

## THE TWO GENTLEMEN OF VERONA

By William Shakespeare

Dramatis Personae.

DUKE of Milan, father to Silvia.

VALENTINE, }  
PROTEUS, } the two Gentlemen.

ANTONIO, father to Proteus.

THURIO, a foolish rival to Valentine.  
EGLAMOUR, agent for Silvia in her escape.

HOST, where Julia lodges.

1st OUTLAW, }  
2nd OUTLAW, }  
3rd OUTLAW, } with Valentine.  
Other Outlaws, }

SPEED, a clownish servant to Valentine.  
LAUNCE, the like to Proteus.

PANTHINO, servant to Antonio.

JULIA, beloved of Proteus, sometimes disguised as a boy named Sebastian.  
SILVIA, beloved of Valentine.  
LUCETTA, waiting-woman to Julia.

A SERVANT, to the Duke.  
Ursula, an attendant to Silvia.  
Musicians.  
Launce's dog Crab.

Scene: Verona, Milan, and the frontiers of Mantua.

+++ +++ +++ +++ +++ +++

ACT 1.

Scene 1. Verona. An open Place.

Enter VALENTINE and PROTEUS.

Valentine Cease to persuade, my loving Proteus;  
Home-keeping youth have ever homely wits.  
Were't not affection chains thy tender days  
To the sweet glances of thy honoured love,  
I rather would entreat thy company  
To see the wonders of the world abroad  
Than, living dully sluggardized at home,  
Wear out thy youth with shapeless idleness.  
But since thou lov'st, love still, and thrive therein,  
Even as I would, when I to love begin.

Proteus Wilt thou be gone? Sweet Valentine, adieu!  
Think on thy Proteus when thou haply seest  
Some rare noteworthy object in thy travel.  
Wish me partaker in thy happiness  
When thou dost meet good hap; and in thy danger,  
If ever danger do environ thee,  
Commend thy grievance to my holy prayers,  
For I will be thy beadsman, Valentine.

Valentine And on a love-book pray for my success?

Proteus Upon some book I love, I'll pray for thee.

Valentine That's on some shallow story of deep love,  
How young Leander crossed the Hellespont.

Proteus That's a deep story of a deeper love,  
For he was more than over shoes in love.

Valentine 'Tis true, for you are over boots in love,  
And yet you never swum the Hellespont.

Proteus Over the boots? Nay, give me not the boots.

Valentine No, I will not, for it boots thee not.

Proteus

What?

Valentine To be in love, where scorn is bought with groans,  
Coy looks with heart-sore sighs, one fading moment's mirth,  
With twenty watchful, weary, tedious nights.  
If haply won, perhaps a hapless gain;  
If lost, why then a grievous labour won;  
However, but a folly bought with wit,  
Or else a wit by folly vanquished.

Proteus So, by your circumstance, you call me fool.

Valentine So, by your circumstance, I fear you'll prove.

Proteus 'Tis love you cavil at: I am not Love.

Valentine Love is your master, for he masters you;  
And he that is so yoked by a fool  
Methinks should not be chronicled for wise.

Proteus Yet writers say "As in the sweetest bud  
The eating canker dwells, so eating love  
Inhabits in the finest wits of all".

Valentine And writers say "As the most forward bud  
Is eaten by the canker ere it blow,  
Even so by love the young and tender wit  
Is turned to folly, blasting in the bud,  
Losing his verdure even in the prime,  
And all the fair effects of future hopes".  
But wherefore waste I time to counsel thee  
That art a votary to fond desire?  
Once more adieu. My father at the road  
Expects my coming, there to see me shipped.

Proteus And thither will I bring thee, Valentine.

Valentine Sweet Proteus, no. Now let us take our leave.  
To Milan let me hear from thee by letters  
Of thy success in love, and what news else  
Betideth here in absence of thy friend;  
And I likewise will visit thee with mine.

Proteus All happiness bechance to thee in Milan.

Valentine As much to you at home; and so farewell.  
[Exit.

Proteus He after honour hunts, I after love.  
He leaves his friends to dignify them more,  
I leave myself, my friends, and all, for love.

Thou, Julia, thou hast metamorphosed me,  
Made me neglect my studies, lose my time,  
War with good counsel, set the world at naught;  
Made wit with musing weak, heart sick with thought.

Enter SPEED.

Speed Sir Proteus, save you! Saw you my master?

Proteus But now he parted hence to embark for Milan.

Speed Twenty to one, then, he is shipped already,  
And I have played the sheep in losing him.

Proteus Indeed, a sheep doth very often stray,  
An if the shepherd be a while away.

Speed You conclude that my master is a shepherd then, and I a sheep.

Proteus I do.

Speed Why, then my horns are his horns, whether I wake or sleep.

Proteus A silly answer, and fitting well a sheep.

Speed This proves me still a sheep.

Proteus True, and thy master a shepherd.

Speed Nay, that I can deny by circumstance.

Proteus It shall go hard but I'll prove it by another.

Speed The shepherd seeks the sheep, and not the sheep the shepherd. But I seek my master, and my master seeks not me: therefore I am no sheep.

Proteus The sheep for fodder follow the shepherd, the shepherd for food follows not the sheep. Thou for wages followest thy master, thy master for wages follows not thee: therefore thou art a sheep.

Speed Such another proof will make me cry `baa'.

Proteus But dost thou hear? Gav'st thou my letter to Julia?

Speed Ay, sir; I, a lost mutton, gave your letter to her, a laced mutton, and she, a laced mutton, gave me, a lost mutton, nothing for my labour.

Proteus Here's too small a pasture for such store of muttons.

Speed If the ground be overcharged, you were best stick her.

Proteus Nay, in that you are astray; 'twere best pound you.

Speed Nay, sir, less than a pound shall serve me for carrying your letter.

Proteus You mistake; I mean the pound, a pifold.

Speed From a pound to a pin? Fold it over and over,  
'Tis threefold too little for carrying a letter to your lover.

Proteus But what said she?

Speed [Nodding.] Ay.

Proteus Nod-ay? Why, that's `noddy'.

Speed You mistook, sir. I say she did nod, and you ask me if she did nod, and I say `Ay'.

Proteus And that set together is `noddy'.

Speed Now you have taken the pains to set it together, take it for your pains.

Proteus No, no, you shall have it for bearing the letter.

Speed Well, I perceive I must be fain to bear with you.

Proteus Why, sir, how do you bear with me?

Speed Marry, sir, the letter very orderly, having nothing but the word `noddy' for my pains.

Proteus Beshrew me, but you have a quick wit.

Speed And yet it cannot overtake your slow purse.

Proteus Come, come, open the matter in brief: what said she?

Speed Open your purse, that the money and the matter may be both at once delivered.

Proteus [Giving money.] Well, sir, here is for your pains. What said she?

Speed Truly, sir, I think you'll hardly win her.

Proteus Why, couldst thou perceive so much from her?

Speed Sir, I could perceive nothing at all from her; no, not so much as a ducat for delivering your letter. And being so hard to me that brought your mind, I fear she'll prove as hard to you in telling your mind. Give her no token but stones, for she's as hard as steel.

Proteus What said she? Nothing?

Speed No, not so much as 'Take this for thy pains'. To testify your bounty, I thank you, you have testerned me; in requital whereof, henceforth carry your letters yourself. And so, sir, I'll commend you to my master.

[Exit.

Proteus Go, go, be gone, to save your ship from wrack,  
Which cannot perish having thee aboard,  
Being destined to a drier death on shore.  
I must go send some better messenger.  
I fear my Julia would not deign my lines,  
Receiving them from such a worthless post.

[Exit.

+ + + + +

Scene 2. Verona. The Garden of Julia's House.

Enter JULIA and LUCETTA.

Julia But say, Lucetta, now we are alone,  
Wouldst thou then counsel me to fall in love?

Lucetta Ay, madam, so you stumble not unheedfully.

Julia Of all the fair resort of gentlemen  
That every day with parle encounter me,  
In thy opinion which is worthiest love?

Lucetta Please you repeat their names, I'll show my mind  
According to my shallow simple skill.

Julia What think'st thou of the fair Sir Eglamour?

Lucetta As of a knight well spoken, neat, and fine,  
But were I you, he never should be mine.

Julia What think'st thou of the rich Mercatio?

Lucetta Well of his wealth, but of himself, so so.

Julia What think'st thou of the gentle Proteus?

Lucetta Lord, Lord, to see what folly reigns in us!

Julia How now, what means this passion at his name?

Lucetta Pardon, dear madam, 'tis a passing shame  
That I, unworthy body as I am,  
Should censure thus on lovely gentlemen.

Julia Why not on Proteus, as of all the rest?

Lucetta Then thus: of many good, I think him best.

Julia Your reason?

Lucetta I have no other but a woman's reason.  
I think him so, because I think him so.

Julia And wouldst thou have me cast my love on him?

Lucetta Ay, if you thought your love not cast away.

Julia Why, he of all the rest hath never moved me.

Lucetta Yet he of all the rest I think best loves ye.

Julia His little speaking shows his love but small.

Lucetta Fire that's closest kept burns most of all.

Julia They do not love that do not show their love.

Lucetta O, they love least that let men know their love.

Julia I would I knew his mind.

Lucetta [Giving a letter.] Peruse this paper, madam.

Julia [Reads.] "To Julia" -say, from whom?

Lucetta That the contents will show.

Julia Say, say; who gave it thee?

Lucetta Sir Valentine's page; and sent, I think, from Proteus.  
He would have given it you, but I, being in the way,  
Did in your name receive it: -pardon the fault, I pray.

Julia Now, by my modesty, a goodly broker!  
Dare you presume to harbour wanton lines?  
To whisper and conspire against my youth?  
Now trust me, 'tis an office of great worth,  
And you an officer fit for the place.  
There, take the paper; see it be returned,  
Or else return no more into my sight.

Lucetta To plead for love deserves more fee than hate.

Julia Will ye be gone?



Lucetta That I might sing it, madam, to a tune.  
Give me a note: your ladyship can set.

Julia As little by such toys as may be possible.  
Best sing it to the tune of `Light o' Love'.

Lucetta It is too heavy for so light a tune.

Julia Heavy! Belike it hath some burden, then?

Lucetta Ay, and melodious were it, would you sing it.

Julia And why not you?

Lucetta I cannot reach so high.

Julia Let's see your song.  
[LUCETTA withholds the letter.  
How now, minion?

Lucetta Keep tune there still, so you will sing it out.  
[JULIA strikes her.  
And yet methinks I do not like this tune.

Julia You do not?

Lucetta No, madam, 'tis too sharp.

Julia You, minion, are too saucy.

Lucetta Nay, now you are too flat,  
And mar the concord with too harsh a descant.  
There wanteth but a mean to fill your song.

Julia The mean is drowned with your unruly bass.

Lucetta Indeed I bid the base for Proteus.

Julia This babble shall not henceforth trouble me.  
Here is a coil with protestation.  
[She tears the letter.  
Go, get you gone, and let the papers lie.  
You would be fing'ring them, to anger me.

Lucetta [Aside.]  
She makes it strange, but she would be best pleased  
To be so angered with another letter.

[Exit.

Julia [Gathering up pieces of the letter.]  
Nay, would I were so angered with the same.  
O hateful hands, to tear such loving words!

Injurious wasps, to feed on such sweet honey  
And kill the bees that yield it, with your stings!  
I'll kiss each several paper for amends.  
Look, here is writ "Kind Julia" -unkind Julia!  
As in revenge of thy ingratitude  
I throw thy name against the bruising stones,  
Trampling contemptuously on thy disdain.  
And here is writ `love-wounded Proteus'.  
Poor wounded name; my bosom, as a bed,  
Shall lodge thee till thy wound be thoroughly healed;  
And thus I search it with a sovereign kiss.  
But twice or thrice was `Proteus' written down.  
Be calm, good wind, blow not a word away  
Till I have found each letter in the letter,  
Except mine own name; that some whirlwind bear  
Unto a ragged, fearful, hanging rock,  
And throw it thence into the raging sea.  
Lo, here in one line is his name twice writ:  
`Poor forlorn Proteus', `passionate Proteus'.  
`To the sweet Julia' -that I'll tear away;  
And yet I will not, sith so prettily  
He couples it to his complaining names.  
Thus will I fold them, one upon another.  
Now kiss, embrace, contend, do what you will.

