once Europa did at lusty Jove, When he would play the noble beast in love. LEONATO Dear my lord, if you, in your own proof, Have vanquish'd the resistance of her youth, And made defeat of her virginity,-- CLAUDIO I know what you would say: if I have known her, You will say she did embrace me as a husband, And so extenuate the 'forehand sin: No, Leonato, I never tempted her with word too large; But, as a brother to his sister, show'd Bashful sincerity and comely love. LEONATO No; and swears she never will: that's her torment. Messenger He is most in the company of the right noble Claudio. CLAUDIO Not sad, my lord. Go to, mum, you are he: graces will appear, and there's an end. VERGES Yes, I thank God I am as honest as any man living that is an old man and no honester than I. BEATRICE I wonder that you will still be talking, Signior Benedick: nobody marks you. let him write down the prince's officer coxcomb. BORACHIO Stand thee close, then, under this pent-house, for it drizzles rain; and I will, like a true drunkard, utter all to thee. Enter DON PEDRO and CLAUDIO, and two or three others DON PEDRO Good morrow to this fair assembly. Messenger But few of any sort, and none of name. DON PEDRO Well, we will hear further of it by your daughter: let it cool the while. did you see him? Yea, but so I am apt to do myself wrong; I am not so reputed: it is the base, though bitter, disposition of Beatrice that puts the world into her person and so gives me out. BEATRICE I am gone, though I am here: there is no love in you: nay, I pray you, let me go. By noting of the lady I have mark'd A thousand blushing apparitions To start into her face, a thousand innocent shames In angel whiteness beat away those blushes; And in her eye there hath appear'd a fire, To burn the errors that these princes hold Against her maiden truth. ... LEONATO All this is so: but what of this, my lord? But she is none: She knows the heat of a luxurious bed; Her blush is guiltiness, not modesty. CLAUDIO God bless me from a challenge! BENEDICK [Aside to CLAUDIO] You are a villain; I jest not: I will make it good how you dare, with what you dare, and when you dare. DON PEDRO What, a feast, a feast? Sits the wind in that corner? When are you married, madam? Watchman How if they will not? DON PEDRO What should I speak? CLAUDIO Away! I will not have to do with you. DON PEDRO It were good that Benedick knew of it by some other, if she will not discover it. BEATRICE Do not you love me? BEATRICE Will you go hear this news, signior? LEONATO I would have sworn it had, my lord; especially against Benedick. BENEDICK Signior Leonato, let the friar advise you: And though you know my inwardness and love Is very much unto the prince and Claudio, Yet, by mine honour, I will deal in this As secretly and justly as your soul Should with your body. None, I think, and it be the right husband and the right wife; otherwise 'tis light, and not heavy: ask my Lady Beatrice else; here she comes. By my troth, I am exceeding ill: heigh-ho! MARGARET For a hawk, a horse, or a husband? CLAUDIO O Hero, what a Hero hadst thou been, If half thy outward graces had been placed About thy thoughts and counsels of thy heart! But fare thee well, most foul, most fair! farewell, Thou pure impiety and impious purity! For thee I'll lock up all the gates of love, And on my eyelids shall conjecture hang, To turn all beauty into thoughts of harm, And never shall it more be gracious. VERGES 'Tis very true. DON JOHN A very forward March-chick! How came you to this? Could she here deny The story that is printed in her blood? LEONATO What is he that you ask for, niece? CLAUDIO 'Tis even so. DON PEDRO Draw it. of speaking honourably? BENEDICK Serve God, love me and mend. ANTONIO A good sharp fellow: I will send for him; and question him yourself. DOGBERRY Five shillings to one on't, with any man that knows the statutes, he may stay him: marry, not without the prince be willing; for, indeed, the watch ought to offend no man; and it is an offence to stay a man against his will. DON JOHN Only to despite them, I will endeavour any thing. I cannot hide what I am: I must be sad when I have cause and smile at no man's jests, eat when I have stomach and wait for no man's leisure, sleep when I am drowsy and tend on no man's business, laugh when I am merry and claw no man in his humour. Exit DON PEDRO Come, lady, come; you have lost the heart of Signior Benedick. In faith, hath not the world one man but he will wear his cap with suspicion? CLAUDIO Rightly reasoned, and in his own division: and, by my troth, there's one meaning well suited. First Watchman Hugh Otecake, sir, or George Seacole; for they can write and read. DON PEDRO To be whipped! What's his fault? Enter BEATRICE HERO Good morrow, coz. SONG. BENEDICK Troth, my lord, I have played the part of Lady Fame. stalk on; the fowl sits. Sexton But which are