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# *The* MERRY WIVES *of* WINDSOR

*By* WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

*Edited by* BARBARA A. MOWAT  
*and* PAUL WERSTINE

Folger Shakespeare Library

<http://www.folgerdigitaltexts.org>

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## **From the Director of the Folger Shakespeare Library**

It is hard to imagine a world without Shakespeare. Since their composition four hundred years ago, Shakespeare's plays and poems have traveled the globe, inviting those who see and read his works to make them their own.

Readers of the New Folger Editions are part of this ongoing process of "taking up Shakespeare," finding our own thoughts and feelings in language that strikes us as old or unusual and, for that very reason, new. We still struggle to keep up with a writer who could think a mile a minute, whose words paint pictures that shift like clouds. These expertly edited texts are presented to the public as a resource for study, artistic adaptation, and enjoyment. By making the classic texts of the New Folger Editions available in electronic form as Folger Digital Texts, we place a trusted resource in the hands of anyone who wants them.

The New Folger Editions of Shakespeare's plays, which are the basis for the texts realized here in digital form, are special because of their origin. The Folger Shakespeare Library in Washington, DC, is the single greatest documentary source of Shakespeare's works. An unparalleled collection of early modern books, manuscripts, and artwork connected to Shakespeare, the Folger's holdings have been consulted extensively in the preparation of these texts. The Editions also reflect the expertise gained through the regular performance of Shakespeare's works in the Folger's Elizabethan Theater.

I want to express my deep thanks to editors Barbara Mowat and Paul Werstine for creating these indispensable editions of Shakespeare's works, which incorporate the best of textual scholarship with a richness of commentary that is both inspired and engaging. Readers who want to know more about Shakespeare and his plays can follow the paths these distinguished scholars have tread by visiting the Folger either in-person or online, where a range of physical and digital resources exist to supplement the material in these texts. I commend to you these words, and hope that they inspire.

*Michael Witmore*  
Director, Folger Shakespeare Library

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## Textual Introduction

### By Barbara Mowat and Paul Werstine

Until now, with the release of the Folger Digital Texts, readers in search of a free online text of Shakespeare's plays had to be content primarily with using the Moby™ Text, which reproduces a late-nineteenth century version of the plays. What is the difference? Many ordinary readers assume that there is a single text for the plays: what Shakespeare wrote. But Shakespeare's plays were not published the way modern novels or plays are published today: as a single, authoritative text. In some cases, the plays have come down to us in multiple published versions, represented by various Quartos (Qq) and by the great collection put together by his colleagues in 1623, called the First Folio (F). There are, for example, three very different versions of *Hamlet*, two of *King Lear*, *Henry V*, *Romeo and Juliet*, and others. Editors choose which version to use as their base text, and then amend that text with words, lines or speech prefixes from the other versions that, in their judgment, make for a better or more accurate text.

Other editorial decisions involve choices about whether an unfamiliar word could be understood in light of other writings of the period or whether it should be changed; decisions about words that made it into Shakespeare's text by accident through four hundred years of printings and misprinting; and even decisions based on cultural preference and taste. When the Moby™ Text was created, for example, it was deemed "improper" and "indecent" for Miranda to chastise Caliban for having attempted to rape her. (See *The Tempest*, 1.2: "Abhorred slave,/Which any print of goodness wilt not take,/Being capable of all ill! I pitied thee..."). All Shakespeare editors at the time took the speech away from her and gave it to her father, Prospero.

The editors of the Moby™ Shakespeare produced their text long before scholars fully understood the proper grounds on which to make the thousands of decisions that Shakespeare editors face. The Folger Library Shakespeare Editions, on which the Folger Digital Texts depend, make this editorial process as nearly transparent as is possible, in contrast to older texts, like the Moby™, which hide editorial interventions. The reader of the Folger Shakespeare knows where the text has been altered because editorial interventions are signaled by square brackets (for example, from *Othello*: "[If she in chains of magic were not bound,]"), half-square brackets (for example, from *Henry V*: "With [blood] and sword and fire to win your right,"), or angle brackets (for example, from *Hamlet*: "O farewell,

honest <soldier.> Who hath relieved/you?"). At any point in the text, you can hover your cursor over a bracket for more information.

Because the Folger Digital Texts are edited in accord with twenty-first century knowledge about Shakespeare's texts, the Folger here provides them to readers, scholars, teachers, actors, directors, and students, free of charge, confident of their quality as texts of the plays and pleased to be able to make this contribution to the study and enjoyment of Shakespeare.

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# Synopsis

In *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, fat, disreputable Sir John Falstaff pursues two housewives, Mistress Ford and Mistress Page, who outwit and humiliate him instead. Meanwhile, three suitors seek the hand of Anne Page, Mistress Page's daughter.

Falstaff hopes to seduce the wives so he can gain access to their husbands' wealth. Ford learns of Falstaff's approaches and is consumed by jealousy. In disguise, he befriends Falstaff to learn about Mistress Ford's behavior. The wives, however, trick Falstaff and Ford. As Falstaff visits Mistress Ford, Mistress Page announces that Ford is coming. Falstaff hides in a basket of dirty laundry and is thrown in the river.

Another visit ends similarly: Falstaff disguises himself as "the fat woman of Brentford," whom Ford hates. Ford beats "her" in anger. Finally, Falstaff is lured to a comical nighttime rendezvous where all of Windsor comes together, Falstaff is publicly humiliated, and Ford admits his folly. Two of Anne Page's suitors elope with boys in disguise while Anne marries her chosen suitor, Fenton

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# Characters in the Play

MISTRESS FORD

FORD, her husband

JOHN  
ROBERT } *their servants*

MISTRESS PAGE

PAGE, her husband

ANNE, their daughter

WILLIAM, their son

DOCTOR CAIUS, a French doctor, suitor to Anne Page

MISTRESS QUICKLY, the doctor's housekeeper

JOHN RUGBY, the doctor's manservant

SIR HUGH EVANS, a Welsh parson

HOST of the Garter Inn

Windsor Children, disguised as fairies

Sir John FALSTAFF, an impoverished knight

ROBIN, his page  
BARDOLPH  
PISTOL  
NYM } *Falstaff's servants*

FENTON, a gentleman, suitor to Anne Page

Robert SHALLOW, a visiting justice of the peace

Abraham SLENDER, his nephew, a young gentleman suitor to Anne Page

SIMPLE, Slender's servant

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# ACT 1

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## Scene 1

*Enter Justice Shallow, Slender, and Sir Hugh Evans.*

FTLN 0001	SHALLOW	Sir Hugh, persuade me not. I will make a	
FTLN 0002		Star-Chamber matter of it. If he were twenty Sir	
FTLN 0003		John Falstaffs, he shall not abuse Robert Shallow,	
FTLN 0004		Esquire.	
FTLN 0005	SLENDER	In the county of Gloucester, Justice of Peace	5
FTLN 0006		and Coram.	
FTLN 0007	SHALLOW	Ay, Cousin Slender, and Custalorum.	
FTLN 0008	SLENDER	Ay, and Ratolorum too; and a gentleman born,	
FTLN 0009		Master Parson, who writes himself “Armigero”	
FTLN 0010		in any bill, warrant, quittance, or obligation—	10
FTLN 0011		“Armigero!”	
FTLN 0012	SHALLOW	Ay, that I do, and have done any time these	
FTLN 0013		three hundred years.	
FTLN 0014	SLENDER	All his successors gone before him hath	
FTLN 0015		done ’t, and all his ancestors that come after him	15
FTLN 0016		may. They may give the dozen white luses in their	
FTLN 0017		coat.	
FTLN 0018	SHALLOW	It is an old coat.	
FTLN 0019	SIR HUGH	The dozen white louses do become an old	
FTLN 0020		coat well. It agrees well, passant. It is a familiar	20
FTLN 0021		beast to man and signifies love.	
FTLN 0022	SHALLOW	The luce is the fresh fish. The salt fish is an	
FTLN 0023		old coat.	
FTLN 0024	SLENDER	I may quarter, coz.	



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FTLN 0025	SHALLOW	You may, by marrying.	25
FTLN 0026	SIR HUGH	It is marring indeed, if he quarter it.	
FTLN 0027	SHALLOW	Not a whit.	
FTLN 0028	SIR HUGH	Yes, py 'r Lady. If he has a quarter of your	
FTLN 0029		coat, there is but three skirts for yourself, in my	
FTLN 0030		simple conjectures. But that is all one. If Sir John	30
FTLN 0031		Falstaff have committed disparagements unto you,	
FTLN 0032		I am of the Church, and will be glad to do my	
FTLN 0033		benevolence to make atonements and compromises	
FTLN 0034		between you.	
FTLN 0035	SHALLOW	The Council shall hear it; it is a riot.	35
FTLN 0036	SIR HUGH	It is not meet the Council hear a riot. There	
FTLN 0037		is no fear of Got in a riot. The Council, look you,	
FTLN 0038		shall desire to hear the fear of Got, and not to hear	
FTLN 0039		a riot. Take your visaments in that.	
FTLN 0040	SHALLOW	Ha! O' my life, if I were young again, the	40
FTLN 0041		sword should end it.	
FTLN 0042	SIR HUGH	It is petter that friends is the sword, and end	
FTLN 0043		it. And there is also another device in my prain,	
FTLN 0044		which peradventure prings goot discretions with	
FTLN 0045		it. There is Anne Page, which is daughter to Master	45
FTLN 0046		Thomas Page, which is pretty virginity.	
FTLN 0047	SLENDER	Mistress Anne Page? She has brown hair	
FTLN 0048		and speaks small like a woman?	
FTLN 0049	SIR HUGH	It is that fery person for all the 'orld, as just	
FTLN 0050		as you will desire. And seven hundred pounds of	50
FTLN 0051		moneys, and gold, and silver, is her grandsire upon	
FTLN 0052		his death's-bed (Got deliver to a joyful resurrections!)	
FTLN 0053		give, when she is able to overtake seventeen	
FTLN 0054		years old. It were a goot motion if we leave our	
FTLN 0055		pribbles and prabbles, and desire a marriage between	55
FTLN 0056		Master Abraham and Mistress Anne Page.	
FTLN 0057	SLENDER	Did her grandsire leave her seven hundred	
FTLN 0058		pound?	
FTLN 0059	SIR HUGH	Ay, and her father is make her a petter	
FTLN 0060		penny.	60

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FTLN 0061 SLENDER I know the young gentlewoman. She has  
 FTLN 0062 good gifts.  
 FTLN 0063 SIR HUGH Seven hundred pounds and possibilities is  
 FTLN 0064 goot gifts.  
 FTLN 0065 SHALLOW Well, let us see honest Master Page. Is Falstaff 65  
 FTLN 0066 there?  
 FTLN 0067 SIR HUGH Shall I tell you a lie? I do despise a liar as I  
 FTLN 0068 do despise one that is false, or as I despise one that  
 FTLN 0069 is not true. The knight Sir John is there, and I beseech  
 FTLN 0070 you be ruled by your well-willers. I will peat 70  
 FTLN 0071 the door for Master Page. *He knocks.* What ho?  
 FTLN 0072 Got pless your house here.  
 FTLN 0073 PAGE, *within* Who's there?  
 FTLN 0074 SIR HUGH Here is Got's plessing, and your friend, and  
 FTLN 0075 Justice Shallow, and here young Master Slender, 75  
 FTLN 0076 that peradventures shall tell you another tale, if  
 FTLN 0077 matters grow to your likings.

*Enter Master Page.*

FTLN 0078 PAGE I am glad to see your Worships well. I thank you  
 FTLN 0079 for my venison, Master Shallow.  
 FTLN 0080 SHALLOW Master Page, I am glad to see you. Much 80  
 FTLN 0081 good do it your good heart! I wished your venison  
 FTLN 0082 better; it was ill killed. How doth good Mistress  
 FTLN 0083 Page? And I thank you always with my heart, la,  
 FTLN 0084 with my heart.  
 FTLN 0085 PAGE Sir, I thank you. 85  
 FTLN 0086 SHALLOW Sir, I thank you; by yea and no, I do.  
 FTLN 0087 PAGE I am glad to see you, good Master Slender.  
 FTLN 0088 SLENDER How does your fallow greyhound, sir? I  
 FTLN 0089 heard say he was outrun on Cotsall.  
 FTLN 0090 PAGE It could not be judged, sir. 90  
 FTLN 0091 SLENDER You'll not confess, you'll not confess.  
 FTLN 0092 SHALLOW That he will not. 'Tis your fault, 'tis your  
 FTLN 0093 fault. 'Tis a good dog.  
 FTLN 0094 PAGE A cur, sir.

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FTLN 0095 SHALLOW Sir, he's a good dog and a fair dog. Can there 95  
 FTLN 0096 be more said? He is good and fair. Is Sir John Falstaff  
 FTLN 0097 here?  
 FTLN 0098 PAGE Sir, he is within, and I would I could do a good  
 FTLN 0099 office between you.  
 FTLN 0100 SIR HUGH It is spoke as a Christians ought to speak. 100  
 FTLN 0101 SHALLOW He hath wronged me, Master Page.  
 FTLN 0102 PAGE Sir, he doth in some sort confess it.  
 FTLN 0103 SHALLOW If it be confessed, it is not redressed. Is not  
 FTLN 0104 that so, Master Page? He hath wronged me, indeed  
 FTLN 0105 he hath; at a word, he hath. Believe me. Robert 105  
 FTLN 0106 Shallow, Esquire, saith he is wronged.

*Enter 'Sir John' Falstaff, Bardolph, Nym, 'and' Pistol.*

FTLN 0107 PAGE Here comes Sir John.  
 FTLN 0108 FALSTAFF Now, Master Shallow, you'll complain of me  
 FTLN 0109 to the King?  
 FTLN 0110 SHALLOW Knight, you have beaten my men, killed my 110  
 FTLN 0111 deer, and broke open my lodge.  
 FTLN 0112 FALSTAFF But not kissed your keeper's daughter.  
 FTLN 0113 SHALLOW Tut, a pin. This shall be answered.  
 FTLN 0114 FALSTAFF I will answer it straight: I have done all this.  
 FTLN 0115 That is now answered. 115  
 FTLN 0116 SHALLOW The Council shall know this.  
 FTLN 0117 FALSTAFF 'Twere better for you if it were known in  
 FTLN 0118 counsel. You'll be laughed at.  
 FTLN 0119 SIR HUGH *Pauca verba*, Sir John, good worts.  
 FTLN 0120 FALSTAFF Good worts? Good cabbage!—Slender, I 120  
 FTLN 0121 broke your head. What matter have you against  
 FTLN 0122 me?  
 FTLN 0123 SLENDER Marry, sir, I have matter in my head against  
 FTLN 0124 you and against your cony-catching rascals, Bardolph,  
 FTLN 0125 Nym, and Pistol. 125  
 FTLN 0126 BARDOLPH You Banbury cheese!  
 FTLN 0127 SLENDER Ay, it is no matter.  
 FTLN 0128 PISTOL How now, Mephostophilus?

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FTLN 0129 SLENDER Ay, it is no matter.

FTLN 0130 NYM Slice, I say! *Pauca, pauca*. Slice, that's my humor. 130

FTLN 0131 SLENDER, 「(to Shallow)」 Where's Simple, my man?

FTLN 0132 Can you tell, cousin?

FTLN 0133 SIR HUGH Peace, I pray you. Now let us understand;

FTLN 0134 there is three umpires in this matter, as I understand:

FTLN 0135 that is, Master Page (*fidelicet* Master Page); 135

FTLN 0136 and there is myself (*fidelicet* myself); and the three

FTLN 0137 party is, lastly and finally, mine Host of the Garter.

FTLN 0138 PAGE We three to hear it and end it between them.

FTLN 0139 SIR HUGH Fery goot. I will make a prief of it in my

FTLN 0140 notebook, and we will afterwards 'ork upon the 140

FTLN 0141 cause with as great discreetly as we can.

FTLN 0142 FALSTAFF Pistol.

FTLN 0143 PISTOL He hears with ears.

FTLN 0144 SIR HUGH The tevil and his tam! What phrase is this,

FTLN 0145 "He hears with ear"? Why, it is affectations. 145

FTLN 0146 FALSTAFF Pistol, did you pick Master Slender's purse?

FTLN 0147 SLENDER Ay, by these gloves, did he—or I would I

FTLN 0148 might never come in mine own great chamber

FTLN 0149 again else—of seven groats in mill-sixpences,

FTLN 0150 and two Edward shovel-boards that cost me two 150

FTLN 0151 shilling and twopence apiece of Yed Miller, by

FTLN 0152 these gloves.

FTLN 0153 FALSTAFF Is this true, Pistol?

FTLN 0154 SIR HUGH No, it is false, if it is a pickpurse.

FTLN 0155 PISTOL Ha, thou mountain foreigner!—Sir John and 155

FTLN 0156 master mine, I combat challenge of this latten

FTLN 0157 bilbo.—Word of denial in thy *labras* here! Word of

FTLN 0158 denial! Froth and scum, thou liest.

