

4: THE WRONG ATHENIAN

Adapted by Julia Cranney

SCENE 5: ANOTHER PART OF THE WOODS

PUCK
Oh sorry, can't stop! Through the forest have I gone but Athenian found I none. I'm running out of time, so I'll catch up with you all in a bit. Why don't you go and see how Oberon is getting on? There he is!

[A TWIG SNAPS. THE FAIRIES APPROACH OBERON. OBERON HISSES AND FAIRIES FLY AWAY SHREIKING. OBERON CASTS A SPELL]

OBERON
What you see when you do wake, do it for your true love take. Be it jungle cat, or bear, or wild boar with bristled hair... In your eye it shall appear, when you awake, it is your dear. Wake when some vile thing is near...

SCENE 6: ANOTHER PART OF THE WOODS

LYSANDER
Slow down Hermia!

HERMIA
Come on! Lysander, what's the matter?

LYSANDER
Honestly, I think we're lost.

HERMIA
Let me look at the map.

LYSANDER
Erm... I think it's better if we rest now and try again in the morning.

HERMIA
So be it Lysander, find yourself a bed. I upon this bank will rest my head.

LYSANDER
Is there any, er, space on that fluffy pillow for me?

HERMIA
Oh Lysander, I'm so tired... Maybe lie down over by that tree?

LYSANDER
Well then, here is my bed.

[PUCK CRASHES INTO A TREE]

PUCK
Everywhere! I've looked everywhere! And still I haven't found a single Athenian. I don't even think they exist, Oberon's probably playing a trick on me. I... I... I've found an Athenian!!



A Midsummer Night's Dream

[HERMIA STIRS IN HER SLEEP]

PUCK

Whoops! I've found an Athenian. This must be the sweet lad that Oberon was telling me about. Poor girl, sleeping sound on the dank and dirty ground... And this must be the boy she's after. What a lack-love, to keep pushing her away. Well, we'll see about that...

[PUCK CASTS A SPELL]

PUCK

Churl, upon your eyes I throw all the power this charm bestows. When you wake, as I bid, let love rest on your eyelid. And so awake when I am gone, for I must now to Oberon.

[PUCK FLIES OFF]

HELENA

Demetrius? Demetrius?! O I am out of breath! I'm lost and tired and alone. I've no idea where Demetrius is, I just want to go home. But who's here? Lysander? On the ground? Dead? Or asleep? I see no blood, no wound... Lysander, if you live, good sir, awake.

[THE SPELL TAKES EFFECT]

LYSANDER

And run through fire I will for your sweet sake.

HELENA

What?

LYSANDER

I love you Helena! Come, let's run away.

HELENA

What?!

LYSANDER

Where is Demetrius? O, how fit a word is that vile name to perish on my sword!

HELENA

Don't say such horrible things Lysander, please.

LYSANDER

What do you mean, horrible? I love you Helena!

HELENA

You're being cruel to me Lysander. O that a lady, of one man refused, should of another now be so abused.

[HELENA SOBS]

LYSANDER

Hermia, sleep you there. If I never see you again I won't care. For now with all my powers, my love and might, I will honour Helena and be her knight.

HERMIA

Ah... Argh!! I just had a terrible nightmare. Lysander? Where are you? Speak if you are near. I almost faint with fear.. Are you OK? Don't worry Lysander, I'm coming to find you.