the offenders that are to be examined? BENEDICK Why, i' faith, methinks she's too low for a high praise, too brown for a fair praise and too little for a great praise: only this commendation I can afford her, that were she other than she is, she were unhandsome; and being no other but as she is, I do not like her. The prince and Count Claudio, walking in a thick-pleached alley in mine orchard, were thus much overheard by a man of mine: the prince discovered to Claudio that he loved my niece your daughter and meant to acknowledge it this night in a dance: and if he found her accordant, he meant to take the present time by the top and instantly break with you of it. I pray thee, sing, and let me woo no more. I pray you, how many hath he killed and eaten in these wars? LEONATO'S orchard. CLAUDIO She did, indeed. URSULA I will, lady. BEATRICE In spite of your heart, I think; alas, poor heart! If you spite it for my sake, I will spite it for yours; for I will never love that which my friend hates. DON JOHN And when I have heard it, what blessing brings it? BENEDICK 'Tis no such matter. CLAUDIO In most profound earnest; and, I'll warrant you, for the love of Beatrice. CONRADE Yea, but you must not make the full show of this till you may do it without controlment. She cannot be so much without true judgment-- Having so swift and excellent a wit As she is prized to have--as to refuse So rare a gentleman as Signior Benedick. FRIAR FRANCIS Lady, you come hither to be married to this count. BALTHASAR Because you talk of wooing, I will sing; Since many a wooer doth commence his suit To her he thinks not worthy, yet he wooes, Yet will he swear he loves. CLAUDIO I think he thinks upon the savage bull. LEONATO Hath no man's dagger here a point for me? Sing no more ditties, sing no moe, Of dumps so dull and heavy; The fraud of men was ever so, Since summer first was leafy: Then sigh not so, & c. CONRADE You should hear reason. for indeed I promised to eat all of his killing. Messenger Is't possible? LEONATO So, by being too curst, God will send you no horns. He was wont to speak plain and to the purpose, like an honest man and a soldier; and now is he turned orthography; his words are a very fantastical banquet, just so many strange dishes. And, I pray thee now, tell me for which of my bad parts didst thou first fall in love with me? Well, I'll be revenged as I may. DON PEDRO Indeed, that tells a heavy tale for him: conclude, conclude he is in love. BENEDICK Surely I do believe your fair cousin is wronged. You must wear it one way, for the prince hath got your Hero. BORACHIO That shows thou art unconfirmed. Old signior, walk aside with me: I have studied eight or nine wise words to speak to you, which these hobby-horses must not hear. FRIAR FRANCIS To do what, signior? CLAUDIO I have drunk poison whiles he utter'd it. BEATRICE For them all together; which maintained so politic a state of evil that they will not admit any good part to intermingle with them. LEONATO Well, then, go you into hell? LEONATO All thy tediousness on me, ah? Second Watchman How if a' will not stand? BENEDICK Like the old tale, my lord: 'it is not so, nor 'twas not so, but, indeed, God forbid it should be so.' CLAUDIO If my passion change not shortly, God forbid it should be otherwise. Yonder's old coil at home: it is proved my Lady Hero hath been falsely accused, the prince and Claudio mightily abused; and Don John is the author of all, who is fed and gone. What fashion will you wear the garland of? MARGARET 'Twill be heavier soon by the weight of a man. Exit BENEDICK Alas, poor hurt fowl! now will he creep into sedges. DON PEDRO That would I know too: I warrant, one that knows him not. ANTONIO If he could right himself with quarreling, Some of us would lie low. LEONATO O, by no means: she mocks all her wooers out of suit. If I do not take pity of her, I am a villain; if I do not love her, I am a Jew. Are you yet determined To-day to marry with my brother's daughter? DON PEDRO Leonato and his brother. DOGBERRY Write down, that they hope they serve God: and write God first; for God defend but God should go before such villains! Masters, it is proved already that you are little better than false knaves; and it will go near to be thought so shortly. But art not thou thyself giddy with the fashion too, that thou hast shifted out of thy tale into telling me of the fashion? LEONATO By my troth, niece, thou wilt never get thee a husband, if thou be so shrewd of thy tongue. There will I leave you too, for here comes one in haste. LEONATO You will never run mad, niece. DON PEDRO Will you have me, lady? But, I pray you, who is his companion? BEATRICE A bird of my tongue is better than a beast of yours. Wonder not till further warrant: go but with me to-night, you shall see her chamber-window entered, even the night before her wedding-day: if you love her