Re-enter LUCETTA.

Lucetta Madam, dinner is ready, and your father stays.

Julia Well, let us go.

Lucetta What, shall these papers lie like tell-tales here?

Julia If you respect them, best to take them up.

Lucetta Nay, I was taken up for laying them down.

Yet here they shall not lie, for catching cold.  
[She gathers the remaining pieces of the letter.

Julia I see you have a month's mind to them.

Lucetta Ay, madam, you may say what sights you see;  
I see things too, although you judge I wink.

Julia Come, come, will't please you go?  
[Exeunt.

+ + + + +

Scene 3. Verona. A Room in Antonio's House.

Enter ANTONIO and PANTHINO.

Antonio Tell me, Panthino, what sad talk was that  
Wherewith my brother held you in the cloister?

Panthino 'Twas of his nephew Proteus, your son.

Antonio Why, what of him?

Panthino He wondered that your lordship  
Would suffer him to spend his youth at home  
While other men, of slender reputation,  
Put forth their sons, to seek preferment out:  
Some to the wars, to try their fortune there,  
Some to discover islands far away,  
Some to the studious universities.  
For any or for all these exercises  
He said that Proteus your son was meet,  
And did request me to importune you  
To let him spend his time no more at home,  
Which would be great impeachment to his age,  
In having known no travel in his youth.

Antonio Nor need'st thou much importune me to that  
Whereon this month I have been hammering.  
I have considered well his loss of time,  
And how he cannot be a perfect man  
Not being tried and tutored in the world.  
Experience is by industry achieved,  
And perfected by the swift course of time.  
Then tell me, whither were I best to send him?

Panthino I think your lordship is not ignorant  
How his companion, youthful Valentine,  
Attends the emperor in his royal court.

Antonio I know it well.

Panthino 'Twere good, I think, your lordship sent him thither.  
There shall he practise tilts and tournaments,  
Hear sweet discourse, converse with noblemen,  
And be in eye of every exercise  
Worthy his youth and nobleness of birth.

Antonio I like thy counsel. Well hast thou advised,  
And, that thou mayst perceive how well I like it,  
The execution of it shall make known.  
Even with the speediest expedition  
I will dispatch him to the emperor's court.

Panthino Tomorrow, may it please you, Don Alphonso,  
With other gentlemen of good esteem,  
Are journeying to salute the emperor  
And to commend their service to his will.

Antonio Good company; with them shall Proteus go.

Enter PROTEUS, reading a letter.

And in good time, now will we break with him.

Proteus [Aside.] Sweet love, sweet lines, sweet life!  
Here is her hand, the agent of her heart;  
Here is her oath for love, her honour's pawn.  
O that our fathers would applaud our loves,  
To seal our happiness with their consents!  
O heavenly Julia!

Antonio How now! What letter are you reading there?

Proteus May't please your lordship, 'tis a word or two  
Of commendations sent from Valentine,  
Delivered by a friend that came from him.

Antonio Lend me the letter; let me see what news.

Proteus There is no news, my lord, but that he writes  
How happily he lives, how well-beloved  
And daily graced by the Emperor,  
Wishing me with him, partner of his fortune.

Antonio And how stand you affected to his wish?

Proteus As one relying on your lordship's will,  
And not depending on his friendly wish.

Antonio My will is something sorted with his wish.  
Muse not that I thus suddenly proceed,  
For what I will, I will, and there an end.  
I am resolved that thou shalt spend some time  
With Valentinus in the emperor's court.  
What maintenance he from his friends receives,  
Like exhibition thou shalt have from me.  
Tomorrow be in readiness to go.  
Excuse it not, for I am peremptory.

Proteus My lord, I cannot be so soon provided.  
Please you, deliberate a day or two.

Antonio Look what thou want'st shall be sent after thee.

No more of stay; tomorrow thou must go.  
Come on, Panthino, you shall be employed  
To hasten on his expedition.

[Exeunt ANTONIO and PANTHINO.]

Proteus Thus have I shunned the fire for fear of burning,  
And drenched me in the sea where I am drowned.  
I feared to show my father Julia's letter  
Lest he should take exceptions to my love,  
And with the vantage of mine own excuse  
Hath he excepted most against my love.  
O, how this spring of love resembleth  
The uncertain glory of an April day,  
Which now shows all the beauty of the sun,  
And by and by a cloud takes all away.

Re-enter PANTHINO.

Panthino Sir Proteus, your father calls for you;  
He is in haste, therefore I pray you go.

Proteus Why, this it is; my heart accords thereto,  
And yet a thousand times it answers `No'.  
[Exeunt.]

+++ +++ +++ +++ +++ +++

ACT 2.

Scene 1. Milan. A Room in the Duke's Palace.

Enter VALENTINE and SPEED.

Speed Sir, your glove.

Valentine Not mine; my gloves are on.

Speed Why, then this may be yours, for this is but one.

Valentine Ha! Let me see. Ay, give it me, it's mine.  
Sweet ornament, that decks a thing divine.  
Ah, Silvia, Silvia!

Speed [Calling.] Madam Silvia! Madam Silvia!

Valentine How now, sirrah?

Speed She is not within hearing, sir.

Valentine Why, sir, who bade you call her?

Speed Your worship, sir, or else I mistook.

Valentine Well, you'll still be too forward.

Speed And yet I was last chidden for being too slow.

Valentine Go to, sir; tell me, do you know Madam Silvia?

Speed She that your worship loves?

Valentine Why, how know you that I am in love?

Speed Marry, by these special marks: first, you have learned, like Sir Proteus, to wreath your arms like a malcontent; to relish a love-song like a robin redbreast; to walk alone like one that had the pestilence; to sigh like a schoolboy that had lost his ABC; to weep like a young wench that had buried her grandam; to fast like one that takes diet; to watch like one that fears robbing; to speak puling like a beggar at Hallowmas. You were wont, when you laughed, to crow like a cock; when you walked, to walk like one of the lions; when you fasted, it was presently after dinner; when you looked sadly, it was for want of money. And now you are metamorphosed with a mistress, that when I look on you, I can hardly think you my master.

Valentine Are all these things perceived in me?

Speed They are all perceived without ye.

Valentine Without me? They cannot.

Speed Without you? Nay, that's certain, for without you were so simple, none else would. But you are so without these follies that these follies are within you, and shine through you like the water in a urinal, that not an eye that sees you but is a physician to comment on your malady.

Valentine But tell me, dost thou know my lady Silvia?

Speed She that you gaze on so as she sits at supper?

Valentine Hast thou observed that? Even she, I mean.

Speed Why, sir, I know her not.

Valentine Dost thou know her by my gazing on her, and yet know'st her not?

Speed Is she not hard-favoured, sir?

Valentine Not so fair, boy, as well-favoured.

Speed Sir, I know that well enough.

Valentine What dost thou know?

Speed That she is not so fair as, of you, well-favoured.

Valentine I mean that her beauty is exquisite but her favour infinite.

Speed That's because the one is painted and the other out of all count.

Valentine How painted? And how out of count?

Speed Marry, sir, so painted to make her fair that no man counts of her beauty.

Valentine How esteem'st thou me? I account of her beauty.

Speed You never saw her since she was deformed.

Valentine How long hath she been deformed?

Speed Ever since you loved her.

Valentine I have loved her ever since I saw her, and still I see her beautiful.

Speed If you love her you cannot see her.

Valentine Why?

Speed Because Love is blind. O, that you had mine eyes, or your own eyes had the lights they were wont to have when you chid at Sir Proteus for going ungartered.

Valentine What should I see then?

Speed Your own present folly and her passing deformity; for he, being in love, could not see to garter his hose; and you, being in love, cannot see to put on your hose.

Valentine Belike, boy, then you are in love, for last morning you could not see to wipe my shoes.

Speed True, sir; I was in love with my bed. I thank you, you swunged me for my love, which makes me the bolder to chide you for yours.

Valentine In conclusion, I stand affected to her.

Speed I would you were set, so your affection would cease.

Valentine Last night she enjoined me to write some lines to one she loves.

Speed And have you?

Valentine I have.

Speed Are they not lamely writ?

Valentine No, boy, but as well as I can do them.

Enter SILVIA.

Peace, here she comes.

Speed [Aside.] O excellent motion! O exceeding puppet! Now will he interpret to her.

Valentine Madam and mistress, a thousand good morrows.

Speed [Aside.] O, give ye good e'en! Here's a million of manners.

Silvia Sir Valentine and servant, to you two thousand.

Speed [Aside.] He should give her interest, and she gives it him.

Valentine As you enjoined me, I have writ your letter  
Unto the secret, nameless friend of yours,  
Which I was much unwilling to proceed in  
But for my duty to your ladyship.  
[Giving her a letter.

Silvia I thank you, gentle servant. 'Tis very clerkly done.

Valentine Now trust me, madam, it came hardly off,  
For, being ignorant to whom it goes,  
I writ at random, very doubtfully.

Silvia Perchance you think too much of so much pains?

Valentine No, madam; so it stead you I will write,  
Please you command, a thousand times as much.  
And yet -

Silvia A pretty period. Well, I guess the sequel;  
And yet I will not name it; and yet I care not.  
And yet, take this again. And yet I thank you,  
Meaning henceforth to trouble you no more.

Speed [Aside.] And yet you will, and yet another `yet'.

Valentine What means your ladyship? Do you not like it?

Silvia Yes, yes; the lines are very quaintly writ,  
But, since unwillingly, take them again.  
Nay, take them.

Valentine [Returning the letter.] Madam, they are for you.

Silvia Ay, ay; you writ them, sir, at my request,  
But I will none of them. They are for you;  
I would have had them writ more movingly.

Valentine Please you, I'll write your ladyship another.

Silvia And when it's writ, for my sake read it over,  
And if it please you, so; if not, why, so.

Valentine If it please me, madam, what then?

Silvia Why, if it please you, take it for your labour.  
And so good morrow, servant.

[Exit.

Speed O jest unseen, inscrutable, invisible  
As a nose on a man's face, or a weathercock on a steeple!  
My master sues to her, and she hath taught her suitor,  
He being her pupil, to become her tutor.  
O excellent device! Was there ever heard a better?  
That my master, being scribe, to himself should write the letter?

Valentine How now, sir; what are you reasoning with yourself?

Speed Nay, I was rhyming; 'tis you that have the reason.

Valentine To do what?

Speed To be a spokesman from Madam Silvia.

Valentine To whom?

Speed To yourself. Why, she woos you by a figure.

Valentine What figure?

Speed By a letter, I should say.

Valentine Why, she hath not writ to me.

Speed What need she, when she hath made you write to yourself? Why, do you not perceive the jest?

Valentine No, believe me.

Speed No believing you, indeed, sir. But did you perceive her earnest?

Valentine She gave me none, except an angry word.

Speed Why, she hath given you a letter.

Valentine That's the letter I writ to her friend.

Speed And that letter hath she delivered, and there an end.

Valentine I would it were no worse.

Speed I'll warrant you, 'tis as well.

For often have you writ to her, and she, in modesty,  
Or else for want of idle time, could not again reply,  
Or fearing else some messenger that might her mind discover,  
Herself hath taught her love himself to write unto her lover.  
All this I speak in print, for in print I found it.  
Why muse you, sir? 'Tis dinner-time.

Valentine I have dined.

Speed Ay, but hearken, sir: though the chameleon Love can feed on the air,  
I am one that am nourished by my victuals, and would fain have meat. O, be not  
like your mistress, be moved, be moved.  
[Exeunt.

+ + + + +

Scene 2. Verona. A Room in Julia's House.

Enter PROTEUS and JULIA.

Proteus Have patience, gentle Julia.

Julia I must where is no remedy.

Proteus When possibly I can, I will return.

Julia If you turn not, you will return the sooner.  
Keep this remembrance for thy Julia's sake.  
[Giving him a ring.

Proteus Why, then we'll make exchange. Here, take you this.  
[Giving her a ring.

Julia And seal the bargain with a holy kiss.

Proteus Here is my hand, for my true constancy;  
And when that hour o'erslips me in the day  
Wherein I sigh not, Julia, for thy sake,  
The next ensuing hour some foul mischance  
Torment me for my love's forgetfulness.  
My father stays my coming. Answer not.  
The tide is now; nay, not thy tide of tears,  
That tide will stay me longer than I should.  
Julia, farewell.

