

SHAKESPEARIENCE!

Midsummer Night's Dream

Act II, Scene 1: *Oberon & Titania*

OBERON

Ill met by moonlight, proud Titania.

TITANIA

What, jealous Oberon! Fairies, skip hence:
I have forsworn his bed and company.

OBERON

Tarry, rash wanton: am not I thy lord?

TITANIA

Then I must be thy lady:
Forsooth, the bouncing Amazon, and your warrior love,
To Theseus must be wedded, and you come
To give their bed joy and prosperity?

OBERON

How canst thou thus for shame, Titania,
Knowing I know thy love to Theseus?

TITANIA

These are the forgeries of jealousy:
And never, since the middle summer's spring,
Met we on hill, in dale, forest or mead,
By paved fountain or by rushy brook,
Or in the beached margent of the sea,
To dance our ringlets to the whistling wind,
But with thy brawls thou hast disturb'd our sport.

OBERON

Do you amend it then; it lies in you:
Why should Titania cross her Oberon?
I do but beg a little changeling boy, to be my henchman.

TITANIA

Set your heart at rest:
The fairy land buys not the child of me.
His mother was a votress of my order:
But she, being mortal, of that boy did die;
And for her sake do I rear up her boy,
And for her sake I will not part with him.

OBERON

How long within this wood intend you stay?

TITANIA

Perchance till after Theseus' wedding-day.
If you will patiently see our moonlight revels, go with us...

OBERON

Give me that boy, and I will go with thee.

TITANIA

Not for thy fairy kingdom! Fairies, away!
We shall chide downright, if I longer stay.

[Exit TITANIA with her train]

OBERON

Well, go thy way: thou shalt not from this grove
Till I torment thee for this injury.