FTLN 0159 SLENDER, 「indicating Nym」 By these gloves, then 'twas

FTLN 0160 he. 160

FTLN 0161 NYM Be avised, sir, and pass good humors. I will say

FTLN 0162 "marry trap with you" if you run the nuthook's

FTLN 0163 humor on me. That is the very note of it.

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FTLN 0164 SLENDER By this hat, then, he in the red face had it.  
 FTLN 0165 For, though I cannot remember what I did when 165  
 FTLN 0166 you made me drunk, yet I am not altogether an  
 FTLN 0167 ass.  
 FTLN 0168 FALSTAFF What say you, Scarlet and John?  
 FTLN 0169 BARDOLPH Why, sir, for my part, I say the gentleman  
 FTLN 0170 had drunk himself out of his five sentences. 170  
 FTLN 0171 SIR HUGH It is “his five senses.” Fie, what the ignorance  
 FTLN 0172 is!  
 FTLN 0173 BARDOLPH, *‘to Falstaff’* And being fap, sir, was, as  
 FTLN 0174 they say, cashiered. And so conclusions passed the  
 FTLN 0175 careers. 175  
 FTLN 0176 SLENDER Ay, you spake in Latin then too. But ’tis no  
 FTLN 0177 matter. I’ll ne’er be drunk whilst I live again but in  
 FTLN 0178 honest, civil, godly company, for this trick. If I be  
 FTLN 0179 drunk, I’ll be drunk with those that have the fear of  
 FTLN 0180 God, and not with drunken knaves. 180  
 FTLN 0181 SIR HUGH So Got ’udge me, that is a virtuous mind.  
 FTLN 0182 FALSTAFF You hear all these matters denied, gentlemen.  
 FTLN 0183 You hear it.

*Enter Anne Page ‘with wine.’*

FTLN 0184 PAGE Nay, daughter, carry the wine in. We’ll drink  
 FTLN 0185 within. *‘Anne Page exits.’* 185  
 FTLN 0186 SLENDER O heaven, this is Mistress Anne Page.

*Enter Mistress Ford ‘and’ Mistress Page.*

FTLN 0187 PAGE How now, Mistress Ford?  
 FTLN 0188 FALSTAFF Mistress Ford, by my troth, you are very well  
 FTLN 0189 met. By your leave, good mistress. *‘He kisses her.’*  
 FTLN 0190 PAGE Wife, bid these gentlemen welcome.—Come, we 190  
 FTLN 0191 have a hot venison pasty to dinner. Come, gentlemen,  
 FTLN 0192 I hope we shall drink down all unkindness.  
*‘All but Slender, Shallow, and Sir Hugh exit.’*  
 FTLN 0193 SLENDER I had rather than forty shillings I had my  
 FTLN 0194 book of *Songs and Sonnets* here!

*Enter Simple.*

FTLN 0195	How now, Simple? Where have you been? I must	195
FTLN 0196	wait on myself, must I? You have not the <i>Book of</i>	
FTLN 0197	<i>Riddles</i> about you, have you?	
FTLN 0198	SIMPLE <i>Book of Riddles</i> ? Why, did you not lend it to	
FTLN 0199	Alice Shortcake upon Allhallowmas last, a fortnight	
FTLN 0200	afore Michaelmas?	200
FTLN 0201	SHALLOW, 「 <i>to Slender</i> 」 Come, coz; come, coz. We stay	
FTLN 0202	for you. A word with you, coz. Marry, this, coz:	
FTLN 0203	there is, as 'twere, a tender, a kind of tender, made	
FTLN 0204	afar off by Sir Hugh here. Do you understand me?	
FTLN 0205	SLENDER Ay, sir, you shall find me reasonable. If it be	205
FTLN 0206	so, I shall do that that is reason.	
FTLN 0207	SHALLOW Nay, but understand me.	
FTLN 0208	SLENDER So I do, sir.	
FTLN 0209	SIR HUGH Give ear to his motions, Master Slender. I	
FTLN 0210	will description the matter to you, if you be capacity	210
FTLN 0211	of it.	
FTLN 0212	SLENDER Nay, I will do as my cousin Shallow says. I	
FTLN 0213	pray you, pardon me. He's a Justice of Peace in his	
FTLN 0214	country, simple though I stand here.	
FTLN 0215	SIR HUGH But that is not the question. The question is	215
FTLN 0216	concerning your marriage.	
FTLN 0217	SHALLOW Ay, there's the point, sir.	
FTLN 0218	SIR HUGH Marry, is it, the very point of it—to Mistress	
FTLN 0219	Anne Page.	
FTLN 0220	SLENDER Why, if it be so, I will marry her upon any	220
FTLN 0221	reasonable demands.	
FTLN 0222	SIR HUGH But can you affection the 'oman? Let us command	
FTLN 0223	to know that of your mouth, or of your lips;	
FTLN 0224	for divers philosophers hold that the lips is parcel of	
FTLN 0225	the mouth. Therefore, precisely, can you carry your	225
FTLN 0226	good will to the maid?	
FTLN 0227	SHALLOW Cousin Abraham Slender, can you love her?	

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FTLN 0228 SLENDER I hope, sir, I will do as it shall become one  
 FTLN 0229 that would do reason.  
 FTLN 0230 SIR HUGH Nay, Got's lords and His ladies! You must 230  
 FTLN 0231 speak positable, if you can carry her your desires  
 FTLN 0232 towards her.  
 FTLN 0233 SHALLOW That you must. Will you, upon good dowry,  
 FTLN 0234 marry her?  
 FTLN 0235 SLENDER I will do a greater thing than that, upon your 235  
 FTLN 0236 request, cousin, in any reason.  
 FTLN 0237 SHALLOW Nay, conceive me, conceive me, sweet coz.  
 FTLN 0238 What I do is to pleasure you, coz. Can you love the  
 FTLN 0239 maid?  
 FTLN 0240 SLENDER I will marry her, sir, at your request. But if 240  
 FTLN 0241 there be no great love in the beginning, yet heaven  
 FTLN 0242 may decrease it upon better acquaintance, when  
 FTLN 0243 we are married and have more occasion to know  
 FTLN 0244 one another. I hope upon familiarity will grow  
 FTLN 0245 more content. But if you say "Marry her," I will 245  
 FTLN 0246 marry her. That I am freely dissolved, and  
 FTLN 0247 dissolutely.  
 FTLN 0248 SIR HUGH It is a fery discretion answer, save the fall is  
 FTLN 0249 in the 'ord "dissolutely." The 'ort is, according to  
 FTLN 0250 our meaning, "resolutely." His meaning is good. 250  
 FTLN 0251 SHALLOW Ay, I think my cousin meant well.  
 FTLN 0252 SLENDER Ay, or else I would I might be hanged, la!

[*Enter Anne Page.*]

FTLN 0253 SHALLOW Here comes fair Mistress Anne.—Would I  
 FTLN 0254 were young for your sake, Mistress Anne.  
 FTLN 0255 ANNE The dinner is on the table. My father desires 255  
 FTLN 0256 your Worships' company.  
 FTLN 0257 SHALLOW I will wait on him, fair Mistress Anne.  
 FTLN 0258 SIR HUGH 'Od's plessèd will, I will not be absence at  
 FTLN 0259 the grace. [*Sir Hugh and Shallow exit.*]  
 FTLN 0260 ANNE, [*to Slender*] Will 't please your Worship to come 260  
 FTLN 0261 in, sir?

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FTLN 0262 SLENDER No, I thank you, forsooth, heartily. I am very  
 FTLN 0263 well.  
 FTLN 0264 ANNE The dinner attends you, sir.  
 FTLN 0265 SLENDER I am not ahungry, I thank you, forsooth. *「(To* 265  
 FTLN 0266 *Simple.)」* Go, sirrah, for all you are my man, go  
 FTLN 0267 wait upon my cousin Shallow. *「(Simple exits.)」* A  
 FTLN 0268 Justice of Peace sometime may be beholding to his  
 FTLN 0269 friend for a man. I keep but three men and a boy  
 FTLN 0270 yet, till my mother be dead. But what though? Yet 270  
 FTLN 0271 I live like a poor gentleman born.  
 FTLN 0272 ANNE I may not go in without your Worship. They will  
 FTLN 0273 not sit till you come.  
 FTLN 0274 SLENDER I' faith, I'll eat nothing. I thank you as much  
 FTLN 0275 as though I did. 275  
 FTLN 0276 ANNE I pray you, sir, walk in.  
 FTLN 0277 SLENDER I had rather walk here, I thank you. I bruised  
 FTLN 0278 my shin th' other day with playing at sword and  
 FTLN 0279 dagger with a master of fence—three veneys for a  
 FTLN 0280 dish of stewed prunes—and, by my troth, I cannot 280  
 FTLN 0281 abide the smell of hot meat since. Why do your  
 FTLN 0282 dogs bark so? Be there bears i' th' town?  
 FTLN 0283 ANNE I think there are, sir. I heard them talked of.  
 FTLN 0284 SLENDER I love the sport well, but I shall as soon quarrel  
 FTLN 0285 at it as any man in England. You are afraid if 285  
 FTLN 0286 you see the bear loose, are you not?  
 FTLN 0287 ANNE Ay, indeed, sir.  
 FTLN 0288 SLENDER That's meat and drink to me, now. I have  
 FTLN 0289 seen Sackerson loose twenty times, and have taken  
 FTLN 0290 him by the chain. But, I warrant you, the women 290  
 FTLN 0291 have so cried and shrieked at it that it passed. But  
 FTLN 0292 women, indeed, cannot abide 'em; they are very ill-favored  
 FTLN 0293 rough things.

*「Enter Page.」*

FTLN 0294 PAGE Come, gentle Master Slender, come. We stay for  
 FTLN 0295 you. 295



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FTLN 0296 SLENDER I'll eat nothing, I thank you, sir.  
 FTLN 0297 PAGE By cock and pie, you shall not choose, sir! Come,  
 FTLN 0298 come.  
 FTLN 0299 SLENDER Nay, pray you, lead the way.  
 FTLN 0300 PAGE Come on, sir. 300  
 FTLN 0301 SLENDER Mistress Anne, yourself shall go first.  
 FTLN 0302 ANNE Not I, sir. Pray you, keep on.  
 FTLN 0303 SLENDER Truly, I will not go first, truly, la! I will not do  
 FTLN 0304 you that wrong.  
 FTLN 0305 ANNE I pray you, sir. 305  
 FTLN 0306 SLENDER I'll rather be unmannerly than troublesome.  
 FTLN 0307 You do yourself wrong, indeed, la!

*They exit.*

## Scene 2

*Enter [Sir Hugh] Evans and Simple.*

FTLN 0308 SIR HUGH Go your ways, and ask of Doctor Caius'  
 FTLN 0309 house which is the way. And there dwells one Mistress  
 FTLN 0310 Quickly, which is in the manner of his nurse,  
 FTLN 0311 or his dry nurse, or his cook, or his laundry—his  
 FTLN 0312 washer and his wringer. 5  
 FTLN 0313 SIMPLE Well, sir.  
 FTLN 0314 SIR HUGH Nay, it is petter yet. Give her this letter  
 FTLN 0315 *[(handing him a paper),]* for it is a 'oman that altogether's  
 FTLN 0316 acquaintance with Mistress Anne Page;  
 FTLN 0317 and the letter is to desire and require her to solicit 10  
 FTLN 0318 your master's desires to Mistress Anne Page. I pray  
 FTLN 0319 you, be gone. I will make an end of my dinner;  
 FTLN 0320 there's pippins and cheese to come.

*They exit.*

## Scene 3

*Enter* [Sir John] Falstaff, Host, Bardolph, Nym, Pistol,  
[and Robin, Falstaff's] Page.

FTLN 0321	FALSTAFF	Mine Host of the Garter!	
FTLN 0322	HOST	What says my bullyrook? Speak scholarly and	
FTLN 0323		wisely.	
FTLN 0324	FALSTAFF	Truly, mine Host, I must turn away some of	
FTLN 0325		my followers.	5
FTLN 0326	HOST	Discard, bully Hercules, cashier. Let them wag;	
FTLN 0327		trot, trot.	
FTLN 0328	FALSTAFF	I sit at ten pounds a week.	
FTLN 0329	HOST	Thou 'rt an emperor—Caesar, Keiser, and	
FTLN 0330		Pheazar. I will entertain Bardolph. He shall draw,	10
FTLN 0331		he shall tap. Said I well, bully Hector?	
FTLN 0332	FALSTAFF	Do so, good mine Host.	
FTLN 0333	HOST	I have spoke. Let him follow.—Let me see thee	
FTLN 0334		froth and [lime.] I am at a word. Follow.	
		<i>[Host exits.]</i>	
FTLN 0335	FALSTAFF	Bardolph, follow him. A tapster is a good	15
FTLN 0336		trade. An old cloak makes a new jerkin, a withered	
FTLN 0337		servingman a fresh tapster. Go. Adieu.	
FTLN 0338	BARDOLPH	It is a life that I have desired. I will thrive.	
FTLN 0339	PISTOL	O base Hungarian wight, wilt thou the spigot	
FTLN 0340		wield? <i>[Bardolph exits.]</i>	20
FTLN 0341	NYM	He was gotten in drink. Is not the humor	
FTLN 0342		conceited?	
FTLN 0343	FALSTAFF	I am glad I am so acquit of this tinderbox.	
FTLN 0344		His thefts were too open. His filching was like an	
FTLN 0345		unskillful singer; he kept not time.	25
FTLN 0346	NYM	The good humor is to steal at a minute's rest.	
FTLN 0347	PISTOL	"Convey," the wise it call. "Steal"? Foh, a <i>fico</i>	
FTLN 0348		for the phrase!	
FTLN 0349	FALSTAFF	Well, sirs, I am almost out at heels.	
FTLN 0350	PISTOL	Why, then, let kibes ensue.	30
FTLN 0351	FALSTAFF	There is no remedy. I must cony-catch, I	
FTLN 0352		must shift.	

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FTLN 0353 PISTOL Young ravens must have food.

FTLN 0354 FALSTAFF Which of you know Ford of this town?

FTLN 0355 PISTOL I ken the wight. He is of substance good. 35

FTLN 0356 FALSTAFF My honest lads, I will tell you what I am

FTLN 0357 about.

FTLN 0358 PISTOL Two yards and more.

FTLN 0359 FALSTAFF No quips now, Pistol. Indeed, I am in the

FTLN 0360 waist two yards about, but I am now about no 40

FTLN 0361 waste; I am about thrift. Briefly, I do mean to make

FTLN 0362 love to Ford's wife. I spy entertainment in her. She

FTLN 0363 discourses; she carves; she gives the leer of invitation.

FTLN 0364 I can construe the action of her familiar style;

FTLN 0365 and the hardest voice of her behavior, to be Englished 45

FTLN 0366 rightly, is "I am Sir John Falstaff's."

FTLN 0367 PISTOL, *aside to Nym* He hath studied her will and

FTLN 0368 translated her will—out of honesty into English.

FTLN 0369 NYM, *aside to Pistol* The anchor is deep. Will that

FTLN 0370 humor pass? 50

FTLN 0371 FALSTAFF Now, the report goes, she has all the rule of

FTLN 0372 her husband's purse. He hath a *legion* of angels.

FTLN 0373 PISTOL, *aside to Nym* As many devils entertain, and

FTLN 0374 "To her, boy," say I.

FTLN 0375 NYM, *aside to Pistol* The humor rises; it is good. 55

FTLN 0376 Humor me the angels.

FTLN 0377 FALSTAFF, *showing two papers* I have writ me here a

FTLN 0378 letter to her; and here another to Page's wife, who

FTLN 0379 even now gave me good eyes too, examined my

FTLN 0380 parts with most judicious *oeillades*. Sometimes 60

FTLN 0381 the beam of her view gilded my foot, sometimes

FTLN 0382 my portly belly.

FTLN 0383 PISTOL, *aside to Nym* Then did the sun on dunghill

FTLN 0384 shine.

FTLN 0385 NYM, *aside to Pistol* I thank thee for that humor. 65

FTLN 0386 FALSTAFF O, she did so course o'er my exteriors with

FTLN 0387 such a greedy intention that the appetite of her

FTLN 0388 eye did seem to scorch me up like a burning-glass.