then, to-morrow wed her; but it would better fit your honour to change your mind. DON JOHN You may think I love you not: let that appear hereafter, and aim better at me by that I now will manifest. BORACHIO I can, at any unseasonable instant of the night, appoint her to look out at her lady's chamber window. First Watchman And that Count Claudio did mean, upon his words, to disgrace Hero before the whole assembly. Watchman [Aside] I know that Deformed; a' has been a vile thief this seven year; a' goes up and down like a gentleman: I remember his name. BENEDICK This looks not like a nuptial. FRIAR FRANCIS Yea, wherefore should she not? CLAUDIO Can the world buy such a jewel? LEONATO Indeed, he looks younger than he did, by the loss of a beard. BEATRICE Nay, if they lead to any ill, I will leave them at the next turning. URSULA Sure, I think so; And therefore certainly it were not good She knew his love, lest she make sport at it. Shall I never see a bachelor of three-score again? But I must tell thee plainly, Claudio undergoes my challenge; and either I must shortly hear from him, or I will subscribe him a coward. You know your office, brother: You must be father to your brother's daughter And give her to young Claudio. LEONATO I dare make his answer, none. She's an excellent sweet lady; and, out of all suspicion, she is virtuous. BENEDICK With no sauce that can be devised to it. O that he were here to write me down an ass! But, masters, remember that I am an ass; though it be not written down, yet forget not that I am an ass. BEATRICE Ye light o' love, with your heels! then, if your husband have stables enough, you'll see he shall lack no barns. MARGARET I say my prayers aloud. BENEDICK Beatrice,-- BEATRICE In faith, I will go. LEONATO To-morrow then I will expect your coming; To-night I take my leave. dost thou not suspect my years? CLAUDIO O, very well, my lord: the music ended, We'll fit the kid-fox with a pennyworth. Come, I will have thee; but, by this light, I take thee for pity. DON PEDRO What's the matter? I will kiss your hand, and so I leave you. Was't not to this end That thou began't to twist so fine a story? Come, follow me, boy; come, sir boy, come, follow me: Sir boy, I'll whip you from your foining fence; Nay, as I am a gentleman, I will. Enter DON JOHN and CONRADE CONRADE What the good-year, my lord! why are you thus out of measure sad? CLAUDIO You know me well; I am he. I will go on the slightest errand now to the Antipodes that you can devise to send me on; I will fetch you a tooth-picker now from the furthest inch of Asia, bring you the length of Prester John's foot, fetch you a hair off the great Cham's beard, do you any embassage to the Pigmies, rather than hold three words' conference with this harpy. Leonato, I am sorry you must hear: upon mine honour, Myself, my brother and this grieved count Did see her, hear her, at that hour last night Talk with a ruffian at her chamber-window Who hath indeed, most like a liberal villain, Confess'd the vile encounters they have had A thousand times in secret. LEONATO No, no; we will hold it as a dream till it appear itself: but I will acquaint my daughter withal, that she may be the better prepared for an answer, if peradventure this be true. Rich she shall be, that's certain; wise, or I'll none; virtuous, or I'll never cheapen her; fair, or I'll never look on her; mild, or come not near me; noble, or not I for an angel; of good discourse, an excellent musician, and her hair shall be of what colour it please God. CONRADE If not a present remedy, at least a patient sufferance. BEATRICE Yea, my lord; I thank it, poor fool, it keeps on the windy side of care. I am sure he is in the fleet: I would he had boarded me. I love Benedick well; and I could wish he would modestly examine himself, to see how much he is unworthy so good a lady. CLAUDIO Bait the hook well; this fish will bite. Therefore let Benedick, like cover'd fire, Consume away in sighs, waste inwardly: It were a better death than die with mocks, Which is as bad as die with tickling. CLAUDIO What, courage, man! What though care killed a cat, thou hast mettle enough in thee to kill care. CLAUDIO Out on thee! Seeming! I will write against it: You seem to me as Dian in her orb, As chaste as is the bud ere it be blown; But you are more intemperate in your blood Than Venus, or those pamper'd animals That rage in savage sensuality. Which is Beatrice? A room in LEONATO'S house. This naughty man Shall face to face be brought to Margaret, Who I believe was pack'd in all this wrong, Hired to it by your brother. How canst thou cross this marriage? BORACHIO So did I too; and he swore he would marry her to-night. CLAUDIO I'll bring you thither, my lord, if you'll vouchsafe me. I thank you, princes, for my daughter's death: Record it with your high and worthy deeds: 'Twas bravely done, if you bethink you