

A Midsummer Night's Dream

4.2

Enter Quince, Flute, Snout, and Starveling

QUINCE Have you sent to Bottom's house? Is he come home yet?

STARVELING He cannot be heard of. Out of doubt he is transported.

FLUTE If he come not, then the play is marred. It goes 5
not forward. Doth it?

QUINCE It is not possible. You have not a man in all Athens able to discharge Pyramus but he.

FLUTE No, he hath simply the best wit of any handicraft-
man in Athens. 10

QUINCE Yea, and the best person, too; and he is a very paramour for a sweet voice.

FLUTE You must say `paragon'. A paramour is, God bless us, a thing of naught.

Enter Snug the joiner

SNUG Masters, the Duke is coming from the temple, and 15
there is two or three lords and ladies more married. If our sport had gone forward we had all been made men.

FLUTE O sweet bully Bottom! Thus hath he lost sixpence a day during his life. He could not have scaped sixpence a day. An the Duke had not given him sixpence a day 20
for playing Pyramus, I'll be hanged. He would have deserved it. Sixpence a day in Pyramus, or nothing.

Enter Bottom

BOTTOM Where are these lads? Where are these hearts?

QUINCE Bottom! O most courageous day! O most happy hour! 25

BOTTOM Masters, I am to discourse wonders; but ask me not what. For if I tell you, I am no true Athenian. I will tell you everything right as it fell out.

QUINCE Let us hear, sweet Bottom.

BOTTOM Not a word of me. All that I will tell you is that 30
the Duke hath dined. Get your apparel together, good strings to your beards, new ribbons to your pumps. Meet presently at the palace; every man look o'er his

part. For the short and the long is, our play is preferred.
In any case let Thisbe have clean linen, and let not 35
him that plays the lion pare his nails, for they shall
hang out for the lion's claws. And, most dear actors,
eat no onions nor garlic, for we are to utter sweet
breath, and I do not doubt but to hear them say it is
a sweet comedy. No more words. Away, go, away!

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Exeunt