FTLN 0389	Here's another letter to her. She bears the purse	
FTLN 0390	too; she is a region in Guiana, all gold and bounty.	70
FTLN 0391	I will be cheaters to them both, and they shall be	
FTLN 0392	exchequers to me; they shall be my East and West	
FTLN 0393	Indies, and I will trade to them both. Go bear thou	
FTLN 0394	this letter to Mistress Page—and thou this to Mistress	
FTLN 0395	Ford. We will thrive, lads, we will thrive.	75

PISTOL

FTLN 0396 Shall I Sir Pandarus of Troy become,  
FTLN 0397 And by my side wear steel? Then Lucifer take all!  
FTLN 0398 NYM, 「*to Falstaff*」 I will run no base humor. Here, take  
FTLN 0399 the humor-letter. I will keep the havior of  
FTLN 0400 reputation. 80

FALSTAFF, *‘giving papers to Robin’*

FTLN 0401	Hold, sirrah, bear you these letters tightly;	
FTLN 0402	Sail like my pinnace to these golden shores.—	
FTLN 0403	Rogues, hence, avaunt, vanish like hailstones, go,	
FTLN 0404	Trudge, plod away i' th' hoof, seek shelter, pack!	
FTLN 0405	Falstaff will learn the 'humor' of the age:	85
FTLN 0406	French thrift, you rogues—myself and skirted page.	
	<i>'Falstaff and Robin exit.'</i>	

PISTOL

FTLN 0407	Let vultures gripe thy guts! For gourd and fullam	
FTLN 0408	holds,	
FTLN 0409	And high and low beguiles the rich and poor.	
FTLN 0410	Tester I'll have in pouch when thou shalt lack,	90
FTLN 0411	Base Phrygian Turk!	

FTLN 0412      NYM    I have operations which be humors of revenge.

FTLN 0413      PISTOL      Wilt thou revenge?

FTLN 0414      NYM      By welkin and her star!

FTLN 0415      PISTOL      With wit or steel?      95

FTLN 0416      NYM      With both the humors, I. I will discuss the  
FTLN 0417                      humor of this love to Ford.

PISTOL

FTLN 0418                      And I to Page shall eke unfold

FTLN 0419                   How Falstaff, varlet vile,

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FTLN 0420 His dove will prove, his gold will hold, 100  
 FTLN 0421 And his soft couch defile.  
 FTLN 0422 NYM My humor shall not cool. I will incense Ford to  
 FTLN 0423 deal with poison. I will possess him with yellowness,  
 FTLN 0424 for the revolt of mine is dangerous. That is  
 FTLN 0425 my true humor. 105  
 FTLN 0426 PISTOL Thou art the Mars of malcontents. I second  
 FTLN 0427 thee. Troop on.

*They exit.*

#### Scene 4

*Enter Mistress Quickly and Simple.*

FTLN 0428 MISTRESS QUICKLY What, John Rugby! (*Enter John*  
 FTLN 0429 *Rugby.*) I pray thee, go to the casement and see if  
 FTLN 0430 you can see my master, Master Doctor Caius, coming.  
 FTLN 0431 If he do, i' faith, and find anybody in the  
 FTLN 0432 house, here will be an old abusing of God's patience 5  
 FTLN 0433 and the King's English.  
 FTLN 0434 RUGBY I'll go watch.  
 FTLN 0435 MISTRESS QUICKLY Go, and we'll have a posset for 't  
 FTLN 0436 soon at night, in faith, at the latter end of a seacoal  
 FTLN 0437 fire. (*Rugby exits.*) An honest, willing, kind fellow 10  
 FTLN 0438 as ever servant shall come in house withal; and, I  
 FTLN 0439 warrant you, no telltale nor no breed-bate. His  
 FTLN 0440 worst fault is that he is given to prayer. He is something  
 FTLN 0441 peevish that way, but nobody but has his  
 FTLN 0442 fault. But let that pass. Peter Simple you say your 15  
 FTLN 0443 name is?  
 FTLN 0444 SIMPLE Ay, for fault of a better.  
 FTLN 0445 MISTRESS QUICKLY And Master Slender's your master?  
 FTLN 0446 SIMPLE Ay, forsooth.  
 FTLN 0447 MISTRESS QUICKLY Does he not wear a great round 20  
 FTLN 0448 beard like a glover's paring knife?  
 FTLN 0449 SIMPLE No, forsooth. He hath but a little wee face,  
 FTLN 0450 with a little yellow beard, a Cain-colored beard.

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FTLN 0451 MISTRESS QUICKLY A softly-sprited man, is he not?  
 FTLN 0452 SIMPLE Ay, forsooth. But he is as tall a man of his 25  
 FTLN 0453 hands as any is between this and his head. He hath  
 FTLN 0454 fought with a warrener.  
 FTLN 0455 MISTRESS QUICKLY How say you? O, I should remember  
 FTLN 0456 him. Does he not hold up his head, as it were,  
 FTLN 0457 and strut in his gait? 30  
 FTLN 0458 SIMPLE Yes, indeed, does he.  
 FTLN 0459 MISTRESS QUICKLY Well, heaven send Anne Page no  
 FTLN 0460 worse fortune! Tell Master Parson Evans I will do  
 FTLN 0461 what I can for your master. Anne is a good girl, and  
 FTLN 0462 I wish— 35

「Enter Rugby.」

FTLN 0463 RUGBY Out, alas! Here comes my master.  
 FTLN 0464 MISTRESS QUICKLY We shall all be shent.—Run in here,  
 FTLN 0465 good young man. Go into this closet. He will not  
 FTLN 0466 stay long. 「(Simple exits.)」 What, John Rugby!  
 FTLN 0467 John! What, John, I say! Go, John, go enquire for 40  
 FTLN 0468 my master. I doubt he be not well, that he comes  
 FTLN 0469 not home. 「Rugby exits.」  
 FTLN 0470 「(She sings.)」 And down, down, adown 'a, etc.

*Enter Doctor Caius.*

FTLN 0471 DOCTOR CAIUS Vat is you sing? I do not like dese toys.  
 FTLN 0472 Pray you, go and vetch me in my closet *un boîtier* 45  
 FTLN 0473 *vert*, a box, a green-a box. Do intend vat I speak?  
 FTLN 0474 A green-a box.  
 FTLN 0475 MISTRESS QUICKLY Ay, forsooth. I'll fetch it you.  
 FTLN 0476 「(Aside.)」 I am glad he went not in himself. If he  
 FTLN 0477 had found the young man, he would have been 50  
 FTLN 0478 horn-mad. 「She exits.」  
 FTLN 0479 DOCTOR CAIUS *Fe, fe, fe, fe! Ma foi, il fait fort chaud. Je*  
 FTLN 0480 *m'en vais à la cour—la grande affaire.*

「Enter Mistress Quickly with a small box.」

FTLN 0481 MISTRESS QUICKLY Is it this, sir?  
 FTLN 0482 DOCTOR CAIUS *Oui, mets-le à mon pocket. Dépêche,* 55

quickly. Vere is dat knave Rugby?

FTLN 0484 MISTRESS QUICKLY What, John Rugby, John!

「Enter Rugby.」

FTLN 0485 RUGBY Here, sir.

FTLN 0486 DOCTOR CAIUS You are John Rugby, and you are Jack

FTLN 0487 Rugby. Come, take-a your rapier, and come after 60

FTLN 0488 my heel to the court.

FTLN 0489 RUGBY 'Tis ready, sir, here in the porch.

FTLN 0490 DOCTOR CAIUS By my trot, I tarry too long. Od's

FTLN 0491 me! *Qu'ai-j'oublié?* Dere is some simples in my

FTLN 0492 closet dat I vill not for the varld I shall leave 65

FTLN 0493 behind. 「He exits.」

FTLN 0494 MISTRESS QUICKLY Ay me! He'll find the young man

FTLN 0495 there, and be mad!

「Enter Doctor Caius.」

FTLN 0496 DOCTOR CAIUS *O diable, diable!* Vat is in my closet? Villainy!

FTLN 0497 *Larron!* 「(Pulling out Simple.)」 Rugby, my 70

FTLN 0498 rapier!

FTLN 0499 MISTRESS QUICKLY Good master, be content.

FTLN 0500 DOCTOR CAIUS Wherefore shall I be content-a?

FTLN 0501 MISTRESS QUICKLY The young man is an honest man.

FTLN 0502 DOCTOR CAIUS What shall de honest man do in my 75

FTLN 0503 closet? Dere is no honest man dat shall come in

FTLN 0504 my closet.

FTLN 0505 MISTRESS QUICKLY I beseech you, be not so phlegmatic.

FTLN 0506 Hear the truth of it. He came of an errand to me

FTLN 0507 from Parson Hugh. 80

FTLN 0508 DOCTOR CAIUS Vell?

FTLN 0509 SIMPLE Ay, forsooth. To desire her to—

FTLN 0510 MISTRESS QUICKLY Peace, I pray you.

FTLN 0511 DOCTOR CAIUS Peace-a your tongue.—Speak-a your

FTLN 0512 tale. 85

FTLN 0513 SIMPLE To desire this honest gentlewoman, your

FTLN 0514 maid, to speak a good word to Mistress Anne Page

FTLN 0515 for my master in the way of marriage.



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FTLN 0516 MISTRESS QUICKLY This is all, indeed, la! But I'll ne'er  
 FTLN 0517 put my finger in the fire, and need not. 90  
 FTLN 0518 DOCTOR CAIUS, *to Simple* Sir Hugh send-a you?—  
 FTLN 0519 Rugby, *baille* me some paper.—Tarry you a little-a  
 FTLN 0520 while.

*to Simple* *Rugby brings paper, and Doctor Caius writes.*

FTLN 0521 MISTRESS QUICKLY, *aside to Simple* I am glad he is so  
 FTLN 0522 quiet. If he had been throughly moved, you should 95  
 FTLN 0523 have heard him so loud and so melancholy. But  
 FTLN 0524 notwithstanding, man, I'll do you your master  
 FTLN 0525 what good I can. And the very yea and the no is,  
 FTLN 0526 the French doctor, my master—I may call him my  
 FTLN 0527 master, look you, for I keep his house, and I wash, 100  
 FTLN 0528 wring, brew, bake, scour, dress meat and drink,  
 FTLN 0529 make the beds, and do all myself—

FTLN 0530 SIMPLE, *aside to Quickly* 'Tis a great charge to come  
 FTLN 0531 under one body's hand.

FTLN 0532 MISTRESS QUICKLY, *aside to Simple* Are you advised o' 105  
 FTLN 0533 that? You shall find it a great charge. And to be up  
 FTLN 0534 early and down late. But notwithstanding—to tell  
 FTLN 0535 you in your ear; I would have no words of it—my  
 FTLN 0536 master himself is in love with Mistress Anne Page.  
 FTLN 0537 But notwithstanding that, I know Anne's mind. 110  
 FTLN 0538 That's neither here nor there.

FTLN 0539 DOCTOR CAIUS, *handing paper to Simple* You, jack'nape,  
 FTLN 0540 give-a this letter to Sir Hugh. By gar, it is a  
 FTLN 0541 shallenge. I will cut his throat in de park, and I will  
 FTLN 0542 teach a scurvy jackanape priest to meddle or 115  
 FTLN 0543 make. You may be gone. It is not good you tarry  
 FTLN 0544 here.—By gar, I will cut all his two stones. By gar,  
 FTLN 0545 he shall not have a stone to throw at his dog.

*Simple exits.*

FTLN 0546 MISTRESS QUICKLY Alas, he speaks but for his friend.  
 FTLN 0547 DOCTOR CAIUS It is no matter-a ver dat. Do not you tell-a 120  
 FTLN 0548 me dat I shall have Anne Page for myself? By gar, I  
 FTLN 0549 vill kill de jack priest; and I have appointed mine

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FTLN 0550 Host of de Jarteer to measure our weapon. By gar,  
 FTLN 0551 I will myself have Anne Page.  
 FTLN 0552 MISTRESS QUICKLY Sir, the maid loves you, and all shall 125  
 FTLN 0553 be well. We must give folks leave to prate. What  
 FTLN 0554 the goodyear!  
 FTLN 0555 DOCTOR CAIUS Rugby, come to the court with me. 「(To  
 FTLN 0556 *Mistress Quickly.*)」 By gar, if I have not Anne Page,  
 FTLN 0557 I shall turn your head out of my door.—Follow my 130  
 FTLN 0558 heels, Rugby.  
 FTLN 0559 MISTRESS QUICKLY You shall have Anne—  
 「*Caius and Rugby exit.*」  
 FTLN 0560 fool's head of your own. No, I know Anne's mind  
 FTLN 0561 for that. Never a woman in Windsor knows more  
 FTLN 0562 of Anne's mind than I do, nor can do more than I 135  
 FTLN 0563 do with her, I thank heaven.  
 FTLN 0564 FENTON, 「*within*」 Who's within there, ho?  
 FTLN 0565 MISTRESS QUICKLY Who's there, I trow? Come near the  
 FTLN 0566 house, I pray you.

*Enter Fenton.*

FTLN 0567 FENTON How now, good woman? How dost thou? 140  
 FTLN 0568 MISTRESS QUICKLY The better that it pleases your good  
 FTLN 0569 Worship to ask.  
 FTLN 0570 FENTON What news? How does pretty Mistress Anne?  
 FTLN 0571 MISTRESS QUICKLY In truth, sir, and she is pretty, and  
 FTLN 0572 honest, and gentle; and one that is your friend, I 145  
 FTLN 0573 can tell you that by the way, I praise heaven for it.  
 FTLN 0574 FENTON Shall I do any good, think'st thou? Shall I not  
 FTLN 0575 lose my suit?  
 FTLN 0576 MISTRESS QUICKLY Troth, sir, all is in His hands above.  
 FTLN 0577 But notwithstanding, Master Fenton, I'll be sworn 150  
 FTLN 0578 on a book she loves you. Have not your Worship a  
 FTLN 0579 wart above your eye?  
 FTLN 0580 FENTON Yes, marry, have I. What of that?  
 FTLN 0581 MISTRESS QUICKLY Well, thereby hangs a tale. Good  
 FTLN 0582 faith, it is such another Nan! But, I detest, an honest 155

FTLN 0583	maid as ever broke bread. We had an hour's	
FTLN 0584	talk of that wart. I shall never laugh but in that	
FTLN 0585	maid's company. But, indeed, she is given too	
FTLN 0586	much to allicholy and musing. But, for you,—well,	
FTLN 0587	go to.	160
FTLN 0588	FENTON Well, I shall see her today. Hold, there's	
FTLN 0589	money for thee. <i>['(He hands her money.)']</i> Let me	
FTLN 0590	have thy voice in my behalf. If thou see'st her before	
FTLN 0591	me, commend me.	
FTLN 0592	MISTRESS QUICKLY Will I? I' faith, that we will. And I	165
FTLN 0593	will tell your Worship more of the wart the next	
FTLN 0594	time we have confidence, and of other wooers.	
FTLN 0595	FENTON Well, farewell. I am in great haste now.	
FTLN 0596	MISTRESS QUICKLY Farewell to your Worship.	
	<i>['(Fenton exits.)']</i>	
FTLN 0597	Truly an honest gentleman—but Anne loves him	170
FTLN 0598	not, for I know Anne's mind as well as another	
FTLN 0599	does. Out upon 't! What have I forgot?	
	<i>She exits.</i>	

## ACT 2

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### Scene 1

*Enter Mistress Page* 「reading a letter.」

FTLN 0600	MISTRESS PAGE	What, have 「I」 'scaped love letters in	
FTLN 0601		the holiday time of my beauty, and am I now a	
FTLN 0602		subject for them? Let me see.	
		「 <i>She reads.</i> 」	
FTLN 0603		<i>Ask me no reason why I love you, for though Love</i>	
FTLN 0604		<i>use Reason for his precisian, he admits him not for</i>	5
FTLN 0605		<i>his counselor. You are not young; no more am I. Go</i>	
FTLN 0606		<i>to, then, there's sympathy. You are merry; so am I.</i>	
FTLN 0607		<i>Ha, ha, then, there's more sympathy. You love sack,</i>	
FTLN 0608		<i>and so do I. Would you desire better sympathy? Let</i>	
FTLN 0609		<i>it suffice thee, Mistress Page—at the least, if the love</i>	10
FTLN 0610		<i>of soldier can suffice—that I love thee. I will not say</i>	
FTLN 0611		<i>pity me—'tis not a soldier-like phrase—but I say love</i>	
FTLN 0612		<i>me. By me,</i>	
FTLN 0613		<i>Thine own true knight,</i>	
FTLN 0614		<i>By day or night,</i>	15
FTLN 0615		<i>Or any kind of light,</i>	
FTLN 0616		<i>With all his might</i>	
FTLN 0617		<i>For thee to fight,</i>	
FTLN 0618		<i>John Falstaff.</i>	
FTLN 0619		What a Herod of Jewry is this! O wicked, wicked	20
FTLN 0620		world! One that is well-nigh worn to pieces with	
FTLN 0621		age, to show himself a young gallant! What an	
FTLN 0622		unweighed behavior hath this Flemish drunkard	

