

# Much Ado About Nothing

## 1.2

*Enter Leonato and Antonio, an old man brother to Leonato, severally*

**LEONATO** How now, brother, where is my cousin, your son? Hath he provided this music?

**ANTONIO** He is very busy about it. But brother, I can tell you strange news that you yet dreamt not of.

**LEONATO** Are they good? 5

**ANTONIO** As the event stamps them. But they have a good cover, they show well outward. The Prince and Count Claudio, walking in a thick-pleached alley in mine orchard, were thus much overheard by a man of mine: the Prince discovered to Claudio that he loved my niece, 10 your daughter, and meant to acknowledge it this night in a dance, and if he found her accordant he meant to take the present time by the top and instantly break with you of it.

**LEONATO** Hath the fellow any wit that told you this? 15

**ANTONIO** A good sharp fellow. I will send for him, and question him yourself.

**LEONATO** No, no. We will hold it as a dream till it appear itself. But I will acquaint my daughter withal, that she may be the better prepared for an answer if peradventure this be true. Go you and tell her of it. 20

*[Enter attendants]*

Cousins, you know what you have to do. O, I cry you mercy, friend. Go you with me and I will use your skill.±±Good cousin, have a care this busy time.

*Exeunt*