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# Twelfth Night

**WILLIAM  
SHAKESPEARE**



## William Shakespeare

William Shakespeare was baptized on April 26, 1564, in Stratford-on-Avon, England, the third child of John Shakespeare, a well-to-do merchant, and Mary Arden, his wife. Young William probably attended the Stratford grammar school, where he learned English, Greek, and a great deal of Latin. Historians aren't sure of the exact date of Shakespeare's birth.

In 1582, Shakespeare married Anne Hathaway. By 1583 the couple had a daughter, Susanna, and two years later the twins, Hamnet and Judith. Somewhere between 1585 and 1592 Shakespeare went to London, where he became first an actor and then a playwright. His acting company, *The King's Men*, appeared most often in the *Globe* theater, a part of which Shakespeare himself owned.

In all, Shakespeare is believed to have written thirty-seven plays, several nondramatic poems, and a number of sonnets. In 1611 when he left the active life of the theater, he returned to Stratford and became a country gentleman, living in the second-largest house in town. For five years he lived a quiet life. Then, on April 23, 1616, William Shakespeare died and was buried in Trinity Church in Stratford. From his own time to the present, Shakespeare is considered one of the greatest writers of the English-speaking world.

*William Shakespeare*

# *Twelfth Night*





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.

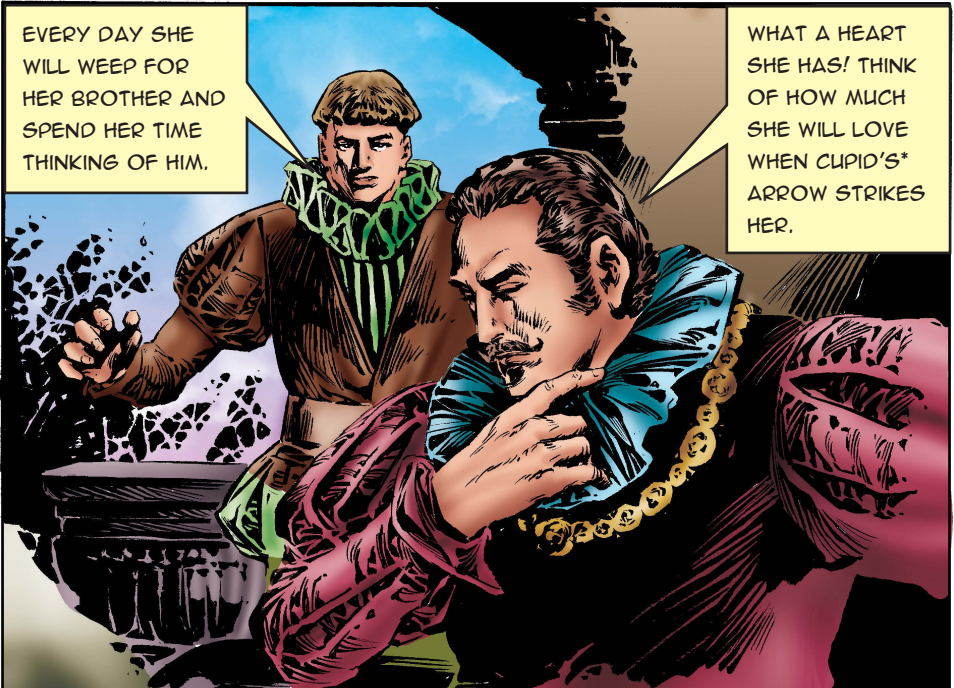


LADY OLIVIA SAYS THAT FOR SEVEN YEARS NOT EVEN THE SKIES SHALL SEE HER FACE! SHE WILL ALWAYS APPEAR WEARING A VEIL LIKE A NUN.



