

8: A WEDDING PLAY

Adapted by Julia Cranney

SCENE 11: A THEATRE IN ATHENS

PUCK Well hello there! We've finally made it to the wedding of Duke Theseus and Queen Hippolyta. But they're not the only happy couple round here, oh no. Let me get you up to speed...

SCENE 12: THE WOODS OUTSIDE ATHENS

PUCK The lovers they slept peacefully, until they heard the sound, of Theseus's royal trumpets blaring all around.

[THE TRUMPETS SOUND]

PUCK They woke up in the forest and all went right as rain: Lysander looked at Hermia and loved her all over again. Demetrius loved Helena - everything was great!

But then came Theseus, Hippolyta and Egeus, quite irate. "I beg the law, the law upon his head! Lysander tried to steal my girl," he said; "my daughter promised to Demetrius," but Demetrius himself, he wasn't fussed. "My love to Hermia melted as the snow, I only love dear Helena, you know."

"Fair lovers, you are fortunate indeed," said Theseus the Duke, all grace and smiles; "come back with us to Athens and let's be married all together in style!"

So off they went to Athens to be wed and in a sheltered glade nearby, Nick Bottom woke and raised his weary head, with no more ass's ears nor donkey cry. To Athens and his friends he made his way, to join with them in putting on their play.

SCENE 13: A THEATRE IN ATHENS

PUCK So here we are! Was it a dream? They'll never know... But now it's time for us to watch the show.

[TRUMPETS SOUND; APPLAUSE]



A Midsummer Night's Dream

- QUINCE Gentle courtiers, perhaps you are wondering what will be contained within our play? This man is Pyramus. This lady... This lady... Flute! This beautiful lady is Thisbe - Pyramus's love.
- LYSANDER And who is that?
- QUINCE This, sir, is the wall that keeps our lovers apart, so that they may only talk through a chink.
- HELENA Oh, let's see them speak through it!
- BOTTOM O grim-looking night! O night with hue so black! If only I could see my love... Alack! Alack! Alack!
- FLUTE Pyramus? Is that you?
- BOTTOM It is, my love, my angel, my divine.
- FLUTE Oh, how I wish that I could see your face...
- BOTTOM I have an idea. We should flee this place and meet by moonshine at Ninny's -
- QUINCE Ninus!
- BOTTOM Ninus' tomb.
- FLUTE Yes my love, I will do so. But first, kiss me through the wall before you go.
- [THEY KISS]*
- SNOUT Thus have I, wall, my part completed so and being done, therefore wall away does go.
- [LAUGHTER]*
- HELENA This is too much! No more!
- PUCK Yes more! Have you ever seen such a ridiculous play?!
- SNUG I am here to warn you that though I do as a lion appear, I am actually Snug the joiner and I swear to do you no harm.
- FLUTE Here I am by moonlight... at old Ninny's -

QUINCE	Ninus!
FLUTE	Ninus' tomb. But where is my love Pyramus?
SNUG	I will now undertake a roar, if you would like to cover your ears... Roar!
	<i>[LAUGHTER]</i>
DEMETRIUS	Well roared lion!
SNUG	Grrr! Roar!
FLUTE	Ooooh!
BOTTOM	Sweet moon, I thank you for your sunny beams.
STARVELING	No bother.
BOTTOM	But O! My Thisbe's cloak! A lion must have slayed my love! Now I too will die so that I may join her! So die, die, die, diiiiiiieee!
	<i>[APPLAUSE]</i>
QUINCE	And so here ends our play.
BOTTOM	Unless you would like to hear another speech? Or perhaps a dance?
	<i>[APPLAUSE AND CHEERS]</i>
PUCK	I think we don't need any more speeches, or dances, or anything else. I think it's time to go... If we shadows have offended, think but this and all is mended: that you have but slumbered here, while these visions did appear. Give us your love, show us no spite; think this but a dream of a midsummer night.