MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING

20 + Characters

Antonio, Leonato's brother

Balthasar, Attendant on Don Pedro

Beatrice, Niece to Leonato

Benedick, A young lord of Padua

Borachio, Follower of Don Juan

Boy

Claudio, A young lord of Florence

Conrade, Follower of Don Juan

Dogberry, A constable

Don John, The prince's bastard brother

Don Pedro, Prince of Arragon

First Watchman

Friar Francis

Hero, Daughter to Leonato

Leonato, Governor of Messina

Margaret, Gentlewoman attending on Hero

Lords, Messengers, Watchmen

Sexton

Ursula, Gentlewoman attending on Hero

Verges, A headborough
Scena Prima

ENTER LEONATO GOVERNOUR OF MESSINA, HERO HIS DAUGHTER, AND BEATRICE HIS NEECE, WITH A MESSENGER

Leonato I learne in this Letter, that Don Peter of Arragon, comes this night to Messina.

Messenger He is very neere.

Leonato How many Gentlemen have you lost in this action?

Messenger But few and none of name.

Leonato Don Peter hath bestowed much honor on a young man called Claudio.

Messenger Much deserv'd, he hath borne himselfe beyond the promise of his age.

Leonato He hath an Unckle heere in Messina.

Messenger I have alreadie delivered him letters, and there appeares much joy in him.

Beatrice I pray you, is Signior Mountanto return'd from the warres, or no?

Messenger I know none of that name, Lady.

Hero My cousin meanes Signior Benedick.

Messenger O he's return'd, and as pleasant as ever he was.

Beatrice I pray you, how many hath hee kil'd and eaten in these warres?

Leonato 'Faith Neece, you taxe Signior Benedicke too much.

Messenger He hath done good service Lady in these wars.

Beatrice He's a very valiant Trencher-man. Indeed, he is no lesse then a stuft man.

Leonato You must not (sir) mistake my Neece, there is a kind of merry war betwixt Signior Benedick, & her:

Beatrice Who is his companion now? He hath every month a new sworne brother.

Messenger He is most in the company of the right noble Claudio.

Beatrice O Lord, he will hang upon him like a disease:
God helpe the noble Claudio.

ENTER DON PEDRO, CLAUDIO, BENEDICKE, BALTHASAR, BATHSHEBA
AND JOHN THE BASTARD

Don Pedro Good Signior Leonato, you are come to meet your trouble:

Leonato Never came trouble to my house in the likenes of your Grace:

Don Pedro I thinke this is your daughter.

Leonato Her mother hath many times told me so.

Benedicke Were you in doubt that you askt her?

Leonato Signior Benedicke, no, for then were you a childe.

Benedicke If Signior Leonato be her father, she would not have his head on her shoulders for all Messina, as like him as she is.

Beatrice I wonder that you will still be talking, signior Benedicke, no body markes you.

Benedicke What my deere Ladie Disdaine! are you yet living?

Beatrice Is it possible Disdaine should die, while she hath such meete foode to feede it, as Signior Benedicke?

Benedicke It is certaine I am loved of all Ladies, onely you excepted:

Beatrice I had rather heare my Dog barke at a Crow, than a man sweare he loves me.

Benedicke God keepe your Ladiship still in that minde, so some Gentleman or other shall scape a scratcht face.

Beatrice Scratching could not make it worse, and 'twere such a face as yours were.

Benedicke Well, you are a rare Parrot teacher.

Beatrice A bird of my tongue, is better than a beast of yours.

Benedicke I would my horse had the speed of your tongue, but keepe your way a Gods name, I have done.
Beatrice You alwaies end with a Jades tricke, I know you of old.

Don Pedro This is the summe of all: my deere friend Leonato, hath invited you all, I tell him we shall stay here, at the least a month.

Leonato Let mee bid you welcome, my Lord. I owe you all duetie.

Don John I thanke you, I am not of many words, but I thanke you.

Leonato Please it your grace leade on?

Don Pedro Your hand Leonato, we will goe together.

EXEUNT ALL EXCEPT BENEDICKE AND CLAUDIO

Claudio Benedicke, didst thou note the daughter of signior Leonato?

Benedicke I noted her not, but I lookt on her.

Claudio Is she not a modest young Ladie?

Benedicke Why yfaith me thinks shee's too low for a high praise, too browne for a faire praise, and too little for a great praise.

Claudio I pray thee tell me truely how thou lik'st her.

Benedicke Would you buy her, that you enquier after her?

Claudio Can the world buy such a jewell?

Benedicke I hope you have no intent to turne husband, have you?

Claudio I would scarce trust my selfe, if Hero would be my wife.

Benedicke Ist come to this? Shall I never see a batcheller of three score againe? goe to yfaith. Don Pedro is returned to seeke you.

ENTER DON PEDRO, JOHN THE BASTARD

Don Pedro What secret hath held you here, that you followed not to Leonatoes?

Benedicke Hee is in love, With who? with Hero, Leonatoes short daughter.

Don Pedro That she is worthie, I know.

Benedicke That a woman conceived me, I thanke her: that
she brought mee up, I likewise give her most humble thankes: but I will doe my selfe the right to trust none: and the fine is, I will live a Batchellor.

Don Pedro I shall see thee ere I die, looke pale with love.

Benedicke With anger, with sickness, or with hunger, my Lord, not with love.

Don Pedro Good Signior Benedicke, repaire to Leonatoes, commend me to him, and tell him I will not faile him at supper, for indeede he hath made great preparation.

Benedicke And so I leave you.

EXIT BENEDICKE

Claudio Hath Leonato any sonne my Lord?

Don Pedro No childe but Hero, she's his onely heire.

ENTER BORACHIO

Don Pedro If thou dost love faire Hero, cherish it, And I will breake with her.

Claudio How sweetly doe you minister to love!

Don Pedro I know we shall have revelling to night, I will assume thy part in some disguise, And tell faire Hero I am Claudio, And in her bosome Ile unclaspe my heart, Then after, to her father will I breake, And the conclusion is, shee shall be thine.

EXEUNT ALL

ENTER LEONATO AND AN OLD MAN, BROTHER TO LEONATO

Leonato How now brother, where is my cosen your son: hath he provided this musicke?

Old Man He is very busie about it, but brother, I can tell you newes that you yet dreamt not of.

Leonato Are they good?