[Exit JULIA.

What, gone without a word?

Ay, so true love should do: it cannot speak,  
For truth hath better deeds than words to grace it.

Enter PANTHINO.

Panthino Sir Proteus, you are stayed for.

Proteus Go; I come, I come.  
Alas, this parting strikes poor lovers dumb.  
[Exeunt.]

+ + + + +

Scene 3. Verona. A Street.

Enter LAUNCE, leading his dog Crab.

Launce Nay, 'twill be this hour ere I have done weeping. All the kind of the Launces have this very fault. I have received my proportion, like the prodigious son, and am going with Sir Proteus to the imperial's court. I think Crab my dog be the sourest-natured dog that lives -my mother weeping, my father wailing, my sister crying, our maid howling, our cat wringing her hands, and all our house in a great perplexity, yet did not this cruel-hearted cur shed one tear. He is a stone, a very pebble stone, and has no more pity in him than a dog. A Jew would have wept to have seen our parting. Why, my grandam, having no eyes, look you, wept herself blind at my parting. Nay, I'll show you the manner of it. This shoe is my father. No, this left shoe is my father. No, no, this left shoe is my mother. Nay, that cannot be so neither. Yes, it is so, it is so; it hath the worsor sole. This shoe with the hole in it is my mother, and this my father. A vengeance on't, there 'tis. Now, sir, this staff is my sister, for, look you, she is as white as a lily and as small as a wand. This hat is Nan our maid. I am the dog. No, the dog is himself, and I am the dog. O, the dog is me, and I am myself. Ay, so, so. Now come I to my father: 'Father, your blessing.' Now should not the shoe speak a word for weeping. Now should I kiss my father; well, he weeps on. Now come I to my mother. O that she could speak now, like a wood woman! Well, I kiss her. Why, there 'tis: -here's my mother's breath up and down. Now come I to my sister -mark the moan she makes. Now the dog all this while sheds not a tear nor speaks a word; but see how I lay the dust with my tears.

Enter PANTHINO.

Panthino Launce, away, away, aboard! Thy master is shipped, and thou art to post after with oars. What's the matter? Why weep'st thou, man? Away, ass, you'll lose the tide if you tarry any longer.

Launce It is no matter if the tied were lost, for it is the unkindest tied that ever any man tied.

Panthino What's the unkindest tide?

Launce Why, he that's tied here, Crab my dog.

Panthino Tut, man. I mean thou'lt lose the flood, and in losing the flood, lose thy voyage, and in losing thy voyage, lose thy master, and in losing thy master, lose thy service, and in losing thy service -why dost thou stop my mouth?

Launce For fear thou shouldst lose thy tongue.

Panthino Where should I lose my tongue?

Launce In thy tale.

Panthino In thy tail!

Launce Lose the tide, and the voyage, and the master, and the service, and the tied? Why, man, if the river were dry, I am able to fill it with my tears; if the wind were down, I could drive the boat with my sighs.

Panthino Come, come away, man. I was sent to call thee.

Launce Sir, call me what thou dar'st.

Panthino Wilt thou go?

Launce Well, I will go.  
[Exeunt.

+ + + + +

Scene 4. Milan. A Room in the Duke's Palace.

Enter VALENTINE, SILVIA, THURIO, and SPEED.

Silvia Servant!

Valentine Mistress?

Speed Master, Sir Thurio frowns on you.

Valentine Ay, boy, it's for love.

Speed Not of you.

Valentine Of my mistress, then.

Speed 'Twere good you knocked him.  
[Exit.

Silvia Servant, you are sad.

Valentine Indeed, madam, I seem so.

Thurio Seem you that you are not?

Valentine Haply I do.

Thurio So do counterfeits.

Valentine So do you.

Thurio What seem I that I am not?

Valentine Wise.

Thurio What instance of the contrary?

Valentine Your folly.

Thurio And how quote you my folly?

Valentine I quote it in your jerkin.

Thurio My jerkin is a doublet.

Valentine Well, then I'll double your folly.

Thurio How!

Silvia What, angry, Sir Thurio? Do you change colour?

Valentine Give him leave, madam, he is a kind of chameleon.

Thurio That hath more mind to feed on your blood than live in your air.

Valentine You have said, sir.

Thurio Ay, sir; and done too, for this time.

Valentine I know it well, sir, you always end ere you begin.

Silvia A fine volley of words, gentlemen, and quickly shot off.

Valentine 'Tis indeed, madam; we thank the giver.

Silvia Who is that, servant?

Valentine Yourself, sweet lady, for you gave the fire. Sir Thurio borrows his wit from your ladyship's looks, and spends what he borrows kindly in your company.

Thurio Sir, if you spend word for word with me I shall make your wit bankrupt.

Valentine I know it well, sir. You have an exchequer of words, and, I think, no other treasure to give your followers, for it appears by their bare liveries that they live by your bare words.

Silvia No more, gentlemen, no more. Here comes my father.

Enter DUKE.

Duke Now, daughter Silvia, you are hard beset.  
Sir Valentine, your father is in good health.  
What say you to a letter from your friends  
Of much good news?

Valentine My lord, I will be thankful  
To any happy messenger from thence.

Duke Know ye Don Antonio, your countryman?

Valentine Ay, my good lord, I know the gentleman  
To be of worth and worthy estimation,  
And not without desert so well reputed.

Duke Hath he not a son?

Valentine Ay, my good lord, a son that well deserves  
The honour and regard of such a father.

Duke You know him well?

Valentine I knew him as myself, for from our infancy  
We have conversed, and spent our hours together;  
And though myself have been an idle truant,  
Omitting the sweet benefit of time  
To clothe mine age with angel-like perfection,  
Yet hath Sir Proteus, for that's his name,  
Made use and fair advantage of his days:  
His years but young, but his experience old;  
His head unmellowed, but his judgment ripe;  
And, in a word -for far behind his worth  
Comes all the praises that I now bestow -  
He is complete in feature and in mind,  
With all good grace to grace a gentleman.

Duke Beshrew me, sir, but if he make this good  
He is as worthy for an empress' love  
As meet to be an emperor's counsellor.  
Well, sir, this gentleman is come to me  
With commendation from great potentates,  
And here he means to spend his time awhile.  
I think 'tis no unwelcome news to you.

Valentine Should I have wished a thing, it had been he.

Duke Welcome him, then, according to his worth.

Silvia, I speak to you, and you, Sir Thurio;

For Valentine, I need not cite him to it.

I will send him hither to you presently.

[Exit.

Valentine This is the gentleman I told your ladyship

Had come along with me but that his mistress

Did hold his eyes locked in her crystal looks.

Silvia Belike that now she hath enfranchised them

Upon some other pawn for fealty.

Valentine Nay, sure, I think she holds them prisoners still.

Silvia Nay, then he should be blind, and, being blind,

How could he see his way to seek out you?

Valentine Why, lady, Love hath twenty pair of eyes.

Thurio They say that Love hath not an eye at all.

Valentine To see such lovers, Thurio, as yourself;

Upon a homely object Love can wink.

Enter PROTEUS.

Silvia Have done, have done. Here comes the gentleman.

Valentine Welcome, dear Proteus. Mistress, I beseech you,

Confirm his welcome with some special favour.

Silvia His worth is warrant for his welcome hither,

If this be he you oft have wished to hear from.

Valentine Mistress, it is. Sweet lady, entertain him

To be my fellow-servant to your ladyship.

Silvia Too low a mistress for so high a servant.

Proteus Not so, sweet lady, but too mean a servant

To have a look of such a worthy mistress.

Valentine Leave off discourse of disability.

Sweet lady, entertain him for your servant.

Proteus My duty will I boast of, nothing else.

Silvia And duty never yet did want his meed.

Servant, you are welcome to a worthless mistress.

Proteus I'll die on him that says so but yourself.

Silvia That you are welcome?

Proteus That you are worthless.

Enter a SERVANT.

Servant Madam, my lord your father would speak with you.

Silvia I wait upon his pleasure.

[Exit SERVANT.

Come, Sir Thurio,  
Go with me. Once more, new servant, welcome.  
I'll leave you to confer of home affairs.  
When you have done, we look to hear from you.

Proteus We'll both attend upon your ladyship.

[Exeunt SILVIA, and THURIO.

Valentine Now, tell me, how do all from whence you came?

Proteus Your friends are well, and have them much commended.

Valentine And how do yours?

Proteus I left them all in health.

Valentine How does your lady; and how thrives your love?

Proteus My tales of love were wont to weary you;  
I know you joy not in a love-discourse.

Valentine Ay, Proteus, but that life is altered now.  
I have done penance for contemning Love,  
Whose high imperious thoughts have punished me  
With bitter fasts, with penitential groans,  
With nightly tears, and daily heart-sore sighs,  
For, in revenge of my contempt of Love,  
Love hath chased sleep from my enthralled eyes,  
And made them watchers of mine own heart's sorrow.  
O, gentle Proteus, Love's a mighty lord,  
And hath so humbled me as I confess  
There is no woe to his correction,  
Nor to his service no such joy on earth.  
Now, no discourse, except it be of Love.  
Now can I break my fast, dine, sup, and sleep  
Upon the very naked name of Love.

Proteus Enough; I read your fortune in your eye.

Was this the idol that you worship so?

Valentine Even she. And is she not a heavenly saint?

Proteus No, but she is an earthly paragon.

Valentine Call her divine.

Proteus I will not flatter her.

Valentine O flatter me; for love delights in praises.

Proteus When I was sick you gave me bitter pills,  
And I must minister the like to you.

Valentine Then speak the truth by her; if not divine,  
Yet let her be a principality,  
Sovereign to all the creatures on the earth.

Proteus Except my mistress.

Valentine Sweet, except not any;  
Except thou wilt except against my love.

Proteus Have I not reason to prefer mine own?

Valentine And I will help thee to prefer her too.  
She shall be dignified with this high honour:  
To bear my lady's train, lest the base earth  
Should from her vesture chance to steal a kiss,  
And, of so great a favour growing proud,  
Disdain to root the summer-swelling flower,  
And make rough winter everlastingly.

Proteus Why, Valentine, what braggartism is this?

Valentine Pardon me, Proteus, all I can is nothing  
To her whose worth makes other worthies nothing.  
She is alone.

Proteus Then let her alone.

Valentine Not for the world. Why, man, she is mine own,  
And I as rich, in having such a jewel,  
As twenty seas if all their sand were pearl,  
The water nectar, and the rocks pure gold.  
Forgive me that I do not dream on thee,  
Because thou seest me dote upon my love.  
My foolish rival, that her father likes  
Only for his possessions are so huge,

Is gone with her along, and I must after,  
For love, thou know'st, is full of jealousy.

Proteus But she loves you?

Valentine Ay, and we are betrothed; nay, more, our marriage-hour,  
With all the cunning manner of our flight,  
Determined of: how I must climb her window,  
The ladder made of cords, and all the means  
Plotted and 'greed on for my happiness.  
Good Proteus, go with me to my chamber,  
In these affairs to aid me with thy counsel.

Proteus Go on before; I shall enquire you forth.  
I must unto the road, to disembark  
Some necessaries that I needs must use,  
And then I'll presently attend you.

Valentine Will you make haste?

Proteus I will.

[Exit VALENTINE.]

Even as one heat another heat expels,  
Or as one nail by strength drives out another,  
So the remembrance of my former love  
Is by a newer object quite forgotten.  
Is it mine eye, or Valentine's praise,  
Her true perfection, or my false transgression,  
That makes me, reasonless, to reason thus?  
She is fair, and so is Julia that I love -  
That I did love, for now my love is thawed,  
Which, like a waxen image 'gainst a fire,  
Bears no impression of the thing it was.  
Methinks my zeal to Valentine is cold,  
And that I love him not as I was wont.  
O, but I love his lady too-too much,  
And that's the reason I love him so little.  
How shall I dote on her with more advice,  
That thus without advice begin to love her?  
'Tis but her picture I have yet beheld,  
And that hath dazzled my reason's light;  
But when I look on her perfections  
There is no reason but I shall be blind.  
If I can check my erring love, I will;  
If not, to compass her I'll use my skill.

[Exit.]

+ + + + +

Scene 5. Milan. A Street.

Enter SPEED, and LAUNCE with his dog Crab, meeting.