FTLN 0631	MISTRESS FORD	Mistress Page! Trust me, I was going to	
FTLN 0632		your house.	
FTLN 0633	MISTRESS PAGE	And, trust me, I was coming to you.	
FTLN 0634		You look very ill.	35
FTLN 0635	MISTRESS FORD	Nay, I'll ne'er believe that. I have to	
FTLN 0636		show to the contrary.	
FTLN 0637	MISTRESS PAGE	Faith, but you do, in my mind.	
FTLN 0638	MISTRESS FORD	Well, I do, then. Yet I say I could show	
FTLN 0639		you to the contrary. O Mistress Page, give me some	40
FTLN 0640		counsel.	
FTLN 0641	MISTRESS PAGE	What's the matter, woman?	
FTLN 0642	MISTRESS FORD	O woman, if it were not for one trifling	
FTLN 0643		respect, I could come to such honor!	
FTLN 0644	MISTRESS PAGE	Hang the trifle, woman; take the honor.	45
FTLN 0645		What is it? Dispense with trifles. What is it?	
FTLN 0646	MISTRESS FORD	If I would but go to hell for an eternal	
FTLN 0647		moment or so, I could be knighted.	
FTLN 0648	MISTRESS PAGE	What, thou liest! Sir Alice Ford? These	
FTLN 0649		knights will hack, and so thou shouldst not alter	50
FTLN 0650		the article of thy gentry.	
FTLN 0651	MISTRESS FORD	We burn daylight. Here, read, read. Perceive	
FTLN 0652		how I might be knighted. <i>「(She gives a paper</i>	
FTLN 0653		<i>to Mistress Page, who reads it.)</i> 」 I shall think the	
FTLN 0654		worse of fat men as long as I have an eye to make	55
FTLN 0655		difference of men's liking. And yet he would not	
FTLN 0656		swear; <i>「praised</i> 」 women's modesty; and gave such	

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FTLN 0657       orderly and well-behaved reproof to all uncomeliness  
 FTLN 0658       that I would have sworn his disposition  
 FTLN 0659       would have gone to the truth of his words. But 60  
 FTLN 0660       they do no more adhere and keep place together  
 FTLN 0661       than the ‘Hundredth Psalm’ to the tune of  
 FTLN 0662       “Greensleeves.” What tempest, I trow, threw this  
 FTLN 0663       whale, with so many tuns of oil in his belly, ashore  
 FTLN 0664       at Windsor? How shall I be revenged on him? I 65  
 FTLN 0665       think the best way were to entertain him with hope  
 FTLN 0666       till the wicked fire of lust have melted him in his  
 FTLN 0667       own grease. Did you ever hear the like?  
 FTLN 0668   MISTRESS PAGE   Letter for letter, but that the name of  
 FTLN 0669       Page and Ford differs! To thy great comfort in this 70  
 FTLN 0670       mystery of ill opinions, here’s the twin brother of  
 FTLN 0671       thy letter. ‘*(She gives a paper to Mistress Ford, who*  
 FTLN 0672       *reads it.)*’ But let thine inherit first, for I protest  
 FTLN 0673       mine never shall. I warrant he hath a thousand of  
 FTLN 0674       these letters writ with blank space for different 75  
 FTLN 0675       names—sure, more—and these are of the second  
 FTLN 0676       edition. He will print them, out of doubt; for he  
 FTLN 0677       cares not what he puts into the press, when he  
 FTLN 0678       would put us two. I had rather be a giantess and lie  
 FTLN 0679       under Mount Pelion. Well, I will find you twenty 80  
 FTLN 0680       lascivious turtles ere one chaste man.  
 FTLN 0681   MISTRESS FORD   Why, this is the very same—the very  
 FTLN 0682       hand, the very words. What doth he think of us?  
 FTLN 0683   MISTRESS PAGE   Nay, I know not. It makes me almost  
 FTLN 0684       ready to wrangle with mine own honesty. I’ll entertain 85  
 FTLN 0685       myself like one that I am not acquainted  
 FTLN 0686       withal; for, sure, unless he know some strain in  
 FTLN 0687       me that I know not myself, he would never have  
 FTLN 0688       boarded me in this fury.  
 FTLN 0689   MISTRESS FORD   “Boarding” call you it? I’ll be sure to 90  
 FTLN 0690       keep him above deck.  
 FTLN 0691   MISTRESS PAGE   So will I. If he come under my hatches,  
 FTLN 0692       I’ll never to sea again. Let’s be revenged on him.  
 FTLN 0693       Let’s appoint him a meeting, give him a show of

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FTLN 0694        comfort in his suit, and lead him on with a fine-baited        95  
 FTLN 0695        delay till he hath pawned his horses to mine  
 FTLN 0696        Host of the Garter.  
 FTLN 0697    MISTRESS FORD    Nay, I will consent to act any villainy  
 FTLN 0698        against him that may not sully the chariness of our  
 FTLN 0699        honesty. O, that my husband saw this letter! It        100  
 FTLN 0700        would give eternal food to his jealousy.  
 FTLN 0701    MISTRESS PAGE    Why, look where he comes, and my  
 FTLN 0702        good man too. He's as far from jealousy as I am  
 FTLN 0703        from giving him cause, and that, I hope, is an  
 FTLN 0704        unmeasurable distance.        105  
 FTLN 0705    MISTRESS FORD    You are the happier woman.  
 FTLN 0706    MISTRESS PAGE    Let's consult together against this greasy  
 FTLN 0707        knight. Come hither.        *They talk aside.*

*Enter Ford with Pistol, and Page with Nym.*

FTLN 0708    FORD    Well, I hope it be not so.  
 PISTOL  
 FTLN 0709        Hope is a curtal dog in some affairs.        110  
 FTLN 0710        Sir John affects thy wife.  
 FTLN 0711    FORD    Why, sir, my wife is not young.  
 PISTOL  
 FTLN 0712        He woos both high and low, both rich and poor,  
 FTLN 0713        Both young and old, one with another, Ford.  
 FTLN 0714        He loves the gallimaufry. Ford, perpend.        115  
 FTLN 0715    FORD    Love my wife?  
 PISTOL  
 FTLN 0716        With liver burning hot. Prevent,  
 FTLN 0717        Or go thou like Sir Acteon, he,  
 FTLN 0718        With Ringwood at thy heels.  
 FTLN 0719        O, odious is the name!        120  
 FTLN 0720    FORD    What name, sir?  
 FTLN 0721    PISTOL    The horn, I say. Farewell.  
 FTLN 0722        Take heed, have open eye, for thieves do foot by  
 FTLN 0723        night.  
 FTLN 0724        Take heed, ere summer comes or cuckoo birds do        125  
 FTLN 0725        sing.—

FTLN 0748	PAGE, <i>['to Mistress Page']</i>	How now, Meg?	
FTLN 0749	MISTRESS PAGE	Whither go you, George? Hark you.	150
		<i>['They talk aside.']</i>	
FTLN 0750	MISTRESS FORD, <i>['to Ford']</i>	How now, sweet Frank? Why	
FTLN 0751		art thou melancholy?	
FTLN 0752	FORD	I melancholy? I am not melancholy. Get you	
FTLN 0753		home. Go.	
FTLN 0754	MISTRESS FORD	Faith, thou hast some crochets in thy	155
FTLN 0755		head now.—Will you go, Mistress Page?	
FTLN 0756	MISTRESS PAGE	Have with you.—You'll come to dinner,	
FTLN 0757		George? <i>['(Aside to Mistress Ford.)']</i> Look who	
FTLN 0758		comes yonder.	



*Enter Mistress Quickly.*

FTLN 0759           She shall be our messenger to this paltry knight. 160  
 FTLN 0760   MISTRESS FORD   Trust me, I thought on her. She'll fit it.  
 FTLN 0761   MISTRESS PAGE, *to Mistress Quickly*   You are come to  
 FTLN 0762           see my daughter Anne?  
 FTLN 0763   MISTRESS QUICKLY   Ay, forsooth. And, I pray, how does  
 FTLN 0764           good Mistress Anne? 165  
 FTLN 0765   MISTRESS PAGE   Go in with us and see. We have an  
 FTLN 0766           hour's talk with you.

*Mistress Page, Mistress Ford, and  
 Mistress Quickly exit.*

FTLN 0767   PAGE   How now, Master Ford?  
 FTLN 0768   FORD   You heard what this knave told me, did you not?  
 FTLN 0769   PAGE   Yes, and you heard what the other told me? 170  
 FTLN 0770   FORD   Do you think there is truth in them?  
 FTLN 0771   PAGE   Hang 'em, slaves! I do not think the knight  
 FTLN 0772           would offer it. But these that accuse him in his intent  
 FTLN 0773           towards our wives are a yoke of his discarded  
 FTLN 0774           men, very rogues, now they be out of service. 175  
 FTLN 0775   FORD   Were they his men?  
 FTLN 0776   PAGE   Marry, were they.  
 FTLN 0777   FORD   I like it never the better for that. Does he lie at  
 FTLN 0778           the Garter?  
 FTLN 0779   PAGE   Ay, marry, does he. If he should intend this voyage 180  
 FTLN 0780           toward my wife, I would turn her loose to him;  
 FTLN 0781           and what he gets more of her than sharp words, let  
 FTLN 0782           it lie on my head.  
 FTLN 0783   FORD   I do not misdoubt my wife, but I would be loath  
 FTLN 0784           to turn them together. A man may be too confident. 185  
 FTLN 0785           I would have nothing lie on my head. I cannot  
 FTLN 0786           be thus satisfied.

*Enter Host.*

FTLN 0787   PAGE   Look where my ranting Host of the Garter  
 FTLN 0788           comes. There is either liquor in his pate or money  
 FTLN 0789           in his purse when he looks so merrily.—How now, 190  
 FTLN 0790           mine Host?

FTLN 0791 HOST How now, bullyrook? Thou 'rt a gentleman.—  
 FTLN 0792 Cavaleiro Justice, I say!

*Enter Shallow.*

FTLN 0793 SHALLOW I follow, mine Host, I follow.—Good even  
 FTLN 0794 and twenty, good Master Page. Master Page, will 195  
 FTLN 0795 you go with us? We have sport in hand.

FTLN 0796 HOST Tell him, Cavaleiro Justice; tell him, bullyrook.

FTLN 0797 SHALLOW Sir, there is a fray to be fought between  
 FTLN 0798 Sir Hugh the Welsh priest and Caius the French  
 FTLN 0799 doctor. 200

FTLN 0800 FORD Good mine Host o' th' Garter, a word with you.

FTLN 0801 HOST What say'st thou, my bullyrook?

*「The Host and Ford talk aside.」*

FTLN 0802 SHALLOW, *「to Page」* Will you go with us to behold it?  
 FTLN 0803 My merry Host hath had the measuring of their  
 FTLN 0804 weapons and, I think, hath appointed them contrary 205  
 FTLN 0805 places; for, believe me, I hear the parson is no  
 FTLN 0806 jester. Hark, I will tell you what our sport shall be.

*「Shallow and Page talk aside.」*

FTLN 0807 HOST, *「to Ford」* Hast thou no suit against my knight,  
 FTLN 0808 my guest cavalier?  
 FTLN 0809 *「FORD」* None, I protest. But I'll give you a pottle of 210  
 FTLN 0810 burnt sack to give me recourse to him, and tell him  
 FTLN 0811 my name is *「Brook」*—only for a jest.

FTLN 0812 HOST My hand, bully. Thou shalt have egress and  
 FTLN 0813 regress—said I well?—and thy name shall be  
 FTLN 0814 *「Brook.」* It is a merry knight. *「(To Shallow and 215*  
 FTLN 0815 *Page.)」* Will you go, *「ameers?」*

FTLN 0816 SHALLOW Have with you, mine Host.

FTLN 0817 PAGE I have heard the Frenchman hath good skill  
 FTLN 0818 in his rapier.

FTLN 0819 SHALLOW Tut, sir, I could have told you more. In these 220  
 FTLN 0820 times you stand on distance—your passes, stoccados,  
 FTLN 0821 and I know not what. 'Tis the heart, Master  
 FTLN 0822 Page; 'tis here, 'tis here. I have seen the time, with  
 FTLN 0823 my long sword I would have made you four tall  
 FTLN 0824 fellows skip like rats. 225

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FTLN 0825 HOST Here, boys, here, here! Shall we wag?  
 FTLN 0826 PAGE Have with you. I had rather hear them scold  
 FTLN 0827 than fight. *Page, Host, and Shallow exit.*  
 FTLN 0828 FORD Though Page be a secure fool and stands so  
 FTLN 0829 firmly on his wife's frailty, yet I cannot put off my 230  
 FTLN 0830 opinion so easily. She was in his company at Page's  
 FTLN 0831 house, and what they made there I know not. Well,  
 FTLN 0832 I will look further into 't, and I have a disguise to  
 FTLN 0833 sound Falstaff. If I find her honest, I lose not my  
 FTLN 0834 labor. If she be otherwise, 'tis labor well bestowed. 235  
*He exits.*

## Scene 2

*Enter Sir John Falstaff and Pistol.*

FTLN 0835 FALSTAFF I will not lend thee a penny.  
 FTLN 0836 PISTOL Why then, the world's mine oyster, which I  
 FTLN 0837 with sword will open.  
 FTLN 0838 FALSTAFF Not a penny. I have been content, sir, you  
 FTLN 0839 should lay my countenance to pawn. I have grated 5  
 FTLN 0840 upon my good friends for three reprieves for you  
 FTLN 0841 and your coach-fellow Nym, or else you had  
 FTLN 0842 looked through the grate like a gemini of baboons.  
 FTLN 0843 I am damned in hell for swearing to gentlemen my  
 FTLN 0844 friends you were good soldiers and tall fellows. 10  
 FTLN 0845 And when Mistress Bridget lost the handle of her  
 FTLN 0846 fan, I took 't upon mine honor thou hadst it not.  
 FTLN 0847 PISTOL Didst not thou share? Hadst thou not fifteen  
 FTLN 0848 pence?  
 FTLN 0849 FALSTAFF Reason, you rogue, reason. Think'st thou I'll 15  
 FTLN 0850 endanger my soul gratis? At a word, hang no more  
 FTLN 0851 about me. I am no gibbet for you. Go—a short  
 FTLN 0852 knife and a throng—to your manor of Pickt-hatch,  
 FTLN 0853 go. You'll not bear a letter for me, you rogue? You  
 FTLN 0854 stand upon your honor? Why, thou unconfinable 20

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FTLN 0855 baseness, it is as much as I can do to keep the  
 FTLN 0856 terms of my honor precise. Ay, ay, I myself sometimes,  
 FTLN 0857 leaving the fear of 'God' on the left hand  
 FTLN 0858 and hiding mine honor in my necessity, am fain to  
 FTLN 0859 shuffle, to hedge, and to lurch; and yet you, rogue, 25  
 FTLN 0860 will ensconce your rags, your cat-a-mountain  
 FTLN 0861 looks, your red-lattice phrases, and your bold beating  
 FTLN 0862 oaths under the shelter of your honor! You will  
 FTLN 0863 not do it? You?  
 FTLN 0864 PISTOL I do relent. What would thou more of man? 30

*Enter Robin.*

FTLN 0865 ROBIN Sir, here's a woman would speak with you.  
 FTLN 0866 FALSTAFF Let her approach.

*Enter 'Mistress' Quickly.*

FTLN 0867 MISTRESS QUICKLY Give your Worship good morrow.  
 FTLN 0868 FALSTAFF Good morrow, goodwife.  
 FTLN 0869 MISTRESS QUICKLY Not so, an 't please your Worship. 35  
 FTLN 0870 FALSTAFF Good maid, then.  
 FTLN 0871 MISTRESS QUICKLY I'll be sworn—as my mother was,  
 FTLN 0872 the first hour I was born.  
 FTLN 0873 FALSTAFF I do believe the swearer. What with me?  
 FTLN 0874 MISTRESS QUICKLY Shall I vouchsafe your Worship a 40  
 FTLN 0875 word or two?  
 FTLN 0876 FALSTAFF Two thousand, fair woman, and I'll vouchsafe  
 FTLN 0877 thee the hearing.  
 FTLN 0878 MISTRESS QUICKLY There is one Mistress Ford, sir—I  
 FTLN 0879 pray, come a little nearer this ways. I myself dwell 45  
 FTLN 0880 with Master Doctor Caius.  
 FTLN 0881 FALSTAFF Well, on. "Mistress Ford," you say—  
 FTLN 0882 MISTRESS QUICKLY Your Worship says very true. I pray  
 FTLN 0883 your Worship, come a little nearer this ways.  
 FTLN 0884 FALSTAFF I warrant thee, nobody hears. Mine own 50  
 FTLN 0885 people, mine own people.  
 FTLN 0886 MISTRESS QUICKLY Are they so? 'God' bless them and  
 FTLN 0887 make them His servants!