Old Man The Prince and Count Claudio were thus over-heard by a man of mine: the Prince discovered to Claudio that hee loved my niece your daughter, and meant to acknowledge it this night in a dance.
Leonato Hath the fellow any wit that told you this?
Old Man A good sharpe fellow.
Leonato I will acquaint my daughter withall, goe you and tell her of it.

EXEUNT ALL

ENTER SIR JOHN THE BASTARD, AND CONRADE HIS COMPANION

Conrade My Lord, why are you thus out of measure sad?
Don John I cannot hide what I am: I must bee sad when I have cause.
Conrade Yea, but you must not make the ful show of this, you have of late stood out against your brother, and hee hath tane you newly into his grace.
Don John I had rather be a canker in a hedge, then a rose in his grace. Let me be that I am, and seeke not to alter me.
Conrade Can you make no use of your discontent?
Don John I will make all use of it. Who comes here? what newes Borachio?

ENTER BORACHIO

Borachio I can give you intelligence of an intended marriage.
Don John Will it serve for any Modell to build mischiefe on? What is hee for a foole that betrothes himselfe to unquietnesse?
Borachio Marry it is your brothers right hand.
Don John Who, the most exquisite Claudio?
Borachio Even he.
Don John Which way lookes he?
Borachio Marry on Hero, the daughter and Heire of Leonato.
Don John Come, come, let us thither, if I can crosse him any way, I blesse my selfe every way, you are both sure, and will assist mee?
Conrade To the death my Lord.
Don John

Let us to the great supper.

Borachio

We'll wait upon your Lordship.

EXEUNT ALL

Scena Secundus

ENTER LEONATO, HIS BROTHER, HIS WIFE, HERO HIS DAUGHTER, AND BEATRICE HIS NEECE

Leonato

Was not Count John here at supper?

Brother

I saw him not.

Beatrice

How tartly that Gentleman lookes, I never can see him, but I am heart-burn'd an hour after.

Hero

He is of a very melancholy disposition.

Beatrice

Hee were an excellent man that were made just in the mid-way betweene him and Benedicke, the one is too like an image and sayes nothing, and the other too like my Ladies eldest sonne, evermore tattling.

Leonato

By my troth Neece, thou wilt never get thee a husband, if thou be so shrewd of thy tongue.

Brother

Well neece, I trust you will be rul'd by your father.

Beatrice

Yes faith, it is my cosins dutie to make curtsie, and say, as it please you: but yet for all that cosin, let him be a handsome fellow, or else make an other cursie, and say, father, as it please me.

Leonato

Well neece, I hope to see you one day fitted with a husband.

Beatrice

Not till God make men of some other mettall then earth.

Leonato

Daughter, remember what I told you, if the Prince doe solicit you in that kinde, you know your answere. The revellers are entring brother, make good roome.

ENTER PRINCE, PEDRO, CLAUDIO, AND BENEDICKE, AND BALTHASAR, OR DUMBE JOHN, MASKERS WITH A DRUM

Don Pedro

Lady, will you walke about with your friend?

Hero

So you walke softly, and looke sweetly.
Balthasar  Well, I would you did like me.
Margaret  So would not I for your owne sake, for I have manie ill qualities.
Bathsheba  Which is one?
Margaret  I say my prayers alowd.
Balthasar  Amen.
Ursula  I know you well enough, you are Signior Anthonio.
Anthonio  At a word, I am not.
Ursula  I know you by the wagling of your head.
Anthonio  To tell you true, I counterfet him.
Ursula  You are he, you are he.
Beatrice  Will you not tell me who told you so?
Benedicke  No, you shall pardon me.
Beatrice  Nor will you not tell me who you are?
Benedicke  Not now.
Beatrice  That I was disdainfull, this was Signior Benedicke that said so.
Benedicke  What's he?
Beatrice  I am sure you know him well enough.
Benedicke  Not I, beleeve me.
Beatrice  Why he is the Princes jeaster, a very dull foole.
Benedicke  When I know the Gentleman, Ile tell him what you say.
Beatrice  Do, do. We must follow the Leaders.

EXEUNT BEATRICE AND BENEDICKE

MUSICKE FOR THE DANCE

Don John  Are not you signior Benedicke?
Claudio  You know me well, I am hee.

Don John  Signior, you are verie neere my Brother in his love, he is enamor'd on Hero, I pray you disswade him from her, she is no equall for his birth.

Claudio  How know you he loves her?

Don John  I heard him sweare his affection,

Borachio  So did I too, and he swore he would marrie her to night.

Don John  Come, let us to the banquet.

EXEUNT ALL EXCEPT CLAUDIO  [2.d]

Claudio  Thus answere I in name of Benedicke, But heare these ill newes with the eares of Claudio: 'Tis certaine so, the Prince woos for himselfe: Friendship is constant in all other things, Save in the Office and affaires of love: Farewell therefore Hero.

ENTER BENEDICKE  [2.e]

Benedicke  Count Claudio.

Claudio  Yea, the same.

Benedicke  Come, will you goe with me?

Claudio  Whither?

Benedicke  Even to the next Willow, for the Prince hath got your Hero.

Claudio  I wish him joy of her.

Benedicke  But did you thinke the Prince would have served you thus?

Claudio  I pray you leave me.

EXIT CLAUDIO  [2.f]

Benedicke  Alas poore hurt fowle. But that my Ladie Beatrice should know me, & not know me: the Princes foole! Hah? Well, Ile be revenged as I may.

ENTER THE PRINCE  [2.g]
Don Pedro  Now Signior, where's the Count, did you see him?

Benedicke  I told him, that your grace had got the will of this young Lady.

Don Pedro  The Lady Beatrice hath a quarrell to you, the Gentleman that danced with her, told her shee is much wrong'd by you.

Benedicke  Shee told mee, not thinking I had beene my selfe, that I was the Princes Jester. Come, talke not of her.

**ENTER CLAUDIO AND BEATRICE, LEONATO, HERO**

Don Pedro  Looke heere she comes.

Benedicke  I will fetch you a tooth-picker now from the furthest inch of Asia: rather then hold three words conference, with this Harpy: you have no employment for me?

Don Pedro  None, but to desire your good company.

Benedicke  O God sir, heeres a dish I love not, I cannot indure this Lady tongue.

**EXIT BENEDICKE**

Don Pedro  Come Lady, come, you have lost the heart of Signior Benedicke. You have put him downe Lady, you have put him downe.

