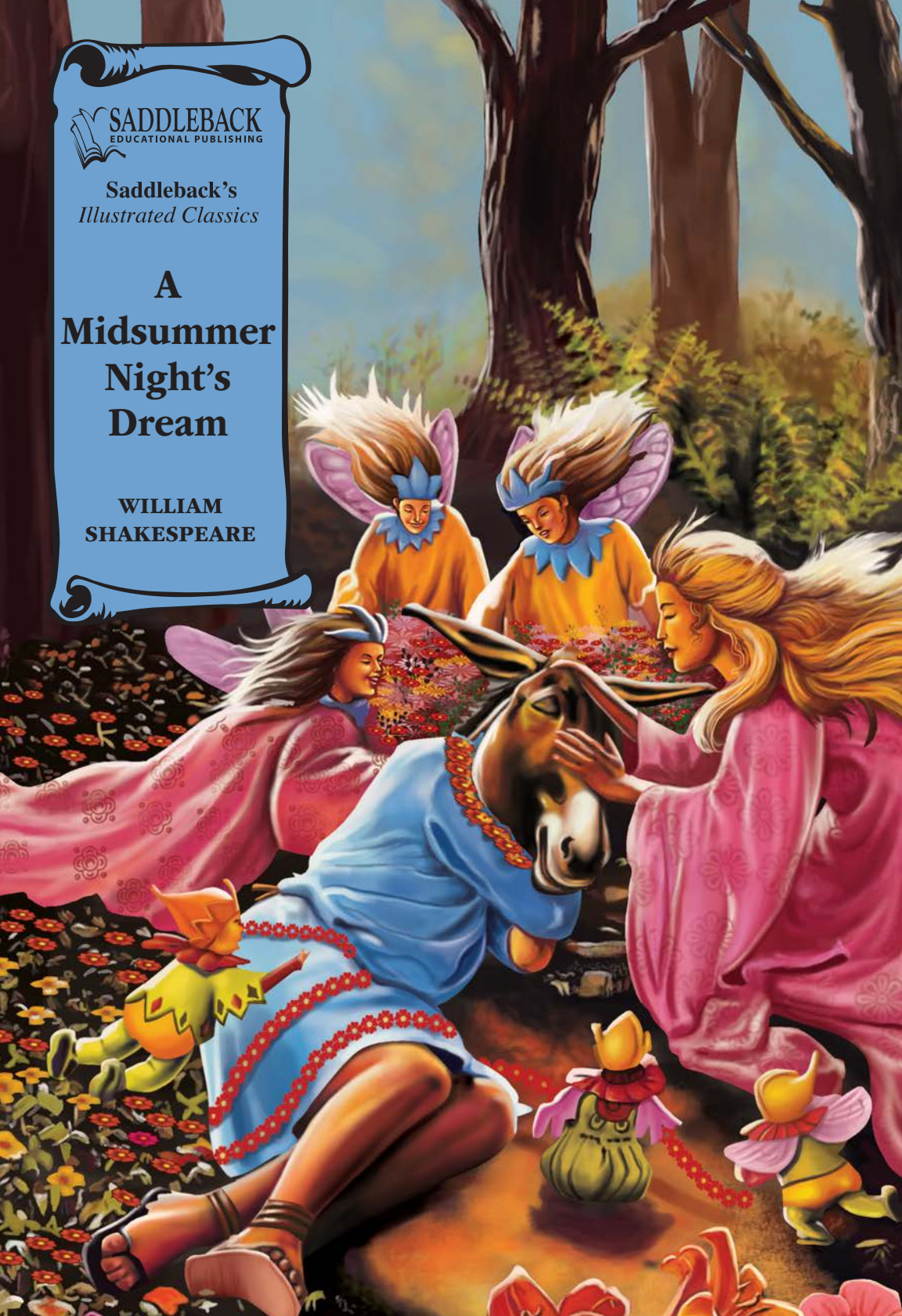




Saddleback's
Illustrated Classics

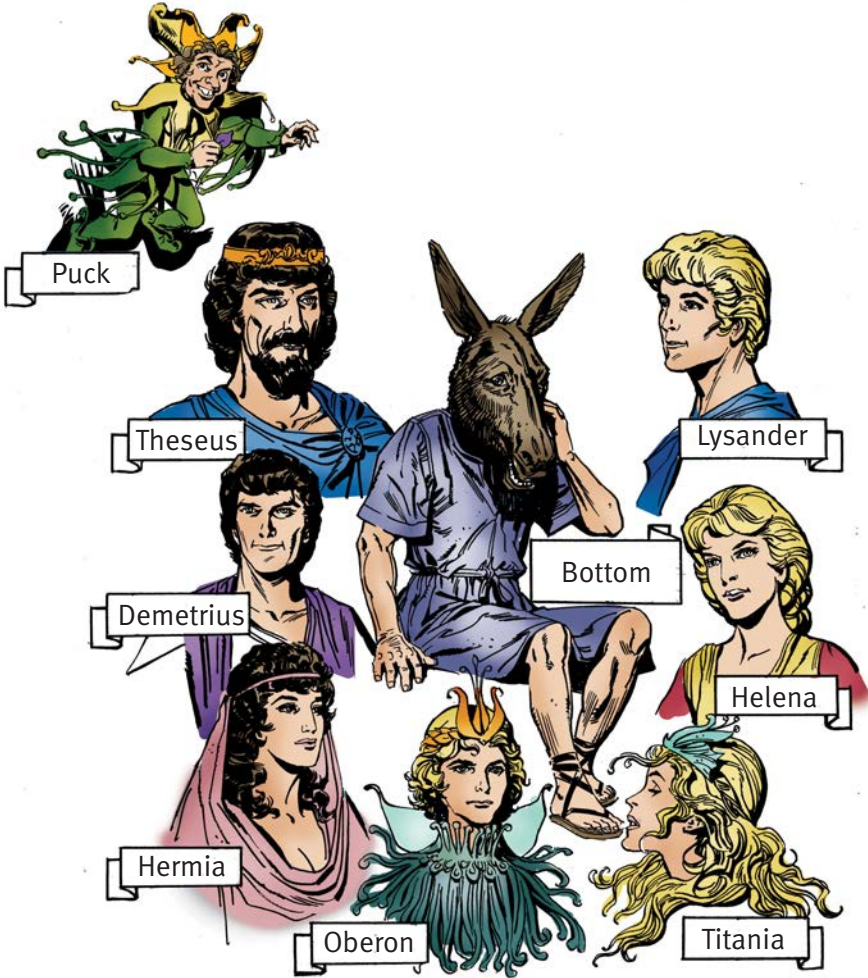
A
**Midsummer
Night's
Dream**

WILLIAM
SHAKESPEARE



William Shakespeare

A Midsummer Night's Dream



A midsummer night . . . a magic forest . . . anything could happen!
Men could be changed to donkeys and ladies could fall in love with them.



Was it magic? A joke? Or was it all a dream?