of it. DON PEDRO As I am an honest man, he looks pale. URSULA I know you by the waggling of your head. DON PEDRO Hath any man seen him at the barber's? Masters, I charge you, in the prince's name, accuse these men. BENEDICK In every good thing. LEONATO But, brother Antony,-- ANTONIO Come, 'tis no matter: Do not you meddle; let me deal in this. I will go get her picture. Wilt thou use thy wit? DON PEDRO You have it full, Benedick: we may guess by this what you are, being a man. BEATRICE Why, then, God forgive me! BENEDICK What offence, sweet Beatrice? LEONATO If you swear, my lord, you shall not be forsworn. HERO Is it not Hero? CLAUDIO Nay, but his jesting spirit; which is now crept into a lute-string and now governed by stops. HERO They did entreat me to acquaint her of it; But I persuaded them, if they loved Benedick, To wish him wrestle with affection, And never to let Beatrice know of it. 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 every thing handsome about him. Watchman This is all. Look you for any other issue? is this the prince's brother? Come, brother; away! I will be heard. can virtue hide itself? 'Tis certain so; the prince wooes for himself. BEATRICE Very ill. BEATRICE You kill me to deny it. Who can blot that name With any just reproach? Exeunt ACT IV SCENE I. And also, the watch heard them talk of one Deformed: they say be wears a key in his ear and a lock hanging by it, and borrows money in God's name, the which he hath used so long and never paid that now men grow hard-hearted and will lend nothing for God's sake: pray you, examine him upon that point. LEONATO You must not, sir, mistake my niece. DON PEDRO She doth well: if she should make tender of her love, 'tis very possible he'll scorn it; for the man, as you know all, hath a contemptible spirit. MARGARET Well, and you be not turned Turk, there's no more sailing by the star. BORACHIO Sweet prince, let me go no farther to mine answer: do you hear me, and let this count kill me. BENEDICK Is't possible? Look Don Pedro is returned to seek you. MARGARET Well, I will call Beatrice to you, who I think hath legs. DON PEDRO But did my brother set thee on to this? I will leave you now to your gossip-like humour: you break jests as braggarts do their blades, which God be thanked, hurt not. By my troth, I am sick. DON PEDRO Come, you shake the head at so long a breathing: but, I warrant thee, Claudio, the time shall not go dully by us. BEATRICE Yea, just so much as you may take upon a knife's point and choke a daw withal. HERO When I like your favour; for God defend the lute should be like the case! DON PEDRO My visor is Philemon's roof; within the house is Jove. DON PEDRO In faith, lady, you have a merry heart. BEATRICE Yes, faith; it is my cousin's duty to make curtsy and say 'Father, as it please you.' But yet for all that, cousin, let him be a handsome fellow, or else make another curtsy and say 'Father, as it please me.' LEONATO Well, niece, I hope to see you one day fitted with a husband. URSULA You could never do him so ill-well, unless you were the very man. LEONATO Faith, niece, you tax Signior Benedick too much; but he'll be meet with you, I doubt it not. BEATRICE It is a man's office, but not yours. BEATRICE He set up his bills here in Messina and challenged Cupid at the flight; and my uncle's fool, reading the challenge, subscribed for Cupid, and challenged him at the bird-bolt. which way looks he? Enter DON PEDRO, CLAUDIO, and three or four with tapers CLAUDIO Is this the monument of Leonato? CLAUDIO And what have I to give you back, whose worth May counterpoise this rich and precious gift? DON PEDRO As Hector, I assure you: and in the managing of quarrels you may say he is wise; for either he avoids them with great discretion, or undertakes them with a most Christian-like fear. CLAUDIO And never could maintain his part but in the force of his will. Midnight, assist our moan; Help us to sigh and groan, Heavily, heavily: Graves, yawn and yield your dead, Till death be uttered, Heavily, heavily. CLAUDIO To-morrow, my lord: time goes on crutches till love have all his rites. Messenger I will hold friends with you, lady. DOGBERRY A marvellous witty fellow, I assure you: but I will go about with him. CLAUDIO We have been up and down to seek thee; for we are high-proof melancholy and would fain have it beaten away. DON JOHN A proper squire! And who, and who? Thou seest that all the grace that she hath left Is that she will not add to her damnation A sin of perjury; she not denies it: Why seek'st thou then to cover with excuse That which appears in proper nakedness? BENEDICK In my chamber-window lies a book: bring it hither to me in the orchard. DOGBERRY Why, then, depart in peace, and let the child wake her with crying; for the ewe that will not hear her lamb when it baes will never answer a calf when he bleats. FRIAR FRANCIS Pause