Beatrice  So I would not he should do me, my Lord: I have brought Count Claudio, whom you sent me to seeke.

Don Pedro  Why how now Count, wherfore are you sad?

Claudio  Not sad my Lord.

Don Pedro  How then? sicke?

Claudio  Neither, my Lord.

Don Pedro  Heere Claudio, I have wooed in thy name, and faire Hero is won, I have broke with her father, and his good will obtained, name the day of marriage, and God give thee joy.

Leonato  Count, take of me my daughter, and with her my fortunes.

Beatrice  Speake Count, tis your Qu.
Claudio  Silence is the perfectest Herault of joy. Lady, as you
are mine, I am yours.

Beatrice  Speake cosin, or (if you cannot) stop his mouth
with a kisse, and let not him speake neither.

Don Pedro  In faith Lady you have a merry heart.

Beatrice  Yea my Lord. My coosin tells him in his eare
that he is in her heart.

Claudio  And so she doth cousin.

Beatrice  Good Lord for alliance: thus goes every one
to the world but I. I may sit in a corner and cry,
heigh ho for a husband.

Prince  Will you have me? Lady.

Beatrice  No, my Lord, unlesse I might have another for
working-daies, your Grace is too costly to weare everie
day: but I beseech your Grace pardon mee.

EXIT BEATRICE

[2.j]

Prince  By my troth a pleasant spirited Lady.

Leonato  She mocks all her wooers out of suite.

Prince  She were an excellent wife for Benedick.

Leonato  O Lord, my Lord, if they were but a weeke
married, they would talke themselves madde.

Prince  Counte Claudio, when meane you to goe to Church?

Claudio  To morrow my Lord.

Leonato  Not till monday, my deare sonne, which is hence a just seven night.

Prince  I warrant thee Claudio, the time shall not goe
dully by us, I will in the interim, undertake one of Hercules labors,
which is, to bring Signior Benedicke and the
Lady Beatrice into a mountaine of affection, th' one with th' other.

Leonato  My Lord, I am for you.

Claudio  And I my Lord.

Prepared by Andy Kirtland, The Unrehearsed Shakespeare Project, 2012
Prince: And you to gentle Hero?

Hero: I will doe any modest office, my Lord, to helpe my cosin to a good husband.

Prince: If wee can doe this, Cupid is no longer an Archer, his glory shall be ours, for wee are the onely love-gods, Goe in with me, and I will tell you my drift.

EXIT ALL

ENTER JOHN AND BORACHIO

Don John: It is so, the Count Claudio shal marry the daughter of Leonato.

Borachio: Yea my Lord, but I can crosse it.

Don John: How canst thou crosse this marriage?

Borachio: Not honestly my Lord, but so covertly, that no dishonesty shall appeare in me.

Don John: Shew me breefely how.

Borachio: I thinke I told your Lordship a yeere since, how much I am in the fauour of Margaret, the waiting gentlewoman to Hero.

Don John: I remember.

Borachio: I can at any unseasonable instant of the night, appoint her to looke out at her Ladies chamber window.

Don John: What life is in that, to be the death of this marriage?

Borachio: Goe you to the Prince your brother, spare not to tell him, that hee hath wronged his Honor in marrying the renowned Claudio to a contaminated stale, such a one as Hero.

Don John: What proofe shall I make of that?

Borachio: Proofe enough, to misuse the Prince, to vexe Claudio, to undoe Hero, and kill Leonato, looke you for any other issue?

Don John: Onely to despight them, I will endeavour any thing.

Borachio: Finde me a meete howre, to draw Don Pedro and the Count Claudio alone, tell them that you know that Hero loves me. Offer them instances to see mee at her ...
chamber window, heare me call Margaret, Hero; heare Margaret terme me Claudio, and bring them to see this the very night before the intended wedding.

Don John  Be cunning in the working this, and thy fee is a thousand ducates. I will presentlie goe learne their day of marriage.

EXIT ALL

ENTER BENEDICKE ALONE

Benedicke  I doe much wonder, that one man seeing how much another man is a foole, will become the argument of his owne scorne, by falling in love, & such a man is Claudio. One woman is faire, yet I am well: another is wise, yet I am well: but till all graces be in one woman, one woman shall not come in my grace. Hah! the Prince and Monsieur Love, I will hide me in the Arbor.

ENTER PRINCE, LEONATO, CLAUDIO, AND JACKE WILSON

Prince  Come, shall we heare this musicke?

Claudio  Yea my good Lord.

Prince  See you where Benedicke hath hid himselfe?

Claudio  O very well my Lord.

Prince  Come Balthasar and Bathsheba, I pray thee sing, and let me woe no more.

Balthasar & Bathsheba

The Song

Sigh no more Ladies, sigh no more,
Men were deceivers ever,
One foote in Sea, and one on shore,
To one thing constant never,
Then sigh not so, but let them goe,
And be you blithe and bonnie,
Converting all your sounds of woe,
Into hey nony non.

Sing no more ditties, sing no moe,
Of dumps so dull and heavy,
The fraud of men were ever so,
Since summer first was leavy,
Then sigh not so, &.
Prince. By my troth a good song.

Balthasar And an ill singer, my Lord.

Prince. Ha, no, no faith, thou singst well enough for a shift.

EXIT BALTHASAR AND BATHSHEBA

Prince Come hither Leonato, what was it you told me of to day, that your Niece Beatrice was in love with signior Benedicke?

Claudio O I, I did never think that Lady would have loved any man.

Leonato No nor I neither, but most wonderful, that she should so dote on Signior Benedicke

Benedicke Is't possible?

Leonato By my troth my Lord, I cannot tell what to thinke of it, but that she loves him with an inraged affection.

Prince Why what effects of passion shewes she?

Claudio Baite the hooke well, this fish will bite.

Leonato What effects my Lord? you heard my daughter tell you how.

Claudio She did indeed.

Prince How, how I pray you? you amaze me, I would have thought her spirit had beene invincible against all assaults of affection.

Leonato I would have sworne it had, my Lord, especially against Benedicke.

Prince Hath shee made her affection known to Benedicke?

Leonato No, and swears she never will, that's her torment.

Claudio 'Tis true indeed, so your daughter saies: shall I, saies she, that have so oft encountered him with scorne, write to him that I love him?

Leonato This saies shee now when she is beginning to write to him: my daughter tells us all.

