

# As You Like It

## 1.2

*Enter Rosalind and Celia*

**CELIA** I pray thee Rosalind, sweet my coz, be merry.

**ROSALIND** Dear Celia, I show more mirth than I am mistress of; and would you yet I were merrier? Unless you could teach me to forget a banished father you must not learn me how to remember any extraordinary pleasure. 5

**CELIA** Herein I see thou lovest me not with the full weight that I love thee. If my uncle, thy banished father, had banished thy uncle, the Duke my father, so thou hadst been still with me I could have taught my love to take thy father for mine. So wouldst thou, if the truth of thy love to me were so righteously tempered as mine is to thee. 10

**ROSALIND** Well, I will forget the condition of my estate to rejoice in yours. 15

**CELIA** You know my father hath no child but I, nor none is like to have. And truly, when he dies thou shalt be his heir; for what he hath taken away from thy father perforce, I will render thee again in affection. By mine honour I will, and when I break that oath, let me turn 20 monster. Therefore, my sweet Rose, my dear Rose, be merry.

**ROSALIND** From henceforth I will, coz, and devise sports. Let me see, what think you of falling in love?

**CELIA** Marry, I prithee do, to make sport withal; but love 25 no man in good earnest, nor no further in sport neither than with safety of a pure blush thou mayst in honour come off again.

**ROSALIND** What shall be our sport, then?

**CELIA** Let us sit and mock the good housewife Fortune 30 from her wheel, that her gifts may henceforth be bestowed equally.

**ROSALIND** I would we could do so, for her benefits are mightily misplaced; and the bountiful blind woman doth most mistake in her gifts to women. 35

**CELIA** 'Tis true; for those that she makes fair she scarce makes honest, and those that she makes honest she makes very ill-favouredly.

**ROSALIND** Nay, now thou goest from Fortune's office to Nature's. Fortune reigns in gifts of the world, not in the lineaments of nature. 40

*Enter Touchstone the clown*

**CELIA** No. When Nature hath made a fair creature, may she not by Fortune fall into the fire? Though Nature hath given us wit to flout at Fortune, hath not Fortune sent in this fool to cut off the argument? 45

**ROSALIND** Indeed, there is Fortune too hard for Nature, when Fortune makes Nature's natural the cutter-off of Nature's wit.

**CELIA** Peradventure this is not Fortune's work, neither, but Nature's, who perceiveth our natural wits too dull to reason of such goddesses, and hath sent this natural for our whetstone; for always the dullness of the fool is the whetstone of the wits. How now, wit: whither wander you? 50

**TOUCHSTONE** Mistress, you must come away to your father. 55

**CELIA** Were you made the messenger?

**TOUCHSTONE** No, by mine honour, but I was bid to come for you.

**ROSALIND** Where learned you that oath, fool?

**TOUCHSTONE** Of a certain knight that swore `by his honour' they were good pancakes, and swore `by his honour' the mustard was naught. Now I'll stand to it the pancakes were naught and the mustard was good, and yet was not the knight forsworn. 60

**CELIA** How prove you that in the great heap of your knowledge? 65

**ROSALIND** Ay, marry, now unmuzzle your wisdom.

**TOUCHSTONE** Stand you both forth now. Stroke your chins, and swear by your beards that I am a knave.

**CELIA** By our beards±if we had them±±thou art. 70

**TOUCHSTONE** By my knavery±if I had it±±then I were; but if you swear by that that is not, you are not forsworn. No more was this knight, swearing by his honour, for he never had any; or if he had, he had

sworn it away before ever he saw those pancakes or  
that mustard. 75

**CELIA** Prithee, who is't that thou meanest?

**TOUCHSTONE** One that old Frederick, your father, loves.

**[CELIA]** My father's love is enough to honour him.  
Enough, speak no more of him; you'll be whipped for  
taxation one of these days. 80

**TOUCHSTONE** The more pity that fools may not speak wisely  
what wise men do foolishly.

**CELIA** By my troth, thou sayst true; for since the little  
wit that fools have was silenced, the little foolery that 85  
wise men have makes a great show. Here comes  
Monsieur Le Beau.

