

SHAKESPEARIENCE!

Midsummer Night's Dream

Act II, Scene 1: *I Love Thee Not*

Helena and Demetrius

DEMETRIUS

I love thee not, therefore pursue me not. Where is Lysander and fair Hermia? Hence! Get thee gone, and follow me no more.

HELENA

You draw me, you hard-hearted adamant;
But yet you draw not iron, for my heart is true as steel:

DEMETRIUS

Do I entice you? do I speak you fair? Or, rather, do I not in plainest truth tell you, I do not, nor I cannot love you?

HELENA

And even for that do I love you the more!

DEMETRIUS

Tempt not too much the hatred of my spirit; For I am sick when I do look on thee.

HELENA

And I am sick when I look not on you.

DEMETRIUS

I'll run from thee and hide me in the brakes, and leave thee to the mercy of wild beasts.

HELENA

The wildest hath not such a heart as you.

[she grabs him/his ankles or hand]

DEMETRIUS

I will not stay thy questions; let me go!
Or, if thou follow me, do not believe but I shall do thee mischief in the
wood.

HELENA

Ay, in the temple, in the town, the field,
You do me mischief. Fie, Demetrius!

[Exit DEMETRIUS loudly, shouting Nooooo!]

I'll follow thee and make a heaven of hell,
To die upon the hand I love so well.

[Exit]