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



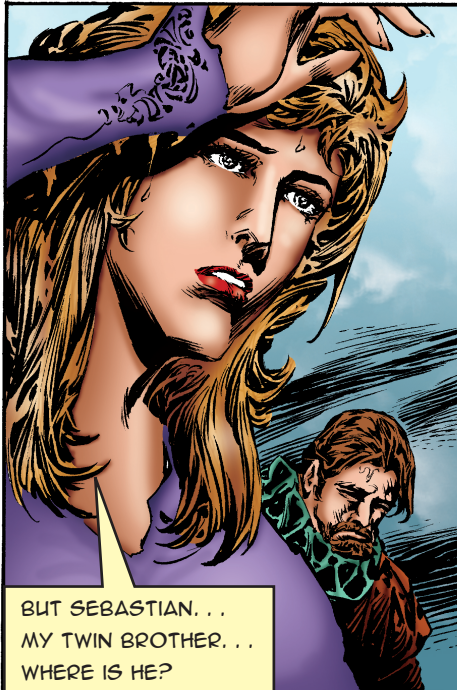
MEANWHILE, MANY MILES FROM THE DUKE'S PALACE, A STORM WAS RAGING ON THE SEA. A GREAT SHIP HAD JUST GONE DOWN, AND THE PEOPLE WERE FORCED TO SWIM FOR SHORE.



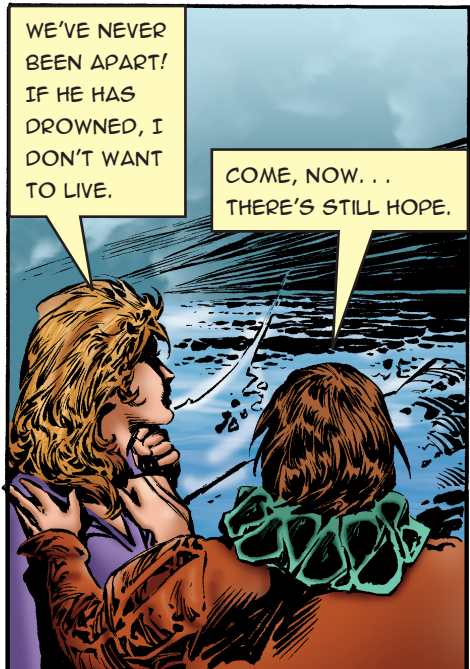
THE CAPTAIN, SOME SAILORS, AND A NOBLE YOUNG LADY NAMED VIOLA ARRIVED SAFELY.

WE'VE MADE IT! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

YES... I THINK SO.

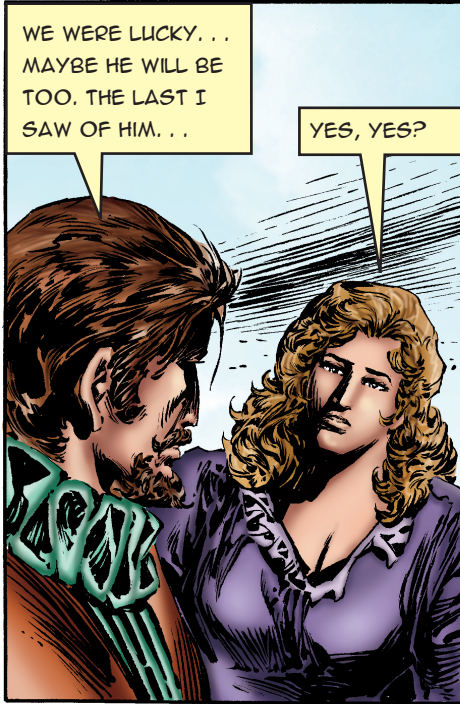


BUT SEBASTIAN... MY TWIN BROTHER... WHERE IS HE?

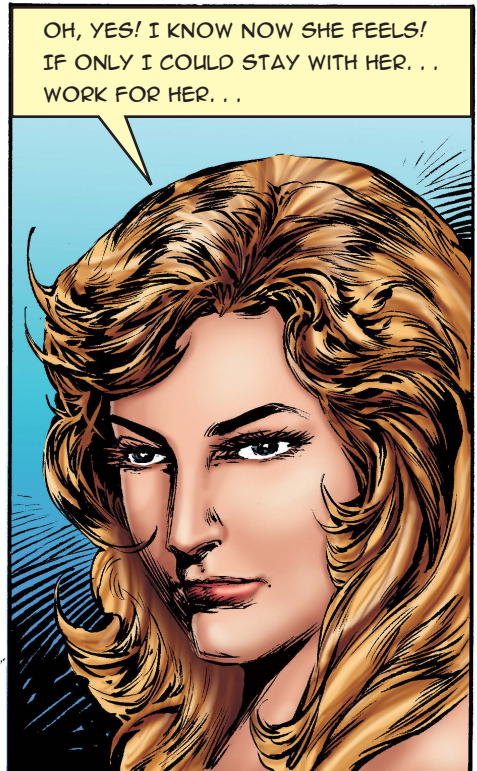


WE'VE NEVER BEEN APART! IF HE HAS DROWNED, I DON'T WANT TO LIVE.