*Enter Le Beau*

**ROSALIND** With his mouth full of news.

**CELIA** Which he will put on us as pigeons feed their  
young. 90

**ROSALIND** Then shall we be news-crammed.

**CELIA** All the better: we shall be the more marketable.  
*Bonjour*, Monsieur Le Beau, what's the news?

**LE BEAU** Fair princess, you have lost much good sport.

**CELIA** Sport? Of what colour? 95

**LE BEAU** What colour, madam? How shall I answer you?

**ROSALIND** As wit and fortune will.

**TOUCHSTONE** Or as the destinies decrees.

**CELIA** Well said. That was laid on with a trowel.

**TOUCHSTONE** Nay, if I keep not my rank±± 100

**ROSALIND** Thou lovest thy old smell.

**LE BEAU** You amaze me, ladies. I would have told you of  
good wrestling, which you have lost the sight of.

**ROSALIND** Yet tell us the manner of the wrestling.

**LE BEAU** I will tell you the beginning, and if it please your 105  
ladyships you may see the end, for the best is yet to  
do, and here, where you are, they are coming to  
perform it.

**CELIA** Well, the beginning that is dead and buried.

**LE BEAU** There comes an old man and his three sons±± 110

**CELIA** I could match this beginning with an old tale.

**LE BEAU** Three proper young men, of excellent growth  
and presence.

**ROSALIND** With bills on their necks: `Be it known unto  
all men by these presents'±± 115

**LE BEAU** The eldest of the three wrestled with Charles, the  
Duke's wrestler, which Charles in a moment threw  
him, and broke three of his ribs, that there is little hope  
of life in him. So he served the second, and so the third.  
Yonder they lie, the poor old man their father making 120  
such pitiful dole over them that all the beholders take  
his part with weeping.

**ROSALIND** Alas!

**TOUCHSTONE** But what is the sport, monsieur, that the  
ladies have lost? 125

**LE BEAU** Why, this that I speak of.

**TOUCHSTONE** Thus men may grow wiser every day. It is  
the first time that ever I heard breaking of ribs was  
sport for ladies.

**CELIA** Or I, I promise thee. 130

**ROSALIND** But is there any else longs to see this broken  
music in his sides? Is there yet another dotes upon rib-  
breaking? Shall we see this wrestling, cousin?

**LE BEAU** You must if you stay here, for here is the place  
appointed for the wrestling, and they are ready to 135  
perform it.

**CELIA** Yonder sure they are coming. Let us now stay and  
see it.

*Flourish. Enter Duke Frederick, Lords, Orlando,  
Charles, and attendants*

**DUKE FREDERICK** Come on. Since the youth will not be  
entreated, his own peril on his forwardness. 140

**ROSALIND** Is yonder the man?

**LE BEAU** Even he, madam.

**CELIA** Alas, he is too young. Yet he looks successfully.

**DUKE FREDERICK** How now, daughter and cousin; are you  
crept hither to see the wrestling? 145

**ROSALIND** Ay, my liege, so please you give us leave.

**DUKE FREDERICK** You will take little delight in it, I can tell  
you, there is such odds in the man. In pity of the  
challenger's youth I would fain dissuade him, but he  
will not be entreated. Speak to him, ladies; see if you 150  
can move him.

**CELIA** Call him hither, good Monsieur Le Beau.

**DUKE FREDERICK** Do so. I'll not be by.

*He stands aside*

**LE BEAU** *(to Orlando)* Monsieur the challenger, the Princess  
calls for you. 155

**ORLANDO** I attend them with all respect and duty.

**ROSALIND** Young man, have you challenged Charles the  
wrestler?

**ORLANDO** No, fair Princess. He is the general challenger;  
I come but in as others do, to try with him the strength 160  
of my youth.

**CELIA** Young gentleman, your spirits are too bold for your  
years. You have seen cruel proof of this man's strength.  
If you saw yourself with your eyes, or knew yourself  
with your judgement, the fear of your adventure would 165  
counsel you to a more equal enterprise. We pray you  
for your own sake to embrace your own safety and  
give over this attempt.

**ROSALIND** Do, young sir. Your reputation shall not  
therefore be misprized. We will make it our suit to the 170  
Duke that the wrestling might not go forward.

**ORLANDO** I beseech you, punish me not with your hard  
thoughts, wherein I confess me much guilty to deny  
so fair and excellent ladies anything. But let your fair  
eyes and gentle wishes go with me to my trial, wherein 175  
if I be foiled, there is but one shamed that was never  
gracious, if killed, but one dead that is willing to be so.  
I shall do my friends no wrong, for I have none to  
lament me; the world no injury, for in it I have nothing.  
Only in the world I fill up a place which may be better 180  
supplied when I have made it empty.

**ROSALIND** The little strength that I have, I would it were  
with you.

**CELIA** And mine, to eke out hers.

**ROSALIND** Fare you well. Pray heaven I be deceived in 185  
you.

**CELIA** Your heart's desires be with you.

**CHARLES** Come, where is this young gallant that is so  
desirous to lie with his mother earth?

**ORLANDO** Ready, sir; but his will hath in it a more modest 190

working.

