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Twelfth Night

WILLIAM
SHAKESPEARE





MANY YEARS AGO, ORSINO, DUKE* OF ILLYRIA, SAT IN HIS PALACE THINKING OF OLIVIA, THE WOMAN HE LOVED.

IF MUSIC IS THE FOOD OF LOVE, PLAY ON. IF I AM FED TOO MUCH, MAYBE I'LL LOSE MY APPETITE** FOR BOTH.

BUT OLIVIA WAS NOT INTERESTED IN THE DUKE. HER BROTHER HAD JUST DIED, AND SHE HAD DECIDED TO DO NOTHING BUT WEEP FOR HIM.

* a noble title

** desire for food

AS HE WAS SPEAKING, ONE OF HIS SERVANTS ENTERED THE ROOM.

DID YOU SEE OLIVIA? WHAT IS THE NEWS?

SIR, SHE WOULD NOT SEE ME, BUT I SPOKE TO HER MAID.



LADY OLIVIA SAYS THAT FOR SEVEN YEARS NOT EVEN THE SKIES SHALL SEE HER FACE! SHE WILL ALWAYS APPEAR WEARING A VEIL LIKE A NUN.



EVERY DAY SHE WILL WEEP FOR HER BROTHER AND SPEND HER TIME THINKING OF HIM.

WHAT A HEART SHE HAS! THINK OF HOW MUCH SHE WILL LOVE WHEN CUPID'S* ARROW STRIKES HER.



* the god of love



MEANWHILE, MANY MILES FROM THE DUKE'S PALACE, A STORM WAS RAGING ON THE SEA. A GREAT SHIP HAD JUST GONE DOWN, AND THE PEOPLE WERE FORCED TO SWIM FOR SHORE.



THE CAPTAIN, SOME SAILORS, AND A NOBLE YOUNG LADY NAMED VIOLA ARRIVED SAFELY.

WE'VE MADE IT! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

YES... I THINK SO.



BUT SEBASTIAN... MY TWIN BROTHER... WHERE IS HE?



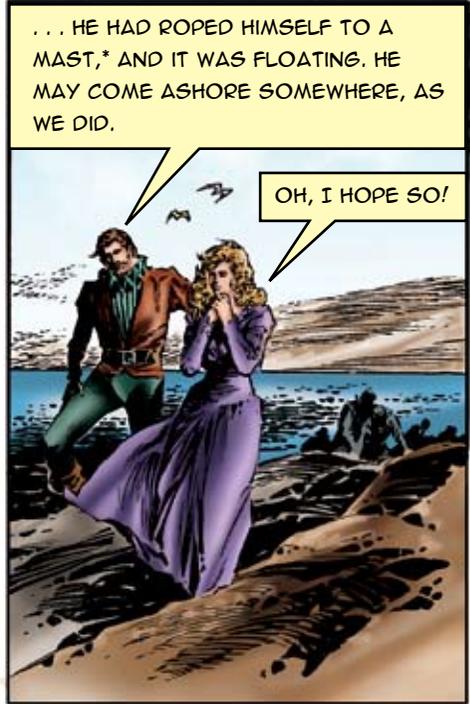
WE'VE NEVER BEEN APART! IF HE HAS DROWNED, I DON'T WANT TO LIVE.

COME, NOW... THERE'S STILL HOPE.



WE WERE LUCKY. . .
MAYBE HE WILL BE
TOO. THE LAST I
SAW OF HIM. . .

YES, YES?



. . . HE HAD ROPED HIMSELF TO A
MAST,* AND IT WAS FLOATING. HE
MAY COME ASHORE SOMEWHERE, AS
WE DID.

OH, I HOPE SO!



BUT WHERE
ARE WE?
DO YOU
KNOW THIS
COUNTRY?

YES, MADAM;
IT IS ILLYRIA. I
GREW UP NOT
THREE HOURS'
TRAVEL FROM
HERE!



WHO RULES IT?