Claudio Now you talke of a sheet of paper, I remember
a pretty jest your daughter told us of.

Leonato  O when she had writ it, & was reading it over, she found Benedicke and Beatrice betweene the sheete.

Claudio  That.

Leonato  O she tore the letter into a thousand halfpence, raild at her self, that she should be so immodest to write, to one that shee knew would flout her.

Claudio  Then downe upon her knees she falls, weepes, sobs, O sweet Benedicke, God give me patience.

Leonato  She doth indeed.

Prince  It were good that Benedicke knew of it by some other.

Claudio  To what end? he would but make a sport of it, and torment the poore Lady worse.

Leonato  O my Lord, I am sorry for her, as I have just cause, being her Uncle, and her Guardian.

Prince  I pray you tell Benedicke of it, and heare what he will say.

Leonato  Were it good thinke you?

Claudio  Hero thinkes surely she wil die, for she says she will die, if hee love her not, and shee will die ere shee make her love knowne, and she will die if hee wooe her.

Prince  If she should make tender of her love, 'tis very possible he'll scorne it, for the man (as you know all) hath a contemptible spirit.

Claudio  He is a very proper man.

Prince  He hath indeed a good outward happines.

Claudio  'Fore God, and in my minde very wise.

Prince  He doth indeed shew some sparkes that are like wit.

Leonato  And I take him to be valiant.

Prince  Well, I am sorry for your niece, shall we goe see Benedicke, and tell him of her love.
Claudio Never tell him, my Lord, let her weare it out with good counsell.

Leonato Nay that's impossible, she may weare her heart out first.

Prince I love Benedicke well, and I could wish he would modestly examine himselfe, to see how much he is unworthy to have so good a Lady.

Leonato My Lord, will you walke? dinner is ready.

Claudio If he do not doat on her upon this, I wil never trust my expectation.

Prince Let there be the same Net spread for her, and that must your daughter and her gentlewoman carry: Let us send her to call him into dinner.

EXEUNT ALL

Benedicke Love me? why it must be requited. The world must be peopled. Here comes Beatrice: by this day, shee’s a faire Lady, I doe spie some markes of love in her.

ENTER BEATRICE

Beatrice Against my wil I am sent to bid you come in to dinner.

Benedicke Faire Beatrice, I thanke you for your paines.

Beatrice I tooke no more paines for those thankes, then you take paines to thanke me.

Benedicke You take pleasure then in the message.

Beatrice Yea just so much as you may take upon a knives point. Fare you well.

EXIT

Benedicke Ha, against my will I am sent to bid you come into dinner: there's a double meaning in that: if I do not take pitty of her I am a villaine. I will goe get her picture.

EXIT

Scena Tertius

ENTER HERO AND TWO GENTLEMEN, MARGARET, AND URSULA
Hero: Good Margaret runne thee to the parlour,  
There shalt thou finde my Cosin Beatrice.

Margaret: Ile make her come I warrant you presently.  
EXIT MARGARET

Hero: Now Ursula, when Beatrice doth come,  
Our talke must onely be of Benedicke,

ENTER BEATRICE

For looke where Beatrice runs to heare our conference.

[3.b]

Hero: No truely Ursula, she is too disdainfull.

Ursula: But are you sure,  
That Benedicke loves Beatrice so intirely?

Hero: So saies the Prince, and my new trothed Lord.

Ursula: And did they bid you tell her of it, Madam?

Hero: They did intreate me to acquaint her of it,  
But I perswaded them never to let Beatrice know of it.

Ursula: Why did you so?

Hero: Nature never fram'd a womans heart,  
Of prowder stuffe then that of Beatrice:

Ursula: Sure I think so,  
And therefore certainly it were not good  
She knew his love, lest she make sport at it.

Hero: Why you speake truth, I never yet saw man,  
But she would spell him backward.  
But who dare tell her so? if I should speake,  
She would mocke me into ayre.

Ursula: Yet tell her of it, heare what shee will say.

Hero: No, rather I will goe to Benedicke,  
And counsaile him to fight against his passion,

Ursula: O doe not doe your cosin such a wrong,  
She cannot be so much without true judgement, to refuse  
So rare a Gentleman as signior Benedicke.

Hero: Indeed he hath an excellent good name.
Ursula  His excellence did earne it ere he had it:  
When are you married Madame?

Hero  To morrow, come goe in,

Ursula  We have caught her Madame?

Hero  If it prove so, then loving goes by haps,  
Come Cupid kills with arrowes, some with traps.

EXIT HERO AND URSULA

Beatrice  What fire is in mine eares? can this be true?  
Stand I condemn'd for pride and scorne so much?  
Contempt, farewell, and maiden pride, adew,  
And Benedicke, love on, I will requite thee.

EXIT BEATRICE

ENTER PRINCE, CLAUDIO, BENDEDICKE, AND LEONATO

Prince  I doe but stay till your marriage be consummate,  
and then go I toward Arragon.

Benedicke  Gallants, I am not as I have bin.

Leonato  So say I, methinkes you are sadder.

Claudio  I hope he be in love.

Prince  If he be sad, he wants money.

Benedicke  I have the tooth-ach.

Prince  What? sigh for the tooth-ach.

Claudio  Yet say I, he is in love.

Benedicke  Old signior, walke aside with mee, I have studied eight or nine  
wise words to speake to you, which these hobby-horses  
must not heare.

Prince  For my life to breake with him about Beatrice.

Claudio  'Tis even so.

ENTER THE JOHN THE BASTARD

Bastard  My Lord and brother, God save you.
Prince    Good den brother.
Bastard   If your leisure serv'd, I would speake with you.
Prince    In private?
Bastard   If it please you, yet Count Claudio may hear.
Prince    What's the matter?
Bastard   Meanes your Lordship to be married to morrow?
Prince    You know he does.
Claudio   If there be any impediment, I pray you discover it.
Bastard   I came hither to tell you, the Lady is disloyall.
Claudio   Who Hero?
Bastard   Even shee.
Claudio   Disloyall?
Bastard   The word is too good to paint out her wickedesse. Goe but with mee to night, you shal see her chamber window entred, even the night before her wedding.
Claudio   May this be so?
Prince    I will not thinke it.
Bastard   If you will follow mee, I will shew you enough.
Claudio   If I see any thing to night, why I should not marry her, there will I shame her.
Prince    And as I wooed for thee to obtaine her, I will joyne with thee to disgrace her.
Bastard   I will disparage her no farther, till you are my witnesses, beare it coldly but till night.
Prince    O day untowardly turned!
Claudio   O mischief strangelie thwarting!
Bastard       O plague right well prevented!.