**DUKE FREDERICK** You shall try but one fall.

**CHARLES** No, I warrant your grace you shall not entreat him to a second that have so mightily persuaded him from a first. 195

**ORLANDO** You mean to mock me after; you should not have mocked me before. But come your ways.

**ROSALIND** *(to Orlando)* Now Hercules be thy speed, young man!

**CELIA** I would I were invisible, to catch the strong fellow 200 by the leg.

*Charles and Orlando wrestle*

**ROSALIND** O excellent young man!

**CELIA** If I had a thunderbolt in mine eye, I can tell who should down.

*Orlando throws Charles. Shout*

**DUKE FREDERICK**

No more, no more.

**ORLANDO** Yes, I beseech your grace. 205  
I am not yet well breathed.

**DUKE FREDERICK** How dost thou, Charles?

**LE BEAU** He cannot speak, my lord.

**DUKE FREDERICK** Bear him away.

*Attendants carry Charles off*

What is thy name, young man? 210

**ORLANDO** Orlando, my liege, the youngest son of Sir Rowland de Bois.

**DUKE FREDERICK**

I would thou hadst been son to some man else.

The world esteemed thy father honourable,  
But I did find him still mine enemy. 215

Thou shouldst have better pleased me with this deed  
Hadst thou descended from another house.

But fare thee well, thou art a gallant youth.  
I would thou hadst told me of another father.

*Exeunt Duke Frederick, Le Beau, [Touchstone,]  
Lords, and attendants*

**CELIA** *(to Rosalind)*

Were I my father, coz, would I do this? 220

**ORLANDO**

I am more proud to be Sir Rowland's son,  
His youngest son, and would not change that calling  
To be adopted heir to Frederick.

**ROSALIND**

My father loved Sir Rowland as his soul,  
And all the world was of my father's mind. 225  
Had I before known this young man his son  
I should have given him tears unto entreaties  
Ere he should thus have ventured.

**CELIA**

Gentle cousin,

Let us go thank him, and encourage him.  
My father's rough and envious disposition 230  
Sticks me at heart.±±Sir, you have well deserved.  
If you do keep your promises in love  
But justly, as you have exceeded all promise,  
Your mistress shall be happy.

**ROSALIND** (*giving him a chain from her neck*) Gentleman,

Wear this for me±±one out of suits with fortune, 235  
That could give more but that her hand lacks means.  
Shall we go, coz?

**CELIA**

Ay. Fare you well, fair gentleman.

*Rosalind and Celia turn to go*

**ORLANDO** (*aside*)

Can I not say 'I thank you'? My better parts  
Are all thrown down, and that which here stands up  
Is but a quintain, a mere lifeless block. 240

**ROSALIND** (*to Celia*)

He calls us back. My pride fell with my fortunes,  
I'll ask him what he would.±±Did you call, sir?  
Sir, you have wrestled well, and overthrown  
More than your enemies.

**CELIA**

Will you go, coz? 245

**ROSALIND**

Have with you. (*To Orlando*) Fare you well.

*Exeunt Rosalind and Celia*

**ORLANDO**

What passion hangs these weights upon my tongue?  
I cannot speak to her, yet she urged conference.

*Enter Le Beau*

O poor Orlando! Thou art overthrown.  
Or Charles or something weaker masters thee. 250

**LE BEAU**

Good sir, I do in friendship counsel you  
To leave this place. Albeit you have deserved  
High commendation, true applause, and love,  
Yet such is now the Duke's condition  
That he misconsters all that you have done. 255  
The Duke is humorous. What he is indeed  
More suits you to conceive than I to speak of.

**ORLANDO**

I thank you, sir. And pray you tell me this,  
Which of the two was daughter of the Duke  
That here was at the wrestling? 260

**LE BEAU**

Neither his daughter, if we judge by manners±±  
But yet indeed the shorter is his daughter.  
The other is daughter to the banished Duke,  
And here detained by her usurping uncle  
To keep his daughter company, whose loves 265  
Are dearer than the natural bond of sisters.  
But I can tell you that of late this Duke  
Hath ta'en displeasure 'gainst his gentle niece,  
Grounded upon no other argument  
But that the people praise her for her virtues 270  
And pity her for her good father's sake.  
And, on my life, his malice 'gainst the lady  
Will suddenly break forth. Sir, fare you well.  
Hereafter, in a better world than this,  
I shall desire more love and knowledge of you. 275

**ORLANDO**

I rest much bounden to you. Fare you well.

*Exit Le Beau*

Thus must I from the smoke into the smother,  
From tyrant Duke unto a tyrant brother.±±  
But heavenly Rosalind!

*Exit*