Speed   Launce, by mine honesty, welcome to Padua.

Launce   Forswear not thyself, sweet youth, for I am not welcome. I reckon this always: that a man is never undone till he be hanged, nor never welcome to a place till some certain shot be paid and the hostess say `Welcome'.

Speed   Come on, you madcap, I'll to the alehouse with you presently; where, for one shot of five pence, thou shalt have five thousand welcomes. But, sirrah, how did thy master part with Madam Julia?

Launce   Marry, after they closed in earnest, they parted very fairly in jest.

Speed   But shall she marry him?

Launce   No.

Speed   How then? Shall he marry her?

Launce   No, neither.

Speed   What, are they broken?

Launce   No, they are both as whole as a fish.

Speed   Why then, how stands the matter with them?

Launce   Marry, thus: when it stands well with him, it stands well with her.

Speed   What an ass art thou! I understand thee not.

Launce   What a block art thou, that thou canst not! My staff understands me.

Speed   What thou sayst?

Launce   Ay, and what I do too. Look thee, I'll but lean, and my staff understands me.

Speed   It stands under thee, indeed.

Launce   Why, stand under and under stand is all one.

Speed   But tell me true, will't be a match?

Launce   Ask my dog. If he say `ay', it will; if he say `no', it will; if he shake his tail and say nothing, it will.

Speed   The conclusion is, then, that it will.

Launce   Thou shalt never get such a secret from me but by a parable.

Speed 'Tis well that I get it so. But, Launce, how sayst thou that my master is become a notable lover?

Launce I never knew him otherwise.

Speed Than how?

Launce A notable lubber, as thou reportest him to be.

Speed Why, thou whoreson ass, thou mistak'st me.

Launce Why, fool, I meant not thee, I meant thy master.

Speed I tell thee, my master is become a hot lover.

Launce Why, I tell thee, I care not though he burn himself in love. If thou wilt, go with me to the alehouse; if not, thou art a Hebrew, a Jew, and not worth the name of a Christian.

Speed Why?

Launce Because thou hast not so much charity in thee as to go to the ale with a Christian. Wilt thou go?

Speed At thy service.

[Exeunt.

+ + + + +

Scene 6. Milan. A Room in the Duke's Palace.

Enter PROTEUS.

Proteus To leave my Julia shall I be forsworn,  
To love fair Silvia shall I be forsworn,  
To wrong my friend I shall be much forsworn;  
And e'en that power which gave me first my oath  
Provokes me to this threefold perjury.  
Love bade me swear, and Love bids me forswear.  
O, sweet-suggesting Love, if thou hast sinned  
Teach me, thy tempted subject, to excuse it.  
At first I did adore a twinkling star,  
But now I worship a celestial sun.  
Unheedful vows may heedfully be broken,  
And he wants wit that wants resolved will  
To learn his wit t' exchange the bad for better.  
Fie, fie, unreverend tongue, to call her bad  
Whose sovereignty so oft thou hast preferred  
With twenty thousand soul-confirming oaths.  
I cannot leave to love, and yet I do;

But there I leave to love where I should love.  
Julia I lose, and Valentine I lose.  
If I keep them I needs must lose myself;  
If I lose them, thus find I by their loss,  
For Valentine, myself; for Julia, Silvia.  
I to myself am dearer than a friend,  
For love is still most precious in itself,  
And Silvia -witness heaven that made her fair! -  
Shows Julia but a swarthy Ethiopie.  
I will forget that Julia is alive,  
Rememb'ring that my love to her is dead;  
And Valentine I'll hold an enemy,  
Aiming at Silvia as a sweeter friend.  
I cannot now prove constant to myself  
Without some treachery used to Valentine.  
This night he meaneth with a corded ladder  
To climb celestial Silvia's chamber window,  
Myself in counsel, his competitor.  
Now presently I'll give her father notice  
Of their disguising and pretended flight,  
Who, all enraged, will banish Valentine,  
For Thurio he intends shall wed his daughter;  
But, Valentine being gone, I'll quickly cross  
By some sly trick blunt Thurio's dull proceeding.  
Love, lend me wings to make my purpose swift,  
As thou hast lent me wit to plot this drift.  
[Exit.

+ + + + +

Scene 7. Verona. A Room in Julia's House.

Enter JULIA and LUCETTA.

Julia Counsel, Lucetta; gentle girl, assist me,  
And e'en in kind love I do conjure thee,  
Who art the table wherein all my thoughts  
Are visibly charactered and engraved,  
To lesson me, and tell me some good mean  
How, with my honour, I may undertake  
A journey to my loving Proteus.

Lucetta Alas, the way is wearisome and long.

Julia A true-devoted pilgrim is not weary  
To measure kingdoms with his feeble steps,  
Much less shall she that hath Love's wings to fly,  
And when the flight is made to one so dear,  
Of such divine perfection, as Sir Proteus.

Lucetta Better forbear, till Proteus make return.

Julia O, know'st thou not his looks are my soul's food?  
Pity the dearth that I have pined in  
By longing for that food so long a time.  
Didst thou but know the inly touch of love,  
Thou wouldst as soon go kindle fire with snow  
As seek to quench the fire of love with words.

Lucetta I do not seek to quench your love's hot fire,  
But qualify the fire's extreme rage,  
Lest it should burn above the bounds of reason.

Julia The more thou damm'st it up, the more it burns.  
The current that with gentle murmur glides,  
Thou know'st, being stopped, impatiently doth rage;  
But when his fair course is not hindered,  
He makes sweet music with th' enamelled stones,  
Giving a gentle kiss to every sedge  
He overtaketh in his pilgrimage;  
And so by many winding nooks he strays  
With willing sport to the wild ocean.  
Then let me go, and hinder not my course.  
I'll be as patient as a gentle stream,  
And make a pastime of each weary step,  
Till the last step have brought me to my love;  
And there I'll rest, as, after much turmoil,  
A blessed soul doth in Elysium.

Lucetta But in what habit will you go along?

Julia Not like a woman, for I would prevent  
The loose encounters of lascivious men.  
Gentle Lucetta, fit me with such weeds  
As may beseem some well-reputed page.

Lucetta Why, then your ladyship must cut your hair.

Julia No, girl, I'll knit it up in silken strings,  
With twenty odd-conceited true-love knots.  
To be fantastic may become a youth  
Of greater time than I shall show to be.

Lucetta What fashion, madam, shall I make your breeches?

Julia That fits as well as `Tell me, good my lord,  
What compass will you wear your farthingale?'  
Why, e'en what fashion thou best likes, Lucetta.

Lucetta You must needs have them with a cod-piece, madam.

Julia Out, out, Lucetta! -that will be ill-favoured.

Lucetta A round hose, madam, now's not worth a pin,  
Unless you have a cod-piece to stick pins on.

Julia Lucetta, as thou lov'st me, let me have  
What thou think'st meet, and is most mannerly.  
But tell me, wench, how will the world repute me  
For undertaking so unstaied a journey?  
I fear me it will make me scandalized.

Lucetta If you think so, then stay at home and go not.

Julia Nay, that I will not.

Lucetta Then never dream on infamy, but go.  
If Proteus like your journey when you come,  
No matter who's displeased when you are gone.  
I fear me he will scarce be pleased withal.

Julia That is the least, Lucetta, of my fear.  
A thousand oaths, an ocean of his tears,  
And instances of infinite of love,  
Warrant me welcome to my Proteus.

Lucetta All these are servants to deceitful men.

Julia Base men, that use them to so base effect.  
But truer stars did govern Proteus' birth;  
His words are bonds, his oaths are oracles,  
His love sincere, his thoughts immaculate,  
His tears pure messengers sent from his heart,  
His heart as far from fraud as heaven from earth.

Lucetta Pray heaven he prove so when you come to him.

Julia Now, as thou lov'st me, do him not that wrong,  
To bear a hard opinion of his truth.  
Only deserve my love, by loving him,  
And presently go with me to my chamber  
To take a note of what I stand in need of,  
To furnish me upon my longing journey.  
All that is mine I leave at thy dispose,  
My goods, my lands, my reputation,  
Only, in lieu thereof, dispatch me hence.  
Come, answer not, but to it presently.  
I am impatient of my tarrance.

[Exeunt.

+++ +++ +++ +++ +++ +++

ACT 3.

Scene 1. Milan. A Room in the Duke's Palace.

Enter DUKE, THURIO, and PROTEUS.

Duke Sir Thurio, give us leave, I pray, awhile.  
We have some secrets to confer about.

[Exit THURIO.

Now tell me, Proteus, what's your will with me?

Proteus My gracious lord, that which I would discover  
The law of friendship bids me to conceal,  
But when I call to mind your gracious favours  
Done to me, undeserving as I am,  
My duty pricks me on to utter that  
Which else no worldly good should draw from me.  
Know, worthy prince, Sir Valentine, my friend,  
This night intends to steal away your daughter.  
Myself am one made privy to the plot.  
I know you have determined to bestow her  
On Thurio, whom your gentle daughter hates,  
And should she thus be stol'n away from you  
It would be much vexation to your age.  
Thus, for my duty's sake, I rather chose  
To cross my friend in his intended drift,  
Than, by concealing it, heap on your head  
A pack of sorrows which would press you down,  
Being unprevented, to your timeless grave.

Duke Proteus, I thank thee for thine honest care,  
Which, to requite, command me while I live.  
This love of theirs myself have often seen,  
Haply when they have judged me fast asleep,  
And oftentimes have purposed to forbid  
Sir Valentine her company and my court.  
But fearing lest my jealous aim might err,  
And so, unworthily, disgrace the man -  
A rashness that I ever yet have shunned -  
I gave him gentle looks, thereby to find  
That which thyself hast now disclosed to me.  
And that thou mayst perceive my fear of this,  
Knowing that tender youth is soon suggested,  
I nightly lodge her in an upper tower,  
The key whereof myself have ever kept;  
And thence she cannot be conveyed away.

Proteus Know, noble lord, they have devised a mean  
How he her chamber window will ascend  
And with a corded ladder fetch her down;

For which the youthful lover now is gone,  
And this way comes he with it presently,  
Where, if it please you, you may intercept him.  
But, good my lord, do it so cunningly  
That my discovery be not aimed at;  
For love of you, not hate unto my friend,  
Hath made me publisher of this pretence.

Duke Upon mine honour, he shall never know  
That I had any light from thee of this.

Proteus Adieu, my lord. Sir Valentine is coming.  
[Exit.  
Enter VALENTINE.

Duke Sir Valentine, whither away so fast?

Valentine Please it your grace, there is a messenger  
That stays to bear my letters to my friends,  
And I am going to deliver them.

Duke Be they of much import?

Valentine The tenor of them doth but signify  
My health and happy being at your court.

Duke Nay then, no matter; stay with me awhile;  
I am to break with thee of some affairs  
That touch me near, wherein thou must be secret.  
'Tis not unknown to thee that I have sought  
To match my friend Sir Thurio to my daughter.

Valentine I know it well, my lord, and sure the match  
Were rich and honourable. Besides, the gentleman  
Is full of virtue, bounty, worth, and qualities  
Beseeming such a wife as your fair daughter.  
Cannot your grace win her to fancy him?

Duke No, trust me, she is peevish, sullen, froward,  
Proud, disobedient, stubborn, lacking duty,  
Neither regarding that she is my child,  
Nor fearing me as if I were her father.  
And, may I say to thee, this pride of hers,  
Upon advice, hath drawn my love from her,  
And where I thought the remnant of mine age  
Should have been cherished by her childlike duty,  
I now am full resolved to take a wife  
And turn her out to who will take her in.  
Then let her beauty be her wedding-dower;  
For me and my possessions she esteems not.

Valentine What would your grace have me to do in this?

Duke There is a lady of Verona here,  
Whom I affect; but she is nice, and coy,  
And nought esteems my aged eloquence.  
Now therefore would I have thee to my tutor -  
For long ago I have forgot to court,  
Besides, the fashion of the time is changed -  
How and which way I may bestow myself  
To be regarded in her sun-bright eye.

Valentine Win her with gifts, if she respect not words.  
Dumb jewels often in their silent kind,  
More than quick words, do move a woman's mind.

Duke But she did scorn a present that I sent her.

