

The Two Noble Kinsmen

2.6

Enter the Jailer's Daughter

JAILER'S DAUGHTER

Let all the dukes and all the devils roar±±
He is at liberty! I have ventured for him,
And out I have brought him. To a little wood
A mile hence I have sent him, where a cedar
Higher than all the rest spreads like a plane, 5
Fast by a brook±±and there he shall keep close
Till I provide him files and food, for yet
His iron bracelets are not off. O Love,
What a stout-hearted child thou art! My father
Durst better have endured cold iron than done it. 10
I love him beyond love and beyond reason
Or wit or safety. I have made him know it±±
I care not, I am desperate. If the law
Find me and then condemn me for't, some wenches,
Some honest-hearted maids, will sing my dirge 15
And tell to memory my death was noble,
Dying almost a martyr. That way he takes,
I purpose, is my way too. Sure, he cannot
Be so unmanly as to leave me here.
If he do, maids will not so easily 20
Trust men again. And yet, he has not thanked me
For what I have done±±no, not so much as kissed me±±
And that, methinks, is not so well. Nor scarcely
Could I persuade him to become a free man,
He made such scruples of the wrong he did 25
To me and to my father. Yet, I hope
When he considers more, this love of mine
Will take more root within him. Let him do
What he will with me±±so he use me kindly.
For use me, so he shall, or I'll proclaim him, 30
And to his face, no man. I'll presently
Provide him necessaries and pack my clothes up,
And where there is a patch of ground I'll venture,
So he be with me. By him, like a shadow,

I'll ever dwell. Within this hour the hubbub
Will be all o'er the prison±±I am then
Kissing the man they look for. Farewell, father:
Get many more such prisoners and such daughters,
And shortly you may keep yourself. Now to him.

Exit