EXIT ALL

ENTER DOGBERRY AND HIS COMPARTNER WITH THE WATCH

[3.f]

Dogberry   Are you good men and true?

Verges      Yea, give them their charge, neighbour Dogbery.

Dogberry   First, who thinke you the most desartlesse man to be Constable?

Watch 1     Hugh Ote-cake sir, or George Sea-coale, for they can write and reade.

Dogberry   Come hither neighbour Sea-coale. You are thought heere to be the most senslesse and fit man for the Constable of the watch: therefore beare you the lanthorne: this is your charge. You are to bid any man stand in the Princes name.

Watch 2     How if a will not stand?

Dogberry   Why then take no note of him, but let him go.

Verges      If he will not stand when he is bidden, hee is none of the Princes subjects.

Dogberry   True, and they are to meddle with none but the Princes subjects: you shall also make no noise in the streetes: for, for the Watch to babble and talke, is most tollerable, and not to be indured.

Watch 1     We will rather sleepe than talke.

Dogberry   I cannot see how sleeping should offend: well, you are to call at all the Alehouses, and bid them that are drunke get them to bed.

Watch 2     How if they will not?

Dogberry   Why then let them alone till they are sober.

Watch 1     Well sir.

Dogberry   If you meet a theefe, you may suspect him, by vertue of your office, to be no true man:

Watch 2     If wee know him to be a thiefe, shall wee not lay hands on him.
Dogberry  Truly by your office you may, but the most peaceable way is, to let him shew himselfe what he is, and steale out of your company.

Verges  You have bin alwaies cal'd a merciful man partner.

Dogberry  Truely I would not hang a dog by my will, much more a man who hath anie honestie in him.

Verges  If you heare a child crie in the night you must call to the nurse, and bid her still it.

Watch 1  How if the nurse be asleepe?

Dogberry  Why then depart in peace, and let the childe wake her with crying, for the ewe that will not heare her Lambe when it baes, will never answere a calfe when he bleates.

Verges  'Tis verie true.

Dogberry  One word more, honest neighbors. I pray you watch about signior Leonatoes doore, for the wedding being there to morrow, there is a great coyle to night, adiew, be vigitant I beseech you.

EXEUNT DOGBERRY AND VERGES
ENTER BORACHIO AND CONRADE

Borachio  What, Conrade?

Watch 1  Peace, stir not.

Borachio  Conrade I say.

Conrade  Here man, I am at thy elbow.

Borachio  Stand thee close, and I will, like a true drunkard, utter all to thee.

Watch 2  Some treason masters, yet stand close.

Borachio  Therefore know, I have earned of Don John a thousand Ducates. Know that I have to night wooed Margaret the Lady Heroes gentle-woman, by the name of Hero: I should first tell thee how the Prince Claudio and my Master saw a far off in the Orchard this amiable incounter.

Conrade  And thought thy Margaret was Hero?

Borachio  Two of them did, the Prince and Claudio, but the divell my Master knew she was Margaret. Away
went Claudio enraged, swore hee would shame her
with what he saw o're night, and send her home againe
without a husband.

Watch 1 We charge you in the Princes name stand.

Conrade Masters, masters, never speake, we charge you,
let us obey you to goe with us.

Borachio We are like to prove a goodly commoditie,
being taken up of these mens bils.

Conrade A commoditie in question I warrant you, come weele obey you.

EXEUNT ALL

ENTER HERO, AND MARGARET, AND URSULA

Hero Good Ursula wake my cosin Beatrice.

Ursula I will Lady.

Hero And bid her come hither.

Ursula Well.

EXIT URSULA

Margaret Troth I thinke your other rebato were better.

Hero No pray thee good Meg, Ile weare this.

ENTER BEATRICE

Hero Good morrow Coze.

Beatrice Good morrow sweet Hero.

Hero Why how now? do you speake in the sick tune?

Beatrice I am out of all other tune, me thinkes.
'Tis almost five a clocke cosin, 'tis time you
were ready, by my troth I am exceeding ill, hey ho.

Margaret Get you some of this distill'd carduus benedictus
and lay it to your heart.

Beatrice Benedictus, why benedictus? you have some morall in this benedictus.

Margaret Morall? no by my troth.
ENTER URSULA

Ursula. Madam, withdraw, the Prince, the Count, sinnior Benedicke, Don John, and all the gallants of the towne are come to fetch you to Church.

Hero. Helpe me to dresse mee good coze, good Meg, good Ursula.

EXEUNT ALL

ENTER LEONATO, AND THE CONSTABLE [DOGBERRY], AND THE HEADBOROUGH [VERGES]

Leonato What would you with mee, honest neighbour?

Const. Dog. Mary this it is sir.

Headborough Yes in truth it is sir.

Leonato What is it my good friends?

Headborough Marry sir our watch to night, excepting your worships presence, have tane a couple of as arrant knaves as any in Messina.

Con. Dog. Well said yfaith neighbour Verges, well, and two men ride of a horse, one must ride behinde.

Leonato I must leave you.

Const. Dog. One word sir, our watch sir have indeede comprehended two aspitious persons, & we would have them this morning examined before your worship.

Leonato Take their examination your selfe, and bring it me, I am now in great haste.

Constable It shall be suffigance.

ENTER MESSENGER

Leonato Drinke some wine ere you goe: fare you well.

Messenger My Lord, they stay for you to give your daughter to her husband.

Dogberry Goe good partner, goe get you to Francis Seacoale, we are now to examine those men.

Verges And we must doe it wisely.
Dogberry  Wee will spare for no witte I warrant you:  
Meet me at the Jaile.

