

HERMIA

FTLN 1294 What, can you do me greater harm than hate?
 FTLN 1295 Hate me? Wherefore? O me, what news, my love?
 FTLN 1296 Am not I Hermia? Are not you Lysander? 285
 FTLN 1297 I am as fair now as I was erewhile.
 FTLN 1298 Since night you loved me; yet since night you left
 FTLN 1299 me.
 FTLN 1300 Why, then, you left me—O, the gods forbid!—
 FTLN 1301 In earnest, shall I say? 290
 FTLN 1302 LYSANDER Ay, by my life,
 FTLN 1303 And never did desire to see thee more.
 FTLN 1304 Therefore be out of hope, of question, of doubt.
 FTLN 1305 Be certain, nothing truer, 'tis no jest
 FTLN 1306 That I do hate thee and love Helena. 295

¶ Hermia turns him loose. ¶

HERMIA

FTLN 1307 O me! *¶ To Helena. ¶* You juggler, you cankerblossom,
 FTLN 1308 You thief of love! What, have you come by night
 FTLN 1309 And stol'n my love's heart from him?
 FTLN 1310 HELENA Fine, i' faith.
 FTLN 1311 Have you no modesty, no maiden shame, 300
 FTLN 1312 No touch of bashfulness? What, will you tear
 FTLN 1313 Impatient answers from my gentle tongue?
 FTLN 1314 Fie, fie, you counterfeit, you puppet, you!

HERMIA

FTLN 1315 "Puppet"? Why so? Ay, that way goes the game.
 FTLN 1316 Now I perceive that she hath made compare 305
 FTLN 1317 Between our statures; she hath urged her height,
 FTLN 1318 And with her personage, her tall personage,
 FTLN 1319 Her height, forsooth, she hath prevailed with him.
 FTLN 1320 And are you grown so high in his esteem
 FTLN 1321 Because I am so dwarfish and so low? 310
 FTLN 1322 How low am I, thou painted maypole? Speak!
 FTLN 1323 How low am I? I am not yet so low
 FTLN 1324 But that my nails can reach unto thine eyes.

HELENA

FTLN 1325 I pray you, though you mock me, 「gentlemen,」¹
 FTLN 1326 Let her not hurt me. I was never curst; 315
 FTLN 1327 I have no gift at all in shrewishness.
 FTLN 1328 I am a right maid for my cowardice.
 FTLN 1329 Let her not strike me. You perhaps may think,
 FTLN 1330 Because she is something lower than myself,
 FTLN 1331 That I can match her. 320

HERMIA “Lower”? Hark, again!

HELENA

FTLN 1333 Good Hermia, do not be so bitter with me.
 FTLN 1334 I evermore did love you, Hermia,
 FTLN 1335 Did ever keep your counsels, never wronged you—
 FTLN 1336 Save that, in love unto Demetrius, 325
 FTLN 1337 I told him of your stealth unto this wood.
 FTLN 1338 He followed you; for love, I followed him.
 FTLN 1339 But he hath chid me hence and threatened me
 FTLN 1340 To strike me, spurn me, nay, to kill me too.
 FTLN 1341 And now, so you will let me quiet go, 330
 FTLN 1342 To Athens will I bear my folly back
 FTLN 1343 And follow you no further. Let me go.
 FTLN 1344 You see how simple and how fond I am.

HERMIA

FTLN 1345 Why, get you gone. Who is ’t that hinders you?

HELENA

FTLN 1346 A foolish heart that I leave here behind. 335

HERMIA

FTLN 1347 What, with Lysander?

FTLN 1348 HELENA With Demetrius.

LYSANDER

FTLN 1349 Be not afraid. She shall not harm thee, Helena.

DEMETRIUS

FTLN 1350 No, sir, she shall not, though you take her part.

HELENA

FTLN 1351 O, when she is angry, she is keen and shrewd. 340
 FTLN 1352 She was a vixen when she went to school,
 FTLN 1353 And though she be but little, she is fierce.