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FTLN 0888	FALSTAFF	Well, “Mistress Ford”—what of her?	
FTLN 0889	MISTRESS QUICKLY	Why, sir, she’s a good creature.	55
FTLN 0890		Lord, Lord, your Worship’s a wanton! Well, heaven	
FTLN 0891		forgive you and all of us, I pray!	
FTLN 0892	FALSTAFF	“Mistress Ford”—come, “Mistress Ford”—	
FTLN 0893	MISTRESS QUICKLY	Marry, this is the short and the long	
FTLN 0894		of it: you have brought her into such a canaries as	60
FTLN 0895		’tis wonderful. The best courtier of them all, when	
FTLN 0896		the court lay at Windsor, could never have brought	
FTLN 0897		her to such a canary. Yet there has been knights,	
FTLN 0898		and lords, and gentlemen, with their coaches, I	
FTLN 0899		warrant you, coach after coach, letter after letter,	65
FTLN 0900		gift after gift, smelling so sweetly—all musk—and	
FTLN 0901		so rushling, I warrant you, in silk and gold, and in	
FTLN 0902		such alligant terms, and in such wine and sugar of	
FTLN 0903		the best and the fairest, that would have won any	
FTLN 0904		woman’s heart; and, I warrant you, they could	70
FTLN 0905		never get an eye-wink of her. I had myself twenty	
FTLN 0906		angels given me this morning, but I defy all angels	
FTLN 0907		in any such sort, as they say, but in the way of	
FTLN 0908		honesty. And, I warrant you, they could never get	
FTLN 0909		her so much as sip on a cup with the proudest of	75
FTLN 0910		them all. And yet there has been earls—nay, which	
FTLN 0911		is more, pensioners—but, I warrant you, all is one	
FTLN 0912		with her.	
FTLN 0913	FALSTAFF	But what says she to me? Be brief, my good	
FTLN 0914		she-Mercury.	80
FTLN 0915	MISTRESS QUICKLY	Marry, she hath received your letter,	
FTLN 0916		for the which she thanks you a thousand times,	
FTLN 0917		and she gives you to notify that her husband will	
FTLN 0918		be absence from his house between ten and eleven.	
FTLN 0919	FALSTAFF	Ten and eleven?	85
FTLN 0920	MISTRESS QUICKLY	Ay, forsooth; and then you may come	
FTLN 0921		and see the picture, she says, that you wot of. Master	
FTLN 0922		Ford, her husband, will be from home. Alas, the	
FTLN 0923		sweet woman leads an ill life with him. He’s a very	

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FTLN 0924	jealousy man. She leads a very frampold life with	90
FTLN 0925	him, good heart.	
FTLN 0926	FALSTAFF Ten and eleven. Woman, commend me to	
FTLN 0927	her. I will not fail her.	
FTLN 0928	MISTRESS QUICKLY Why, you say well. But I have another	
FTLN 0929	messenger to your Worship. Mistress Page	95
FTLN 0930	hath her hearty commendations to you too; and,	
FTLN 0931	let me tell you in your ear, she's as fartuous a civil	
FTLN 0932	modest wife, and one, I tell you, that will not miss	
FTLN 0933	you morning nor evening prayer, as any is in Windsor,	
FTLN 0934	whoe'er be the other. And she bade me tell	100
FTLN 0935	your Worship that her husband is seldom from	
FTLN 0936	home, but she hopes there will come a time. I	
FTLN 0937	never knew a woman so dote upon a man. Surely, I	
FTLN 0938	think you have charms, la! Yes, in truth.	
FTLN 0939	FALSTAFF Not I, I assure thee. Setting the attraction of	105
FTLN 0940	my good parts aside, I have no other charms.	
FTLN 0941	MISTRESS QUICKLY Blessing on your heart for 't!	
FTLN 0942	FALSTAFF But I pray thee, tell me this: has Ford's wife	
FTLN 0943	and Page's wife acquainted each other how they	
FTLN 0944	love me?	110
FTLN 0945	MISTRESS QUICKLY That were a jest indeed! They have	
FTLN 0946	not so little grace, I hope. That were a trick indeed!	
FTLN 0947	But Mistress Page would desire you to send her	
FTLN 0948	your little page, of all loves. Her husband has a	
FTLN 0949	marvelous infection to the little page; and, truly,	115
FTLN 0950	Master Page is an honest man. Never a wife in	
FTLN 0951	Windsor leads a better life than she does. Do what	
FTLN 0952	she will, say what she will, take all, pay all, go to	
FTLN 0953	bed when she list, rise when she list—all is as she	
FTLN 0954	will. And, truly, she deserves it, for if there be a	120
FTLN 0955	kind woman in Windsor, she is one. You must send	
FTLN 0956	her your page, no remedy.	
FTLN 0957	FALSTAFF Why, I will.	
FTLN 0958	MISTRESS QUICKLY Nay, but do so then, and, look you,	
FTLN 0959	he may come and go between you both. And in any	125

FTLN 0960 case have a nayword, that you may know one another's  
 FTLN 0961 mind, and the boy never need to understand  
 FTLN 0962 anything; for 'tis not good that children  
 FTLN 0963 should know any wickedness. Old folks, you know,  
 FTLN 0964 have discretion, as they say, and know the world. 130  
 FTLN 0965 FALSTAFF Fare thee well. Commend me to them both.  
 FTLN 0966 There's my purse. *「(He gives her money.)」* I am yet  
 FTLN 0967 thy debtor.—Boy, go along with this woman. *「(Mistress*  
 FTLN 0968 *Quickly and Robin exit.)」* This news distracts  
 FTLN 0969 me. 135

PISTOL, *「aside」*

FTLN 0970 This punk is one of Cupid's carriers.  
 FTLN 0971 Clap on more sails, pursue; up with your fights;  
 FTLN 0972 Give fire! She is my prize, or ocean overwhelm them all!  
*「He exits.」*

FTLN 0973 FALSTAFF Sayst thou so, old Jack? Go thy ways. I'll  
 FTLN 0974 make more of thy old body than I have done. Will 140  
 FTLN 0975 they yet look after thee? Wilt thou, after the expense  
 FTLN 0976 of so much money, be now a gainer? Good  
 FTLN 0977 body, I thank thee. Let them say 'tis grossly done;  
 FTLN 0978 so it be fairly done, no matter.

*「Enter Bardolph with wine.」*

FTLN 0979 BARDOLPH Sir John, there's one Master *「Brook」* below 145  
 FTLN 0980 would fain speak with you and be acquainted with  
 FTLN 0981 you, and hath sent your Worship a morning's  
 FTLN 0982 draught of sack. *「(He hands Falstaff the wine.)」*  
 FTLN 0983 FALSTAFF *「Brook」* is his name?  
 FTLN 0984 BARDOLPH Ay, sir. 150  
 FTLN 0985 FALSTAFF Call him in. Such *「Brooks」* are welcome to  
 FTLN 0986 me that o'erflows such liquor. *「(Bardolph exits.)」*  
 FTLN 0987 Ah ha, Mistress Ford and Mistress Page, have I encompassed  
 FTLN 0988 you? Go to. *Via!*

*Enter 「Bardolph with」 Ford 「disguised as Brook.」*

FTLN 0989 FORD, *「as Brook」* *「God」* bless you, sir. 155  
 FTLN 0990 FALSTAFF And you, sir. Would you speak with me?

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FTLN 0991 FORD, *as Brook* I make bold to press with so little  
 FTLN 0992 preparation upon you.

FTLN 0993 FALSTAFF You're welcome. What's your will?—Give us  
 FTLN 0994 leave, drawer. *Bardolph exits.* 160

FTLN 0995 FORD, *as Brook* Sir, I am a gentleman that have spent  
 FTLN 0996 much. My name is *Brook*.

FTLN 0997 FALSTAFF Good Master *Brook*, I desire more acquaintance  
 FTLN 0998 of you.

FTLN 0999 FORD, *as Brook* Good Sir John, I sue for yours—not 165  
 FTLN 1000 to charge you, for I must let you understand I  
 FTLN 1001 think myself in better plight for a lender than you  
 FTLN 1002 are, the which hath something emboldened me to  
 FTLN 1003 this unseasoned intrusion; for they say, if money  
 FTLN 1004 go before, all ways do lie open. 170

FTLN 1005 FALSTAFF Money is a good soldier, sir, and will on.

FTLN 1006 FORD, *as Brook* Troth, and I have a bag of money  
 FTLN 1007 here troubles me. *He sets it down.* If you will help  
 FTLN 1008 to bear it, Sir John, take all, or half, for easing me  
 FTLN 1009 of the carriage. 175

FTLN 1010 FALSTAFF Sir, I know not how I may deserve to be your  
 FTLN 1011 porter.

FTLN 1012 FORD, *as Brook* I will tell you, sir, if you will give me  
 FTLN 1013 the hearing.

FTLN 1014 FALSTAFF Speak, good Master *Brook*. I shall be glad 180  
 FTLN 1015 to be your servant.

FTLN 1016 FORD, *as Brook* Sir, I hear you are a scholar—I will  
 FTLN 1017 be brief with you—and you have been a man long  
 FTLN 1018 known to me, though I had never so good means  
 FTLN 1019 as desire to make myself acquainted with you. I 185  
 FTLN 1020 shall discover a thing to you wherein I must very  
 FTLN 1021 much lay open mine own imperfection. But, good  
 FTLN 1022 Sir John, as you have one eye upon my follies, as  
 FTLN 1023 you hear them unfolded, turn another into the register  
 FTLN 1024 of your own, that I may pass with a reproof 190  
 FTLN 1025 the easier, sith you yourself know how easy it is to  
 FTLN 1026 be such an offender.



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FTLN 1027 FALSTAFF Very well, sir. Proceed.

FTLN 1028 FORD, *as Brook* There is a gentlewoman in this

FTLN 1029 town—her husband's name is Ford. 195

FTLN 1030 FALSTAFF Well, sir.

FTLN 1031 FORD, *as Brook* I have long loved her and, I protest

FTLN 1032 to you, bestowed much on her, followed her with

FTLN 1033 a doting observance, engrossed opportunities to

FTLN 1034 meet her, fee'd every slight occasion that could but 200

FTLN 1035 niggardly give me sight of her, not only bought

FTLN 1036 many presents to give her, but have given largely to

FTLN 1037 many to know what she would have given. Briefly,

FTLN 1038 I have pursued her as love hath pursued me, which

FTLN 1039 hath been on the wing of all occasions. But whatsoever 205

FTLN 1040 I have merited, either in my mind or in my

FTLN 1041 means, need I am sure I have received none, unless

FTLN 1042 experience be a jewel. That I have purchased

FTLN 1043 at an infinite rate, and that hath taught me to say

FTLN 1044 this: 210

FTLN 1045 "Love like a shadow flies when substance love

FTLN 1046 pursues,

FTLN 1047 Pursuing that that flies, and flying what pursues."

FTLN 1048 FALSTAFF Have you received no promise of satisfaction

FTLN 1049 at her hands? 215

FTLN 1050 FORD, *as Brook* Never.

FTLN 1051 FALSTAFF Have you importuned her to such a

FTLN 1052 purpose?

FTLN 1053 FORD, *as Brook* Never.

FTLN 1054 FALSTAFF Of what quality was your love, then? 220

FTLN 1055 FORD, *as Brook* Like a fair house built on another

FTLN 1056 man's ground, so that I have lost my edifice by

FTLN 1057 mistaking the place where I erected it.

FTLN 1058 FALSTAFF To what purpose have you unfolded this to

FTLN 1059 me? 225

FTLN 1060 FORD, *as Brook* When I have told you that, I have

FTLN 1061 told you all. Some say that though she appear honest

FTLN 1062 to me, yet in other places she enlargeth her

FTLN 1063 mirth so far that there is shrewd construction

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FTLN 1064	made of her. Now, Sir John, here is the heart of my	230
FTLN 1065	purpose: you are a gentleman of excellent breeding,	
FTLN 1066	admirable discourse, of great admittance,	
FTLN 1067	authentic in your place and person, generally	
FTLN 1068	allowed for your many warlike, courtlike, and	
FTLN 1069	learned preparations.	235
FTLN 1070	FALSTAFF O, sir!	
FTLN 1071	FORD, <i>as Brook</i> Believe it, for you know it. There is	
FTLN 1072	money. <i>(He points to the bag.)</i> Spend it, spend	
FTLN 1073	it, spend more; spend all I have. Only give me so	
FTLN 1074	much of your time in exchange of it as to lay an	240
FTLN 1075	amiable siege to the honesty of this Ford's wife.	
FTLN 1076	Use your art of wooing; win her to consent to you.	
FTLN 1077	If any man may, you may as soon as any.	
FTLN 1078	FALSTAFF Would it apply well to the vehemency of	
FTLN 1079	your affection that I should win what you would	245
FTLN 1080	enjoy? Methinks you prescribe to yourself very	
FTLN 1081	preposterously.	
FTLN 1082	FORD, <i>as Brook</i> O, understand my drift. She dwells	
FTLN 1083	so securely on the excellency of her honor that the	
FTLN 1084	folly of my soul dares not present itself; she is too	250
FTLN 1085	bright to be looked against. Now, could I come to	
FTLN 1086	her with any detection in my hand, my desires had	
FTLN 1087	instance and argument to commend themselves. I	
FTLN 1088	could drive her then from the ward of her purity,	
FTLN 1089	her reputation, her marriage vow, and a thousand	255
FTLN 1090	other her defenses, which now are too too strongly	
FTLN 1091	embattled against me. What say you to 't, Sir	
FTLN 1092	John?	
FTLN 1093	FALSTAFF, <i>taking the bag</i> Master <i>Brook</i> , I will first	
FTLN 1094	make bold with your money; next, give me your	260
FTLN 1095	hand; and, last, as I am a gentleman, you shall, if	
FTLN 1096	you will, enjoy Ford's wife.	
FTLN 1097	FORD, <i>as Brook</i> O, good sir!	
FTLN 1098	FALSTAFF I say you shall.	
FTLN 1099	FORD, <i>as Brook</i> Want no money, Sir John; you shall	265
FTLN 1100	want none.	

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FTLN 1101 FALSTAFF Want no Mistress Ford, Master 'Brook;' you  
 FTLN 1102 shall want none. I shall be with her, I may tell you,  
 FTLN 1103 by her own appointment. Even as you came in to  
 FTLN 1104 me, her assistant or go-between parted from me. I 270  
 FTLN 1105 say I shall be with her between ten and eleven, for  
 FTLN 1106 at that time the jealous, rascally knave her husband  
 FTLN 1107 will be forth. Come you to me at night. You  
 FTLN 1108 shall know how I speed.

FTLN 1109 FORD, 'as Brook' I am blessed in your acquaintance. 275  
 FTLN 1110 Do you know Ford, sir?

FTLN 1111 FALSTAFF Hang him, poor cuckoldly knave! I know  
 FTLN 1112 him not. Yet I wrong him to call him poor. They  
 FTLN 1113 say the jealous wittolly knave hath masses of  
 FTLN 1114 money, for the which his wife seems to me well-favored. 280  
 FTLN 1115 I will use her as the key of the cuckoldly  
 FTLN 1116 rogue's coffer, and there's my harvest home.

FTLN 1117 FORD, 'as Brook' I would you knew Ford, sir, that you  
 FTLN 1118 might avoid him if you saw him.

FTLN 1119 FALSTAFF Hang him, mechanical salt-butter rogue! I 285  
 FTLN 1120 will stare him out of his wits. I will awe him with  
 FTLN 1121 my cudgel; it shall hang like a meteor o'er the  
 FTLN 1122 cuckold's horns. Master 'Brook,' thou shalt know I  
 FTLN 1123 will predominate over the peasant, and thou shalt  
 FTLN 1124 lie with his wife. Come to me soon at night. Ford's 290  
 FTLN 1125 a knave, and I will aggravate his style. Thou, Master  
 FTLN 1126 'Brook,' shalt know him for knave and cuckold.  
 FTLN 1127 Come to me soon at night. 'Falstaff exits.'

FTLN 1128 FORD What a damned epicurean rascal is this! My  
 FTLN 1129 heart is ready to crack with impatience. Who says 295  
 FTLN 1130 this is improvident jealousy? My wife hath sent  
 FTLN 1131 to him, the hour is fixed, the match is made.  
 FTLN 1132 Would any man have thought this? See the hell of  
 FTLN 1133 having a false woman: my bed shall be abused, my  
 FTLN 1134 coffers ransacked, my reputation gnawn at. And 300  
 FTLN 1135 I shall not only receive this villainous wrong but  
 FTLN 1136 stand under the adoption of abominable terms,

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FTLN 1137 and by him that does me this wrong. Terms,  
 FTLN 1138 names! “Amaimon” sounds well, “Lucifer” well,  
 FTLN 1139 “Barbason” well; yet they are devils’ additions, the 305  
 FTLN 1140 names of fiends. But “Cuckold,” “Wittoll,” “Cuckold”!  
 FTLN 1141 The devil himself hath not such a name. Page  
 FTLN 1142 is an ass, a secure ass. He will trust his wife, he will  
 FTLN 1143 not be jealous. I will rather trust a Fleming with  
 FTLN 1144 my butter, Parson Hugh the Welshman with my 310  
 FTLN 1145 cheese, an Irishman with my aquavita bottle, or  
 FTLN 1146 a thief to walk my ambling gelding, than my wife  
 FTLN 1147 with herself. Then she plots, then she ruminates,  
 FTLN 1148 then she devises; and what they think in their  
 FTLN 1149 hearts they may effect, they will break their hearts 315  
 FTLN 1150 but they will effect. ‘God’ be praised for my jealousy!  
 FTLN 1151 Eleven o’clock the hour. I will prevent this,  
 FTLN 1152 detect my wife, be revenged on Falstaff, and laugh  
 FTLN 1153 at Page. I will about it. Better three hours too soon  
 FTLN 1154 than a minute too late. Fie, fie, fie! Cuckold, cuckold, 320  
 FTLN 1155 cuckold!

