

## Characters in the Play (19)

LEONATO, Governor of Messina

HERO, his daughter

BEATRICE, his niece

MARGARET }  
URSULA } *waiting gentlewomen to Hero*

DON PEDRO, Prince of Aragon

COUNT CLAUDIO, a young lord from Florence

SIGNIOR BENEDICK, a gentleman from Padua

DON JOHN, Don Pedro's brother

BORACHIO }  
\* CONRADE } *Don John's followers*

DOGBERRY, Master Constable in Messina

\*VERGES, Dogberry's partner

\*GEORGE SEACOAL, leader of the Watch

\*FIRST WATCHMAN

\*SECOND WATCHMAN

\*SEXTON

\*FRIAR FRANCIS

\*MESSENGER

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\*Could be played by men or women.

# ACT 1

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## 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. 15  
FTLN 0016  
FTLN 0017  
FTLN 0018  
FTLN 0019  
FTLN 0020 20  
FTLN 0021  
FTLN 0022  
FTLN 0023

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FTLN 0024		
FTLN 0025		25
FTLN 0026		
FTLN 0027		
FTLN 0028		
FTLN 0029		
FTLN 0030	BEATRICE	30
FTLN 0031	I pray you, is Signior Mountanto returned from the wars or no?	
FTLN 0032	MESSENGER	
FTLN 0033	I know none of that name, lady. There was none such in the army of any sort.	
FTLN 0034	LEONATO	
FTLN 0035	What is he that you ask for, niece?	35
FTLN 0036	HERO	
FTLN 0037	My cousin means Signior Benedick of Padua. O, he's returned, and as pleasant as ever he was.	
FTLN 0038	MESSENGER	
FTLN 0039	BEATRICE	
FTLN 0040		40
FTLN 0041		
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	45
FTLN 0046	Faith, niece, you tax Signior Benedick too much, but he'll be meet with you, I doubt it not.	
FTLN 0047	MESSENGER	
FTLN 0048	He hath done good service, lady, in these wars.	
FTLN 0049	BEATRICE	
FTLN 0050	You had musty victual, and he hath holp to eat it. He is a very valiant trencherman; he hath an	50
FTLN 0051	excellent stomach.	
FTLN 0052	MESSENGER	
FTLN 0053	And a good soldier too, lady.	
FTLN 0054	BEATRICE	
FTLN 0055	And a good soldier to a lady, but what is he to a lord?	55
FTLN 0056	MESSENGER	
FTLN 0057	A lord to a lord, a man to a man, stuffed with all honorable virtues.	
FTLN 0058	BEATRICE	
FTLN 0059	It is so indeed. He is no less than a stuffed man	

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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		
FTLN 0064			
FTLN 0065			65
FTLN 0066			
FTLN 0067			
FTLN 0068			
FTLN 0069		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			
FTLN 0090			90
FTLN 0091			
FTLN 0092			
FTLN 0093			

*Enter Don Pedro, Prince of Aragon, with Claudio, Benedick, 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. <i>Turning</i>	
FTLN 0102		<i>to Hero.</i> 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		
FTLN 0108		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

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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 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.  
 FTLN 0149

FTLN 0150 LEONATO 150

*To Don John.* Let me bid you welcome,  
 FTLN 0151 my lord, being reconciled to the Prince your brother,  
 FTLN 0152 I owe you all duty.  
 FTLN 0153

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?

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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?	
FTLN 0180			180
FTLN 0181			
FTLN 0182			
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?	
FTLN 0194			
FTLN 0195		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.  
 FTLN 0199

*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 205  
 FTLN 0206 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  
 FTLN 0212  
 FTLN 0213  
 FTLN 0214  
 FTLN 0215 215  
 FTLN 0216  
 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.



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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			
FTLN 0247			
FTLN 0248			
FTLN 0249			
FTLN 0250			250
FTLN 0251			
FTLN 0252			
FTLN 0253			
FTLN 0254			
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			
FTLN 0264			

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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			
FTLN 0269			
FTLN 0270			270
FTLN 0271			
FTLN 0272			
FTLN 0273			
FTLN 0274			
FTLN 0275			275
FTLN 0276			
FTLN 0277			
FTLN 0278			
FTLN 0279			
FTLN 0280			280
FTLN 0281			
FTLN 0282			
FTLN 0283		<i>He exits.</i>	
FTLN 0284			
FTLN 0285			285
FTLN 0286			
FTLN 0287			
	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?

FTLN 0307  
FTLN 0308  
FTLN 0309  
FTLN 0310 310

FTLN 0311  
FTLN 0312  
FTLN 0313  
FTLN 0314  
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

*They exit.*

## Scene 2

FTLN 0324

FTLN 0325

FTLN 0326

FTLN 0327

FTLN 0328

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FTLN 0329

FTLN 0330

FTLN 0331

FTLN 0332

FTLN 0333

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FTLN 0334

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FTLN 0339

FTLN 0340

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FTLN 0349

FTLN 0350

FTLN 0351

## 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		10
FTLN 0362			
FTLN 0363		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.	
FTLN 0375			
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;	
FTLN 0383		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'  
FTLN 0422 my mind! Shall we go prove what's to be done?