EXEUNT ALL

Scena Quartus

ENTER PRINCE, BASTARD, LEONATO, FRIER, CLAUDIO, BENEDICKE,  
HERO, AND BEATRICE

Leonato  Come Frier Francis, be briefe.
Francis  You come hithe, my Lord, to marry this Lady.
Claudio  No.
Leonato  To be married to her: Frier, you come to marrie her.
Frier  Lady, you come hither to be married to this Count.
Hero  I doe.
Frier  If either of you know any inward impediment why you should not  
be conjoyned, I charge you on your soules to utter it.
Claudio  Know you any, Hero?
Hero  None my Lord.
Frier  Know you any, Count?
Leonato  I dare make his answer, None.
Claudio  O what men dare do! what men may do! what men daily do!
Benedicke  How now! why then, some be of laughing, as ha, ha, he.
Claudio  Stand thee by Frier, father, by your leave,  
Will you with free and unconstrained soule  
Give me this maid your daughter?
Leonato  As freely sonne as God did give her me.
Claudio  And what have I to give you back, whose worth  
May counterpoise this rich and precious gift?
Prince  Nothing, unlesse you render her againe.
Claudio  Sweet Prince, you learn me noble thankfulnes:
            There Leonato, take her backe againe,
            Give not this rotten Orenge to your friend.
            She knowes the heat of a luxurious bed:
            Her blush is guiltiness, not modestie.

Leonato  What doe you meane, my Lord?

Claudio  Not to be married,
            Not to knit my soule to an approved wanton.

Hero    Is my Lord well, that he doth speake so wide?

Leonato  Sweete Prince, why speake not you?

Prince  What should I speake?
            I stand dishonour'd that have gone about,
            To linke my deare friend to a common stale.

Leonato  Are these things spoken, or doe I but dreame?

Bastard  Sir, they are spoken, and these things are true.

Benedicke  This lookes not like a nuptiall.

Hero     True, O God!

Claudio  Let me but move one question to your daughter.

Hero     O God defend me how am I beset,

Claudio  To make you answer truly to your name.

Hero     Is it not Hero?

Claudio  What man was he, talkt with you yesternight,
            Out at your window betwixt twelve and one?
            Now if you are a maid, answer to this.

Hero     I talkt with no man at that howre my Lord.

Prince   Why then you are no maiden. Leonato,
            I am sorry you must heare: upon mine honor,
            My selfe, my brother, and this grieved Count
            Did see her, heare her, at that howre last night,
            Talke with a ruffian at her chamber window.

Leonato  Hath no mans dagger here a point for me?
Beatrice: Why how now cosin, wherfore sink you down?

Bastard: Come, let us go.

Benedicke: How doth the Lady?

Beatrice: Dead I thinke, helpe uncle,

Leonato: O Fate! take not away thy heavy hand,
Death is the fairest cover for her shame
That may be wisht for.

Beatrice: How now cousin Hero?

Frier: Have comfort Ladie.

Beatrice: O on my soule my cosin is belied.

Benedicke: Ladie, were you her bedfellow last night?

Beatrice: No, truly: not although untill last night,
I have this twelvemonth bin her bedfellow.

Leonato: Confirm'd, confirm'd. Hence from her, let her die.

Frier: Pause awhile:
And let my counsell sway you in this case,
Your daughter heere the Princesse (left for dead)
Let her awhile be secretly kept in,
And publish it, that she is dead indeed.

Leonato: What shall become of this? What wil this do?

Frier: She dying, as it must be so maintain'd,
Shal be lamented, pittied, and excus'd
Of every hearer. So will it fare with Claudio:
When he shal heare she dyed upon his words,
And wish he had not so accused her:
Let this be so, and doubt not but successe
Wil fashion the event in better shape,
Then I can lay it downe in likelihood.
And if it sort not well, you may conceale her
As best befits her wounded reputation,
In some reclusiue and religious life,
Out of all eyes, tongues, mindes and injuries.

Benedicke: Signior Leonato, let the Frier advise you.
Frier  'Tis well consented, presently away.  
    Come Lady, die to live, this wedding day  
    Perhaps is but prolong'd, have patience & endure.  

    EXIT ALL BUT BEATRICE AND BENEDICKE

Benedicke Lady Beatrice, have you wept all this while?  
Beatrice Yea, and I will weep a while longer.  
Benedicke Surelie I do beleeve your fair cosin is wrong'd.  
Beatrice Ah, how much might the man deserve of mee that would right her!  
Benedicke Is there any way to shew such friendship?  
Beatrice A verie even way, but no such friend.  
Benedicke May a man doe it?  
Beatrice It is a mans office, but not yours.  
Benedicke I doe love nothing in the world so well as you, is not that strange?  
Beatrice As strange as the thing I know not, it were as possible for me to say, I loved nothing so well as you, but beleeve me not, and yet I lie not, I confesse nothing, nor I deny nothing, I am sorry for my cousin.  
Benedicke By my sword Beatrice thou lov'st me.  
Beatrice Will you not eat your word?  
Benedicke With no sauce that can be devised to it, I protest I love thee.  
Beatrice Why then God forgive me.  
Benedicke What offence sweet Beatrice?  
Beatrice You have stayed me in a happy howre, I was about to protest I loved you.  
Benedicke And doe it with all thy heart.  
Beatrice I love you with so much of my heart, that none is left to protest.  
Benedicke Come, bid me doe any thing for thee.  
Beatrice Kill Claudio.
Benedicke  Ha, not for the wide world.
Beatrice  You kill me to denie, farewell.
Benedicke  Heare me Beatrice.
Beatrice  Talke with a man out at a window, a proper saying.
Benedicke  Nay but Beatrice.
Beatrice  Sweet Hero, she is wrong'd, shee is slandered, she is undone.
Benedicke  Beat?
Beatrice  O that I were a man for his sake! or that I had any 
friend would be a man for my sake! 
I cannot be a man with wishing, therfore I will die a woman 
with grieving.
Benedicke  Tarry good Beatrice, by this hand I love thee.
Beatrice  Use it for my love some other way then swearing by it.
Benedicke  Enough, I am engagde, I will challenge him, I 
will kisse your hand. Goe comfort your coosin, I must say she 
is dead, and so farewell.

EXIT

ENTER THE CONSTABLES (DOGBERRY AND VERGES), SEXTON, BORACHIO, 
CONRADE AND THE WATCH

Dogberry  Is our whole dissembly appeard?
Sexton  But which are the offenders that are to be examined, 
let them come before master Constable.
Dogberry  Yea marry, let them come before mee, what is your name, friend?
Borachio  Borachio.
Dogberry  Pray write downe Borachio. Yours sirra.
Conrade  I am a Gentleman sir, and my name is Conrade.
Dogberry  Write downe Master gentleman Conrade: maisters, doe you serve God?
Conrade | yea, sir, we hope.