*He exits.*

### Scene 3

*Enter ‘Doctor’ Caius ‘and’ Rugby.*

FTLN 1156 DOCTOR CAIUS Jack Rugby.  
 FTLN 1157 RUGBY Sir?  
 FTLN 1158 DOCTOR CAIUS Vat is the clock, Jack?  
 FTLN 1159 RUGBY ’Tis past the hour, sir, that Sir Hugh promised  
 FTLN 1160 to meet. 5  
 FTLN 1161 DOCTOR CAIUS By gar, he has save his soul dat he is no  
 FTLN 1162 come. He has pray his Pible well dat he is no come.  
 FTLN 1163 By gar, Jack Rugby, he is dead already if he be  
 FTLN 1164 come.  
 FTLN 1165 RUGBY He is wise, sir. He knew your Worship would 10  
 FTLN 1166 kill him if he came.

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FTLN 1167 DOCTOR CAIUS By gar, de herring is no dead so as I vill  
 FTLN 1168 kill him. Take your rapier, Jack. I vill tell you how I  
 FTLN 1169 vill kill him.  
 FTLN 1170 RUGBY Alas, sir, I cannot fence. 15  
 FTLN 1171 DOCTOR CAIUS Villainy, take your rapier.  
 FTLN 1172 RUGBY Forbear. Here's company.

*Enter Page, Shallow, Slender, 'and' Host.*

FTLN 1173 HOST 'God' bless thee, bully doctor!  
 FTLN 1174 SHALLOW 'God' save you, Master Doctor Caius!  
 FTLN 1175 PAGE Now, good Master Doctor! 20  
 FTLN 1176 SLENDER Give you good morrow, sir.  
 FTLN 1177 DOCTOR CAIUS Vat be all you, one, two, tree, four, come  
 FTLN 1178 for?  
 FTLN 1179 HOST To see thee fight, to see thee foin, to see thee traverse;  
 FTLN 1180 to see thee here, to see thee there; to see 25  
 FTLN 1181 'thy' pass, thy puncto, thy stock, thy reverse, thy  
 FTLN 1182 distance, thy montant. Is he dead, my Ethiopian?  
 FTLN 1183 Is he dead, my Francisco? Ha, bully? What says  
 FTLN 1184 my Aesculapius, my Galien, my heart of elder, ha?  
 FTLN 1185 Is he dead, bully stale? Is he dead? 30  
 FTLN 1186 DOCTOR CAIUS By gar, he is de coward jack-priest of de  
 FTLN 1187 world. He is not show his face.  
 FTLN 1188 HOST Thou art a Castalion King Urinal Hector of  
 FTLN 1189 Greece, my boy!  
 FTLN 1190 DOCTOR CAIUS I pray you, bear witness that me have 35  
 FTLN 1191 stay six or seven, two, tree hours for him, and he is  
 FTLN 1192 no come.  
 FTLN 1193 SHALLOW He is the wiser man, Master Doctor. He is a  
 FTLN 1194 curer of souls, and you a curer of bodies. If you  
 FTLN 1195 should fight, you go against the hair of your professions.— 40  
 FTLN 1196 Is it not true, Master Page?  
 FTLN 1197 PAGE Master Shallow, you have yourself been a great  
 FTLN 1198 fighter, though now a man of peace.  
 FTLN 1199 SHALLOW Bodykins, Master Page, though I now be old  
 FTLN 1200 and of the peace, if I see a sword out, my finger 45

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FTLN 1201 itches to make one. Though we are justices and  
 FTLN 1202 doctors and churchmen, Master Page, we have  
 FTLN 1203 some salt of our youth in us. We are the sons of  
 FTLN 1204 women, Master Page.

FTLN 1205 PAGE 'Tis true, Master Shallow. 50

FTLN 1206 SHALLOW It will be found so, Master Page.—Master  
 FTLN 1207 Doctor Caius, I am come to fetch you home. I am  
 FTLN 1208 sworn of the peace. You have showed yourself a  
 FTLN 1209 wise physician, and Sir Hugh hath shown himself  
 FTLN 1210 a wise and patient churchman. You must go with 55  
 FTLN 1211 me, Master Doctor.

FTLN 1212 HOST Pardon, guest Justice. *「(To Caius.)」* A *「word,」*  
 FTLN 1213 Monsieur Mockwater.

FTLN 1214 DOCTOR CAIUS “Mockvater”? Vat is dat?

FTLN 1215 HOST “Mockwater,” in our English tongue, is “valor,” 60  
 FTLN 1216 bully.

FTLN 1217 DOCTOR CAIUS By gar, then I have as much mockvater  
 FTLN 1218 as de Englishman. Scurvy jack-dog priest! By gar,  
 FTLN 1219 me vill cut his ears.

FTLN 1220 HOST He will clapper-claw thee tightly, bully. 65

FTLN 1221 DOCTOR CAIUS “Clapper-de-claw”? Vat is dat?

FTLN 1222 HOST That is, he will make thee amends.

FTLN 1223 DOCTOR CAIUS By gar, me do look he shall clapper-de-claw  
 FTLN 1224 me, for, by gar, me vill have it.

FTLN 1225 HOST And I will provoke him to 't, or let him wag. 70

FTLN 1226 DOCTOR CAIUS Me tank you for dat.

FTLN 1227 HOST And moreover, bully— *「(He draws Shallow, Page,*  
 FTLN 1228 *and Slender aside.)」* But first, Master guest, and  
 FTLN 1229 Master Page, and eke Cavaleiro Slender, go you  
 FTLN 1230 through the town to Frogmore. 75

FTLN 1231 PAGE Sir Hugh is there, is he?

FTLN 1232 HOST He is there. See what humor he is in; and I will  
 FTLN 1233 bring the doctor about by the fields. Will it do  
 FTLN 1234 well?

FTLN 1235 SHALLOW We will do it. 80

FTLN 1236 PAGE, SHALLOW, AND SLENDER Adieu, good Master  
 FTLN 1237 Doctor. *「Page, Shallow, and Slender exit.」*

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FTLN 1238 DOCTOR CAIUS By gar, me vill kill de priest, for he speak  
FTLN 1239 for a jackanape to Anne Page.  
FTLN 1240 HOST Let him die. Sheathe thy impatience; throw cold 85  
FTLN 1241 water on thy choler. Go about the fields with me  
FTLN 1242 through Frogmore. I will bring thee where Mistress  
FTLN 1243 Anne Page is, at a farmhouse a-feasting, and  
FTLN 1244 thou shalt woo her. Cried game! Said I well?  
FTLN 1245 DOCTOR CAIUS By gar, me dank you vor dat. By gar, I 90  
FTLN 1246 love you, and I shall procure-a you de good guest:  
FTLN 1247 de earl, de knight, de lords, de gentlemen, my  
FTLN 1248 patients.  
FTLN 1249 HOST For the which I will be thy adversary toward  
FTLN 1250 Anne Page. Said I well? 95  
FTLN 1251 DOCTOR CAIUS By gar, 'tis good. Vell said.  
FTLN 1252 HOST Let us wag, then.  
FTLN 1253 DOCTOR CAIUS Come at my heels, Jack Rugby.

*They exit.*

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## ACT 3

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### Scene 1

*Enter* 「Sir Hugh」 Evans 「(with a book and a sword)  
and」 Simple 「(carrying Sir Hugh's gown).」

FTLN 1254	SIR HUGH	I pray you now, good Master Slender's servingman	
FTLN 1255		and friend Simple by your name, which	
FTLN 1256		way have you looked for Master Caius, that calls	
FTLN 1257		himself doctor of physic?	
FTLN 1258	SIMPLE	Marry, sir, the 「Petty-ward,」 the Park-ward,	5
FTLN 1259		every way; Old Windsor way, and every way but	
FTLN 1260		the town way.	
FTLN 1261	SIR HUGH	I most feheemently desire you, you will also	
FTLN 1262		look that way.	
FTLN 1263	SIMPLE	I will, sir. 「He exits.」	10
FTLN 1264	SIR HUGH	Pless my soul, how full of cholers I am, and	
FTLN 1265		trempling of mind! I shall be glad if he have deceived	
FTLN 1266		me. How melancholies I am! I will knog his	
FTLN 1267		urinalls about his knave's costard when I have good	
FTLN 1268		opportunities for the 'ork. Pless my soul!	15
		「(Sings.)」	
FTLN 1269		<i>To shallow rivers, to whose falls</i>	
FTLN 1270		<i>Melodious birds sings madrigals.</i>	
FTLN 1271		<i>There will we make our peds of roses</i>	
FTLN 1272		<i>And a thousand fragrant posies.</i>	
FTLN 1273		<i>To shallow—</i>	20
FTLN 1274		Mercy on me, I have a great dispositions to cry.	



「(Sings.)」

FTLN 1275	<i>Melodious birds sing madrigals—</i>	
FTLN 1276	<i>Whenas I sat in Pabylon—</i>	
FTLN 1277	<i>And a thousand vagram posies.</i>	
FTLN 1278	<i>To shallow rivers, to whose falls</i>	25
FTLN 1279	<i>Melodious birds sings madrigals.</i>	

「Enter Simple.」

FTLN 1280	SIMPLE	Yonder he is, coming this way, Sir Hugh.	
FTLN 1281	SIR HUGH	He's welcome.	
	「(Sings.)」		
FTLN 1282		<i>To shallow rivers, to whose falls—</i>	
FTLN 1283		Heaven prosper the right! What weapons is he?	30
FTLN 1284	SIMPLE	No weapons, sir. There comes my master,	
FTLN 1285		Master Shallow, and another gentleman, from	
FTLN 1286		Frogmore, over the stile, this way.	
FTLN 1287	SIR HUGH	Pray you, give me my gown—or else keep it	
FTLN 1288		in your arms.	35

*Enter Page, Shallow, 「and」 Slender.*

FTLN 1289	SHALLOW	How now, Master Parson? Good morrow,	
FTLN 1290		good Sir Hugh. Keep a gamester from the dice,	
FTLN 1291		and a good student from his book, and it is	
FTLN 1292		wonderful.	
FTLN 1293	SLENDER, 「aside」	Ah, sweet Anne Page!	40
FTLN 1294	PAGE	「God」 save you, good Sir Hugh!	
FTLN 1295	SIR HUGH	「God」 pless you from His mercy sake, all of	
FTLN 1296		you!	
FTLN 1297	SHALLOW	What, the sword and the word? Do you	
FTLN 1298		study them both, Master Parson?	45
FTLN 1299	PAGE	And youthful still—in your doublet and hose	
FTLN 1300		this raw rheumatic day?	
FTLN 1301	SIR HUGH	There is reasons and causes for it.	
FTLN 1302	PAGE	We are come to you to do a good office, Master	
FTLN 1303		Parson.	50
FTLN 1304	SIR HUGH	Fery well. What is it?	

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FTLN 1305 PAGE Yonder is a most reverend gentleman who, belike  
 FTLN 1306 having received wrong by some person, is at  
 FTLN 1307 most odds with his own gravity and patience that  
 FTLN 1308 ever you saw. 55

FTLN 1309 SHALLOW I have lived fourscore years and upward. I  
 FTLN 1310 never heard a man of his place, gravity, and learning  
 FTLN 1311 so wide of his own respect.

FTLN 1312 SIR HUGH What is he?

FTLN 1313 PAGE I think you know him: Master Doctor Caius, the 60  
 FTLN 1314 renowned French physician.

FTLN 1315 SIR HUGH Got's will and His passion of my heart! I had  
 FTLN 1316 as lief you would tell me of a mess of porridge.

FTLN 1317 PAGE Why?

FTLN 1318 SIR HUGH He has no more knowledge in Hibbocrates 65  
 FTLN 1319 and Galen—and he is a knave besides, a cowardly  
 FTLN 1320 knave as you would desires to be acquainted  
 FTLN 1321 withal.

FTLN 1322 PAGE, *to Shallow* I warrant you, he's the man should  
 FTLN 1323 fight with him. 70

FTLN 1324 SLENDER, *aside* O, sweet Anne Page!

FTLN 1325 SHALLOW It appears so by his weapons. Keep them  
 FTLN 1326 asunder. Here comes Doctor Caius.

*Enter Host, Doctor Caius, and Rugby.  
 Caius and Sir Hugh offer to fight.*

FTLN 1327 PAGE Nay, good Master Parson, keep in your weapon.  
 FTLN 1328 SHALLOW So do you, good Master Doctor. 75

FTLN 1329 HOST Disarm them, and let them question. Let them  
 FTLN 1330 keep their limbs whole and hack our English.  
*Page and Shallow disarm Caius and Sir Hugh.*

FTLN 1331 DOCTOR CAIUS, *to Sir Hugh* I pray you, let-a me speak  
 FTLN 1332 a word with your ear. Verefore vill you not  
 FTLN 1333 meet-a me? 80

FTLN 1334 SIR HUGH, *aside to Caius* Pray you, use your patience.  
 FTLN 1335 *(Aloud.)* In good time.

FTLN 1336 DOCTOR CAIUS By gar, you are de coward, de Jack dog,  
 FTLN 1337 John ape.

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FTLN 1338	SIR HUGH, <i>「aside to Caius」</i> Pray you, let us not be	85
FTLN 1339	laughing-stocks to other men's humors. I desire	
FTLN 1340	you in friendship, and I will one way or other	
FTLN 1341	make you amends. <i>「(Aloud.) By Jeshu,」</i> I will knog	
FTLN 1342	your urinal about your knave's cogscomb.	
FTLN 1343	DOCTOR CAIUS <i>Diable!</i> Jack Rugby, mine Host de Jarteer,	90
FTLN 1344	have I not stay for him to kill him? Have I not,	
FTLN 1345	at de place I did appoint?	
FTLN 1346	SIR HUGH As I am a Christians soul, now look you, this	
FTLN 1347	is the place appointed. I'll be judgment by mine	
FTLN 1348	Host of the Garter.	95
FTLN 1349	HOST Peace, I say, Gallia and Gaul, French and Welsh,	
FTLN 1350	soul-curer and body-curer!	
FTLN 1351	DOCTOR CAIUS Ay, dat is very good, excellent.	
FTLN 1352	HOST Peace, I say! Hear mine Host of the Garter. Am	
FTLN 1353	I politic? Am I subtle? Am I a Machiavel? Shall I	100
FTLN 1354	lose my doctor? No, he gives me the potions and	
FTLN 1355	the motions. Shall I lose my parson, my priest, my	
FTLN 1356	Sir Hugh? No, he gives me the proverbs and the	
FTLN 1357	no-verbs. <i>「(To Caius.) Give me thy hand, terrestrial;</i>	
FTLN 1358	<i>so. (To Sir Hugh.)」</i> Give me thy hand, celestial;	105
FTLN 1359	so. Boys of art, I have deceived you both. I	
FTLN 1360	have directed you to wrong places. Your hearts are	
FTLN 1361	mighty, your skins are whole, and let burnt sack be	
FTLN 1362	the issue. <i>「(To Page and Shallow.)」</i> Come, lay their	
FTLN 1363	swords to pawn. <i>「(To Caius and Sir Hugh.)」</i> Follow	110
FTLN 1364	me, <i>「lads」</i> of peace, follow, follow, follow.	
	<i>「Host exits.」</i>	
FTLN 1365	SHALLOW <i>「Afore God,」</i> a mad Host. Follow, gentlemen,	
FTLN 1366	follow.	
FTLN 1367	SLENDER, <i>「aside」</i> O, sweet Anne Page!	
	<i>「Shallow, Page, and Slender exit.」</i>	
FTLN 1368	DOCTOR CAIUS Ha, do I perceive dat? Have you make-a	115
FTLN 1369	de sot of us, ha, ha?	
FTLN 1370	SIR HUGH This is well! He has made us his vloutingstog.	
FTLN 1371	I desire you that we may be friends, and let	

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FTLN 1372       us knog our prains together to be revenge on this  
 FTLN 1373       same scall, scurvy, cogging companion, the Host of       120  
 FTLN 1374       the Garter.  
 FTLN 1375   DOCTOR CAIUS   By gar, with all my heart. He promise  
 FTLN 1376       to bring me where is Anne Page. By gar, he deceive  
 FTLN 1377       me too.  
 FTLN 1378   SIR HUGH     Well, I will smite his noddles. Pray you,       125  
 FTLN 1379       follow.

