

# All's Well That Ends Well

## 2.5

*Enter Lafeu and Bertram*

**LAFEU** But I hope your lordship thinks not him a soldier.

**BERTRAM** Yes, my lord, and of very valiant approof.

**LAFEU** You have it from his own deliverance.

**BERTRAM** And by other warranted testimony.

**LAFEU** Then my dial goes not true. I took this lark for a 5  
bunting.

**BERTRAM** I do assure you, my lord, he is very great in  
knowledge, and accordingly valiant.

**LAFEU** I have then sinned against his experience and  
transgressed against his valour±±and my state that way 10  
is dangerous, since I cannot yet find in my heart to  
repent. Here he comes. I pray you make us friends. I  
will pursue the amity.

*Enter Paroles*

**PAROLES** *(to Bertram)* These things shall be done, sir.

**LAFEU** *(to Bertram)* Pray you, sir, who's his tailor? 15

**PAROLES** Sir!

**LAFEU** O, I know him well. Ay, `Sir', he; `Sir' 's a good  
workman, a very good tailor.

**BERTRAM** *(aside to Paroles)* Is she gone to the King?

**PAROLES** She is. 20

**BERTRAM** Will she away tonight?

**PAROLES** As you'll have her.

**BERTRAM**

I have writ my letters, casketed my treasure,  
Given order for our horses, and tonight,  
When I should take possession of the bride, 25  
End ere I do begin.

**LAFEU** *(aside)* A good traveller is something at the latter  
end of a dinner, but one that lies three-thirds and uses  
a known truth to pass a thousand nothings with,  
should be once heard and thrice beaten. *(To Paroles)* 30  
God save you, captain.

**BERTRAM** *(to Paroles)* Is there any unkindness between my  
lord and you, monsieur?

**PAROLES** I know not how I have deserved to run into my  
lord's displeasure. 35

**LAFEU** You have made shift to run into't, boots and spurs  
and all, like him that leaped into the custard, and out  
of it you'll run again, rather than suffer question for  
your residence.

**BERTRAM** It may be you have mistaken him, my lord. 40

**LAFEU** And shall do so ever, though I took him at's  
prayers. Fare you well, my lord, and believe this of me:  
there can be no kernel in this light nut. The soul of  
this man is his clothes. Trust him not in matter of  
heavy consequence. I have kept of them tame, and 45  
know their natures.±±Farewell, monsieur. I have  
spoken better of you than you have wit or will to  
deserve at my hand, but we must do good against evil.

*Exit*

**PAROLES** An idle lord, I swear.

**BERTRAM** I think not so. 50

**PAROLES** Why, do you not know him?

**BERTRAM**

Yes, I do know him well, and common speech  
Gives him a worthy pass. Here comes my clog.

*Enter Helen, [attended]*

**HELEN**

I have, sir, as I was commanded from you,  
Spoke with the King, and have procured his leave 55  
For present parting; only he desires  
Some private speech with you.

**BERTRAM** I shall obey his will.

You must not marvel, Helen, at my course,  
Which holds not colour with the time, nor does  
The ministration and requireÁd office 60  
On my particular. Prepared I was not  
For such a business, therefore am I found  
So much unsettled. This drives me to entreat you  
That presently you take your way for home,  
And rather muse than ask why I entreat you, 65  
For my respects are better than they seem,  
And my appointments have in them a need  
Greater than shows itself at the first view

To you that know them not. This to my mother.

*He gives her a letter*

'Twill be two days ere I shall see you, so 70

I leave you to your wisdom.

**HELEN** Sir, I can nothing say

But that I am your most obedient servant.

**BERTRAM**

Come, come, no more of that.

**HELEN** And ever shall

With true observance seek to eke out that

Wherein toward me my homely stars have failed 75

To equal my great fortune.

**BERTRAM** Let that go.

My haste is very great. Farewell. Hie home.

**HELEN**

Pray sir, your pardon.

**BERTRAM** Well, what would you say?

**HELEN**

I am not worthy of the wealth I owe,

Nor dare I say 'tis mine $\pm\pm$ and yet it is $\pm\pm$  80

But like a timorous thief most fain would steal

What law does vouch mine own.

**BERTRAM** What would you have?

**HELEN**

Something, and scarce so much: nothing indeed.

I would not tell you what I would, my lord. Faith,

yes:

Strangers and foes do sunder and not kiss. 85

**BERTRAM**

I pray you, stay not, but in haste to horse.

**HELEN**

I shall not break your bidding, good my lord. $\pm\pm$

Where are my other men? $\pm\pm$ Monsieur, farewell.

*Exeunt Helen [and attendants at one door]*

**BERTRAM**

Go thou toward home, where I will never come

Whilst I can shake my sword or hear the drum. $\pm\pm$  90

Away, and for our flight.

**PAROLES** Bravely. *Coraggio!*

*Exeunt [at another door]*