

AS YOU LIKE IT

A Humorous Reading

by
William Shakespeare

Arranged by Mabel Elizabeth Brown.



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ACT III. SCENE II.

The scenes of this delightful comedy are laid chiefly in the Forest of Arden, where everything is “as you like it.”

Rosalind, daughter of a banished duke, is left at court with the usurping young brother, Frederick, and the latter’s daughter, Celia.

In a court match, the duke’s wrestler is overcome by a youth named Orlando. Rosalind and Orlando fall in love but are soon separated.

Rosalind is later banished by Duke Frederick, and, accompanied by Celia and Touchstone, the court jester, takes refuge in Arden--Rosalind wearing man’s attire and calling herself Ganymede.

Meanwhile, Orlando flees to Arden to escape the plotting of his murderous brother, Oliver. His love verses to Rosalind, which he carves on the bark of trees, are read by that lady and when they meet she offers to impersonate Rosalind in order to cure him of his love.

The scene opens with a bit of dialogue between Orlando and the cynical, somewhat melancholy, but always “juicy” Jaques.

JAQUES: I thank you for your company, but, good faith,
I had as lief have been myself alone.

ORLANDO: And so had I; but yet, for fashion’s sake,
I thank you too for your society.

JAQ: God b’ wi’ you! let’s meet as little as we can.

ORL: I do desire we may be better strangers.

JAQ: I pray you, mar no more trees with writing love-songs in their barks.

ORL: I pray you, mar no more of my verses with reading them illfavouredly.

JAQ: Rosalind is your love’s name?

ORL: Yes, just.

JAQ: I do not like her name.

ORL: There was no thought of pleasing you when she was christen’d.

JAQ: What stature is she of?

ORL: Just as high as my heart.

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