*‘Sir Hugh, Caius, Simple, and Rugby exit.’*

### Scene 2

*‘Enter’ Robin ‘followed by’ Mistress Page.*

FTLN 1380   MISTRESS PAGE   Nay, keep your way, little gallant. You  
 FTLN 1381       were wont to be a follower, but now you are a  
 FTLN 1382       leader. Whether had you rather—lead mine eyes,  
 FTLN 1383       or eye your master’s heels?  
 FTLN 1384   ROBIN     I had rather, forsooth, go before you like a man       5  
 FTLN 1385       than follow him like a dwarf.  
 FTLN 1386   MISTRESS PAGE   O, you are a flattering boy! Now I see  
 FTLN 1387       you’ll be a courtier.

*‘Enter’ Ford.*

FTLN 1388   FORD     Well met, Mistress Page. Whither go you?  
 FTLN 1389   MISTRESS PAGE   Truly, sir, to see your wife. Is she at       10  
 FTLN 1390       home?  
 FTLN 1391   FORD     Ay, and as idle as she may hang together, for  
 FTLN 1392       want of company. I think if your husbands were  
 FTLN 1393       dead, you two would marry.  
 FTLN 1394   MISTRESS PAGE   Be sure of that—two other husbands.       15  
 FTLN 1395   FORD     Where had you this pretty weathercock?  
 FTLN 1396   MISTRESS PAGE   I cannot tell what the dickens his name  
 FTLN 1397       is my husband had him of.—What do you call your  
 FTLN 1398       knight’s name, sirrah?  
 FTLN 1399   ROBIN     Sir John Falstaff.       20

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FTLN 1400 FORD Sir John Falstaff!

FTLN 1401 MISTRESS PAGE He, he. I can never hit on 's name.

FTLN 1402 There is such a league between my goodman and

FTLN 1403 he. Is your wife at home indeed?

FTLN 1404 FORD Indeed, she is. 25

FTLN 1405 MISTRESS PAGE By your leave, sir. I am sick till I see

FTLN 1406 her. *「Mistress Page and Robin exit.」*

FTLN 1407 FORD Has Page any brains? Hath he any eyes? Hath

FTLN 1408 he any thinking? Sure they sleep; he hath no use

FTLN 1409 of them. Why, this boy will carry a letter twenty 30

FTLN 1410 mile as easy as a cannon will shoot point-blank

FTLN 1411 twelve score. He pieces out his wife's inclination.

FTLN 1412 He gives her folly motion and advantage. And now

FTLN 1413 she's going to my wife, and Falstaff's boy with her.

FTLN 1414 A man may hear this shower sing in the wind. And 35

FTLN 1415 Falstaff's boy with her! Good plots they are laid,

FTLN 1416 and our revolted wives share damnation together.

FTLN 1417 Well, I will take him, then torture my wife, pluck

FTLN 1418 the borrowed veil of modesty from the so-seeming

FTLN 1419 Mistress Page, divulge Page himself for a secure 40

FTLN 1420 and willful Acteon, and to these violent proceedings

FTLN 1421 all my neighbors shall cry aim. *「A clock*

FTLN 1422 *strikes.」* The clock gives me my cue, and my assurance

FTLN 1423 bids me search. There I shall find Falstaff. I

FTLN 1424 shall be rather praised for this than mocked, for it 45

FTLN 1425 is as positive as the earth is firm that Falstaff is

FTLN 1426 there. I will go.

*「Enter」* Page, Shallow, Slender, Host, *「Sir Hugh」*  
*Evans, 「Doctor」 Caius, 「and Rugby.」*

FTLN 1427 SHALLOW, PAGE, ETC. Well met, Master Ford.

FTLN 1428 FORD Trust me, a good knot. I have good cheer at

FTLN 1429 home, and I pray you all go with me. 50

FTLN 1430 SHALLOW I must excuse myself, Master Ford.

FTLN 1431 SLENDER And so must I, sir. We have appointed to dine

FTLN 1432 with Mistress Anne, and I would not break with

FTLN 1433 her for more money than I'll speak of.

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FTLN 1434	SHALLOW	We have lingered about a match between	55
FTLN 1435		Anne Page and my cousin Slender, and this day we	
FTLN 1436		shall have our answer.	
FTLN 1437	SLENDER	I hope I have your good will, Father Page.	
FTLN 1438	PAGE	You have, Master Slender. I stand wholly for	
FTLN 1439		you.—But my wife, Master Doctor, is for you	60
FTLN 1440		altogether.	
FTLN 1441	DOCTOR CAIUS	Ay, be-gar, and de maid is love-a me! My	
FTLN 1442		nursh-a Quickly tell me so mush.	
FTLN 1443	HOST, <i>['to Page']</i>	What say you to young Master Fenton?	
FTLN 1444		He capers, he dances, he has eyes of youth, he	65
FTLN 1445		writes verses, he speaks holiday, he smells April	
FTLN 1446		and May. He will carry 't, he will carry 't. 'Tis in his	
FTLN 1447		buttons he will carry 't.	
FTLN 1448	PAGE	Not by my consent, I promise you. The gentleman	
FTLN 1449		is of no having. He kept company with the	70
FTLN 1450		wild Prince and Poins. He is of too high a region;	
FTLN 1451		he knows too much. No, he shall not knit a knot in	
FTLN 1452		his fortunes with the finger of my substance. If he	
FTLN 1453		take her, let him take her simply. The wealth I have	
FTLN 1454		waits on my consent, and my consent goes not that	75
FTLN 1455		way.	
FTLN 1456	FORD	I beseech you heartily, some of you go home	
FTLN 1457		with me to dinner. Besides your cheer, you shall	
FTLN 1458		have sport: I will show you a monster. Master Doctor,	
FTLN 1459		you shall go.—So shall you, Master Page.—	80
FTLN 1460		And you, Sir Hugh.	
FTLN 1461	SHALLOW	Well, fare you well. We shall have the freer	
FTLN 1462		wooing at Master Page's.	
		<i>['Shallow and Slender exit.']</i>	
FTLN 1463	DOCTOR CAIUS	Go home, John Rugby. I come anon.	
		<i>['Rugby exits.']</i>	
FTLN 1464	HOST	Farewell, my hearts. I will to my honest knight	85
FTLN 1465		Falstaff, and drink canary with him. <i>['He exits.']</i>	
FTLN 1466	FORD, <i>['aside']</i>	I think I shall drink in pipe-wine first	
FTLN 1467		with him; I'll make him dance.—Will you go,	
FTLN 1468		gentles?	

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FTLN 1469 PAGE, DOCTOR CAIUS, AND SIR HUGH Have with you to 90  
 FTLN 1470 see this monster.

*They exit.*

Scene 3

*Enter Mistress Ford [and] Mistress Page.*

FTLN 1471 MISTRESS FORD What, John! What, Robert!  
 FTLN 1472 MISTRESS PAGE Quickly, quickly! Is the buck-basket—  
 FTLN 1473 MISTRESS FORD I warrant.—What, [Robert,] I say!

*[Enter John and Robert with a large buck-basket.]*

FTLN 1474 MISTRESS PAGE Come, come, come.  
 FTLN 1475 MISTRESS FORD Here, set it down. 5  
 FTLN 1476 MISTRESS PAGE Give your men the charge. We must be  
 FTLN 1477 brief.  
 FTLN 1478 MISTRESS FORD Marry, as I told you before, John and  
 FTLN 1479 Robert, be ready here hard by in the brewhouse,  
 FTLN 1480 and when I suddenly call you, come forth, and 10  
 FTLN 1481 without any pause or staggering take this basket  
 FTLN 1482 on your shoulders. That done, trudge with it in all  
 FTLN 1483 haste, and carry it among the whitsters in Datchet  
 FTLN 1484 Mead, and there empty it in the muddy ditch close  
 FTLN 1485 by the Thames side. 15  
 FTLN 1486 MISTRESS PAGE You will do it?  
 FTLN 1487 MISTRESS FORD I ha' told them over and over. They lack  
 FTLN 1488 no direction.—Be gone, and come when you are  
 FTLN 1489 called. *[John and Robert exit.]*  
 FTLN 1490 MISTRESS PAGE Here comes little Robin. 20

*Enter Robin.*

FTLN 1491 MISTRESS FORD How now, my eyas-musket? What news  
 FTLN 1492 with you?  
 FTLN 1493 ROBIN My master, Sir John, is come in at your back  
 FTLN 1494 door, Mistress Ford, and requests your company.

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FTLN 1495 MISTRESS PAGE You little Jack-a-Lent, have you been 25  
 FTLN 1496 true to us?  
 FTLN 1497 ROBIN Ay, I'll be sworn. My master knows not of your  
 FTLN 1498 being here and hath threatened to put me into  
 FTLN 1499 everlasting liberty if I tell you of it, for he swears  
 FTLN 1500 he'll turn me away. 30  
 FTLN 1501 MISTRESS PAGE Thou 'rt a good boy. This secrecy of  
 FTLN 1502 thine shall be a tailor to thee and shall make thee a  
 FTLN 1503 new doublet and hose.—I'll go hide me.  
 FTLN 1504 MISTRESS FORD Do so.—Go tell thy master I am alone.  
 FTLN 1505 「(Robin exits.)」 Mistress Page, remember you your 35  
 FTLN 1506 cue.  
 FTLN 1507 MISTRESS PAGE I warrant thee. If I do not act it, hiss  
 FTLN 1508 me. 「She exits.」  
 FTLN 1509 MISTRESS FORD Go to, then. We'll use this unwholesome  
 FTLN 1510 humidity, this gross-wat'ry pumpion. We'll 40  
 FTLN 1511 teach him to know turtles from jays.

*Enter 「Sir John」 Falstaff.*

FTLN 1512 FALSTAFF “Have I caught thee, my heavenly jewel?”  
 FTLN 1513 Why, now let me die, for I have lived long enough.  
 FTLN 1514 This is the period of my ambition. O, this blessed  
 FTLN 1515 hour! 45  
 FTLN 1516 MISTRESS FORD O, sweet Sir John!  
 FTLN 1517 FALSTAFF Mistress Ford, I cannot cog. I cannot prate,  
 FTLN 1518 Mistress Ford. Now shall I sin in my wish: I would  
 FTLN 1519 thy husband were dead. I'll speak it before the best  
 FTLN 1520 lord: I would make thee my lady. 50  
 FTLN 1521 MISTRESS FORD I your lady, Sir John? Alas, I should be  
 FTLN 1522 a pitiful lady.  
 FTLN 1523 FALSTAFF Let the court of France show me such  
 FTLN 1524 another. I see how thine eye would emulate the  
 FTLN 1525 diamond. Thou hast the right arched beauty of the 55  
 FTLN 1526 brow that becomes the ship-tire, the tire-valiant,  
 FTLN 1527 or any tire of Venetian admittance.  
 FTLN 1528 MISTRESS FORD A plain kerchief, Sir John. My brows  
 FTLN 1529 become nothing else, nor that well neither.



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FTLN 1530 FALSTAFF Thou art a tyrant to say so. Thou wouldst 60  
 FTLN 1531 make an absolute courtier, and the firm fixture of  
 FTLN 1532 thy foot would give an excellent motion to thy gait  
 FTLN 1533 in a semicircled farthingale. I see what thou wert,  
 FTLN 1534 if Fortune thy foe were not, Nature thy friend.  
 FTLN 1535 Come, thou canst not hide it. 65  
 FTLN 1536 MISTRESS FORD Believe me, there's no such thing in  
 FTLN 1537 me.  
 FTLN 1538 FALSTAFF What made me love thee? Let that persuade  
 FTLN 1539 thee. There's something extraordinary in thee.  
 FTLN 1540 Come, I cannot cog and say thou art this and that 70  
 FTLN 1541 like a many of these lisping hawthorn buds that  
 FTLN 1542 come like women in men's apparel and smell like  
 FTLN 1543 Bucklersbury in simple time. I cannot. But I love  
 FTLN 1544 thee, none but thee; and thou deserv'st it.  
 FTLN 1545 MISTRESS FORD Do not betray me, sir. I fear you love 75  
 FTLN 1546 Mistress Page.  
 FTLN 1547 FALSTAFF Thou mightst as well say I love to walk by  
 FTLN 1548 the Counter gate, which is as hateful to me as the  
 FTLN 1549 reek of a lime-kiln.  
 FTLN 1550 MISTRESS FORD Well, heaven knows how I love you, 80  
 FTLN 1551 and you shall one day find it.  
 FTLN 1552 FALSTAFF Keep in that mind. I'll deserve it.  
 FTLN 1553 MISTRESS FORD Nay, I must tell you, so you do, or else  
 FTLN 1554 I could not be in that mind.

「*Enter Robin.*」

FTLN 1555 ROBIN Mistress Ford, Mistress Ford! Here's Mistress 85  
 FTLN 1556 Page at the door, sweating and blowing and looking  
 FTLN 1557 wildly, and would needs speak with you  
 FTLN 1558 presently.  
 FTLN 1559 FALSTAFF She shall not see me. I will ensconce me behind  
 FTLN 1560 the arras. 90  
 FTLN 1561 MISTRESS FORD Pray you, do so. She's a very tattling  
 FTLN 1562 woman. 「*Falstaff stands behind the arras.*」

*Enter Mistress Page.*

FTLN 1563	What's the matter? How now?	
FTLN 1564	MISTRESS PAGE O Mistress Ford, what have you done?	
FTLN 1565	You're shamed, you're overthrown, you're undone	95
FTLN 1566	forever!	
FTLN 1567	MISTRESS FORD What's the matter, good Mistress Page?	
FTLN 1568	MISTRESS PAGE O well-a-day, Mistress Ford, having an	
FTLN 1569	honest man to your husband, to give him such	
FTLN 1570	cause of suspicion!	100
FTLN 1571	MISTRESS FORD What cause of suspicion?	
FTLN 1572	MISTRESS PAGE What cause of suspicion? Out upon you!	
FTLN 1573	How am I mistook in you!	
FTLN 1574	MISTRESS FORD Why, alas, what's the matter?	
FTLN 1575	MISTRESS PAGE Your husband's coming hither, woman,	105
FTLN 1576	with all the officers in Windsor, to search for a gentleman	
FTLN 1577	that he says is here now in the house, by	
FTLN 1578	your consent, to take an ill advantage of his absence.	
FTLN 1579	You are undone.	
FTLN 1580	MISTRESS FORD 'Tis not so, I hope.	110
FTLN 1581	MISTRESS PAGE Pray heaven it be not so, that you have	
FTLN 1582	such a man here! But 'tis most certain your husband's	
FTLN 1583	coming, with half Windsor at his heels, to	
FTLN 1584	search for such a one. I come before to tell you. If	
FTLN 1585	you know yourself clear, why, I am glad of it. But if	115
FTLN 1586	you have a friend here, convey, convey him out. Be	
FTLN 1587	not amazed! Call all your senses to you; defend	
FTLN 1588	your reputation, or bid farewell to your good life	
FTLN 1589	forever.	
FTLN 1590	MISTRESS FORD What shall I do? There is a gentleman,	120
FTLN 1591	my dear friend; and I fear not mine own shame so	
FTLN 1592	much as his peril. I had rather than a thousand	
FTLN 1593	pound he were out of the house.	
FTLN 1594	MISTRESS PAGE For shame! Never stand "you had	
FTLN 1595	rather" and "you had rather." Your husband's here	125
FTLN 1596	at hand. Bethink you of some conveyance. In the	

FTLN 1597 house you cannot hide him. O, how have you deceived  
 FTLN 1598 me! Look, here is a basket. If he be of any  
 FTLN 1599 reasonable stature, he may creep in here; and  
 FTLN 1600 throw foul linen upon him, as if it were going to 130  
 FTLN 1601 bucking. Or—it is whiting time—send him by your  
 FTLN 1602 two men to Datchet Mead.

FTLN 1603 MISTRESS FORD He's too big to go in there. What shall I  
 FTLN 1604 do? *「Falstaff comes forward.」*

FTLN 1605 FALSTAFF Let me see 't, let me see 't! O, let me see 't! I'll 135  
 FTLN 1606 in, I'll in. Follow your friend's counsel. I'll in.

FTLN 1607 MISTRESS PAGE What, Sir John Falstaff? *「(Aside to*  
 FTLN 1608 *him.)」* Are these your letters, knight?

FTLN 1609 FALSTAFF, *「aside to Mistress Page」* I love thee. Help me  
 FTLN 1610 away. Let me creep in here. I'll never— 140

*「Falstaff goes into the basket; they cover  
 him with dirty clothes.」*

FTLN 1611 MISTRESS PAGE, *「to Robin」* Help to cover your master,  
 FTLN 1612 boy.—Call your men, Mistress Ford.—You dissembling  
 FTLN 1613 knight! *「Robin exits.」*

FTLN 1614 MISTRESS FORD What, John! Robert! John!

*「Enter Robert and John.」*

FTLN 1615 Go, take up these clothes here quickly. Where's the 145  
 FTLN 1616 cowlstaff? Look how you drumble! Carry them to  
 FTLN 1617 the laundress in Datchet Mead. Quickly! Come.

