

All's Well That Ends Well

4.4

Enter Helen, the Widow, and Diana

HELEN

That you may well perceive I have not wronged you,
One of the greatest in the Christian world
Shall be my surety; fore whose throne 'tis needful,
Ere I can perfect mine intents, to kneel.
Time was, I did him a desire—Ad office 5
Dear almost as his life; which gratitude
Through flinty Tartar's bosom would peep forth
And answer 'Thanks'. I duly am informed
His grace is at Marseilles, to which place
We have convenient convoy. You must know 10
I am suppose—Ad dead. The army breaking,
My husband hies him home, where, heaven aiding,
And by the leave of my good lord the King,
We'll be before our welcome.

WIDOW

Gentle madam,

You never had a servant to whose trust 15
Your business was more welcome.

HELEN

Nor you, mistress,

Ever a friend whose thoughts more truly labour
To recompense your love. Doubt not but heaven
Hath brought me up to be your daughter's dower,
As it hath fated her to be my motive 20
And helper to a husband. But O, strange men,
That can such sweet use make of what they hate,
When saucy trusting of the cozened thoughts
Defiles the pitchy night; so lust doth play
With what it loathes, for that which is away. 25
But more of this hereafter. You, Diana,
Under my poor instructions yet must suffer
Something in my behalf.

DIANA

Let death and honesty

Go with your impositions, I am yours,
Upon your will to suffer.

HELEN

Yet, I pray you.±± 30

But with that word the time will bring on summer,
When briers shall have leaves as well as thorns
And be as sweet as sharp. We must away,
Our wagon is prepared, and time revives us.
All's well that ends well; still the fine's the crown. 35
Whate'er the course, the end is the renown.
Exeunt