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FTLN 0423 BORACHIO We'll wait upon your Lordship.

*They exit.*

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## ACT 2

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### Scene 1

*Enter Leonato, Hero his daughter, and Beatrice his niece, with Ursula and Margaret.*

FTLN 0424 LEONATO Was not Count John here at supper?  
FTLN 0425 HERO 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  
FTLN 0435  
FTLN 0436  
FTLN 0437  
FTLN 0438 15  
FTLN 0439  
FTLN 0440  
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 20  
FTLN 0444  
FTLN 0445



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FTLN 0446		
FTLN 0447		
FTLN 0448		25
FTLN 0449		
FTLN 0450	BEATRICE	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
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?
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.
FTLN 0463		40
FTLN 0464		
FTLN 0465		
FTLN 0466		
FTLN 0467		
FTLN 0468		45
FTLN 0469		
FTLN 0470		
FTLN 0471		
FTLN 0472		
FTLN 0473	LEONATO [to Hero]	I trust you
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
FTLN 0479		please me."
FTLN 0480	LEONATO	Well, niece, I hope to see you one day fitted
FTLN 0481		with a husband.

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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  
 FTLN 0487  
 FTLN 0488 ,                    65  
 FTLN 0489  
 FTLN 0490  
 FTLN 0491  
 FTLN 0492  
 FTLN 0493 70  
 FTLN 0494  
 FTLN 0495  
 FTLN 0496  
 FTLN 0497  
 FTLN 0498 75  
 FTLN 0499  
 FTLN 0500  
 FTLN 0501  
 FTLN 0502  
 FTLN 0503 80  
 FTLN 0504  
 FTLN 0505 LEONATO The revelers are entering                    Make  
 FTLN 0506 good room.                   

*Enter,                    Prince Pedro, Claudio, and  
 Benedick,                    , all in  
 masks, with Borachio and Don John.*

(Margaret & Ursula enter too. DANCE #1 Begins [4 men / 4 women])

FTLN 0507 PRINCE, *to Hero* Lady, will you walk a bout with your  
 FTLN 0508 friend?                    *They begin to dance.* 85  
 FTLN 0509  
 FTLN 0510  
 FTLN 0511  
 FTLN 0512  
 FTLN 0513 90

FTLN 0514  
 FTLN 0515  
 FTLN 0516  
 FTLN 0517  
 FTLN 0518  
 FTLN 0519  
 FTLN 0520

95

*Benedick and Margaret move forward.*

FTLN 0521  
 FTLN 0522  
 FTLN 0523  
 FTLN 0524  
 FTLN 0525  
 FTLN 0526  
 FTLN 0527  
 FTLN 0528

BENEDICK, *to Margaret* Well, I would you did like me.  
 MARGARET So would not I for your own sake, for I have  
 many ill qualities.  
 BENEDICK Which is one?  
 MARGARET I say my prayers aloud.  
 BENEDICK I love you the better; the hearers may cry  
 “Amen.”  
 MARGARET God match me with a good dancer.

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*They separate;*

FTLN 0529  
 FTLN 0530  
 FTLN 0531  
 FTLN 0532

FTLN 0533  
 FTLN 0534  
 FTLN 0535  
 FTLN 0536  
 FTLN 0537  
 FTLN 0538  
 FTLN 0539  
 FTLN 0540  
 FTLN 0541  
 FTLN 0542  
 FTLN 0543

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FTLN 0544

FTLN 0545

*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

FTLN 0568 on me, which peradventure not marked or not 145

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.*

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FTLN 0576		
FTLN 0577		
FTLN 0578		155
FTLN 0579		
FTLN 0580		
FTLN 0581		
FTLN 0582	DON JOHN, <i>to Claudio</i>	Are not you Signior Benedick?
FTLN 0583	CLAUDIO	You know me well. I am he.
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?
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.
		<i>They exit. Claudio remains.</i>
	CLAUDIO, <i>unmasking</i>	
FTLN 0593		Thus answer I in name of Benedick,
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		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		
FTLN 0603		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		

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FTLN 0608	BENEDICK	185
FTLN 0609		
FTLN 0610		
FTLN 0611		
FTLN 0612	the Prince hath got your	
FTLN 0613	Hero.	190
FTLN 0614	CLAUDIO I wish him joy of her.	
FTLN 0615	BENEDICK	
FTLN 0616	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. <i>He exits.</i>	
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,	210
FTLN 0634	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,	
FTLN 0638		215
FTLN 0639		
FTLN 0640		
FTLN 0641		