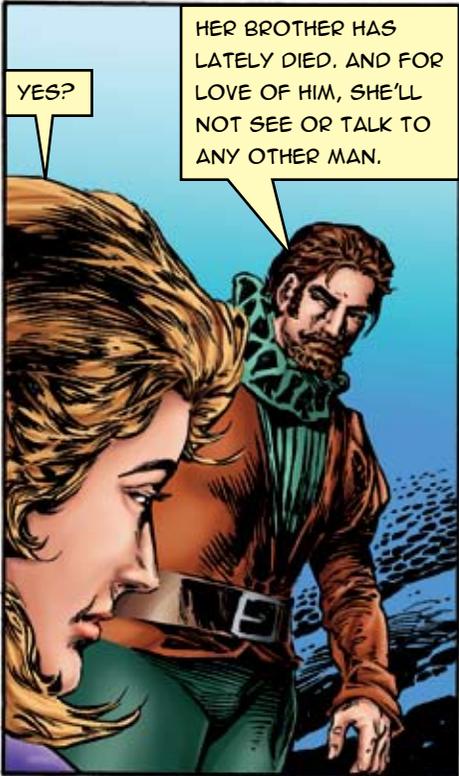
A NOBLE DUKE
NAMED ORSINO.

* one of the large poles to which a ship's sails were fastened



ORSINO! I'VE HEARD MY FATHER SPEAK OF HIM. IS HE MARRIED?

NO, BUT HE IS MUCH IN LOVE WITH THE COUNTESS* OLIVIA. AND SHE. . .



YES?

HER BROTHER HAS LATELY DIED. AND FOR LOVE OF HIM, SHE'LL NOT SEE OR TALK TO ANY OTHER MAN.



OH, YES! I KNOW NOW SHE FEELS! IF ONLY I COULD STAY WITH HER. . . WORK FOR HER. . .

* a noble lady's title



BUT SHE WILL SEE NO ONE,
LISTEN TO NO ONE—NOT
EVEN THE DUKE!

THEN I HAVE ANOTHER
IDEA.



YOU MUST FIND CLOTHES FOR ME LIKE
MY BROTHER'S—AND PRESENT ME TO
THE DUKE AS A BOY, TO SERVE HIM
AS A PAGE.*



DO THIS FOR
ME, AND I
WILL PAY YOU
WELL.

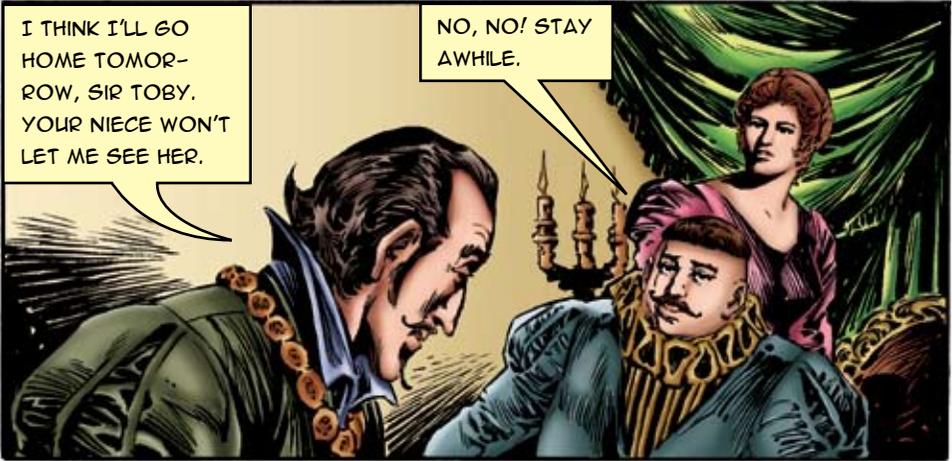
I'LL DO IT.

* a personal servant



* dared to fight

** the daughter of one's sister or brother



I THINK I'LL GO HOME TOMORROW, SIR TOBY. YOUR NIECE WON'T LET ME SEE HER.

NO, NO! STAY AWHILE.



NO, I DON'T THINK SHE'LL EVER ACCEPT ME. I HEAR THAT DUKE ORSINO IS COURTING HER.

BUT SHE WON'T ACCEPT HIM! SHE SAYS SHE WON'T MARRY ANYONE HIGHER THAN HERSELF IN TITLE, YEARS, OR BRAINS!



THEN I'LL STAY A MONTH LONGER. WE'LL HAVE A GOOD TIME, AND I'LL DANCE EVERY NIGHT!

GOOD! WE WERE BORN TO DANCE!



* true, never-changing