Borachio |

Dogberry Write down, that they hope they serve god.

Sexton Master Constable, you must call forth the watch that are their accusers.

Dogberry Yea marry, let the watch come forth: masters, I charge you in the Princes name, accuse these men.

Watch 1 This man said sir, that Don John was a villaine.

Dogberry Write down, Prince John a villaine:

Sexton What heard you him say else?

Watch 2 That he had accused Lady Hero wrongfully.

Dogberry O villaine!

Sexton What else?

Watch This is all.

Sexton Prince John is this morning secretly stolne away: Hero was in this manner accus'd, and upon the griefe of this suddenly died: Master Constable, let these men be bound, and brought to Leonato, I will goe before, and shew him their examination.

EXIT

Dogberry Come, let them be opinion'd.

Conrade Off, Coxcombe!

Dogberry Gods my life, where's the Sexton? let him write downe the Princes Officer Coxcombe.

Conrade Away, you are an asse, you are an asse.

Dogberry O that hee were heere to write mee downe an asse! but masters, remember that I am an asse: though it be not written down, yet forget not that I am an asse: Bring him away: O that I had been writ downe an asse!

EXIT
**Scena Quintus.**

**ENTER LEONATO AND HIS BROTHER**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Character</th>
<th>Speech</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Brother</td>
<td>If you goe on thus, you will kill your selfe,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leonato</td>
<td>I pray thee cease thy counsaile, Bring me a father that so lov'd his childe, And bid him speake of patience.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brother</td>
<td>Yet bend not all the harme upon your selfe.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leonato</td>
<td>My soule doth tell me, Hero is belied.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**ENTER PRINCE AND CLAUDIO**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Character</th>
<th>Speech</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Brother</td>
<td>Here comes the Prince and Claudio hastily.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prince</td>
<td>We have some haste Leonato.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leonato</td>
<td>Some haste my Lord! well, all is one.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prince</td>
<td>Nay, do not quarrel with us, good old man.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Claudio</td>
<td>Who wrongs him?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leonato</td>
<td>Marry thou dost wrong me, thou dissembler, thou: I say thou hast belied mine innocent childe. And she lies buried with her ancestors: O in a tombe where never scandall slept, Save this of hers, fram'd by thy villanie.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Claudio</td>
<td>My villany?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leonato</td>
<td>Thine Claudio, thine I say.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prince</td>
<td>Gentlemen both, we will not wake your patience. My heart is sorry for your daughters death: But on my honour she was charg'd with nothing But what was true, and very full of prooфе.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leonato</td>
<td>My Lord, my Lord.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prince</td>
<td>I will not heare you.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**ENTER BENEDICKE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Character</th>
<th>Speech</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Leonato</td>
<td>No come brother, away, I will be heard.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
EXEUNT LEONATO AND ANTONIO

Prince   See, see, here comes the man we went to seeke.
Claudio  Now signior, what newes?
Benedicke  Good day my Lord.
Prince   Welcome signior, you are almost come to part almost a fray.
Benedicke  I came to seeke you both.
Claudio  We have beene up and downe to seeke thee.
Prince   As I am an honest man he lookes pale, art thou sicke, or angrie?
Benedicke  Shall I speake a word in your eare? You are a villaine:
Prince   Ile tell thee how Beatrice prais'd thy wit the other day.
Claudio  For the which she wept heartily, and said shee car'd not.
Prince   Yea that she did, but yet for all that, and if shee
did not hate him deadlie, shee would love him dearely.
Benedicke  I must discontinue your companie. he and I shall meete, and till then peace
be with him.
Prince   He is in earnest.
Claudio  In most profound earnest, and Ile warrant you, for the love of Beatrice.
Prince   And hath challeng'd thee.
Claudio  Most sincerely.

ENTER CONSTABLE, CONRADE, AND BORACHIO

Prince   How now, two of my brothers men bound? Borachio one.
Claudio  Harken after their offence my Lord.
Prince   Officers, what offence have these men done?
Constable  Marrie sir, they have committed false report,
moreover they have spoken untruths, secondarily they
are slanders, sixth and lastly, they have belied a Ladie,
thirdly, they have verified unjust things, and to conclude
they are lying knaves.
Prince               Who have you offended masters, that you are thus bound to your answer?
Borachio            Sweete Prince, let me go no farther to mine an-
                    swere: do you heare me, and let this Count kill mee: I
                    have deceived even your verie eyes: these shallow fools have
                    brought to light how Don John your brother incensed
                    me to slander the Ladie Hero, how you were brought
                    into the Orchard, and saw me court Margaret in Heroes
                    garments. The Ladie is dead upon mine and my masters
                    false accusation: and briefly, I desire nothing but the
                    reward of a villaine.
Prince               But did my Brother set thee on to this?
Borachio            Yea, and paid me richly for the practise of it.
Prince               He is compos'd and fram'd of treacherie,
                    And fled he is upon this villanie.
Claudio              Sweet Hero, now thy image doth appeare
                    In the rare semblance that I lov'd it first.
Constable            Come, bring away the plaintiffes, by this time
                    our Sexton hath reformed Signior Leonato of the matter:
                    and masters, do not forget to specifie when time & place
                    shall serve, that I am an Asse.
Constable 2          Here, here comes master Signior Leonato, and the Sexton too.

                   ENTER LEONATO

Leonato              Which is the villaine?
Borachio            If you would know your wronger, looke on me.
Leonato              Art thou thou the slave that with thy breath
                    hast kild mine innocent childe?
Borachio            Yea, even I alone.
Leonato              I cannot bid you bid my daughter live,
                    That were impossible, but I pray you both,
                    Possesse the people in Messina here,
                    How innocent she died.
                    To morrow morning come you to my house,
                    And since you could not be my sonne in law,
                    Be yet my Nephew: my brother hath a daughter,
                    Almost the copie of my childe that's dead,
Give her the right you should have giv'n her cousin,  
And so dies my revenge.

Claudio  O noble sir!
        I do embrace your offer.

Leonato  To morrow then I will expect your coming,  
        To night I take my leave, this naughtie man  
        Shall face to face be brought to Margaret,  
        Who I beleeye was packt in all this wrong,  
        Hired to it by your brother.

Constable  Moreover sir, this plaintiffe here did call mee  
        asse, I beseech you let it be remembred in his punishment.

