

7: LIFTING THE FOG

Adapted by Julia Cranney

SCENE 9: ANOTHER PART OF THE WOODS

PUCK Ah, hello again. I've been trying to keep these Athenians from bumping into each other for ages now, but they still haven't tired out enough to fall asleep. I think it's time to use a little mischief...

LYSANDER Where are you proud Demetrius? Speak!

PUCK Listen to this. Ahem... "Here, Lysander, you villain! Where are you?"

LYSANDER I will be with you straight.

PUCK "Follow me then to plainer ground."

[PUCK CASTS A SPELL; LYSANDER YAWNS]

PUCK That's one Athenian down! Finally... Now, where's that Demetrius?

DEMETRIUS Lysander! Where are you? Coward, have you fled?

PUCK Ahem... "You're the coward! Come here and fight me face-to-face!"

DEMETRIUS I would if I could find your place.

PUCK "Follow my voice, I sit and wait."

DEMETRIUS Argh! He's not here... I've had enough of this. I'll sleep tonight, and in the morning I'll pursue our fight.

PUCK Haha! That one was too easy. Why didn't I start doing this before? Oh look, here comes Helena.

HELENA O long and tedious night. The morning light can't be far away... I'll lie down a while and wait for break of day.

PUCK Three are here! But I need one more. Two of both kinds make up four. Ah! Hello Hermia...

HERMIA Never have I been so weary, never so in woe. I can travel no further, my legs won't let me go. Here will I rest 'til the morning light, heavens protect Lysander if he's forced to fight.



A Midsummer Night's Dream

PUCK

Yes! That's all four of them...

[PUCK CASTS A SPELL]

On the ground, sleep sound; I'll apply to your eye, gentle lover, remedy. When you wake take true delight in your former lady Hermia's sight.

BOTTOM:

Hee-haw!

PUCK:

What was that? Oh, I know, it's the weaver I turned into a donkey. Shall we see how he's getting on with Titania?

SCENE 10: ANOTHER PART OF THE WOODS

TITANIA

Ah, let me kiss your fair large ears, my gentle joy.

BOTTOM

Where's Peaseblossom?

TITANIA

There my love.

BOTTOM

Scratch my head, Peaseblossom.

[THE FAIRY SCRATCHES BOTTOM'S HEAD]

BOTTOM

Where's Monsieur Cobweb and Madame Mustardseed? Aha, there you are!

TITANIA

What is your will my love? What should I have them do?

BOTTOM

Nothing but to help Miss Peaseblossom scratch. I must to the barber's for I think I am marvellous hairy about the face.

TITANIA

O say, sweet love, what you desire to eat?

BOTTOM

I think I have a great desire for a bale of... hay!

TITANIA

As you will my love. I will send a fairy now.

BOTTOM

Very well. But I ask you, let none of your people bother me. I'm suddenly feeling very sleepy.

[BOTTOM SNORES]

TITANIA

Sleep then and I will wind you in my arms. Fairies, away.

PUCK	Oh my!
OBERON	Ah, Puck. I see you've seen the Queen... I do now begin to pity her doting on a donkey. Perhaps this was too cruel?
PUCK	Well, I don't know about that...
OBERON	Take this ass's head off the weaver, so that when he wakes he can return to Athens and think no more of tonight than if it were a dream.
PUCK	Yes my lord.
OBERON	First I must release the fairy queen. Now, be as you would want to be and see as you would want to see. Wake up Titania, my sweet queen.
TITANIA	My Oberon! What visions have I seen! I thought I was enamoured of an ass.
OBERON	There lies your love.
TITANIA	How came these things to pass? O how my eyes do loathe his visage now!
OBERON	Well, it's a long story...
FX	<i>[A BIRD TWEETS]</i>
PUCK	Erm, fairy king, attend and mark, for I do hear the morning lark.
TITANIA	Come my lord and in our flight tell me how it came this night, that I sleeping here was found, with this mortal on the ground.
PUCK	It seems our twilight revels are coming to an end. It's nearly daybreak and time for Theseus's wedding. But first I'll return the weaver to his former state. <i>[PUCK CASTS A SPELL]</i> When you wake, with your own fools eyes peep... <i>[A MAGIC FLASH]</i>
BOTTOM	Hee-haw!