

THE STORY OF SHAKESPEARE'S COMEDY OF MISTAKEN IDENTITY

SYNOPSIS

Viola and her twin brother Sebastian have been shipwrecked; each believes the other to be drowned. Viola disguises herself as a young man and, under the name of Cesario, gets a job as a servant for the Duke, Orsino.

A LOVE TRIANGLE

Orsino is in love with Olivia, but she's mourning for her dead brother, and she has rejected all of Orsino's advances so far. He sends Cesario (who is really Viola) with love letters to woo Olivia on his behalf. Unfortunately for the Duke, Olivia is taken in by Cesario's disguise and falls in love with him.

Viola has secretly fallen in love with Orsino, and Orsino is confused by his feelings for his new 'male' servant. So, Viola loves Orsino, Orsino loves Olivia, and Olivia loves Cesario/Viola.

TRICKING MALVOLIO

Olivia's butler, Malvolio, disapproves of all the other members of her household – her drunken uncle Sir Toby Belch, his friend Sir Andrew Aguecheek and her servants, Maria, Feste, and Fabian. Fed up with Malvolio constantly spoiling their fun, they decide to play a practical joke on him.

Malvolio is secretly in love with Olivia, and the others trick him into believing that these feelings are returned. Maria forges a letter to Malvolio, supposedly from Olivia, suggesting that she loves him and he should wear yellow stockings and smile all the time. Malvolio does as the letter suggests, and Olivia thinks he has gone mad and has him locked up.

SEBASTIAN RETURNS

Viola's presumed dead twin brother, Sebastian, who believes his sister is dead, arrives with his friend and protector, Antonio, who rescued him from the shipwreck.

Sebastian meets Olivia. She mistakes him for Cesario and asks him to marry her, he agrees. This is followed by

CONFUSION, COUPLING AND THE ENDING!

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