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FTLN 0642		
FTLN 0643		220
FTLN 0644		
FTLN 0645		
FTLN 0646		
FTLN 0647		
FTLN 0648		225
FTLN 0649		
FTLN 0650		
FTLN 0651		
FTLN 0652		
FTLN 0653		230
FTLN 0654		
FTLN 0655		
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.
FTLN 0659	BENEDICK	O, she misused me past the endurance of a
FTLN 0660		block!
FTLN 0661		
FTLN 0662		She told me, not thinking I
FTLN 0663		had been myself, that I was the Prince's jester, that I
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
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.
FTLN 0673		250
FTLN 0674		Come, talk not of her.
FTLN 0675		I
FTLN 0676		would to God some scholar would conjure her, for
FTLN 0677		certainly, while she is here,

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FTLN 0678		255
FTLN 0679		
FTLN 0680	all disquiet, horror, and perturbation follows her.	
	<i>Enter Claudio and Beatrice.</i>	
FTLN 0681	PRINCE Look, here she comes.	
FTLN 0682	BENEDICK Will your Grace command me any service	
FTLN 0683	to the world's end? I will go on the slightest errand	260
FTLN 0684	now to the Antipodes that you can devise to send	
FTLN 0685	me on. I will fetch you a toothpicker now from the	
FTLN 0686	furthest inch of Asia,	
FTLN 0687	fetch you a hair off the great Cham's	
FTLN 0688	beard, do you any embassy to the Pygmies, rather	265
FTLN 0689	than hold three words' conference with this harpy.	
FTLN 0690	You have no employment for me?	
FTLN 0691	PRINCE None but to desire your good company.	
FTLN 0692	BENEDICK O God, sir, here's a dish I love not! I cannot	
FTLN 0693	endure my Lady Tongue. <i>He exits.</i>	270
FTLN 0694	PRINCE, <i>to Beatrice</i> Come, lady, come, you have lost	
FTLN 0695	the heart of Signior Benedick.	
FTLN 0696	BEATRICE Indeed, my lord, he lent it me awhile, and I	
FTLN 0697	gave him use for it, a double heart for his single	
FTLN 0698	one. Marry, once before he won it of me with false	275
FTLN 0699	dice. Therefore your Grace may well say I have lost	
FTLN 0700	it.	
FTLN 0701	PRINCE You have put him down, lady, you have put	
FTLN 0702	him down.	
FTLN 0703	BEATRICE So I would not he should do me, my lord,	280
FTLN 0704	lest I should prove the mother of fools. I have	
FTLN 0705	brought Count Claudio, whom you sent me to seek.	
FTLN 0706	PRINCE Why, how now, count, wherefore are you sad?	
FTLN 0707	CLAUDIO Not sad, my lord.	
FTLN 0708	PRINCE How then, sick?	285
FTLN 0709	CLAUDIO Neither, my lord.	
FTLN 0710	BEATRICE The Count is neither sad, nor sick, nor merry,	



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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.

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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			330
FTLN 0754			
FTLN 0755			
FTLN 0756		<i>Beatrice exits.</i>	
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,	<i>to Claudio</i> Come,	
FTLN 0777		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	

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FTLN 0783	fashion it, if you three will but minister such	360
FTLN 0784	assistance	
FTLN 0785	LEONATO My lord, I am for you, though it cost me ten	
FTLN 0786	nights' watchings.	
FTLN 0787	CLAUDIO And I, my lord.	
FTLN 0788	PRINCE And you too, gentle Hero?	365
FTLN 0789	HERO I will do any modest office, my lord, to help my	
FTLN 0790	cousin to a good husband.	
FTLN 0791	PRINCE And Benedick is not the unhopefullest husband	
FTLN 0792	that I know. Thus far can I praise him: he is of	
FTLN 0793	a noble strain, of approved valor, and confirmed	370
FTLN 0794	honesty. I will teach you how to humor your	
FTLN 0795	cousin that she shall fall in love with Benedick.—	
FTLN 0796	And I, with your two helps, will so practice on	
FTLN 0797	Benedick that, in despite of his quick wit and his	
FTLN 0798	queasy stomach, he shall fall in love with Beatrice.	375
FTLN 0799	If we can do this, Cupid is no longer an archer; his	
FTLN 0800	glory shall be ours, for we are the only love gods.	
FTLN 0801		

*They exit.*

### Scene 2

*Enter Don John and Borachio from hiding.*

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		
FTLN 0811		10
FTLN 0812		

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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			
FTLN 0833			
FTLN 0834			
FTLN 0835			
FTLN 0836			35
FTLN 0837			
FTLN 0838			
FTLN 0839			
FTLN 0840			
FTLN 0841			40
FTLN 0842			
FTLN 0843			
FTLN 0844			
FTLN 0845			
FTLN 0846			45
FTLN 0847			
FTLN 0848			

