



A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM

SYNOPSIS

Hippolyta is about to marry Theseus, Duke of Athens, in four days' time. Hermia and Lysander are in love, but her father wants Hermia to marry Demetrius instead. Hermia refuses and she and Lysander decide to run away. Helena, who is in love with Demetrius, tells him about Hermia and Lysander's flight. Demetrius pursues Hermia into the forest with Helena close behind...

Meanwhile, Bottom, a workman, and his friends prepare a play to be performed at the wedding of Theseus and Hippolyta.

In the forest, Oberon and Titania, the King and Queen of the Fairies, are in the midst of a bitter dispute. Oberon orders Puck to gather a flower which has the magical ability to make anyone asleep fall in love with the next creature they see once they wake. Seeking revenge, Oberon uses the flower on Titania. Having observed Helena's plight, he also tells Puck to use it on Demetrius and arrange things so that Helena will be the first person Demetrius sees when he wakes.

With all four lovers now in the woods, Puck mistakes Lysander for Demetrius. When Lysander wakes, he falls in love with Helena under the flower's spell. When Puck, correcting his mistake, uses the flower on Demetrius, he too falls for Helena. Helena doesn't believe the men's newfound ardor and Hermia can't believe that both men have turned on her.

Bottom and his friends meet in the forest to rehearse their play. Puck transforms Bottom's head into that of an ass, and he is the first creature Titania sees when she wakes. . .

Confusion piles on confusion—until Puck lifts the spell. Lysander's love for Hermia returns and Demetrius now loves Helena. Titania reconciles with Oberon.

Bottom, himself again, rejoins his friends to act in their play at the celebration of the royal wedding. The lovers are also to be married and the play within the play begins. . .