

SHAKESPEARIENCE!

Midsummer Night's Dream

Act I, Scene 2: *At the Duke's Oak We Meet*

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 father:
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!