Valentine A woman sometime scorns what best contents her.  
Send her another; never give her o'er,  
For scorn at first makes after-love the more.  
If she do frown, 'tis not in hate of you,  
But rather to beget more love in you.  
If she do chide, 'tis not to have you gone,  
For why the fools are mad if left alone.  
Take no repulse, whatever she doth say,  
For 'get you gone' she doth not mean 'away'.  
Flatter and praise, commend, extol their graces;  
Though ne'er so black, say they have angels' faces.  
That man that hath a tongue I say is no man  
If with his tongue he cannot win a woman.

Duke But she I mean is promised by her friends  
Unto a youthful gentleman of worth,  
And kept severely from resort of men,  
That no man hath access by day to her.

Valentine Why, then I would resort to her by night.

Duke Ay, but the doors be locked, and keys kept safe,  
That no man hath recourse to her by night.

Valentine What lets but one may enter at her window?

Duke Her chamber is aloft, far from the ground,  
And built so shelving that one cannot climb it  
Without apparent hazard of his life.

Valentine Why, then a ladder quaintly made of cords  
To cast up, with a pair of anchoring hooks,  
Would serve to scale another Hero's tower,

So bold Leander would adventure it.

Duke Now, as thou art a gentleman of blood,  
Advise me where I may have such a ladder.

Valentine When would you use it? Pray, sir, tell me that.

Duke This very night; for Love is like a child  
That longs for everything that he can come by.

Valentine By seven o'clock I'll get you such a ladder.

Duke But hark thee, I will go to her alone;  
How shall I best convey the ladder thither?

Valentine It will be light, my lord, that you may bear it  
Under a cloak that is of any length.

Duke A cloak as long as thine will serve the turn?

Valentine Ay, my good lord.

Duke Then let me see thy cloak;  
I'll get me one of such another length.

Valentine Why, any cloak will serve the turn, my lord.

Duke How shall I fashion me to wear a cloak?  
I pray thee let me feel thy cloak upon me.  
[He takes Valentine's cloak and finds a letter and a ladder.

What letter is this same? What's here? -"To Silvia!"  
And here an engine fit for my proceeding.  
I'll be so bold to break the seal for once.

[Reads.]

"My thoughts do harbour with my Silvia nightly,  
And slaves they are to me that send them flying.  
O, could their master come and go as lightly,  
Himself would lodge where senseless they are lying.  
My herald thoughts in thy pure bosom rest them,  
While I, their king, that thither them importune,  
Do curse the grace that with such grace hath blest them,  
Because myself do want my servants' fortune.  
I curse myself for they are sent by me,  
That they should harbour where their lord should be."

What's here?

[Reads.] "Silvia, this night I will enfranchise thee."

'Tis so, and here's the ladder for the purpose.  
Why, Phaeton, for thou art Merops' son  
Wilt thou aspire to guide the heavenly car,  
And with thy daring folly burn the world?  
Wilt thou reach stars, because they shine on thee?  
Go, base intruder, overweening slave!  
Bestow thy fawning smiles on equal mates,  
And think my patience, more than thy desert,  
Is privilege for thy departure hence.  
Thank me for this more than for all the favours  
Which, all too much, I have bestowed on thee.  
But if thou linger in my territories  
Longer than swiftest expedition  
Will give thee time to leave our royal court,  
By heaven, my wrath shall far exceed the love  
I ever bore my daughter, or thyself.  
Be gone! I will not hear thy vain excuse,  
But, as thou lov'st thy life, make speed from hence.

[Exit.

Valentine And why not death, rather than living torment?

To die is to be banished from myself,  
And Silvia is myself. Banished from her  
Is self from self -a deadly banishment.  
What light is light, if Silvia be not seen?  
What joy is joy, if Silvia be not by?  
Unless it be to think that she is by,  
And feed upon the shadow of perfection.  
Except I be by Silvia in the night,  
There is no music in the nightingale.  
Unless I look on Silvia in the day,  
There is no day for me to look upon.  
She is my essence, and I leave to be  
If I be not by her fair influence  
Fostered, illumined, cherished, kept alive.  
I fly not death, to fly his deadly doom.  
Tarry I here, I but attend on death;  
But fly I hence, I fly away from life.

Re-enter PROTEUS, and LAUNCE.

Proteus Run, boy; run, run, and seek him out.

Launce So-ho, so-ho!

Proteus What seest thou?

Launce Him we go to find. There's not a hair on's head but 'tis a Valentine.

Proteus Valentine?

Valentine No.

Proteus Who then? His spirit?

Valentine Neither.

Proteus What then?

Valentine Nothing.

Launce Can nothing speak? Master, shall I strike?

Proteus Who wouldst thou strike?

Launce Nothing.

Proteus Villain, forbear.

Launce Why, sir, I'll strike nothing. I pray you -

Proteus Sirrah, I say forbear. Friend Valentine, a word.

Valentine My ears are stopped, and cannot hear good news,  
So much of bad already hath possessed them.

Proteus Then in dumb silence will I bury mine,  
For they are harsh, untuneable, and bad.

Valentine Is Silvia dead?

Proteus No, Valentine.

Valentine No Valentine indeed, for sacred Silvia!  
Hath she forsworn me?

Proteus No, Valentine.

Valentine No Valentine, if Silvia have forsworn me!  
What is your news?

Launce Sir, there is a proclamation that you are vanished.

Proteus That thou art banished -O, that's the news;  
From hence, from Silvia, and from me thy friend.

Valentine O, I have fed upon this woe already,  
And now excess of it will make me surfeit.  
Doth Silvia know that I am banished?

Proteus Ay, ay; and she hath offered to the doom -  
Which unreversed stands in effectual force -

A sea of melting pearl, which some call tears;  
Those at her father's churlish feet she tendered,  
With them, upon her knees her humble self  
Wringing her hands, whose whiteness so became them  
As if but now they waxed pale for woe.  
But neither bended knees, pure hands held up,  
Sad sighs, deep groans, nor silver-shedding tears,  
Could penetrate her uncompassionate sire;  
But Valentine, if he be ta'en, must die.  
Besides, her intercession chafed him so,  
When she for thy repeal was suppliant,  
That to close prison he commanded her,  
With many bitter threats of bidding there.

Valentine No more; unless the next word that thou speak'st  
Have some malignant power upon my life.  
If so, I pray thee breathe it in mine ear,  
As ending anthem of my endless dolour.

Proteus Cease to lament for that thou canst not help,  
And study help for that which thou lament'st.  
Time is the nurse and breeder of all good.  
Here, if thou stay, thou canst not see thy love;  
Besides, thy staying will abridge thy life.  
Hope is a lover's staff; walk hence with that,  
And manage it against despairing thoughts.  
Thy letters may be here, though thou art hence,  
Which, being writ to me, shall be delivered  
Even in the milk-white bosom of thy love.  
The time now serves not to expostulate.  
Come, I'll convey thee through the city gate,  
And, ere I part with thee, confer at large  
Of all that may concern thy love-affairs.  
As thou lov'st Silvia, though not for thyself,  
Regard thy danger, and along with me.

Valentine I pray thee, Launce, an if thou seest my boy,  
Bid him make haste and meet me at the North Gate.

Proteus Go, sirrah, find him out. Come, Valentine.

Valentine O my dear Silvia! Hapless Valentine!  
[Exeunt PROTEUS and VALENTINE.]

Launce I am but a fool, look you, and yet I have the wit to think my master  
is a kind of a knave; but that's all one, if he be but one knave. He lives not  
now that knows me to be in love, yet I am in love, but a team of horse shall  
not pluck that from me, nor who 'tis I love; and yet 'tis a woman; but what  
woman I will not tell myself; and yet 'tis a milkmaid; yet 'tis not a maid,  
for she hath had gossips; yet 'tis a maid, for she is her master's maid, and

serves for wages. She hath more qualities than a water-spaniel, which is much in a bare Christian.

[Taking out a paper.

Here is the cate-log of her condition. [Reads.] "Imprimis, she can fetch and carry". Why, a horse can do no more; nay, a horse cannot fetch, but only carry, therefore is she better than a jade. [Reads.] "Item, she can milk"; look you, a sweet virtue in a maid with clean hands.

Enter SPEED.

Speed How now, Signor Launce! What news with your mastership?

Launce With my master's ship? Why, it is at sea.

Speed Well, your old vice still -mistake the word. What news, then, in your paper?

Launce The blackest news that ever thou heard'st.

Speed Why, man, how black?

Launce Why, as black as ink.

Speed Let me read them.

Launce Fie on thee, jolthead, thou canst not read.

Speed Thou liest; I can.

Launce I will try thee. Tell me this: who begot thee?

Speed Marry, the son of my grandfather.

Launce O illiterate loiterer! It was the son of thy grandmother. This proves that thou canst not read.

Speed Come, fool, come; try me in thy paper.

Launce [Giving him the paper.] There; and Saint Nicholas be thy speed!

Speed [Reads.] "Imprimis, she can milk."

Launce Ay, that she can.

Speed [Reads.] "Item, she brews good ale."

Launce And thereof comes the proverb, 'Blessing of your heart, you brew good ale.'

Speed [Reads.] "Item, she can sew."

Launce That's as much as to say, `Can she so?'

Speed [Reads.] "Item, she can knit."

Launce What need a man care for a stock with a wench, when she can knit him a stock?

Speed [Reads.] "Item, she can wash and scour."

Launce A special virtue, for then she need not be washed and scoured.

Speed [Reads.] "Item, she can spin."

Launce Then may I set the world on wheels, when she can spin for her living.

Speed [Reads.] "Item, she hath many nameless virtues."

Launce That's as much as to say `bastard virtues', that indeed know not their fathers, and therefore have no names.

Speed [Reads.] "Here follow her vices."

Launce Close at the heels of her virtues.

Speed [Reads.] "Item, she is not to be kissed fasting, in respect of her breath."

Launce Well, that fault may be mended with a breakfast. Read on.

Speed [Reads.] "Item, she hath a sweet mouth."

Launce That makes amends for her sour breath.

Speed [Reads.] "Item, she doth talk in her sleep."

Launce It's no matter for that; so she sleep not in her talk.

Speed [Reads.] "Item, she is slow in words."

Launce O villain, that set this down among her vices! To be slow in words is a woman's only virtue. I pray thee, out with't, and place it for her chief virtue.

Speed [Reads.] "Item, she is proud."

Launce Out with that too. It was Eve's legacy, and cannot be ta'en from her.

Speed [Reads.] "Item, she hath no teeth."

Launce I care not for that neither, because I love crusts.

Speed [Reads.] "Item, she is curst."

Launce Well, the best is she hath no teeth to bite.

Speed [Reads.] "Item, she will often praise her liquor."

Launce If her liquor be good, she shall; if she will not, I will; for good things should be praised.

Speed [Reads.] "Item, she is too liberal."

Launce Of her tongue she cannot, for that's writ down she is slow of. Of her purse she shall not, for that I'll keep shut. Now, of another thing she may, and that cannot I help. Well, proceed.

Speed [Reads.] "Item, she hath more hair than wit, and more faults than hairs, and more wealth than faults."

Launce Stop there; I'll have her. She was mine, and not mine, twice or thrice in that last article. Rehearse that once more.

Speed [Reads.] "Item, she hath more hair than wit."

Launce "More hair than wit"? -it may be; I'll prove it. The cover of the salt hides the salt, and therefore it is more than the salt; the hair that covers the wit is more than the wit, for the greater hides the less. What's next?

Speed [Reads.] "And more faults than hairs."

Launce That's monstrous! O, that that were out!

Speed [Reads.] "And more wealth than faults."

Launce Why, that word makes the faults gracious. Well, I'll have her; and if it be a match, as nothing is impossible -

Speed What then?

Launce Why, then will I tell thee that thy master stays for thee at the North Gate.

Speed For me?

Launce For thee! Ay, who art thou? He hath stayed for a better man than thee.

Speed And must I go to him?

Launce Thou must run to him, for thou hast stayed so long that going will scarce serve the turn.

Speed Why didst not tell me sooner? Pox of your love letters!  
[Exit.

Launce Now will he be swung for reading my letter. An unmannerly slave,  
that will thrust himself into secrets. I'll after, to rejoice in the boy's  
correction.  
[Exit.

+ + + + +

Scene 2. Milan. A Room in the Duke's Palace.

Enter DUKE and THURIO.

