

# Twelfth Night, or What You Will

## 2.2

*Enter Viola as Cesario, and Malvolio, at several doors*

**MALVOLIO** Were not you ev'n now with the Countess Olivia?

**VIOLA** Even now, sir, on a moderate pace, I have since arrived but hither.

**MALVOLIO** (*offering a ring*) She returns this ring to you, 5  
sir. You might have saved me my pains to have taken it away yourself. She adds, moreover, that you should put your lord into a desperate assurance she will none of him. And one thing more: that you be never so hardy to come again in his affairs, unless it be to report 10  
your lord's taking of this. Receive it so.

**VIOLA**

She took the ring of me. I'll none of it.

**MALVOLIO** Come, sir, you peevishly threw it to her, and her will is it should be so returned.

*He throws the ring down*

If it be worth stooping for, there it lies, in your eye; if 15  
not, be it his that finds it.

*Exit*

**VIOLA** (*picking up the ring*)

I left no ring with her. What means this lady?

Fortune forbid my outside have not charmed her.

She made good view of me, indeed so much

That straight methought her eyes had lost her tongue, 20

For she did speak in starts, distractedly.

She loves me, sure. The cunning of her passion

Invites me in this churlish messenger.

None of my lord's ring! Why, he sent her none.

I am the man. If it be so±±as 'tis±± 25

Poor lady, she were better love a dream!

Disguise, I see thou art a wickedness

Wherein the pregnant enemy does much.

How easy is it for the proper false

In women's waxen hearts to set their forms!

Alas, our frailty is the cause, not we,  
For such as we are made of, such we be.  
How will this fadge? My master loves her dearly,  
And I, poor monster, fond as much on him,  
And she, mistaken, seems to dote on me.  
What will become of this? As I am man,  
My state is desperate for my master's love.  
As I am woman, now, alas the day,  
What thriftless sighs shall poor Olivia breathe!  
O time, thou must untangle this, not I.  
It is too hard a knot for me t'untie.

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*Exit*