Leonato  There's for thy paines.

Constable  God save the foundation.

Leonato  Goe, I discharge thee of thy prisoner, and I  
        thanke thee.

Constable  God keepe your worship, I  
        wish your worship well, God restore you to health,  
        I humblie give you leave to depart, and if a merrie  
        meeting may be wisht, God prohibite it: come neighbour.

Leonato  Untill to morrow morning, Lords, farewell.

EXEUNT ALL

ENTER BENEDICKE

Benedicke  Marrie I cannot show it rime, I have tried, I can finde out no  
        rime to Ladie but babie:

ENTER BEATRICE

Beatrice  Sweete Beatrice would'st thou come when I cal'd thee?

Beatrice  Yea Signior, and depart when you bid me.

Benedicke  O stay but till then.

Beatrice  Then, is spoken: fare you well now, and yet ere  
        I goe, let me goe with that I came, which is, with knowing  
        what hath past betweene you and Claudio.

Benedicke  Claudio undergoes my challenge,. And
I pray thee now tell me, for which of my bad parts didst thou first fall in love with me?

Beatrice: For them all together: but for which of my good parts did you first suffer love for me?

Benedicke: Suffer love! I do suffer love indeede, for I love thee against my will. Now tell me, how doth your cosin?

Beatrice: Verie ill.

Benedicke: And how doe you?

Beatrice: Verie ill too.

Benedicke: Serve God, love me, and mend.

ENTER URSULA

Ursula: Madam, you must come to your Uncle, yonders old coile at home, it is prooved my Ladie Hero hath bin falselie accusde, the Prince and Claudio mightilie abusde, and Don John is the author of all, who is fled and gone: will you come presentlie?

Beatrice: Will you go heare this newes Signior?

Benedicke: I will live in thy heart, die in thy lap, and be buried in thy eies: and moreover, I will goe with thee to thy Uncles.

EXEUNT ALL

ENTER CLAUDIO, PRINCE, AND THREE OR FOURE WITH TAPERS

Claudio: Is this the monument of Leonato?

Lord: It is my Lord.

**Epitaph.**

Done to death by slanderous tongues,
Was the Hero that here lies:
Now unto thy bones good night,
Yeerely will I do this right.

Prince: Good morrow masters, put your Torches out,
Thanks to you all, and leave us, fare you well.

EXEUNT ALL

Prepared by Andy Kirtland, The Unrehearsed Shakespeare Project, 2012
ENTER LEONATO, BENEDICKE, MARGARET, URSULA, OLD MAN, FRIER, HERO

Frier Did I not tell you she was innocent?

Leonato So are the Prince and Claudio who accus'd her, Upon the error that you heard debated:

Old Man Well, I am glad that all things sort so well.

Benedicke And so am I, being else by faith enforc'd To call young Claudio to a reckoning for it.

Leonato Well daughter, and you gentlewomen all, Withdraw into a chamber by your selves, And when I send for you, come hither mask'd. EXEUNT LADIES

Benedicke Frier, I must intreat your paines, I thinke.

Frier To doe what Signior?

Benedicke Signior Leonato, Your neece regards me with an eye of favour.

Leonato That eye my daughter lent her, 'tis most true.

Benedicke And I doe with an eye of love requite her.

Leonato But what's your will?

Benedicke This day to be conjoyn'd, In the state of honourable marriage, In which (good Frier) I shall desire your helpe.

Leonato My heart is with your liking.

Frier And my helpe. ENTER PRINCE AND CLAUDIO,WITH ATTENDANTS

Prince Good morrow to this faire assembly.

Leonato Good morrow Prince, good morrow Claudio: We heere attend you, are you yet determin'd, To day to marry with my brothers daughter?

Claudio Ile hold my minde.
Leonato Call her forth brother, heres the Frier ready.

ENTER BROTHER, HERO, BEATRICE, MARGARET, URSULA

Claudio Which is the Lady I must seize upon?

Leonato This same is she, and I doe give you her.

Claudio Why then she's mine, sweet let me see your face.

Leonato No that you shal not, till you take her hand,

Claudio Give me your hand before this holy Frier, I am your husband if you like of me.

Hero And when I liv'd I was your other wife, And when you lov'd, you were my other husband.

Claudio Another Hero?

Hero Nothing certainer. One Hero died, but I doe live.

Prince The former Hero, Hero that is dead.

Frier All this amazement can I qualifie, When after that the holy rites are ended, Ile tell you largely of faire Heroes death: Meane time let wonder seeme familiar, And to the chappell let us presently.

Benedicke Soft and faire Frier, which is Beatrice?

Beatrice I answer to that name, what is your will?

Benedicke Doe not you love me?

Beatrice Why no, no more then reason.

Benedicke Why then your Uncle, and the Prince, & Claudio, have beene deceived, they swore you did.

Beatrice Doe not you love mee?

Benedicke Troth no, no more then reason.

Beatrice Why then my Cosin Margaret and Ursula Are much deceiv'd, for they did sweare you did.
Benedicke They swore you were almost sicke for me.

Beatrice They swore you were wel-nye dead for me.

Benedicke 'Tis no matter, then you doe not love me?

Beatrice No truly, but in friendly recompence.

Leonato Come Cousin, I am sure you love the gentleman.

Claudio And Ile be sworne upon't, that he loves her,
For heres a paper written in his hand,
A halting sonnet of his owne pure braine,
Fashioned to Beatrice.

Hero And heres another,
Writ in my cosins hand, stolne from her pocket,
Containing her affection unto Benedicke.

Benedicke Come I will have thee, but by this light I take
thee for pittie.

Beatrice I would not denie you, but by this good day, I
yeeled upon great perswasion, & partly to save your life,
for I was told, you were in a consumption.

Benedicke Peace I will stop your mouth.

Prince How dost thou Benedicke the married man?

Benedicke Come, come, we are friends,
let's have a dance ere we are married.

Leonato Wee'll have dancing afterward.

Benedicke First, of my word, therfore play musick. Prince,
thou art sad, get thee a wife, get thee a wife.

ENTER MESSENGER

[5.o]

Messenger My Lord, your brother John is tane in flight,
And brought with armed men backe to Messina.

Benedicke Thinke not on him till to morrow, Ile devise
thee brave punishments for him: strike up Pipers.

[DANCE]
FINIS.
MUCH ADOE ABOUT NOTHING