FTLN 0849	
FTLN 0850	
FTLN 0851	50
FTLN 0852	
FTLN 0853	
FTLN 0854	
FTLN 0855	
FTLN 0856	55
FTLN 0857	

*They exit.*

Scene 3

*Enter Benedick alone.*

FTLN 0858

FTLN 0859

FTLN 0860

FTLN 0861

FTLN 0862

FTLN 0863

BENEDICK

FTLN 0864

FTLN 0865

FTLN 0866

FTLN 0867

FTLN 0868

FTLN 0869

FTLN 0870

FTLN 0871

FTLN 0872

FTLN 0873

FTLN 0874

FTLN 0875

FTLN 0876

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	10
shallow follies in others, become the argument of	
his own scorn by falling in love—and such a man is	
Claudio. I have known when there was no music	
with him but the drum and the fife, and now had he	
rather hear the tabor and the pipe; I have known	15
when he would have walked ten mile afoot to see a	
good armor, and now will he lie ten nights awake	
carving the fashion of a new doublet. He was wont	
to speak plain and to the purpose, like an honest	

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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.  
 FTLN 0896  
 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.  
 FTLN 0899  
 FTLN 0900  
 FTLN 0901  
 FTLN 0902 45

FTLN 0903  
 FTLN 0904  
 FTLN 0905

FTLN 0906  
 FTLN 0907  
 FTLN 0908  
 FTLN 0909  
 FTLN 0910  
 FTLN 0911  
 FTLN 0912  
 FTLN 0913  
 FTLN 0914

FTLN 0915  
 FTLN 0916  
 FTLN 0917  
 FTLN 0918  
 FTLN 0919  
 FTLN 0920

FTLN 0921  
 FTLN 0922  
 FTLN 0923  
 FTLN 0924  
 FTLN 0925  
 FTLN 0926  
 FTLN 0927  
 FTLN 0928

*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.*

FTLN 0929  
 FTLN 0930  
 FTLN 0931  
 FTLN 0932

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

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*Music plays.*

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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		
FTLN 0939		
FTLN 0940		
FTLN 0941		
FTLN 0942		85
FTLN 0943		
FTLN 0944		
FTLN 0945		
FTLN 0946		
FTLN 0947		90
FTLN 0948		
FTLN 0949		
FTLN 0950		
FTLN 0951	PRINCE	
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		110
FTLN 0968		



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FTLN 0969		
FTLN 0970		
FTLN 0971		
FTLN 0972		115
FTLN 0973		
FTLN 0974		
FTLN 0975		
FTLN 0976		
FTLN 0977		120
FTLN 0978	PRINCE	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.
FTLN 0983		
FTLN 0984		
FTLN 0985		
FTLN 0986	CLAUDIO, <i>aside to Prince</i>	He hath ta'en th' infection.
FTLN 0987		Hold it up.
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
FTLN 0993		I," says she, "that have so oft encountered him with
FTLN 0994		scorn, write to him that I love him?"
FTLN 0995		
FTLN 0996		
FTLN 0997		
FTLN 0998		140
FTLN 0999		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
FTLN 1003		the sheet?
FTLN 1004		145

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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			
FTLN 1015			
FTLN 1016			
FTLN 1017			160
FTLN 1018			
FTLN 1019			
FTLN 1020			
FTLN 1021			
FTLN 1022			165
FTLN 1023			
FTLN 1024			
FTLN 1025			
FTLN 1026			
FTLN 1027			170
FTLN 1028			
FTLN 1029			
FTLN 1030			
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.	

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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			
FTLN 1050			
FTLN 1051			
FTLN 1052			195
FTLN 1053			
FTLN 1054			
FTLN 1055			
FTLN 1056			
FTLN 1057			200
FTLN 1058			
FTLN 1059			
FTLN 1060			
FTLN 1061			
FTLN 1062			205
FTLN 1063			
FTLN 1064			
FTLN 1065	PRINCE		
FTLN 1066		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.	
		<i>Leonato, Prince, and Claudio begin to exit.</i>	
FTLN 1070	CLAUDIO, <i>aside to Prince and Leonato</i>	If he do not	
FTLN 1071		dote on her upon this, I will never trust my	
FTLN 1072		expectation.	215
FTLN 1073	PRINCE, <i>aside to Leonato</i>	Let there be the same net	
FTLN 1074		spread for her, and that must your daughter and her	
FTLN 1075		gentlewomen carry.	

FTLN 1076			
FTLN 1077		220	
FTLN 1078			
FTLN 1079			
	<i>Prince, Leonato, and Claudio exit.</i>		
FTLN 1080	BENEDICK, <i>coming forward</i>	This can be no trick. The	
FTLN 1081		conference was sadly borne; they have the truth of	
FTLN 1082		this from Hero;	225
FTLN 1083		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 fool. I will go get her picture. 265  
*He exits.*

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# ACT 3

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## 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  
FTLN 1130  
FTLN 1131  
FTLN 1132   10  
FTLN 1133  
FTLN 1134  
FTLN 1135  
FTLN 1136

MARGARET

FTLN 1137     I'll make her come, I warrant you, presently.             15

*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  
 FTLN 1144  
 FTLN 1145  
 FTLN 1146  
 FTLN 1147  
 FTLN 1148

25

*Enter Beatrice, who hides in the bower.*

*aside to Hero*

FTLN 1149  
 FTLN 1150  
 FTLN 1151  
 FTLN 1152  
 FTLN 1153  
 FTLN 1154  
 FTLN 1155  
 FTLN 1156

URSULA

So angle we for Beatrice, who even now  
 Is couchèd in the woodbine coverture.  
 Fear you not my part of the dialogue.