These things happened long ago in Greece. At that time, Theseus, Duke of Athens, was about to marry Hippolyta, the Amazon queen.

Four days until our wedding! How can I wait so long?

The time will pass quickly, my love!



Tell my people to be happy for us! Let no one be sad!



I met you on the battlefield, my dear, but I will marry you in a happier time and place!

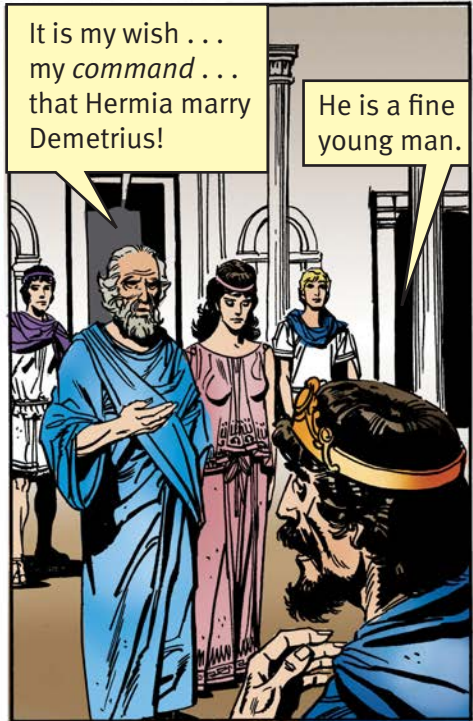


As Theseus was speaking, an old man came in with his daughter. Two young men followed them.

