

All's Well That Ends Well

4.2

Enter Bertram and the maid called Diana

BERTRAM

They told me that your name was Fontibel.

DIANA

No, my good lord, Diana.

BERTRAM

Titled goddess,
And worth it, with addition. But, fair soul,
In your fine frame hath love no quality?
If the quick fire of youth light not your mind,
You are no maiden but a monument.
When you are dead you should be such a one
As you are now, for you are cold and stern,
And now you should be as your mother was
When your sweet self was got.

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DIANA She then was honest.

BERTRAM So should you be.

DIANA

No.

My mother did but duty; such, my lord,
As you owe to your wife.

BERTRAM

No more o' that.
I prithee do not strive against my vows.
I was compelled to her, but I love thee
By love's own sweet constraint, and will for ever
Do thee all rights of service.

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DIANA

Ay, so you serve us
Till we serve you. But when you have our roses,
You barely leave our thorns to prick ourselves,
And mock us with our bareness.

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BERTRAM

How have I sworn!

DIANA

'Tis not the many oaths that makes the truth,
But the plain single vow that is vowed true.
What is not holy, that we swear not by,
But take the high'st to witness; then pray you, tell me,
If I should swear by Jove's great attributes
I loved you dearly, would you believe my oaths

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When I did love you ill? This has no holding,
To swear by him whom I protest to love
That I will work against him. Therefore your oaths 30
Are words and poor conditions but unsealed,
At least in my opinion.

BERTRAM Change it, change it.
Be not so holy-cruel. Love is holy,
And my integrity ne'er knew the crafts
That you do charge men with. Stand no more off, 35
But give thyself unto my sick desires,
Who then recovers. Say thou art mine, and ever
My love as it begins shall so persevere.

DIANA
I see that men make toys e'en such a surance
That we'll forsake ourselves. Give me that ring. 40

BERTRAM
I'll lend it thee, my dear, but have no power
To give it from me.

DIANA Will you not, my lord?

BERTRAM
It is an honour 'longing to our house,
BequeatheÁd down from many ancestors,
Which were the greatest obloquy i'th' world 45
In me to lose.

DIANA Mine honour's such a ring.
My chastity's the jewel of our house,
BequeatheÁd down from many ancestors,
Which were the greatest obloquy i'th' world
In me to lose. Thus your own proper wisdom 50
Brings in the champion Honour on my part
Against your vain assault.

BERTRAM Here, take my ring.
My house, mine honour, yea my life be thine,
And I'll be bid by thee.

DIANA
When midnight comes, knock at my chamber window. 55
I'll order take my mother shall not hear.
Now will I charge you in the bond of truth,
When you have conquered my yet maiden bed,
Remain there but an hour, nor speak to me±±

My reasons are most strong, and you shall know them 60
When back again this ring shall be delivered±±
And on your finger in the night I'll put
Another ring that, what in time proceeds,
May token to the future our past deeds.
Adieu till then; then, fail not. You have won 65
A wife of me, though there my hope be done.

BERTRAM

A heaven on earth I have won by wooing thee.

DIANA

For which live long to thank both heaven and me.
You may so in the end.

[Exit Bertram]

My mother told me just how he would woo, 70
As if she sat in's heart. She says all men
Have the like oaths. He had sworn to marry me
When his wife's dead; therefore I'll lie with him
When I am buried. Since Frenchmen are so braid,
Marry that will; I live and die a maid. 75
Only, in this disguise I think't no sin
To cozen him that would unjustly win.

Exit