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

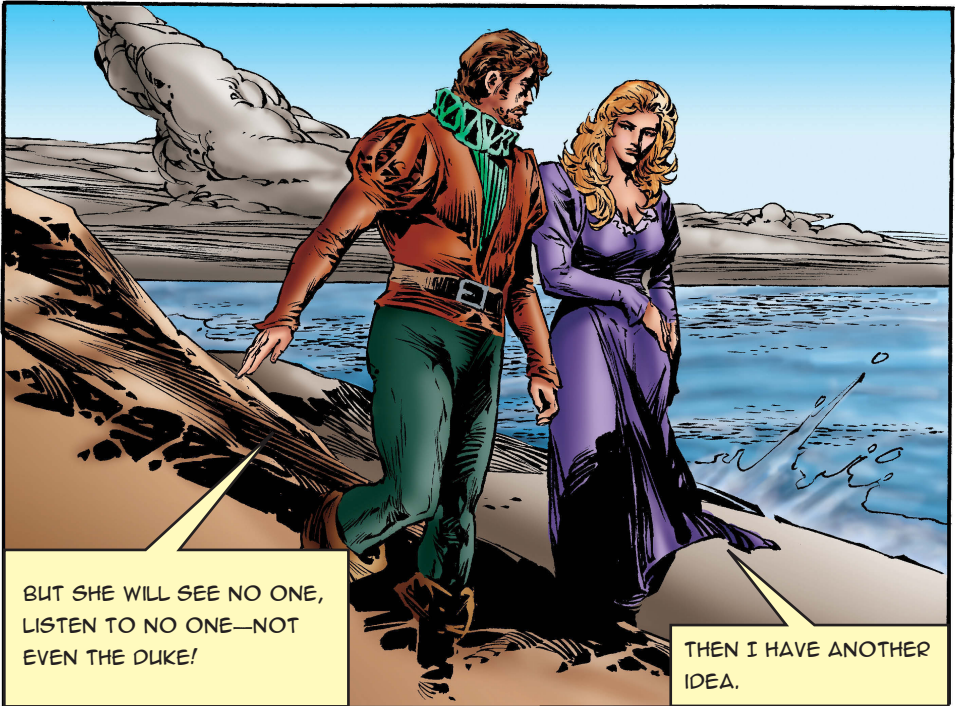


\* one of the large poles to which a ship's sails were fastened



\* 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

WHILE VIOLA WAS MAKING HER PLANS, THINGS WERE BUSY AT LADY OLIVIA'S HOUSE. HER UNCLE, SIR TOBY BELCH, WAS COMPLAINING\* TO MARIA, THE MAID.

WHAT DOES OLIVIA MEAN, TAKING HER BROTHER'S DEATH THIS WAY? I DON'T LIKE IT!

AND SHE DOESN'T LIKE THE LATE HOURS YOU KEEP AND THE DRINKING YOU DO!



SHE MAY OBJECT AS MUCH AS SHE LIKES, BUT I'LL DO AS I PLEASE.

SHE DOES OBJECT!



SHE SPOKE OF IT YESTERDAY. AND OF A FOOLISH MAN YOU BROUGHT\*\* HER.

SIR ANDREW AGUECHECK? HE'S AS TALL AS ANY MAN IN ILLYRIA!



AND WHAT DOES THAT MATTER?

WELL, HE ALSO HAS A LOT OF MONEY!



\* grumbling

\*\*try to win someone's love

# Twelfth Night

Shipwrecked Viola disguises herself as a boy and enters the service of Duke Orsino and falls in love with him. Orsino sends his servant, Cesario (Viola in disguise) to woo the Countess Olivia on his behalf. Olivia cannot love Orsino, but promptly falls in love with his servant, Cesario (Viola). Viola's shipwrecked twin brother, Sebastian, arrives on the scene creating chaos as it now appears that Cesario can be in two places at once. Will all the confusion end to everyone's satisfaction?



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