30

HERO

*They walk near the bower.*

FTLN 1157  
 FTLN 1158  
 FTLN 1159  
 FTLN 1160  
 FTLN 1161

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

35

URSULA

But are you sure

That Benedick loves Beatrice so entirely?

HERO

FTLN 1162  
 FTLN 1163

So says the Prince and my new-trothèd lord.

40

URSULA

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

HERO

FTLN 1164  
 FTLN 1165  
 FTLN 1166  
 FTLN 1167

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.

45

URSULA

FTLN 1168

Why did you so? Doth not the gentleman

---

FTLN 1169	Deserve as full as fortunate a bed	
FTLN 1170	As ever Beatrice shall couch upon?	
	HERO	
FTLN 1171	O god of love! I know he doth deserve	
FTLN 1172	As much as may be yielded to a man,	50
FTLN 1173	But Nature never framed a woman's heart	
FTLN 1174	Of prouder stuff than that of Beatrice.	
FTLN 1175	Disdain and scorn ride sparkling in her eyes,	
FTLN 1176	Misprizing what they look on, and her wit	
FTLN 1177	Values itself so highly that to her	55
FTLN 1178	All matter else seems weak. She cannot love,	
FTLN 1179	Nor take no shape nor project of affection,	
FTLN 1180	She is so self-endear'd.	
FTLN 1181	URSULA                                  Sure, I think so,	
FTLN 1182	And therefore certainly it were not good	60
FTLN 1183	She knew his love, lest she'll make sport at it.	
FTLN 1184		
FTLN 1185		
FTLN 1186		
FTLN 1187		65
FTLN 1188		
FTLN 1189		
FTLN 1190		
FTLN 1191		
FTLN 1192		70
FTLN 1193		
FTLN 1194		
FTLN 1195		
FTLN 1196		
FTLN 1197		75
FTLN 1198		
FTLN 1199		
FTLN 1200		



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FTLN 1201		
FTLN 1202		80
FTLN 1203		
FTLN 1204		
FTLN 1205		
FTLN 1206		
FTLN 1207		85
FTLN 1208		
	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.	
FTLN 1221		
FTLN 1222		100
FTLN 1223		
FTLN 1224		
FTLN 1225		
FTLN 1226		
FTLN 1227		105
	HERO	
FTLN 1228	Come,	

---

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, & 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

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FTLN 1254	hath twice or thrice cut Cupid's bowstring, and the	10
FTLN 1255	little hangman dare not shoot at him.	
FTLN 1256		
FTLN 1257		
FTLN 1258		
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		
FTLN 1267		
FTLN 1268		
FTLN 1269	PRINCE What, sigh for the toothache?	25
FTLN 1270		
FTLN 1271	BENEDICK Well, everyone can master a grief but he	
FTLN 1272	that has it.	
FTLN 1273		
FTLN 1274		30
FTLN 1275		
FTLN 1276		
FTLN 1277		
FTLN 1278		
FTLN 1279		35
FTLN 1280		
FTLN 1281		
FTLN 1282	CLAUDIO If he be not in love with some woman, there	
FTLN 1283	is no believing old signs.	
FTLN 1284		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.	

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FTLN 1289		45
FTLN 1290		
FTLN 1291	PRINCE	
FTLN 1292	Nay, he rubs himself with civet. Can you smell him out by that?	
FTLN 1293		
FTLN 1294		50
FTLN 1295		
FTLN 1296	CLAUDIO	
FTLN 1297	And when was he wont to wash his face?	
FTLN 1298		
FTLN 1299		55
FTLN 1300		
FTLN 1301	PRINCE	
FTLN 1302	Indeed, that tells a heavy tale for him. Conclude, conclude, he is in love.	
FTLN 1303		
FTLN 1304		60
FTLN 1305		
FTLN 1306		
FTLN 1307		
FTLN 1308		
FTLN 1309	BENEDICK	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.	
	<i>Benedick and Leonato exit.</i>	
FTLN 1313	PRINCE	
FTLN 1314	For my life, to break with him about Beatrice!	70
FTLN 1315	CLAUDIO	
FTLN 1316	'Tis even so. Hero and Margaret have by this played their parts with Beatrice, and then the two bears will not bite one another when they meet.	
	<i>Enter John the Bastard.</i>	
FTLN 1317	DON JOHN	
FTLN 1318	My lord and brother, God save you.	
FTLN 1319	PRINCE	
FTLN 1320	Good e'en, brother.	75
FTLN 1321	DON JOHN	
FTLN 1322	If your leisure served, I would speak with you.	
FTLN 1323	PRINCE	
FTLN 1324	In private?	