Duke Sir Thurio, fear not but that she will love you  
Now Valentine is banished from her sight.

Thurio Since his exile she hath despised me most,  
Forsworn my company, and railed at me,  
That I am desperate of obtaining her.

Duke This weak impress of love is as a figure  
Trenched in ice, which with an hour's heat  
Dissolves to water and doth lose his form.  
A little time will melt her frozen thoughts,  
And worthless Valentine shall be forgot.

Enter PROTEUS.

How now, Sir Proteus! Is your countryman,  
According to our proclamation, gone?

Proteus Gone, my good lord.

Duke My daughter takes his going grievously.

Proteus A little time, my lord, will kill that grief.

Duke So I believe, but Thurio thinks not so.  
Proteus, the good conceit I hold of thee,  
For thou hast shown some sign of good desert,  
Makes me the better to confer with thee.

Proteus Longer than I prove loyal to your grace  
Let me not live to look upon your grace.

Duke Thou know'st how willingly I would effect  
The match between Sir Thurio and my daughter?

Proteus I do, my lord.

Duke And also, I think, thou art not ignorant  
How she opposes her against my will?

Proteus She did, my lord, when Valentine was here.

Duke Ay, and perversely she perseveres so.  
What might we do to make the girl forget  
The love of Valentine, and love Sir Thurio?

Proteus The best way is to slander Valentine  
With falsehood, cowardice, and poor descent,  
Three things that women highly hold in hate.

Duke Ay, but she'll think that it is spoke in hate.

Proteus Ay, if his enemy deliver it.  
Therefore it must with circumstance be spoken  
By one whom she esteemeth as his friend.

Duke Then you must undertake to slander him.

Proteus And that, my lord, I shall be loath to do;  
'Tis an ill office for a gentleman,  
Especially against his very friend.

Duke Where your good word cannot advantage him,  
Your slander never can endamage him;  
Therefore the office is indifferent,  
Being entreated to it by your friend.

Proteus You have prevailed, my lord. If I can do it  
By aught that I can speak in his dispraise,  
She shall not long continue love to him.  
But say this weed her love from Valentine,  
It follows not that she will love Sir Thurio.

Thurio Therefore, as you unwind her love from him,  
Lest it should ravel and be good to none,  
You must provide to bottom it on me;  
Which must be done by praising me as much  
As you in worth dispraise Sir Valentine.

Duke And, Proteus, we dare trust you in this kind  
Because we know, on Valentine's report,  
You are already Love's firm votary,  
And cannot soon revolt, and change your mind.  
Upon this warrant shall you have access  
Where you with Silvia may confer at large -  
For she is lumpish, heavy, melancholy,  
And, for your friend's sake, will be glad of you -

Where you may temper her, by your persuasion,  
To hate young Valentine, and love my friend.

Proteus As much as I can do, I will effect.  
But you, Sir Thurio, are not sharp enough;  
You must lay lime to tangle her desires  
By wailful sonnets, whose composed rhymes  
Should be full-fraught with serviceable vows.

Duke Ay, much is the force of heaven-bred poesy.

Proteus Say that upon the altar of her beauty  
You sacrifice your tears, your sighs, your heart.  
Write till your ink be dry, and with your tears  
Moist it again, and frame some feeling line  
That may discover such integrity.  
For Orpheus' lute was strung with poets' sinews,  
Whose golden touch could soften steel and stones,  
Make tigers tame, and huge leviathans  
Forsake unsounded deeps to dance on sands.  
After your dire-lamenting elegies,  
Visit by night your lady's chamber window  
With some sweet consort. To their instruments  
Tune a deploring dump. The night's dead silence  
Will well become such sweet complaining grievance.  
This, or else nothing, will inherit her.

Duke This discipline shows thou hast been in love.

Thurio And thy advice this night I'll put in practice.  
Therefore, sweet Proteus, my direction-giver,  
Let us into the city presently  
To sort some gentlemen well skilled in music.  
I have a sonnet that will serve the turn  
To give the onset to thy good advice.

Duke About it, gentlemen!

Proteus We'll wait upon your grace till after supper,  
And afterward determine our proceedings.

Duke Even now about it. I will pardon you.  
[Exeunt.]

+++ +++ +++ +++ +++ +++

ACT 4.

Scene 1. A Forest between Milan and Verona.

Enter certain OUTLAWS.

1st Outlaw Fellows, stand fast; I see a passenger.

2nd Outlaw If there be ten, shrink not, but down with 'em.

Enter VALENTINE and SPEED.

3rd Outlaw Stand, sir, and throw us that you have about ye.  
If not, we'll make you sit, and rifle you.

Speed Sir, we are undone; these are the villains  
That all the travellers do fear so much.

Valentine My friends -

1st Outlaw That's not so, sir, we are your enemies.

2nd Outlaw Peace! We'll hear him.

3rd Outlaw Ay, by my beard will we, for he is a proper man.

Valentine Then know that I have little wealth to lose;  
A man I am, crossed with adversity.  
My riches are these poor habiliments,  
Of which if you should here disfurnish me,  
You take the sum and substance that I have.

2nd Outlaw Whither travel you?

Valentine To Verona.

1st Outlaw Whence came you?

Valentine From Milan.

3rd Outlaw Have you long sojourned there?

Valentine Some sixteen months, and longer might have stayed  
If crooked fortune had not thwarted me.

1st Outlaw What, were you banished thence?

Valentine I was.

2nd Outlaw For what offence?

Valentine For that which now torments me to rehearse.  
I killed a man, whose death I much repent;  
But yet I slew him manfully, in fight,  
Without false vantage or base treachery.

1st Outlaw Why, ne'er repent it, if it were done so.  
But were you banished for so small a fault?

Valentine I was, and held me glad of such a doom.

2nd Outlaw Have you the tongues?

Valentine My youthful travel therein made me happy,  
Or else I often had been miserable.

3rd Outlaw By the bare scalp of Robin Hood's fat friar,  
This fellow were a king for our wild faction.

1st Outlaw We'll have him. Sirs, a word.

Speed Master, be one of them;  
It's an honourable kind of thievery.

Valentine Peace, villain.

2nd Outlaw Tell us this: have you anything to take to?

Valentine Nothing but my fortune.

3rd Outlaw Know, then, that some of us are gentlemen,  
Such as the fury of unguided youth  
Thrust from the company of awful men.  
Myself was from Verona banished,  
For practising to steal away a lady,  
An heir, and near allied unto the duke.

2nd Outlaw And I from Mantua, for a gentleman,  
Who, in my mood, I stabbed unto the heart.

1st Outlaw And I, for such like petty crimes as these.  
But to the purpose, for we cite our faults  
That they may hold excused our lawless lives,  
And, partly seeing you are beautified  
With goodly shape, and by your own report  
A linguist, and a man of such perfection  
As we do in our quality much want -

2nd Outlaw Indeed, because you are a banished man,  
Therefore, above the rest, we parley to you.  
Are you content to be our general,  
To make a virtue of necessity,  
And live as we do in this wilderness?

3rd Outlaw What sayst thou? Wilt thou be of our consort?  
Say 'ay', and be the captain of us all:

We'll do thee homage, and be ruled by thee,  
Love thee as our commander, and our king.

1st Outlaw But if thou scorn our courtesy, thou diest.

2nd Outlaw Thou shalt not live to brag what we have offered.

Valentine I take your offer, and will live with you,  
Provided that you do no outrages  
On silly women or poor passengers.

3rd Outlaw No, we detest such vile base practices.  
Come, go with us; we'll bring thee to our crews,  
And show thee all the treasure we have got,  
Which, with ourselves, all rest at thy dispose.

[Exeunt.

+ + + + +

Scene 2. Milan. The Court of the Duke's Palace. Below Silvia's Window.

Enter PROTEUS.

Proteus Already have I been false to Valentine,  
And now I must be as unjust to Thurio.  
Under the colour of commending him,  
I have access my own love to prefer.  
But Silvia is too fair, too true, too holy,  
To be corrupted with my worthless gifts.  
When I protest true loyalty to her,  
She twits me with my falsehood to my friend;  
When to her beauty I commend my vows,  
She bids me think how I have been forsworn  
In breaking faith with Julia whom I loved.  
And notwithstanding all her sudden quips,  
The least whereof would quell a lover's hope,  
Yet, spaniel-like, the more she spurns my love,  
The more it grows and fawneth on her still.

Enter THURIO and MUSICIANS.

But here comes Thurio. Now must we to her window,  
And give some evening music to her ear.

Thurio How now, Sir Proteus, are you crept before us?

Proteus Ay, gentle Thurio, for you know that love  
Will creep in service where it cannot go.

Thurio Ay, but I hope, sir, that you love not here.

Proteus Sir, but I do, or else I would be hence.

Thurio Who? Silvia?

Proteus Ay, Silvia, for your sake.

Thurio I thank you for your own. Now, gentlemen,  
Let's tune, and to it lustily a while.

Enter, at a distance, HOST, and JULIA disguised as a boy.

Host Now, my young guest, methinks you're allycholly. I pray you, why is it?

Julia Marry, mine host, because I cannot be merry.

Host Come, we'll have you merry. I'll bring you where you shall hear music,  
and see the gentleman that you asked for.

Julia But shall I hear him speak?

Host Ay, that you shall.

Julia That will be music.

[Music plays.

Host Hark, hark!

Julia Is he among these?

Host Ay; but peace. Let's hear 'em.

Song

Who is Silvia? What is she,  
That all our swains commend her?  
Holy, fair, and wise is she;  
The heaven such grace did lend her,  
That she might admired be.

Is she kind as she is fair?  
For beauty lives with kindness.  
Love doth to her eyes repair,  
To help him of his blindness;  
And, being helped, inhabits there.

Then to Silvia let us sing,  
That Silvia is excelling.  
She excels each mortal thing  
Upon the dull earth dwelling.  
To her let us garlands bring.

Host How now! Are you sadder than you were before? How do you, man? The music likes you not.

Julia You mistake; the musician likes me not.

Host Why, my pretty youth?

Julia He plays false, father.

Host How, out of tune on the strings?

Julia Not so; but yet so false that he grieves my very heart-strings.

Host You have a quick ear.

Julia Ay, I would I were deaf; it makes me have a slow heart.

Host I perceive you delight not in music.

Julia Not a whit, when it jars so.

Host Hark, what fine change is in the music.

Julia Ay, that change is the spite.

Host You would have them always play but one thing?

Julia I would always have one play but one thing.  
But, host, doth this Sir Proteus that we talk on  
Often resort unto this gentlewoman?

Host I tell you what Launce his man told me, he loved her out of all nick.

Julia Where is Launce?

Host Gone to seek his dog, which tomorrow, by his master's command, he must carry for a present to his lady.

Julia Peace, stand aside; the company parts.

Proteus Sir Thurio, fear not you; I will so plead  
That you shall say my cunning drift excels.

Thurio Where meet we?

Proteus At Saint Gregory's well.

Thurio Farewell.  
[Exeunt THURIO and MUSICIANS.]

Enter SILVIA above, at her window.

Proteus Madam, good even to your ladyship.

Silvia I thank you for your music, gentlemen.  
Who is that that spake?

Proteus One, lady, if you knew his pure heart's truth,  
You would quickly learn to know him by his voice.

Silvia Sir Proteus, as I take it.

Proteus Sir Proteus, gentle lady, and your servant.

Silvia What's your will?

Proteus That I may compass yours.

Silvia You have your wish. My will is even this:  
That presently you hie you home to bed.  
Thou subtle, perjured, false, disloyal man,  
Think'st thou I am so shallow, so conceitless,  
To be seduced by thy flattery,  
That hast deceived so many with thy vows?  
Return, return, and make thy love amends.  
For me, by this pale queen of night I swear,  
I am so far from granting thy request  
That I despise thee for thy wrongful suit;  
And by and by intend to chide myself,  
Even for this time I spend in talking to thee.

Proteus I grant, sweet love, that I did love a lady,  
But she is dead.

Julia [Aside.] 'Twere false, if I should speak it;  
For I am sure she is not buried.

Silvia Say that she be, yet Valentine thy friend  
Survives, to whom, thyself art witness,  
I am betrothed; and art thou not ashamed  
To wrong him with thy importunacy?

Proteus I likewise hear that Valentine is dead.

Silvia And so suppose am I; for in his grave,  
Assure thyself, my love is buried.

