A Midsummer Night's Dream

3: INTO THE WOODS

Adapted by Julia Cranney

SCENE 4: THE WOODS OUTSIDE ATHENS

BBC Teach School Radio

PUCK	Ah, it's nice to back where I belong - in the woods. Duke Theseus might rule over the court but this is the land of the fairies, ruled by my master, King Oberon and his Queen Titania, which usually works fine, but they're arguing at the moment and it's causing all sorts of problems. Uh-oh, here they come now. This is not going to be pretty
FX	[PUCK FLIES OFF]
OBERON	There she is, proud Titania.
TITANIA	So here must be jealous Oberon. Fairies, let's go.
OBERON	Wait! Am I not your lord?
TITANIA	If you are my lord then I suppose I must be your lady.
OBERON	My lady would not treat me so.
TITANIA	Oberon, these are the mutterings of jealousy. We've been having the same argument since spring.
OBERON	Exactly. Because you won't -
TITANIA	Do as you say?
OBERON	Well
TITANIA	You're selfish Oberon. Because of our fighting, the rivers are over- flowing, the crops are rotting in the fields and all the year's seasons are running into each other. It's a mess, and it's our fault.
OBERON	So you admit then, that these problems were caused by you? I only asked for one of your little fairies to be my helper.
TITANIA	O, set your heart at rest. You will not take any of them from me.
	[A FAIRY BLOWS A RASPBERRY AT OBERON]

A Midsummer Night's Dream



OBERON	How long within this wood do you intend to stay?
TITANIA	Probably 'til after Theseus's wedding day. Now, if you'll do what's right and stop your arguing, stay. If not, begone!
OBERON	Give me what I want and I will go with you.
TITANIA	Not for all your fairy kingdom. Fairies, away! I shall only argue more, if we longer stay.
OBERON	Ooh that fairy! I will not let her leave this wood until I have had my revenge. Puck, come here.
PUCK	Yes, my lord.
OBERON	Do you remember the time we saw winged Cupid misfire his bow and land an arrow upon a little flower?
PUCK	l do, my lord.
OBERON	It turned from milk-white to deepest purple with its wound of love. Fetch me that flower! The juice of it, when put on dreaming eyes, will make the sleeper madly dote with love upon the next live creature that it sees. Fetch it for me and come straight back here again.
PUCK	I'll fly all around the world and find it for you. Won't be a minute!
	[PUCK FLIES OFF]
OBERON	Once I have this juice, I'll drop it onto Titania's eyes as she sleeps, making sure that the next thing she sees is some wild animal: a lion, a bear, maybe a meddling monkey? Whatever it is, she will fall hope- lessly in love with it and when I break the spell, she'll be so embar- rassed that she'll think twice about ever crossing me again!
HELENA	Demetrius, slow down!
OBERON	But who comes here?
DEMETRIUS	I love you not, Helena, therefore pursue me not. Where are Lysander and Hermia? You told me they would be here and now here I am. Get you gone and follow me no more.
HELENA	No matter what you say Demetrius I will stay with you. I love you!



A Midsummer Night's Dream

DEMETRIUS	Do I love you? Do I call you fair? Or rather have I not in plainest truth told you that I do not and cannot love you?
HELENA	And even for that Demetrius, do I love you more. Be cruel to me, say mean things, I don't care, as long as I get to follow you.
DEMETRIUS	But Helena I am sick when I look on you.
HELENA	And I am sick when I look not on you.
DEMETRIUS	Let me go! I swear this won't end well
HELENA	I'll follow him and make a heaven of this hell.
OBERON	Farewell sweet lady, before he leaves this wood, you shall run from him and he shall seek your love. Have you the flower there?
PUCK	Here it is.
OBERON	I will use some of it on Titania, but you will travel deeper into the wood until you find the sweet Athenian lady who was just here. She is in love with a disdainful youth Anoint his eyes but make sure that you do it when the next thing he sees will be the lady.
PUCK	Fear not my lord, your servant shall do so.
OBERON	And meet me here again tomorrow before the first cock crow.
	[PUCK FLIES OFF]