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FTLN 1322 DON JOHN If it please you. Yet Count Claudio may  
 FTLN 1323 hear, for what I would speak of concerns him. 80  
 FTLN 1324 PRINCE What's the matter?  
 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. 90  
 FTLN 1335  
 FTLN 1336  
 FTLN 1337  
 FTLN 1338 PRINCE Why, what's the matter?  
 FTLN 1339 DON JOHN 95  
 FTLN 1340  
 FTLN 1341 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. 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

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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  
 FTLN 1376 5  
 FTLN 1377  
 FTLN 1378 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.*

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FTLN 1386		15
FTLN 1387		
FTLN 1388		
FTLN 1389	DOGBERRY	
FTLN 1390		
FTLN 1391		20
FTLN 1392		
FTLN 1393	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.—	
FTLN 1406		35
FTLN 1407		
FTLN 1408		
FTLN 1409		
FTLN 1410		
FTLN 1411		40
FTLN 1412		
FTLN 1413	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

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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, <i>to the Watch</i> 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,	
FTLN 1441		70
FTLN 1442		
FTLN 1443		
FTLN 1444	This is the end of the charge.	
FTLN 1445	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	
FTLN 1449	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		85
FTLN 1457		

*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		90
FTLN 1462			
FTLN 1463			
FTLN 1464		Adieu, be vigilant, I beseech you.	
		<i>Dogberry and Verges 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			
FTLN 1483			
FTLN 1484			
FTLN 1485			
FTLN 1486			115
FTLN 1487			
FTLN 1488			
FTLN 1489			

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FTLN 1490	Yes, it is apparel.	
FTLN 1491	I mean the fashion.	120
FTLN 1492	Yes, the fashion is the fashion.	
FTLN 1493	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		125
FTLN 1497		
FTLN 1498		
FTLN 1499		
FTLN 1500		
FTLN 1501		130
FTLN 1502		
FTLN 1503		
FTLN 1504		
FTLN 1505		
FTLN 1506		135
FTLN 1507		
FTLN 1508		
FTLN 1509		
FTLN 1510		
FTLN 1511		140
FTLN 1512		
FTLN 1513		
FTLN 1514		
FTLN 1515	BORACHIO I have tonight	
FTLN 1516	wooded 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. *Second*  
 FTLN 1539 *Watchman exits.* We have here recovered the most  
 FTLN 1540 dangerous piece of lechery that ever was known in  
 FTLN 1541 the commonwealth. 170  
 FTLN 1542  
 FTLN 1543

*Enter Dogberry, Verges, and Second Watchman.*

FTLN 1544 DOGBERRY Masters, masters—  
 FTLN 1545  
 FTLN 1546 175  
 FTLN 1547 DOGBERRY, *to Borachio and Conrade* Masters, never  
 FTLN 1548 speak, we charge you, let us obey you to go with us.  
 FTLN 1549 BORACHIO, *to Conrade* 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  
 FTLN 1554  
 FTLN 1555  
 FTLN 1556  
 FTLN 1557  
 FTLN 1558  
 FTLN 1559  
 FTLN 1560  
 FTLN 1561  
 FTLN 1562  
 FTLN 1563  
 FTLN 1564  
 FTLN 1565  
 FTLN 1566  
 FTLN 1567  
 FTLN 1568  
 FTLN 1569  
 FTLN 1570  
 FTLN 1571  
 FTLN 1572  
 FTLN 1573  
 FTLN 1574  
 FTLN 1575  
 FTLN 1576  
 FTLN 1577  
 FTLN 1578  
 FTLN 1579  
 FTLN 1580  
 FTLN 1581  
 FTLN 1582  
 FTLN 1583  
 FTLN 1584  
 FTLN 1585

5  
 MARGARET Troth, I think your other gown were  
 better.  
 HERO No, pray thee, good Meg, I'll wear this.  
 MARGARET By my troth, 's not so good, and I warrant  
 your cousin will say so. 10  
 HERO My cousin's a fool, and thou art another. I'll  
 wear none but this.

15

20

25

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FTLN 1586  
 FTLN 1587  
 FTLN 1588  
 FTLN 1589  
 FTLN 1590

35

*Enter Beatrice.*

FTLN 1591  
 FTLN 1592  
 FTLN 1593  
 FTLN 1594  
 FTLN 1595  
 FTLN 1596  
 FTLN 1597  
 FTLN 1598  
 FTLN 1599  
 FTLN 1600  
 FTLN 1601  
 FTLN 1602  
 FTLN 1603  
 FTLN 1604  
 FTLN 1605  
 FTLN 1606  
 FTLN 1607  
 FTLN 1608  
 FTLN 1609  
 FTLN 1610  
 FTLN 1611  
 FTLN 1612  
 FTLN 1613  
 FTLN 1614  
 FTLN 1615  
 FTLN 1616  
 FTLN 1617  
 FTLN 1618

HERO Good morrow, coz.