Proteus Sweet lady, let me rake it from the earth.

Silvia Go to thy lady's grave and call hers thence,  
Or, at the least, in hers sepulchre thine.

Julia [Aside.] He heard not that.

Proteus Madam, if your heart be so obdurate,  
Vouchsafe me yet your picture for my love,  
The picture that is hanging in your chamber.  
To that I'll speak, to that I'll sigh and weep,  
For since the substance of your perfect self  
Is else devoted, I am but a shadow,  
And to your shadow will I make true love.

Julia [Aside.] If 'twere a substance, you would sure deceive it,  
And make it but a shadow, as I am.

Silvia I am very loath to be your idol, sir;  
But, since your falsehood shall become you well  
To worship shadows and adore false shapes,  
Send to me in the morning, and I'll send it.  
And so, good rest.

Proteus As wretches have o'ernight,  
That wait for execution in the morn.

[Exeunt PROTEUS and SILVIA.]

Julia Host, will you go?

Host By my halidom, I was fast asleep.

Julia Pray you, where lies Sir Proteus?

Host Marry, at my house. Trust me, I think 'tis almost day.

Julia Not so, but it hath been the longest night  
That e'er I watched, and the most heaviest.  
[Exeunt.]

+ + + + +

Scene 3. Milan. The Court of the Duke's Palace. Below Silvia's Window.

Enter EGLAMOUR.

Eglamour This is the hour that Madam Silvia  
Entreated me to call, and know her mind.  
There's some great matter she'd employ me in.  
Madam, madam!

Enter SILVIA above, at her window.

Silvia Who calls?

Eglamour Your servant, and your friend;

One that attends your ladyship's command.

Silvia Sir Eglamour, a thousand times good morrow.

Eglamour As many, worthy lady, to yourself.  
According to your ladyship's impose,  
I am thus early come to know what service  
It is your pleasure to command me in.

Silvia O Eglamour, thou art a gentleman,  
Think not I flatter, for I swear I do not,  
Valiant, wise, remorseful, well accomplished.  
Thou art not ignorant what dear good will  
I bear unto the banished Valentine,  
Nor how my father would enforce me marry  
Vain Thurio, whom my very soul abhors.  
Thyself hast loved, and I have heard thee say  
No grief did ever come so near thy heart  
As when thy lady and thy true love died,  
Upon whose grave thou vowed'st pure chastity.  
Sir Eglamour, I would to Valentine,  
To Mantua, where I hear he makes abode;  
And for the ways are dangerous to pass,  
I do desire thy worthy company,  
Upon whose faith and honour I repose.  
Urge not my father's anger, Eglamour,  
But think upon my grief, a lady's grief,  
And on the justice of my flying hence,  
To keep me from a most unholy match,  
Which heaven and fortune still rewards with plagues.  
I do desire thee, even from a heart  
As full of sorrows as the sea of sands,  
To bear me company and go with me;  
If not, to hide what I have said to thee,  
That I may venture to depart alone.

Eglamour Madam, I pity much your grievances,  
Which, since I know they virtuously are placed,  
I give consent to go along with you,  
Recking as little what betideth me  
As much I wish all good befotune you.  
When will you go?

Silvia This evening coming.

Eglamour Where shall I meet you?

Silvia At Friar Patrick's cell,  
Where I intend holy confession.

Eglamour I will not fail your ladyship. Good morrow, gentle lady.

Silvia Good morrow, kind Sir Eglamour.  
[Exeunt.]

+ + + + +

Scene 4. Milan. The Court of the Duke's Palace. Below Silvia's Window.

Enter LAUNCE with his dog, Crab.

Launce When a man's servant shall play the cur with him, look you, it goes hard. One that I brought up of a puppy, one that I saved from drowning when three or four of his blind brothers and sisters went to it. I have taught him, even as one would say precisely `Thus I would teach a dog'. I was sent to deliver him as a present to Mistress Silvia from my master, and I came no sooner into the dining-chamber but he steps me to her trencher and steals her capon's leg. O, 'tis a foul thing when a cur cannot keep himself in all companies. I would have, as one should say, one that takes upon him to be a dog indeed, to be, as it were, a dog at all things. If I had not had more wit than he, to take a fault upon me that he did, I think verily he had been hanged for't; sure as I live, he had suffered for't. You shall judge. He thrusts me himself into the company of three or four gentlemanlike dogs under the duke's table. He had not been there, bless the mark, a pissing while but all the chamber smelt him. `Out with the dog' says one, `What cur is that?' says another, `Whip him out' says the third, `Hang him up' says the duke. I, having been acquainted with the smell before, knew it was Crab, and goes me to the fellow that whips the dogs. `Friend' quoth I `you mean to whip the dog?' `Ay, marry do I' quoth he. `You do him the more wrong' quoth I, `twas I did the thing you wot of.' He makes me no more ado, but whips me out of the chamber. How many masters would do this for his servant? Nay, I'll be sworn I have sat in the stocks for puddings he hath stolen, otherwise he had been executed; I have stood on the pillory for geese he hath killed, otherwise he had suffered for't. Thou think'st not of this now. Nay, I remember the trick you served me when I took my leave of Madam Silvia. Did not I bid thee still mark me and do as I do? When didst thou see me heave up my leg and make water against a gentlewoman's farthingale? Didst thou ever see me do such a trick?

Enter PROTEUS, and JULIA disguised as a boy.

Proteus Sebastian is thy name? I like thee well,  
And will employ thee in some service presently.

Julia In what you please; I'll do what I can.

Proteus I hope thou wilt.  
[To LAUNCE.] How now, you whoreson peasant!  
Where have you been these two days loitering?

Launce Marry, sir, I carried Mistress Silvia the dog you bade me.

Proteus And what says she to my little jewel?

Launce Marry, she says your dog was a cur, and tells you currish thanks is good enough for such a present.

Proteus But she received my dog?

Launce No, indeed did she not. Here have I brought him back again.

Proteus What, didst thou offer her this from me?

Launce Ay, sir; the other squirrel was stolen from me by the hangman boys in the market-place, and then I offered her mine own, who is a dog as big as ten of yours, and therefore the gift the greater.

Proteus Go, get thee hence, and find my dog again,  
Or ne'er return again into my sight.  
Away, I say! Stay'st thou to vex me here?  
A slave, that still an end turns me to shame.

[Exit LAUNCE.

Sebastian, I have entertained thee  
Partly that I have need of such a youth  
That can with some discretion do my business,  
For 'tis no trusting to yond foolish lout;  
But chiefly for thy face and thy behaviour,  
Which, if my augury deceive me not,  
Witness good bringing up, fortune, and truth.  
Therefore, know thou, for this I entertain thee.  
Go presently, and take this ring with thee;  
Deliver it to Madam Silvia.  
She loved me well delivered it to me.

[Giving JULIA a ring.

Julia It seems you loved not her, to leave her token.  
She is dead belike?

Proteus Not so; I think she lives.

Julia Alas!

Proteus Why dost thou cry `Alas'?

Julia I cannot choose  
But pity her.

Proteus Wherefore shouldst thou pity her?

Julia Because methinks that she loved you as well

As you do love your lady Silvia.  
She dreams on him that has forgot her love;  
You dote on her that cares not for your love.  
'Tis pity love should be so contrary,  
And thinking on it makes me cry `Alas'!

Proteus Well, give her that ring, and therewithal  
This letter. That's her chamber. Tell my lady  
I claim the promise for her heavenly picture.  
Your message done, hie home unto my chamber,  
Where thou shalt find me sad, and solitary.

[Exit.

Julia How many women would do such a message?  
Alas, poor Proteus, thou hast entertained  
A fox to be the shepherd of thy lambs.  
Alas, poor fool, why do I pity him  
That with his very heart despiseth me?  
Because he loves her, he despiseth me;  
Because I love him, I must pity him.  
This ring I gave him when he parted from me,  
To bind him to remember my good will;  
And now am I, unhappy messenger,  
To plead for that which I would not obtain;  
To carry that which I would have refused;  
To praise his faith which I would have dispraised.  
I am my master's true confirmed love,  
But cannot be true servant to my master  
Unless I prove false traitor to myself.  
Yet will I woo for him, but yet so coldly  
As, heaven it knows, I would not have him speed.

Enter SILVIA.

Gentlewoman, good day. I pray you, be my mean  
To bring me where to speak with Madam Silvia.

Silvia What would you with her, if that I be she?

Julia If you be she I do entreat your patience  
To hear me speak the message I am sent on.

Silvia From whom?

Julia From my master, Sir Proteus, madam.

Silvia O, he sends you for a picture?

Julia Ay, madam.

Silvia Ursula, bring my picture there.

Enter URSULA with the picture.

Go, give your master this. Tell him from me  
One Julia, that his changing thoughts forget,  
Would better fit his chamber than this shadow.

Julia Madam, please you peruse this letter.  
[Gives her a letter.

Pardon me, madam, I have unadvised  
Delivered you a paper that I should not.  
This is the letter to your ladyship.

[Takes back the first letter, then gives her another.

Silvia I pray thee let me look on that again.

Julia It may not be; good madam, pardon me.

Silvia There, hold!  
I will not look upon your master's lines.  
I know they are stuffed with protestations,  
And full of new-found oaths, which he will break  
As easily as I do tear his paper.

[Tearing the letter.

Julia Madam, he sends your ladyship this ring.

Silvia The more shame for him, that he sends it me;  
For I have heard him say a thousand times  
His Julia gave it him at his departure.  
Though his false finger have profaned the ring,  
Mine shall not do his Julia so much wrong.

Julia She thanks you.

Silvia What sayst thou?

Julia I thank you, madam, that you tender her.  
Poor gentlewoman, my master wrongs her much.

Silvia Dost thou know her?

Julia Almost as well as I do know myself.  
To think upon her woes, I do protest  
That I have wept a hundred several times.

Silvia Belike she thinks that Proteus hath forsook her?

Julia I think she doth, and that's her cause of sorrow.

Silvia Is she not passing fair?

Julia She hath been fairer, madam, than she is.  
When she did think my master loved her well,  
She, in my judgment, was as fair as you;  
But since she did neglect her looking-glass,  
And threw her sun-expelling mask away,  
The air hath starved the roses in her cheeks,  
And pinched the lily-tincture of her face,  
That now she is become as black as I.

Silvia How tall was she?

Julia About my stature; for at Pentecost,  
When all our pageants of delight were played,  
Our youth got me to play the woman's part,  
And I was trimmed in Madam Julia's gown,  
Which served me as fit, by all men's judgments,  
As if the garment had been made for me;  
Therefore I know she is about my height.  
And at that time I made her weep agood,  
For I did play a lamentable part.  
Madam, 'twas Ariadne, passioning  
For Theseus' perjury and unjust flight;  
Which I so lively acted with my tears  
That my poor mistress, moved therewithal,  
Wept bitterly, and would I might be dead  
If I in thought felt not her very sorrow.

Silvia She is beholding to thee, gentle youth.  
Alas, poor lady, desolate, and left;  
I weep myself to think upon thy words.  
Here, youth, there is my purse. I give thee this  
For thy sweet mistress' sake, because thou lov'st her.  
Farewell.

[Exeunt SILVIA and URSULA.]

Julia And she shall thank you for't, if e'er you know her.  
A virtuous gentlewoman, mild and beautiful!  
I hope my master's suit will be but cold,  
Since she respects my mistress' love so much.  
Alas, how love can trifle with itself!  
Here is her picture: let me see; I think  
If I had such a tire, this face of mine  
Were full as lovely as is this of hers;  
And yet the painter flattered her a little,  
Unless I flatter with myself too much.  
Her hair is auburn, mine is perfect yellow;  
If that be all the difference in his love  
I'll get me such a coloured periwig.  
Her eyes are grey as glass, and so are mine;  
Ay, but her forehead's low, and mine's as high.

What should it be that he respects in her  
But I can make respective in myself,  
If this fond Love were not a blinded god?  
Come, shadow, come, and take this shadow up,  
For 'tis thy rival. O thou senseless form,  
Thou shalt be worshipped, kissed, loved, and adored;  
And, were there sense in his idolatry,  
My substance should be statue in thy stead.  
I'll use thee kindly for thy mistress' sake,  
That used me so; or else, by Jove I vow,  
I should have scratched out your unseeing eyes,  
To make my master out of love with thee.

