

Measure for Measure

4.1

Mariana [discovered] with a Boy singing

BOY

Take, O take those lips away
That so sweetly were forsworn,
And those eyes, the break of day
Lights that do mislead the morn;
But my kisses bring again, bring again,
Seals of love, though sealed in vain, sealed in vain.

5

Enter the Duke, disguised as a friar

MARIANA

Break off thy song, and haste thee quick away.
Here comes a man of comfort, whose advice
Hath often stilled my brawling discontent.

Exit Boy

I cry you mercy, sir, and well could wish
You had not found me here so musical.
Let me excuse me, and believe me so:
My mirth it much displeased, but pleased my woe.

10

DUKE

'Tis good; though music oft hath such a charm
To make bad good, and good provoke to harm.
I pray you tell me, hath anybody enquired for me here
today? Much upon this time have I promised here to
meet.

15

MARIANA You have not been enquired after; I have sat
here all day.

20

Enter Isabella

DUKE I do constantly believe you; the time is come even
now. I shall crave your forbearance a little. Maybe I
will call upon you anon, for some advantage to yourself.

MARIANA I am always bound to you.

Exit

DUKE Very well met, and welcome.
What is the news from this good deputy?

25

ISABELLA

He hath a garden circummured with brick,

Whose western side is with a vineyard backed;
And to that vineyard is a plankeÁd gate,
That makes his opening with this bigger key. 30
This other doth command a little door
Which from the vineyard to the garden leads.
There have I made my promise
Upon the heavy middle of the night
To call upon him. 35

DUKE

But shall you on your knowledge find this way?

ISABELLA

I have ta'en a due and wary note upon't.
With whispering and most guilty diligence,
In action all of precept, he did show me
The way twice o'er.

DUKE

Are there no other tokens 40

Between you 'greed concerning her observance?

ISABELLA

No, none, but only a repair i'th' dark,
And that I have possessed him my most stay
Can be but brief, for I have made him know
I have a servant comes with me along 45
That stays upon me, whose persuasion is
I come about my brother.

DUKE

'Tis well borne up.

I have not yet made known to Mariana
A word of this.±±What ho, within! Come forth!

Enter Mariana

(*To Mariana*) I pray you be acquainted with this maid. 50

She comes to do you good.

ISABELLA

I do desire the like.

DUKE (*to Mariana*)

Do you persuade yourself that I respect you?

MARIANA

Good friar, I know you do, and so have found it.

DUKE

Take then this your companion by the hand,
Who hath a story ready for your ear. 55
I shall attend your leisure; but make haste,
The vaporous night approaches.

MARIANA *(to Isabella)* Will't please you walk aside?
[Exeunt Mariana and Isabella]

DUKE

O place and greatness, millions of false eyes
Are stuck upon thee; volumes of report
Run with their false and most contrarious quest
Upon thy doings; thousand escapes of wit
Make thee the father of their idle dream,
And rack thee in their fancies.

60

[Enter Mariana and Isabella]

Welcome. How agreed?

ISABELLA

She'll take the enterprise upon her, father,
If you advise it.

DUKE

It is not my consent,

65

But my entreaty too.

ISABELLA *(to Mariana)*

Little have you to say
When you depart from him but, soft and low,
'Remember now my brother'.

MARIANA

Fear me not.

DUKE

Nor, gentle daughter, fear you not at all.
He is your husband on a pre-contract.
To bring you thus together 'tis no sin,
Sith that the justice of your title to him
Doth flourish the deceit. Come, let us go.
Our corn's to reap, for yet our tilth's to sow.

70

Exeunt