My lord duke!

Welcome, Egeus. Do you have news for me?







I have an aunt who lives where the laws of Athens cannot touch us. We'll go there and be married!

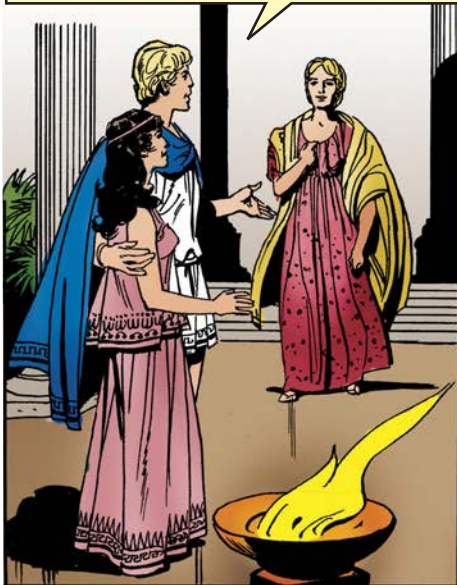


Leave your father's house tomorrow night. I'll wait for you in the forest, at the place where I once met you with Helena!



I'll be there!

Look, here comes Helena. When you are gone, perhaps Demetrius will love her again!



Greetings, Helena.

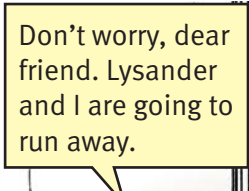
Oh, Hermia! I thought you were my friend! Why did you steal Demetrius away from me?





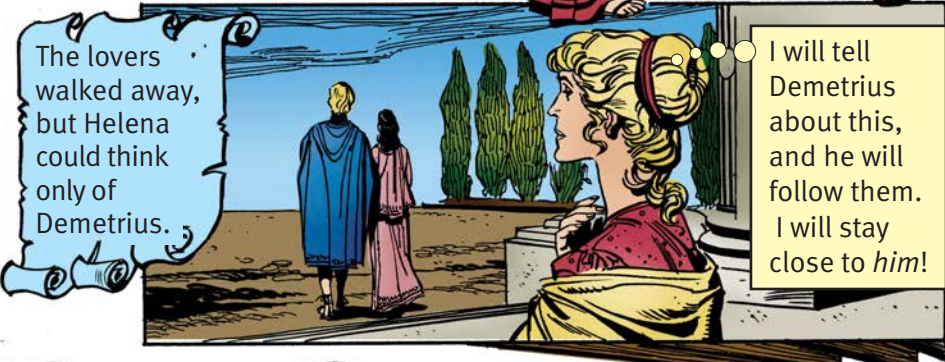
I didn't, Helena!
He loves me, but
I don't love him.

And the more
I love him,
the more he
hates me.



Don't worry, dear
friend. Lysander
and I are going to
run away.

We're meeting
in the forest
tomorrow
night.



The lovers
walked away,
but Helena
could think
only of
Demetrius.

I will tell
Demetrius
about this,
and he will
follow them.
I will stay
close to *him!*

Meanwhile, the people
of Athens were plan-
ning ways to celebra-
te Theseus' wedding.
One group of workmen
decided to put on a
play. They met at the
house of Peter Quince,
a carpenter.



What play shall
we do?

A very
serious
play . . .
*Pyramus
and Thisby.*



You, Nick Bottom, will play a lover who kills himself for love!

Good! I'll make everyone cry!



And you, Flute—you'll take the part of a girl.

But I am growing a beard!



That doesn't matter. You will wear a mask.



And you, Snug—you will play a lion!

Have you written out my part? It takes me a long time to learn these things.