[Exit.

+++ +++ +++ +++ +++ +++

ACT 5.

Scene 1. Milan. An Abbey.

Enter EGLAMOUR.

Eglamour The sun begins to gild the western sky,  
And now it is about the very hour  
That Silvia at Friar Patrick's cell should meet me.  
She will not fail, for lovers break not hours  
Unless it be to come before their time,  
So much they spur their expedition.

Enter SILVIA.

See where she comes. Lady, a happy evening!

Silvia Amen, amen! Go on, good Eglamour,  
Out at the postern by the abbey wall;  
I fear I am attended by some spies.

Eglamour Fear not. The forest is not three leagues off;  
If we recover that, we are sure enough.

[Exeunt.

+ + + + +

Scene 2. Milan. A Room in the Duke's Palace.

Enter THURIO, PROTEUS, and JULIA disguised as a boy.

Thurio Sir Proteus, what says Silvia to my suit?

Proteus O sir, I find her milder than she was,

And yet she takes exceptions at your person.

Thurio What? That my leg is too long?

Proteus No, that it is too little.

Thurio I'll wear a boot to make it somewhat rounder.

Julia [Aside.] But love will not be spurred to what it loathes.

Thurio What says she to my face?

Proteus She says it is a fair one.

Thurio Nay, then the wanton lies; my face is black.

Proteus But pearls are fair; and the old saying is  
'Black men are pearls in beauteous ladies' eyes'.

Julia [Aside.] 'Tis true, such pearls as put out ladies' eyes,  
For I had rather wink than look on them.

Thurio How likes she my discourse?

Proteus Ill, when you talk of war.

Thurio But well, when I discourse of love and peace?

Julia [Aside.] But better, indeed, when you hold your peace.

Thurio What says she to my valour?

Proteus O sir, she makes no doubt of that.

Julia [Aside.] She needs not, when she knows it cowardice.

Thurio What says she to my birth?

Proteus That you are well derived.

Julia [Aside.] True, from a gentleman to a fool.

Thurio Considers she my possessions?

Proteus O, ay; and pities them.

Thurio Wherefore?

Julia [Aside.] That such an ass should owe them.

Proteus That they are out by lease.

Julia Here comes the duke.

Enter DUKE.

Duke How now, Sir Proteus! How now, Thurio!  
Which of you saw Sir Eglamour of late?

Thurio Not I.

Proteus Nor I.

Duke Saw you my daughter?

Proteus Neither.

Duke Why, then she's fled unto that peasant Valentine,  
And Eglamour is in her company.  
'Tis true, for Friar Laurence met them both  
As he in penance wandered through the forest.  
Him he knew well, and guessed that it was she,  
But, being masked, he was not sure of it.  
Besides, she did intend confession  
At Patrick's cell this even, and there she was not.  
These likelihoods confirm her flight from hence;  
Therefore, I pray you, stand not to discourse,  
But mount you presently, and meet with me  
Upon the rising of the mountain foot  
That leads toward Mantua, whither they are fled.  
Dispatch, sweet gentlemen, and follow me.

[Exit.

Thurio Why, this it is to be a peevish girl,  
That flies her fortune when it follows her.  
I'll after, more to be revenged on Eglamour  
Than for the love of reckless Silvia.

[Exit.

Proteus And I will follow, more for Silvia's love  
Than hate of Eglamour that goes with her.

[Exit.

Julia And I will follow, more to cross that love  
Than hate for Silvia, that is gone for love.

[Exit.

+ + + + +

Scene 3. A Forest between Milan and Verona.

Enter the OUTLAWS, with SILVIA as prisoner.

1st Outlaw Come, come, be patient.  
We must bring you to our captain.

Silvia A thousand more mischances than this one  
Have learned me how to brook this patiently.

2nd Outlaw Come, bring her away.

1st Outlaw Where is the gentleman that was with her?

3rd Outlaw Being nimble-footed, he hath outrun us;  
But Moyses and Valerius follow him.  
Go thou with her to the west end of the wood;  
There is our captain. We'll follow him that's fled.  
The thicket is beset, he cannot 'scape.

[Exeunt all but 1st OUTLAW and SILVIA.]

1st Outlaw Come, I must bring you to our captain's cave.  
Fear not, he bears an honourable mind,  
And will not use a woman lawlessly.

Silvia O Valentine! This I endure for thee.  
[Exeunt.]

+ + + + +

Scene 4. Another Part of the Forest.

Enter VALENTINE.

Valentine How use doth breed a habit in a man!  
This shadowy desert, unfrequented woods,  
I better brook than flourishing peopled towns.  
Here can I sit alone, unseen of any,  
And to the nightingale's complaining notes  
Tune my distresses, and record my woes.  
O thou that dost inhabit in my breast,  
Leave not the mansion so long tenantless,  
Lest, growing ruinous, the building fall  
And leave no memory of what it was.  
Repair me with thy presence, Silvia.  
Thou gentle nymph, cherish thy forlorn swain.

[Shouts within.]

What hallooing and what stir is this today?  
These are my mates, that make their wills their law,  
Have some unhappy passenger in chase.  
They love me well, yet I have much to do  
To keep them from uncivil outrages.  
Withdraw thee, Valentine; who's this comes here?

[Stands apart.]

Enter PROTEUS, SILVIA, and JULIA disguised as a boy.

Proteus Madam, this service I have done for you,  
Though you respect not aught your servant doth,  
To hazard life, and rescue you from him  
That would have forced your honour and your love.  
Vouchsafe me, for my meed, but one fair look;  
A smaller boon than this I cannot beg,  
And less than this I am sure you cannot give.

Valentine [Aside.] How like a dream is this I see and hear!  
Love, lend me patience to forbear awhile.

Silvia O miserable, unhappy that I am!

Proteus Unhappy were you, madam, ere I came;  
But by my coming I have made you happy.

Silvia By thy approach thou mak'st me most unhappy.

Julia [Aside.] And me, when he approacheth to your presence.

Silvia Had I been seized by a hungry lion,  
I would have been a breakfast to the beast  
Rather than have false Proteus rescue me.  
O heaven be judge how I love Valentine,  
Whose life's as tender to me as my soul,  
And full as much, for more there cannot be,  
I do detest false perjured Proteus.  
Therefore be gone, solicit me no more.

Proteus What dangerous action, stood it next to death,  
Would I not undergo for one calm look?  
O, 'tis the curse in love, and still approved,  
When women cannot love where they're beloved.

Silvia When Proteus cannot love where he's beloved.  
Read over Julia's heart, thy first best love,  
For whose dear sake thou didst then rend thy faith  
Into a thousand oaths; and all those oaths  
Descended into perjury to love me.  
Thou hast no faith left now, unless thou'dst two,  
And that's far worse than none. Better have none,  
Than plural faith which is too much by one.  
Thou counterfeit to thy true friend!

Proteus In love,  
Who respects friend?

Silvia All men but Proteus.

Proteus Nay, if the gentle spirit of moving words

Can no way change you to a milder form,  
I'll woo you like a soldier, at arm's end,  
And love you 'gainst the nature of love: force ye.

Silvia O heaven!

Proteus I'll force thee yield to my desire.

Valentine [Advancing.] Ruffian! Let go that rude uncivil touch,  
Thou friend of an ill fashion.

Proteus Valentine!

Valentine Thou common friend, that's without faith or love -  
For such is a friend now; treacherous man,  
Thou hast beguiled my hopes. Nought but mine eye  
Could have persuaded me: now I dare not say  
I have one friend alive -thou wouldst disprove me.  
Who should be trusted now, when one's right hand  
Is perjured to the bosom? Proteus,  
I am sorry I must never trust thee more,  
But count the world a stranger for thy sake.  
The private wound is deepest. O time most accurst,  
'Mongst all foes that a friend should be the worst!

Proteus My shame and guilt confounds me.  
Forgive me, Valentine. If hearty sorrow  
Be a sufficient ransom for offence,  
I tender't here. I do as truly suffer  
As e'er I did commit.

Valentine Then I am paid;  
And once again I do receive thee honest.  
Who by repentance is not satisfied,  
Is nor of heaven nor earth; for these are pleased;  
By penitence th' Eternal's wrath's appeased.  
And that my love may appear plain and free,  
All that was mine in Silvia I give thee.

Julia O me unhappy!  
[Swoons.

Proteus Look to the boy.

Valentine Why, boy! Why, wag, how now! What's the matter? Look up; speak.

Julia O good sir, my master charged me to deliver a ring to Madam Silvia,  
which out of my neglect was never done.

Proteus Where is that ring, boy?

Julia [Giving him a ring.] Here 'tis; this is it.

Proteus How! Let me see. Why, this is the ring I gave to Julia.

Julia [Giving him another ring.]  
O, cry you mercy, sir, I have mistook;  
This is the ring you sent to Silvia.

Proteus But how cam'st thou by this ring?  
At my depart I gave this unto Julia.

Julia And Julia herself did give it me;  
And Julia herself hath brought it hither.

[Revealing herself.

Proteus How! Julia?

Julia Behold her that gave aim to all thy oaths,  
And entertained 'em deeply in her heart.  
How oft hast thou with perjury cleft the root!  
O Proteus, let this habit make thee blush.  
Be thou ashamed that I have took upon me  
Such an immodest raiment, if shame live  
In a disguise of love.  
It is the lesser blot, modesty finds,  
Women to change their shapes than men their minds.

Proteus Than men their minds! -'Tis true. O heaven, were man  
But constant he were perfect. That one error  
Fills him with faults, makes him run through all th' sins;  
Inconstancy falls off ere it begins.  
What is in Silvia's face but I may spy  
More fresh in Julia's, with a constant eye?

Valentine Come, come, a hand from either.  
Let me be blest to make this happy close;  
'Twere pity two such friends should be long foes.

Proteus Bear witness, heaven, I have my wish for ever.

Julia And I mine.

Enter OUTLAWS, with DUKE and THURIO as prisoners.

1st Outlaw A prize, a prize, a prize!

Valentine Forbear, forbear, I say! It is my lord the duke.  
Your grace is welcome to a man disgraced,  
Banished Valentine.

Duke Sir Valentine!

Thurio Yonder is Silvia; and Silvia's mine.

Valentine Thurio, give back, or else embrace thy death.  
Come not within the measure of my wrath;  
Do not name Silvia thine. If once again,  
Verona shall not hold thee. Here she stands;  
Take but possession of her with a touch -  
I dare thee but to breathe upon my love.

Thurio Sir Valentine, I care not for her, I.  
I hold him but a fool that will endanger  
His body for a girl that loves him not.  
I claim her not, and therefore she is thine.

Duke The more degenerate and base art thou  
To make such means for her as thou hast done,  
And leave her on such slight conditions.  
Now, by the honour of my ancestry,  
I do applaud thy spirit, Valentine,  
And think thee worthy of an empress' love.  
Know then, I here forget all former griefs,  
Cancel all grudge, repeal thee home again,  
Plead a new state in thy unrivalled merit,  
To which I thus subscribe: Sir Valentine,  
Thou art a gentleman, and well derived;  
Take thou thy Silvia, for thou hast deserved her.

Valentine I thank your grace; the gift hath made me happy.  
I now beseech you, for your daughter's sake,  
To grant one boon that I shall ask of you.

Duke I grant it, for thine own, whate'er it be.

Valentine These banished men, that I have kept withal,  
Are men endued with worthy qualities.  
Forgive them what they have committed here,  
And let them be recalled from their exile.  
They are reformed, civil, full of good,  
And fit for great employment, worthy lord.

Duke Thou hast prevailed; I pardon them and thee.  
Dispose of them as thou know'st their deserts.  
Come, let us go; we will include all jars  
With triumphs, mirth, and rare solemnity.

Valentine And as we walk along, I dare be bold  
With our discourse to make your grace to smile.  
What think you of this page, my lord?

Duke I think the boy hath grace in him -he blushes.

Valentine I warrant you, my lord, more grace than boy.

Duke What mean you by that saying?

Valentine Please you, I'll tell you as we pass along,  
That you will wonder what hath fortun'd.  
Come, Proteus, 'tis your penance but to hear  
The story of your loves discovered.  
That done, our day of marriage shall be yours;  
One feast, one house, one mutual happiness.  
[Exeunt.]