awhile, And let my counsel sway you in this case. VERGES If you hear a child cry in the night, you must call to the nurse and bid her still it. now that is your grace's part. dinner is ready. Enter LEONATO and ANTONIO, meeting LEONATO How now, brother! Where is my cousin, your son? BENEDICK Thou hast frighted the word out of his right sense, so forcible is thy wit. Boy I am here already, sir. BENEDICK I will live in thy heart, die in thy lap, and be buried in thy eyes; and moreover I will go with thee to thy uncle's. ANTONIO And shall, or some of us will smart for it. What is he for a fool that betroths himself to unquietness? BEATRICE Will you not tell me who told you so? O, I cry you mercy, friend; go you with me, and I will use your skill. Exeunt BENEDICK and LEONATO DON PEDRO For my life, to break with him about Beatrice. BENEDICK I look for an earthquake too, then. this learned constable is too cunning to be understood: what's your offence? Enter DOGBERRY, VERGES, and the Watch, with CONRADE and BORACHIO DOGBERRY Come you, sir: if justice cannot tame you, she shall ne'er weigh more reasons in her balance: nay, an you be a cursing hypocrite once, you must be looked to. Be cunning in the working this, and thy fee is a thousand ducats. You shall also make no noise in the streets; for, for the watch to babble and to talk is most tolerable and not to be endured. DOGBERRY Come, bring away the plaintiffs: by this time our sexton hath reformed Signior Leonato of the matter: and, masters, do not forget to specify, when time and place shall serve, that I am an ass. a man loves the meat in his youth that he cannot endure in his age. LEONATO Neighbours, you are tedious. BEATRICE Yea, and I will weep a while longer. BENEDICK Gallants, I am not as I have been. HERO I will do any modest office, my lord, to help my cousin to a good husband. BORACHIO Conrade, I say! CONRADE Here, man; I am at thy elbow. Behold how like a maid she blushes here! O, what authority and show of truth Can cunning sin cover itself withal! Comes not that blood as modest evidence To witness simple virtue? Second Watchman Marry, that he had received a thousand ducats of Don John for accusing the Lady Hero wrongfully. MARGARET Get you some of this distilled Carduus Benedictus, and lay it to your heart: it is the only thing for a qualm. BEATRICE Speak, count, 'tis your cue. LEONATO Brother,-- ANTONIO Content yourself. DON PEDRO Hath she made her affection known to Benedick? DOGBERRY Gifts that God gives. Watchman We will rather sleep than talk: we know what belongs to a watch. ANTONIO [To HERO] Well, niece, I trust you will be ruled by your father. DON JOHN I came hither to tell you; and, circumstances shortened, for she has been too long a talking of, the lady is disloyal. CLAUDIO Sweet Hero! now thy image doth appear In the rare semblance that I loved it first. CLAUDIO Let me but move one question to your daughter; And, by that fatherly and kindly power That you have in her, bid her answer truly. DON JOHN I heard him swear his affection. Is this face Hero's? URSULA His excellence did earn it, ere he had it. LEONATO My heart is with your liking. Exit ANTONIO DON PEDRO Good morrow, Benedick. LEONATO Did he break out into tears? A street. MARGARET I like the new tire within excellently, if the hair were a thought browner; and your gown's a most rare fashion, i' faith. Enter BENEDICK BENEDICK Boy! Enter Boy Boy Signior? DOGBERRY Moreover, sir, which indeed is not under white and black, this plaintiff here, the offender, did call me ass: I beseech you, let it be remembered in his punishment. CLAUDIO Nay, then, give him another staff: this last was broke cross. Hang thou there upon the tomb, Praising her when I am dumb. Enter HERO, MARGARET, and URSULA HERO Good Ursula, wake my cousin Beatrice, and desire her to rise. And, truly, I'll devise some honest slanders To stain my cousin with: one doth not know How much an ill word may empoison liking. I dare swear he is no hypocrite, but prays from his heart. Grieved I, I had but one? I will in the interim undertake one of Hercules' labours; which is, to bring Signior Benedick and the Lady Beatrice into a mountain of affection the one with the other. Come, go in: I'll show thee some attires, and have thy counsel Which is the best to furnish me to-morrow. Enter a Messenger Messenger My lord, they stay for you to give your daughter to her husband. BENEDICK Hear me, Beatrice,-- BEATRICE Talk with a man out at a window! A proper saying! BENEDICK Nay, but, Beatrice,-- BEATRICE Sweet Hero! She is wronged, she is slandered, she is undone. I have known when there was no music with him but the drum and the fife; and now had he rather hear the tabour and the pipe: I have known when he would have walked ten mile a-foot to see a good armour; and now will he lie ten nights awake, carving the fashion of a new doublet. A