BEATRICE Good morrow, sweet Hero.

40

HERO Why, how now? Do you speak in the sick tune?

BEATRICE I am out of all other tune, methinks.

MARGARET Clap 's into "Light o' love." That goes  
 without a burden. Do you sing it, and I'll dance it.

BEATRICE You light o' love with your heels! Then, if  
 your husband have stables enough, you'll see he  
 shall lack no barns.

45

MARGARET O, illegitimate construction! I scorn that  
 with my heels.

BEATRICE 'Tis almost five o'clock, cousin. 'Tis time  
 you were ready. By my troth, I am exceeding ill.  
 Heigh-ho!

50

MARGARET For a hawk, a horse, or a husband?

BEATRICE For the letter that begins them all, *H*.

55

HERO These gloves the Count sent me, they are an  
 excellent perfume.

60

BEATRICE I am stuffed, cousin. I cannot smell.

MARGARET A maid, and stuffed! There's goodly catching  
 of cold.

65

FTLN 1619

FTLN 1620

FTLN 1621 BEATRICE

FTLN 1622 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. 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 honestier 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			
FTLN 1671			
FTLN 1672			
FTLN 1673			25
FTLN 1674			
FTLN 1675			
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.

FTLN 1685  
 FTLN 1686  
 FTLN 1687  
 FTLN 1688 40

FTLN 1689 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.

FTLN 1700  
 FTLN 1701  
 FTLN 1702

*He exits*

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

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## 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

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

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

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FTLN 1761	And so extenuate the forehead 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		
FTLN 1784		
FTLN 1785		75
FTLN 1786		
	CLAUDIO	
FTLN 1787	Let me but move one question to your daughter,	

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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

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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,	

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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,	

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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.	
FTLN 1884		
FTLN 1885		175
FTLN 1886		
FTLN 1887		
FTLN 1888		
FTLN 1889		
FTLN 1890	LEONATO                                      Friar, it cannot be.	180
FTLN 1891		
FTLN 1892		
FTLN 1893	She not denies it.	
FTLN 1894	Why seek'st thou then to cover with excuse	
FTLN 1895	That which appears in proper nakedness?	185
FTLN 1896	FRIAR Lady, what man is he you are accused of?	
FTLN 1897	HERO 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!	
FTLN 1905	FRIAR There is some strange misprision in the princes.	195
FTLN 1906	BENEDICK Two of them have the very bent of honor,	

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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		
FTLN 1914		
FTLN 1915		205
FTLN 1916		
FTLN 1917		
FTLN 1918		
FTLN 1919		
FTLN 1920		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		
FTLN 1927		
FTLN 1928		
FTLN 1929		
	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		
FTLN 1934		
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		245
FTLN 1956		
FTLN 1957		
FTLN 1958		
FTLN 1959		
FTLN 1960		250
FTLN 1961		
FTLN 1962		
FTLN 1963		
FTLN 1964		
	BENEDICK	
FTLN 1965	Signior Leonato, let the Friar advise you.	255
FTLN 1966		
FTLN 1967		
FTLN 1968		
FTLN 1969		
FTLN 1970		260
FTLN 1971	LEONATO	
FTLN 1972	The smallest twine may lead me.	
	FRIAR	
FTLN 1973	'Tis well consented. Presently away,	

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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.	

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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. <i>They kiss</i>	
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!	
FTLN 2040		a goodly count,	330
FTLN 2041		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
	<i>They exit.</i>	

### 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.	
	<i>A stool is brought in; the Sexton sits.</i>	
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.	

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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!	

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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.*

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# ACT 5

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## Scene 1

FTLN 2150  
FTLN 2151  
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FTLN 2172	
FTLN 2173	
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FTLN 2209	60
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FTLN 2212	
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FTLN 2214	65
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FTLN 2237	
FTLN 2238	
FTLN 2239	90
FTLN 2240	
FTLN 2241	
FTLN 2242	
FTLN 2243	
FTLN 2244	95
FTLN 2245	
FTLN 2246	
FTLN 2247	
FTLN 2248	
FTLN 2249	100
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FTLN 2251	
FTLN 2252	
FTLN 2253	
FTLN 2254	105
FTLN 2255	
FTLN 2256	
FTLN 2257	

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FTLN 2258		
FTLN 2259		110
FTLN 2260		
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FTLN 2262		
FTLN 2263		
FTLN 2264		115
FTLN 2265		
FTLN 2266		
FTLN 2267		
FTLN 2268		
FTLN 2269		120
FTLN 2270		
FTLN 2271		
	<i>Enter Benedick.</i>	
	PRINCE	
FTLN 2272	See, see, here comes the man we went to seek.	
FTLN 2273	CLAUDIO Now, signior, what news?	
FTLN 2274	BENEDICK, <i>to Prince</i> Good day, my lord.	125
FTLN 2275		
FTLN 2276		
FTLN 2277		
FTLN 2278		
FTLN 2279		130
FTLN 2280		
FTLN 2281		
FTLN 2282		
FTLN 2283		
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?	

