

Much Ado About Nothing

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Enter Don John and Borachio

DON JOHN It is so. The Count Claudio shall marry the daughter of Leonato.

BORACHIO Yea, my lord, but I can cross it.

DON JOHN Any bar, any cross, any impediment will be
medicinal to me. I am sick in displeasure to him, and 5
whatsoever comes athwart his affection ranges evenly
with mine. How canst thou cross this marriage?

BORACHIO Not honestly, my lord, but so covertly that no
dishonesty shall appear in me.

DON JOHN Show me briefly how. 10

BORACHIO I think I told your lordship a year since how
much I am in the favour of Margaret, the waiting
gentlewoman to Hero.

DON JOHN I remember.

BORACHIO I can at any unseasonable instant of the night 15
appoint her to look out at her lady's chamber window.

DON JOHN What life is in that to be the death of this
marriage?

BORACHIO The poison of that lies in you to temper. Go
you to the Prince your brother. Spare not to tell him 20
that he hath wronged his honour in marrying the
renowned Claudio±±whose estimation do you mightily
hold up±±to a contaminated stale, such a one as Hero.

DON JOHN What proof shall I make of that?

BORACHIO Proof enough to misuse the Prince, to vex 25
Claudio, to undo Hero, and kill Leonato. Look you for
any other issue?

DON JOHN Only to despite them I will endeavour anything.

BORACHIO Go then. Find me a meet hour to draw Don
Pedro and the Count Claudio alone. Tell them that you 30
know that Hero loves me. Intend a kind of zeal both
to the Prince and Claudio as in love of your brother's
honour who hath made this match, and his friend's
reputation who is thus like to be cozened with the
semblance of a maid, that you have discovered thus. 35

They will scarcely believe this without trial. Offer them instances, which shall bear no less likelihood than to see me at her chamber window, hear me call Margaret Hero, hear Margaret term me Claudio. And bring them to see this the very night before the intended wedding, for in the mean time I will so fashion the matter that Hero shall be absent, and there shall appear such seeming truth of Hero's disloyalty that jealousy shall be called assurance, and all the preparation over-thrown.

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DON JOHN Grow this to what adverse issue it can, I will put it in practice. Be cunning in the working this, and thy fee is a thousand ducats.

BORACHIO Be you constant in the accusation, and my cunning shall not shame me.

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DON JOHN I will presently go learn their day of marriage.

Exeunt