hall in LEONATO'S house. DON PEDRO With me in your company? CLAUDIO Now you talk of a sheet of paper, I remember a pretty jest your daughter told us of. CONRADE To the death, my lord. BEATRICE Why, no; no more than reason. MARGARET Not a false gallop. Be happy, lady; for you are like an honourable father. CLAUDIO O, what men dare do! what men may do! what men daily do, not knowing what they do! BENEDICK How now! interjections? VERGES If he will not stand when he is bidden, he is none of the prince's subjects. MARGARET I'll make her come, I warrant you, presently. BEATRICE I am stuffed, cousin; I cannot smell. URSULA Well. BENEDICK It is in my scabbard: shall I draw it? This is thy office; Bear thee well in it and leave us alone. LEONATO There's little of the melancholy element in her, my lord: she is never sad but when she sleeps, and not ever sad then; for I have heard my daughter say, she hath often dreamed of unhappiness and waked herself with laughing. By your grace's pardon. DOGBERRY It pleases your worship to say so, but we are the poor duke's officers; but truly, for mine own part, if I were as tedious as a king, I could find it in my heart to bestow it all of your worship. HERO God give me joy to wear it! for my heart is exceeding heavy. LEONATO No? I never yet saw man, How wise, how noble, young, how rarely featured, But she would spell him backward: if fair-faced, She would swear the gentleman should be her sister; If black, why, Nature, drawing of an antique, Made a foul blot; if tall, a lance ill-headed; If low, an agate very vilely cut; If speaking, why, a vane blown with all winds; If silent, why, a block moved with none. DON PEDRO First, I ask thee what they have done; thirdly, I ask thee what's their offence; sixth and lastly, why they are committed; and, to conclude, what you lay to their charge. Shall I not find a woodcock too? CLAUDIO To make you answer truly to your name. Sexton What else, fellow? I pray you, tell Benedick of it, and hear what a' will say. CONRADE Masters, masters,-- Second Watchman You'll be made bring Deformed forth, I warrant you. How still the evening is, As hush'd on purpose to grace harmony! DON PEDRO See you where Benedick hath hid himself? URSULA But are you sure That Benedick loves Beatrice so entirely? Exeunt LEONATO and ANTONIO DON PEDRO See, see; here comes the man we went to seek. BENEDICK Soft and fair, friar. DON JOHN I had rather be a canker in a hedge than a rose in his grace, and it better fits my blood to be disdained of all than to fashion a carriage to rob love from any: in this, though I cannot be said to be a flattering honest man, it must not be denied but I am a plain-dealing villain. I have brought Count Claudio, whom you sent me to seek. Drawing her aside BALTHASAR Well, I would you did like me. Exit HERO Now, Ursula, when Beatrice doth come, As we do trace this alley up and down, Our talk must only be of Benedick. BEATRICE Too curst is more than curst: I shall lessen God's sending that way; for it is said, 'God sends a curst cow short horns;' but to a cow too curst he sends none. BORACHIO I came yonder from a great supper: the prince your brother is royally entertained by Leonato: and I can give you intelligence of an intended marriage. BEATRICE Yea, as sure as I have a thought or a soul. Exit MARGARET Troth, I think your other rabato were better. DOGBERRY Write down, master gentleman Conrade. Go to, i' faith; an thou wilt needs thrust thy neck into a yoke, wear the print of it and sigh away Sundays. LEONATO I must leave you. BENEDICK Thy wit is as quick as the greyhound's mouth; it catches. BEATRICE I am sure you know him well enough. BEATRICE So I would not he should do me, my lord, lest I should prove the mother of fools. DOGBERRY Write down Prince John a villain. Help, uncle! Hero! why, Hero! Uncle! Signior Benedick! Friar! LEONATO O Fate! take not away thy heavy hand. BORACHIO Borachio. DON PEDRO In private? What was it you told me of to-day, that your niece Beatrice was in love with Signior Benedick? BENEDICK You hear, Count Claudio: I can be secret as a dumb man; I would have you think so; but, on my allegiance, mark you this, on my allegiance. I would not marry her, though she were endowed with all that Adam bad left him before he transgressed: she would have made Hercules have turned spit, yea, and have cleft his club to make the fire too. Dance. CONRADE I will owe thee an answer for that: and now forward with thy tale. HERO swoons BEATRICE Why, how now, cousin! wherefore sink you down? Come, lady, die to live: this wedding-day Perhaps is but prolong'd: have patience and endure. DOGBERRY Marry, that am I and my partner. BEATRICE And how long is that, think you? With who? CLAUDIO And so she doth, cousin. BALTHASAR Which is one? LEONATO Signior Benedick, no; for then were you a child. BENEDICK And how do you? BORACHIO Yea, my lord; but