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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			
FTLN 2298	PRINCE	But when shall we set the savage bull's horns	
FTLN 2299		on the sensible Benedick's head?	
FTLN 2300	CLAUDIO	Yea, and the text underneath: "Here dwells Ben-	195
FTLN 2301		edick, the married man"?	
FTLN 2302			
FTLN 2303			
FTLN 2304			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.	
FTLN 2311			
FTLN 2312			
FTLN 2313	CLAUDIO	Well, I will meet you, so I may have good	
FTLN 2314		cheer.	165
FTLN 2315			
FTLN 2316			
FTLN 2317			
FTLN 2318			
FTLN 2319			170
FTLN 2320			
FTLN 2321			
FTLN 2322			

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FTLN 2323		
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FTLN 2329		180
FTLN 2330		
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FTLN 2332		
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FTLN 2338		
FTLN 2339		190
FTLN 2340		
FTLN 2341		
FTLN 2342		
FTLN 2343		
FTLN 2344		195
FTLN 2345		
FTLN 2346	BENEDICK	
FTLN 2347		
FTLN 2348		
FTLN 2349	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.	

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FTLN 2358	PRINCE	And hath challenged thee?	
FTLN 2359	CLAUDIO	Most sincerely.	210
FTLN 2360			
FTLN 2361			
FTLN 2362			
FTLN 2363			
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?	
		<i>Enter Constables Dogberry and Verges, and the Watch, with Conrade and Borachio.</i>	
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			
FTLN 2371			
FTLN 2372			
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,	<i>to Borachio and Conrade</i> 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.

FTLN 2406  
 FTLN 2407  
 FTLN 2408

FTLN 2409 260  
 FTLN 2410

FTLN 2411  
 FTLN 2412

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,

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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.	
	LEONATO	
FTLN 2459	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, <i>to Leonato</i> 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.	
FTLN 2472		
FTLN 2473		
FTLN 2474		325
FTLN 2475		
FTLN 2476		
FTLN 2477		
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, <i>giving him money</i> There's for thy pains.	
FTLN 2482	DOGBERRY God save the foundation.	

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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. <i>Dogberry and Verges exit.</i>	
	LEONATO		
FTLN 2492		Until tomorrow morning, lords, farewell.	
FTLN 2493			
	PRINCE		
FTLN 2494		We will not fail.	345
FTLN 2495	CLAUDIO	Tonight I'll mourn with Hero.	
	LEONATO,	<i>to Watch</i>	
FTLN 2496		Bring you these fellows on.—	
FTLN 2497			
FTLN 2498			
		<i>They exit.</i>	

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

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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			20
FTLN 2519			
FTLN 2520			
FTLN 2521			
FTLN 2522			
FTLN 2523			25
		<i>Margaret exits.</i>	
FTLN 2524	<i>Sings</i>	<i>The god of love</i>	
FTLN 2525		<i>That sits above,</i>	
FTLN 2526		<i>And knows me, and knows me,</i>	
FTLN 2527		<i>How pitiful I deserve—</i>	
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.	
		<i>Enter Beatrice.</i>	
FTLN 2540		Sweet Beatrice, wouldst thou come when I called	
FTLN 2541		thee?	

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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			
FTLN 2572			
FTLN 2573			75
FTLN 2574			
FTLN 2575			
FTLN 2576			
FTLN 2577			
FTLN 2578			80

FTLN 2579

FTLN 2580

BENEDICK

FTLN 2581

FTLN 2582

FTLN 2583

85

FTLN 2584

FTLN 2585

FTLN 2586

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.*

FTLN 2602

FTLN 2603

FTLN 2604  
FTLN 2605  
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FTLN 2610  
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FTLN 2631		30
FTLN 2632		
FTLN 2633		
FTLN 2634		

Scene 4

*Enter Leonato, Benedick, Beatrice, Margaret, Ursula,  
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

FTLN 2640 In the true course of all the question.

FRIAR

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

FTLN 2642

FTLN 2643

FTLN 2644 10

FTLN 2645

FTLN 2646

FTLN 2647

FTLN 2648

FTLN 2649 15

FTLN 2650



FTLN 2651

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

FTLN 2675

FTLN 2676

FTLN 2677

FTLN 2678

FTLN 2679

FTLN 2680

FTLN 2681

FTLN 2682

FTLN 2683

FTLN 2684

FTLN 2685

FTLN 2686

FTLN 2687

*Enter Hero, Beatrice, Margaret,  
Ursula, the ladies veiled.*

CLAUDIO

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

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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.	
FTLN 2748		
FTLN 2749		115
FTLN 2750		
FTLN 2751		
FTLN 2752		
FTLN 2753		
FTLN 2754		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.	
FTLN 2763		
FTLN 2764		130
FTLN 2765	BENEDICK	
FTLN 2766		Strike
FTLN 2767	up, pipers!	<i>Music plays. They dance.</i>
		<i>They exit.</i>

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