

## **SHAKESPEARIENCE!**

### *Midsummer Night's Dream*

Act I, Scene 2: *Quince, Flute, Snug, Snout, Starveling, Bottom*

**QUINCE**

Is all our company here?

**BOTTOM**

First, good Peter Quince, read the names of the actors, and so grow to a point.

**QUINCE**

Marry, our play is, the most cruel death of Pyramus and Thisby. Answer as I call you. Nick Bottom, the weaver.

**BOTTOM**

Ready. Name what part I am for.

**QUINCE**

You, Nick Bottom, are set down for Pyramus.

**BOTTOM**

What is Pyramus? a lover...or a tyrant?

**QUINCE**

A lover, that kills himself most gallant for love.

**BOTTOM**

That will ask some tears in the true performing of it: I will move storms!

**QUINCE**

Francis Flute, the bellows-mender.

**FLUTE**

Here, Peter Quince.

**QUINCE**

Flute, you must take Thisby on you.

**FLUTE**

What is Thisby? a wandering knight?

**QUINCE**

It is the lady that Pyramus must love.

**FLUTE**

Nay, faith, let me not play a woman; I have a beard coming.

**QUINCE**

That's all one: you shall play it, and you may speak as small as you will.

**BOTTOM**

Let me play Thisby too! I'll speak in a monstrous little voice. 'Ah, Pyramus, lover dear! thy Thisby dear, and lady dear!'

**QUINCE**

No, no; you must play Pyramus: and, Flute, you Thisby.

**BOTTOM**

Well, proceed.

**QUINCE**

Robin Starveling, the tailor.

**STARVELING**

Here, Peter Quince.

**QUINCE**

Robin Starveling, you must play Thisby's mother. Tom Snout, the tinker.

**SNOUT**

Here, Peter Quince.

**QUINCE**

You, Pyramus' father: myself, Thisby's mother:  
Snug, the joiner; you, the lion's part: and, I  
hope, here is a play fitted.

**SNUG**

Have you the lion's part written? pray you, if it be, give it me, for I am  
slow of study.

**QUINCE**

It is nothing but roaring.

**BOTTOM**

Let me play the lion too! I will roar, and I will make the duke say 'Let  
him roar again, let him roar again.'!!!!

**QUINCE**

You can play no part but Pyramus.

**BOTTOM**

Well, I will undertake it.

**QUINCE**

But, masters, here are your parts: and I entreat you, to know them by to-  
morrow night; and meet me in the palace wood. I pray you, fail me not.

**BOTTOM**

We will meet; and there we may rehearse most courageously. Take  
pains; be perfect: adieu.

**ALL**

At the duke's oak we meet!