I can cross it. BENEDICK With anger, with sickness, or with hunger, my lord, not with love: prove that ever I lose more blood with love than I will get again with drinking, pick out mine eyes with a ballad-maker's pen and hang me up at the door of a brothel-house for the sign of blind Cupid. HERO O, God defend me! how am I beset! What kind of catechising call you this? DON PEDRO May be she doth but counterfeit. LEONATO How many gentlemen have you lost in this action? BENEDICK Sir, your wit ambles well; it goes easily. Another room in LEONATO'S house. DON PEDRO O day untowardly turned! CLAUDIO O mischief strangely thwarting! DON JOHN O plague right well prevented! so will you say when you have seen the sequel. God help the noble Claudio! if he have caught the Benedick, it will cost him a thousand pound ere a' be cured. DON PEDRO And so will he do; for the man doth fear God, howsoever it seems not in him by some large jests he will make. BEATRICE Nor will you not tell me who you are? LEONATO I cannot bid you bid my daughter live; That were impossible: but, I pray you both, Possess the people in Messina here How innocent she died; and if your love Can labour ought in sad invention, Hang her an epitaph upon her tomb And sing it to her bones, sing it to-night: To-morrow morning come you to my house, And since you could not be my son-in-law, Be yet my nephew: my brother hath a daughter, Almost the copy of my child that's dead, And she alone is heir to both of us: Give her the right you should have given her cousin, And so dies my revenge. BENEDICK Think you in your soul the Count Claudio hath wronged Hero? CLAUDIO To what end? For, hear me, Hero: wooing, wedding, and repenting, is as a Scotch jig, a measure, and a cinque pace: the first suit is hot and hasty, like a Scotch jig, and full as fantastical; the wedding, mannerly-modest, as a measure, full of state and ancientry; and then comes repentance and, with his bad legs, falls into the cinque pace faster and faster, till he sink into his grave. She will sit you, you heard my daughter tell you how. CLAUDIO He is a very proper man. So much for praising myself, who, I myself will bear witness, is praiseworthy: and now tell me, how doth your cousin? DON PEDRO You have put him down, lady, you have put him down. Go, comfort your cousin: I must say she is dead: and so, farewell. CLAUDIO We had like to have had our two noses snapped off with two old men without teeth. Why, this is flat perjury, to call a prince's brother villain. BENEDICK O, stay but till then! BEATRICE 'Then' is spoken; fare you well now: and yet, ere I go, let me go with that I came; which is, with knowing what hath passed between you and Claudio. or do you play the flouting Jack, to tell us Cupid is a good hare-finder and Vulcan a rare carpenter? DOGBERRY Yea, an 'twere a thousand pound more than 'tis; for I hear as good exclamation on your worship as of any man in the city; and though I be but a poor man, I am glad to hear it. You have no employment for me? CLAUDIO I would scarce trust myself, though I had sworn the contrary, if Hero would be my wife. LEONATO Good morrow, prince; good morrow, Claudio: We here attend you. LEONATO Confirm'd, confirm'd! O, that is stronger made Which was before barr'd up with ribs of iron! Would the two princes lie, and Claudio lie, Who loved her so, that, speaking of her foulness, Wash'd it with tears? DON PEDRO He doth indeed show some sparks that are like wit. DON PEDRO An he should, it were an alms to hang him. VERGES Yea, or else it were pity but they should suffer salvation, body and soul. The same. My soul doth tell me Hero is belied; And that shall Claudio know; so shall the prince And all of them that thus dishonour her. LEONATO My lord, I am for you, though it cost me ten nights' watchings. BORACHIO Yea, and paid me richly for the practise of it. Lord It is, my lord. BORACHIO The poison of that lies in you to temper. CLAUDIO And when was he wont to wash his face? Messenger He is very near by this: he was not three leagues off when I left him. LEONATO Never came trouble to my house in the likeness of your grace: for trouble being gone, comfort should remain; but when you depart from me, sorrow abides and happiness takes his leave. DON JOHN Are not you Signior Benedick? DON PEDRO What need the bridge much broader than the flood? BORACHIO Being entertained for a perfumer, as I was smoking a musty room, comes me the prince and Claudio, hand in hand in sad conference: I whipt me behind the arras; and there heard it agreed upon that the prince should woo Hero for himself, and having obtained her, give her to Count Claudio. DON PEDRO How, how, pray you? BEATRICE Very ill too. HERO Why, you speak truth. But that my Lady Beatrice should know me, and not know me! The prince's fool! Ha? BENEDICK Good day, my lord. LEONATO I know not. BEATRICE I love you with so