

# SHAKESPEARIENCE!

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## *A Midsummer Night's Dream*

### CHARACTER/ACT BREAKDOWN

#### KEY CHARACTERS:

*Theseus (thee-see-us)*....Duke of Athens

*Hippolyta, Queen of the Amazons (hi-paul-it-a)*....betrothed to  
Theseus

*Lysander (lie-san-der)*....in love with Hermia, then Helena, then  
Hermia

*Hermia (her-me-uh)*....in love with Lysander

*Demetrius (duh-me-tree-us)*....in the with Hermia and then Helena

*Helena (helen-uh)*....in love with Demetrius

*Oberon (oh-ber-on)*....King of the Fairies

*Titania (ti-tahn-ee-yuh)*....Queen on the Fairies

*Puck (puc)*....Oberon's right hand man, or fairy

*Nic Bottom*....a weaver (one of the workmen, or mechanicals)

#### ACT 1

\*Hermia and Lysander are in love.

\*Demetrius and Helena were once in love....but then he changed  
his mind and decided he loved Hermia instead.

\*Helena and Hermia are best friends.

\*Hermia's dad says she HAS to marry Demetrius... though she loves Lysander, her dad doesn't care... HE likes Demetrius better.  
\*Defying her father, Hermia plans to elope with Lysander that very night!

Hermia ⇄ ⇄ Lysander

Demetrius ⇄ Hermia, Demetrius ☠ Helena

Helena ⇄ Demetrius

Hermia 😊 Helena

\*They confide in her best friend Helena.

By doing this, they give her new hope that just maybe without Hermia in the picture, Demetrius will remember how he once felt about Helena and fall for her again.

\*It backfires... Helena tells Demetrius that Hermia is out of the picture, off to marry Lysander. But then Demetrius chases after them, hoping to change Hermia's mind.

\*Meanwhile, a group of local craftsmen have gotten together to rehearse a play which will be performed at the wedding of the Duke, Theseus to the Queen of the Amazons, Hippolyta.

\*In the lead role, Bottom the weaver has insisted on being cast. He's very bold. He in fact thinks he is perfect for EVERY role.

## ACT 2:

\*In the woods near Athens, the fairies are having problems... their Queen, Titania, has adopted a HUMAN boy and is spending all of her time with him. The King, Oberon, has become quite jealous of her affections being spent on the boy, and he has asked her to "give" the boy to him. She refuses and they began fighting....

\*The more they argue, the more all of nature is affected...the air, the sea, the land. (a little like global warming...?)

\*Oberon sends his messenger, Puck, to find an extremely rare, purple flower called “love in idleness”. It’s juice is a love potion, and when placed on someone’s eyes they fall in love with the first creature they see.

\*Oberon has the antidote, but won’t give it to Titania until she gives up the boy.

\*The potion is placed on her eyes....

\*Meanwhile, Hermia and Lysander flee to the same woods, pursued by Demetrius...who is pursued by Helena.

\*Oberon sees all of this and feels sympathy for Helena. So, he instructs Puck to place the potion on “a young Athenian’s eyes”. But Puck comes across Hermia and Lysander and mistakes Lysander for Demetrius, placing the potion on HIS eyes.

\*Helena is searching for Demetrius...she stumbles over Lysander, waking him...so of course, he is instantly in love with her – HELENA.

\*Helena thinks it’s some sick joke. Hermia awakens and is utterly bewildered. Helena runs away, now being pursued by Lysander – who is pursued by a very confused Hermia.

### **ACT 3:**

\*The craftsmen meet in the woods to rehearse...yes, the same woods where everything else is happening. Puck notices the lead actor is pretty bold, and for fun gives him the head of an ass...or donkey. All of his friends run off in horror, but he has no idea why.

\*He happens to stumble upon Titania...who awakens and falls in love with him, ass’s head and all.

\*Puck reports all of this to Oberon who is very, very amused.

\*Demetrius, Lysander, Helena, and Hermia are seen by Oberon, wrong person in love with the wrong person. It's gotten quite messy.

Lysander, Demetrius ⇔ ⇔ Helena

Lysander ☹ Demetrius, Demetrius ☹ Lysander

Lysander ☠ Hermia

Helena ☹ Hermia, Hermia ☹ Helena

\*Puck places the potion on Demetrius's eyes, in an attempt to fix it...he awakens and falls for Helena – which was the original plan.

\*But now Hermia is furious with Helena and Demetrius and Lysander are fighting each other for Helena. Helena thinks it's all of them in on the twisted joke and she too is furious.

\*Puck leads them further into the forest and puts them to sleep. He then puts the antidote on Lysander's eyes so that upon awakening, he will fall back in love with Hermia.

#### **ACT 4:**

\*Titania is blissfully in love with Bottom, adoring his huge ears etc.

\*Oberon takes the boy he so wanted. He also sees that perhaps he's gone a bit too far...

\*He puts the antidote on her eyes and when she awakens, they are reconciled.

\*Theseus and Hippolyta are out in the woods now, and they stumble upon Helena, Demetrius, Hermia and Lysander.

\*When they awaken, they try to explain what happened...but it's all very strange and seems like a dream which they all shared. Lysander confesses to eloping with Hermia...Demetrius confesses to renouncing his love for Hermia because he's simply mad about Helena.

Hermia ↔ ↔ Lysander

Helena ↔ ↔ Demetrius



\*They all return to Athens to sort out the details....

\*Meanwhile, the craftsmen are all concerned about what happened to their friend (and lead actor), Bottom.

\*Puck has transformed his head back to it's normal human self and leads him back to his friends.

\*They are full of questions...but he won't tell that he had been truly adored by a beautiful fairy queen. He just insists on getting to the rehearsal of their play.

### **ACT 5:**

\*Theseus and Hippolyta are wed and the nuptial party begins...

\*Helena and Demetrius are content and joyous to be with one another, as are Hermia and Lysander.

\*The craftsmen arrive to perform their play, "Pyramus and Thisbe", a tragic love story...and it is very entertaining for all.

\*Oberon, Titania and the fairies arrive and bless the bridal beds so that all the couples and their future children can live happily ever after.