much of my heart that none is left to protest. LEONATO Call her forth, brother; here's the friar ready. DON PEDRO By this light, he changes more and more: I think he be angry indeed. BEATRICE Do, good friend. I saw the Duchess of Milan's gown that they praise so. For thy part, Claudio, I did think to have beaten thee, but in that thou art like to be my kinsman, live unbruised and love my cousin. DON JOHN Come, come, let us thither: this may prove food to my displeasure. For my part, I am so attired in wonder, I know not what to say. BENEDICK Tarry, sweet Beatrice. BORACHIO Seest thou not, I say, what a deformed thief this fashion is? What man was he talk'd with you yesternight Out at your window betwixt twelve and one? BENEDICK Suffer love! a good epithet! I do suffer love indeed, for I love thee against my will. DON PEDRO Thou wast ever an obstinate heretic in the despite of beauty. DON PEDRO Nothing, unless you render her again. HERO Help to dress me, good coz, good Meg, good Ursula. Before LEONATO'S house. DON PEDRO Let there be the same net spread for her; and that must your daughter and her gentlewomen carry. Re-enter DON PEDRO DON PEDRO What secret hath held you here, that you followed not to Leonato's? BEATRICE It is not seen enough, you should wear it in your cap. God hath blessed you with a good name: to be a well-favoured man is the gift of fortune; but to write and read comes by nature. I am sorry for my cousin. Let this be so, and doubt not but success Will fashion the event in better shape Than I can lay it down in likelihood. BORACHIO Master constable,-- DOGBERRY Pray thee, fellow, peace: I do not like thy look, I promise thee. In practise let us put it presently. CLAUDIO Nay, but I know who loves him. URSULA Come, come, do you think I do not know you by your excellent wit? Sexton And this is more, masters, than you can deny. BEATRICE Good Lord, for alliance! Thus goes every one to the world but I, and I am sunburnt; I may sit in a corner and cry heigh-ho for a husband! DON PEDRO Lady Beatrice, I will get you one. CLAUDIO Hero thinks surely she will die; for she says she will die, if he love her not, and she will die, ere she make her love known, and she will die, if he woo her, rather than she will bate one breath of her accustomed crossness. CONRADE Marry, sir, we say we are none. DON PEDRO Yea, marry, dost thou hear, Balthasar? DON PEDRO Speak low, if you speak love. DON JOHN Will it serve for any model to build mischief on? DOGBERRY Truly, I would not hang a dog by my will, much more a man who hath any honesty in him. BENEDICK Question: why, an hour in clamour and a quarter in rheum: therefore is it most expedient for the wise, if Don Worm, his conscience, find no impediment to the contrary, to be the trumpet of his own virtues, as I am to myself. BENEDICK Ho! now you strike like the blind man: 'twas the boy that stole your meat, and you'll beat the post. Dost thou think I care for a satire or an epigram? Project Gutenberg 67,973 free ebooks 334 by William Shakespeare ☰ Online Library of Liberty Titles People Collections Print Save Cite Email this content Copy this link, or click below to email it to a friend Email this content or copy the link directly: Share This Enter LEONATO, HERO, and BEATRICE, with a Messenger LEONATO I learn in this letter that Don Peter of Arragon comes this night to Messina. are our eyes our own? FRIAR FRANCIS Marry, this well carried shall on her behalf Change slander to remorse; that is some good: But not for that dream I on this strange course, But on this travail look for greater birth. BORACHIO Therefore know I have earned of Don John a thousand ducats. LEONATO O God, counterfeit! There was never counterfeit of passion came so near the life of passion as she discovers it. FRIAR FRANCIS Hear me a little; For I have only been silent so long And given way unto this course of fortune. DOGBERRY Yea, marry, let them come before me. DOGBERRY A good old man, sir; he will be talking: as they say, when the age is in, the wit is out: God help us! it is a world to see. DON PEDRO Even she; Leonato's Hero, your Hero, every man's Hero: CLAUDIO Disloyal? CLAUDIO I hope he be in love. my lords,-- DON PEDRO We have some haste, Leonato. Enter LEONATO, ANTONIO, BENEDICK, BEATRICE, MARGARET, URSULA, FRIAR FRANCIS, and HERO FRIAR FRANCIS Did I not tell you she was innocent? CLAUDIO Not to be married, Not to knit my soul to an approved wanton. DON JOHN Sir, they are spoken, and these things are true. BEATRICE 'Tis almost five o'clock, cousin; tis time you were ready. CLAUDIO Hath Leonato any son, my lord? BENEDICK O God, sir, here's a dish I love not: I cannot endure my Lady Tongue. Exeunt ACT II SCENE I. BENEDICK Yet is this no charm for the toothache. Good cousin, have a care this busy time. ANTONIO Farewell, my lords: we look

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