*Enter Ford, Page, 「Doctor」 Caius,  
 「and Sir Hugh」 Evans.*

FTLN 1618 FORD Pray you, come near. If I suspect without cause,  
 FTLN 1619 why then make sport at me. Then let me be your  
 FTLN 1620 jest; I deserve it.—How now? Whither bear you 150  
 FTLN 1621 this?

FTLN 1622 *「ROBERT AND JOHN」* To the laundress, forsooth.

FTLN 1623 MISTRESS FORD Why, what have you to do whither they  
 FTLN 1624 bear it? You were best meddle with buck-washing!

FTLN 1625	FORD	Buck? I would I could wash myself of the buck.	155
FTLN 1626		Buck, buck, buck! Ay, buck! I warrant you, buck,	
FTLN 1627		and of the season too, it shall appear.	
		<i>「Robert and John exit with the buck-basket.」</i>	
FTLN 1628		Gentlemen, I have dreamed tonight; I'll tell you my	
FTLN 1629		dream. Here, here, here be my keys. Ascend my	
FTLN 1630		chambers. Search, seek, find out. I'll warrant we'll	160
FTLN 1631		unkennel the fox. Let me stop this way first. <i>「(He</i>	
FTLN 1632		<i>locks the door.)」</i> So, now uncape.	
FTLN 1633	PAGE	Good Master Ford, be contented. You wrong	
FTLN 1634		yourself too much.	
FTLN 1635	FORD	True, Master Page.—Up, gentlemen. You shall	165
FTLN 1636		see sport anon. Follow me, gentlemen. <i>「He exits.」</i>	
FTLN 1637	SIR HUGH	This is fery fantastical humors and	
FTLN 1638		jealousies.	
FTLN 1639	DOCTOR CAIUS	By gar, 'tis no the fashion of France. It is	
FTLN 1640		not jealous in France.	170
FTLN 1641	PAGE	Nay, follow him, gentlemen. See the issue of his	
FTLN 1642		search. <i>「Page, Sir Hugh, and Caius exit.」</i>	
FTLN 1643	MISTRESS PAGE	Is there not a double excellency in this?	
FTLN 1644	MISTRESS FORD	I know not which pleases me better—	
FTLN 1645		that my husband is deceived, or Sir John.	175
FTLN 1646	MISTRESS PAGE	What a taking was he in when your	
FTLN 1647		husband asked who was in the basket!	
FTLN 1648	MISTRESS FORD	I am half afraid he will have need of	
FTLN 1649		washing, so throwing him into the water will do	
FTLN 1650		him a benefit.	180
FTLN 1651	MISTRESS PAGE	Hang him, dishonest rascal! I would all	
FTLN 1652		of the same strain were in the same distress.	
FTLN 1653	MISTRESS FORD	I think my husband hath some special	
FTLN 1654		suspicion of Falstaff's being here, for I never saw	
FTLN 1655		him so gross in his jealousy till now.	185
FTLN 1656	MISTRESS PAGE	I will lay a plot to try that, and we will	
FTLN 1657		yet have more tricks with Falstaff. His dissolute	
FTLN 1658		disease will scarce obey this medicine.	
FTLN 1659	MISTRESS FORD	Shall we send that foolish carrion Mistress	

FTLN 1660	Quickly to him, and excuse his throwing into	190
FTLN 1661	the water, and give him another hope, to betray	
FTLN 1662	him to another punishment?	
FTLN 1663	MISTRESS PAGE We will do it. Let him be sent for tomorrow	
FTLN 1664	eight o'clock to have amends.	
 <i>Enter Ford, Page, Doctor Caius, and Sir Hugh.</i>		
FTLN 1665	FORD I cannot find him. Maybe the knave bragged of	195
FTLN 1666	that he could not compass.	
FTLN 1667	MISTRESS PAGE, <i>aside to Mistress Ford</i> Heard you	
FTLN 1668	that?	
FTLN 1669	MISTRESS FORD You use me well, Master Ford, do you?	
FTLN 1670	FORD Ay, I do so.	200
FTLN 1671	MISTRESS FORD Heaven make you better than your	
FTLN 1672	thoughts!	
FTLN 1673	FORD Amen!	
FTLN 1674	MISTRESS PAGE You do yourself mighty wrong, Master	
FTLN 1675	Ford.	205
FTLN 1676	FORD Ay, ay. I must bear it.	
FTLN 1677	SIR HUGH If there be anypody in the house, and in the	
FTLN 1678	chambers, and in the coffers, and in the presses,	
FTLN 1679	heaven forgive my sins at the day of judgment!	
FTLN 1680	DOCTOR CAIUS Be gar, nor I too. There is nobodies.	210
FTLN 1681	PAGE Fie, fie, Master Ford, are you not ashamed?	
FTLN 1682	What spirit, what devil suggests this imagination?	
FTLN 1683	I would not ha' your distemper in this kind for the	
FTLN 1684	wealth of Windsor Castle.	
FTLN 1685	FORD 'Tis my fault, Master Page. I suffer for it.	215
FTLN 1686	SIR HUGH You suffer for a pad conscience. Your wife is	
FTLN 1687	as honest a 'omans as I will desires among five	
FTLN 1688	thousand, and five hundred too.	
FTLN 1689	DOCTOR CAIUS By gar, I see 'tis an honest woman.	
FTLN 1690	FORD Well, I promised you a dinner. Come, come,	220
FTLN 1691	walk in the park. I pray you, pardon me. I will	
FTLN 1692	hereafter make known to you why I have done	

FTLN 1693 this.—Come, wife—come, Mistress Page, I pray  
 FTLN 1694 you, pardon me. Pray, heartily, pardon me.  
*「Mistress Page and Mistress Ford exit.」*  
 FTLN 1695 PAGE, *「to Caius and Sir Hugh」* Let's go in, gentlemen. 225  
 FTLN 1696 But, trust me, we'll mock him. *「(To Ford, Caius,*  
 FTLN 1697 *and Sir Hugh.)」* I do invite you tomorrow morning  
 FTLN 1698 to my house to breakfast. After, we'll a-birding together;  
 FTLN 1699 I have a fine hawk for the bush. Shall it be  
 FTLN 1700 so? 230  
 FTLN 1701 FORD Anything.  
 FTLN 1702 SIR HUGH If there is one, I shall make two in the  
 FTLN 1703 company.  
 FTLN 1704 DOCTOR CAIUS If there be one or two, I shall make-a the  
 FTLN 1705 turd. 235  
 FTLN 1706 FORD Pray you, go, Master Page.  
*「Ford and Page exit.」*  
 FTLN 1707 SIR HUGH I pray you now, remembrance tomorrow on  
 FTLN 1708 the lousy knave mine Host.  
 FTLN 1709 DOCTOR CAIUS Dat is good, by gar, with all my heart.  
 FTLN 1710 SIR HUGH A lousy knave, to have his gibes and his 240  
 FTLN 1711 mockeries!  
*They exit.*

## Scene 4

*Enter Fenton 「and」 Anne Page.*

FENTON  
 FTLN 1712 I see I cannot get thy father's love;  
 FTLN 1713 Therefore no more turn me to him, sweet Nan.  
 ANNE  
 FTLN 1714 Alas, how then?  
 FTLN 1715 FENTON Why, thou must be thyself.  
 FTLN 1716 He doth object I am too great of birth, 5  
 FTLN 1717 And that, my state being galled with my expense,  
 FTLN 1718 I seek to heal it only by his wealth.

FTLN 1719	Besides these, other bars he lays before me—	
FTLN 1720	My riots past, my wild societies—	
FTLN 1721	And tells me 'tis a thing impossible	10
FTLN 1722	I should love thee but as a property.	
FTLN 1723	ANNE Maybe he tells you true.	
	「FENTON」	
FTLN 1724	No, heaven so speed me in my time to come!	
FTLN 1725	Albeit I will confess thy father's wealth	
FTLN 1726	Was the first motive that I wooed thee, Anne,	15
FTLN 1727	Yet, wooing thee, I found thee of more value	
FTLN 1728	Than stamps in gold or sums in sealèd bags.	
FTLN 1729	And 'tis the very riches of thyself	
FTLN 1730	That now I aim at.	
FTLN 1731	ANNE Gentle Master Fenton,	20
FTLN 1732	Yet seek my father's love, still seek it, sir.	
FTLN 1733	If opportunity and humblest suit	
FTLN 1734	Cannot attain it, why then—hark you hither.	
	「 <i>They talk aside.</i> 」	
	<i>Enter Shallow, Slender, 「and Mistress」 Quickly.</i>	
FTLN 1735	SHALLOW Break their talk, Mistress Quickly. My kinsman	
FTLN 1736	shall speak for himself.	25
FTLN 1737	SLENDER I'll make a shaft or a bolt on 't. 'Slid, 'tis but	
FTLN 1738	venturing.	
FTLN 1739	SHALLOW Be not dismayed.	
FTLN 1740	SLENDER No, she shall not dismay me. I care not for	
FTLN 1741	that, but that I am afraid.	30
FTLN 1742	MISTRESS QUICKLY, 「 <i>to Anne</i> 」 Hark ye, Master Slender	
FTLN 1743	would speak a word with you.	
	ANNE	
FTLN 1744	I come to him. 「 <i>(Aside.)</i> 」 This is my father's choice.	
FTLN 1745	O, what a world of vile ill-favored faults	
FTLN 1746	Looks handsome in three hundred pounds a year!	35
FTLN 1747	MISTRESS QUICKLY And how does good Master Fenton?	
FTLN 1748	Pray you, a word with you. 「 <i>They talk aside.</i> 」	
FTLN 1749	SHALLOW, 「 <i>to Slender</i> 」 She's coming. To her, coz! O	
FTLN 1750	boy, thou hadst a father!	

FTLN 1751 SLENDER I had a father, Mistress Anne; my uncle can 40  
 FTLN 1752 tell you good jests of him.—Pray you, uncle, tell  
 FTLN 1753 Mistress Anne the jest how my father stole two  
 FTLN 1754 geese out of a pen, good uncle.  
 FTLN 1755 SHALLOW Mistress Anne, my cousin loves you.  
 FTLN 1756 SLENDER Ay, that I do, as well as I love any woman in 45  
 FTLN 1757 Gloucestershire.  
 FTLN 1758 SHALLOW He will maintain you like a gentlewoman.  
 FTLN 1759 SLENDER Ay, that I will, come cut and longtail, under  
 FTLN 1760 the degree of a squire.  
 FTLN 1761 SHALLOW He will make you a hundred and fifty 50  
 FTLN 1762 pounds jointure.  
 FTLN 1763 ANNE Good Master Shallow, let him woo for himself.  
 FTLN 1764 SHALLOW Marry, I thank you for it. I thank you for that  
 FTLN 1765 good comfort.—She calls you, coz. I'll leave you.  
*He steps aside.*  
 FTLN 1766 ANNE Now, Master Slender. 55  
 FTLN 1767 SLENDER Now, good Mistress Anne.  
 FTLN 1768 ANNE What is your will?  
 FTLN 1769 SLENDER My will? 'Od's heartlings, that's a pretty jest  
 FTLN 1770 indeed! I ne'er made my will yet, I thank heaven. I  
 FTLN 1771 am not such a sickly creature, I give heaven praise. 60  
 FTLN 1772 ANNE I mean, Master Slender, what would you with  
 FTLN 1773 me?  
 FTLN 1774 SLENDER Truly, for mine own part, I would little or  
 FTLN 1775 nothing with you. Your father and my uncle hath  
 FTLN 1776 made motions. If it be my luck, so; if not, happy 65  
 FTLN 1777 man be his dole. They can tell you how things go  
 FTLN 1778 better than I can. You may ask your father.

*Enter Page and Mistress Page.*

FTLN 1779 Here he comes.  
 PAGE  
 FTLN 1780 Now, Master Slender.—Love him, daughter Anne.—  
 FTLN 1781 Why, how now? What does Master Fenton here? 70



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FTLN 1782	You wrong me, sir, thus still to haunt my house.	
FTLN 1783	I told you, sir, my daughter is disposed of.	
	FENTON	
FTLN 1784	Nay, Master Page, be not impatient.	
	MISTRESS PAGE	
FTLN 1785	Good Master Fenton, come not to my child.	
FTLN 1786	PAGE She is no match for you.	75
FTLN 1787	FENTON Sir, will you hear me?	
FTLN 1788	PAGE No, good Master Fenton.—	
FTLN 1789	Come Master Shallow.—Come, son Slender, in.—	
FTLN 1790	Knowing my mind, you wrong me, Master Fenton.	
	<i>Page, Shallow, and Slender exit.</i>	
FTLN 1791	MISTRESS QUICKLY, <i>to Fenton</i> Speak to Mistress Page.	80
	FENTON	
FTLN 1792	Good Mistress Page, for that I love your daughter	
FTLN 1793	In such a righteous fashion as I do,	
FTLN 1794	Perforce, against all checks, rebukes, and manners,	
FTLN 1795	I must advance the colors of my love	
FTLN 1796	And not retire. Let me have your good will.	85
	ANNE	
FTLN 1797	Good mother, do not marry me to yond fool.	
	MISTRESS PAGE	
FTLN 1798	I mean it not; I seek you a better husband.	
FTLN 1799	MISTRESS QUICKLY That's my master, Master Doctor.	
	ANNE	
FTLN 1800	Alas, I had rather be set quick i' th' earth	
FTLN 1801	And bowled to death with turnips!	90
	MISTRESS PAGE	
FTLN 1802	Come, trouble not yourself.—Good Master Fenton,	
FTLN 1803	I will not be your friend nor enemy.	
FTLN 1804	My daughter will I question how she loves you,	
FTLN 1805	And as I find her, so am I affected.	
FTLN 1806	Till then, farewell, sir. She must needs go in;	95
FTLN 1807	Her father will be angry.	
	FENTON	
FTLN 1808	Farewell, gentle mistress.—Farewell, Nan.	
	<i>Mistress Page and Anne Page exit.</i>	

FTLN 1809 MISTRESS QUICKLY This is my doing now. “Nay,” said I,  
 FTLN 1810 “will you cast away your child on a fool and a  
 FTLN 1811 physician? Look on Master Fenton.” This is my 100  
 FTLN 1812 doing.

FENTON

FTLN 1813 I thank thee; and I pray thee, once tonight  
 FTLN 1814 Give my sweet Nan this ring. There’s for thy pains.  
*‘He gives her money and a ring.’*

FTLN 1815 MISTRESS QUICKLY Now heaven send thee good fortune.  
*‘Fenton exits.’*

FTLN 1816 A kind heart he hath. A woman would run through 105  
 FTLN 1817 fire and water for such a kind heart. But yet I  
 FTLN 1818 would my master had Mistress Anne, or I would  
 FTLN 1819 Master Slender had her, or, in sooth, I would Master  
 FTLN 1820 Fenton had her. I will do what I can for them all  
 FTLN 1821 three; for so I have promised and I’ll be as good as 110  
 FTLN 1822 my word—but speciously for Master Fenton. Well,  
 FTLN 1823 I must of another errand to Sir John Falstaff from  
 FTLN 1824 my two mistresses. What a beast am I to slack it!  
*‘She’ exits.*

## Scene 5

*Enter ‘Sir John’ Falstaff.*

FTLN 1825 FALSTAFF Bardolph, I say!

*Enter Bardolph.*

FTLN 1826 BARDOLPH Here, sir.

FTLN 1827 FALSTAFF Go fetch me a quart of sack; put a toast in ’t.  
*‘Bardolph exits.’*

FTLN 1828 Have I lived to be carried in a basket like a barrow  
 FTLN 1829 of butcher’s offal, and to be thrown in the Thames? 5  
 FTLN 1830 Well, if I be served such another trick, I’ll have my  
 FTLN 1831 brains ta’en out and buttered, and give them to a  
 FTLN 1832 dog for a New Year’s gift. ‘Sblood,’ the rogues



FTLN 1866	FALSTAFF	So did I mine, to build upon a foolish	
FTLN 1867		woman's promise.	
FTLN 1868	MISTRESS QUICKLY	Well, she laments, sir, for it, that it	
FTLN 1869		would yearn your heart to see it. Her husband goes	45
FTLN 1870		this morning a-birding; she desires you once more	
FTLN 1871		to come to her, between eight and nine. I must	
FTLN 1872		carry her word quickly. She'll make you amends, I	
FTLN 1873		warrant you.	
FTLN 1874	FALSTAFF	Well, I will visit her. Tell her so. And bid her	50
FTLN 1875		think what a man is. Let her consider his frailty,	
FTLN 1876		and then judge of my merit.	
FTLN 1877	MISTRESS QUICKLY	I will tell her.	
FTLN 1878	FALSTAFF	Do so. Between nine and ten, say'st thou?	
FTLN 1879	MISTRESS QUICKLY	Eight and nine, sir.	55
FTLN 1880	FALSTAFF	Well, be gone. I will not miss her.	
FTLN 1881	MISTRESS QUICKLY	Peace be with you, sir.	
		<i>「Mistress Quickly exits.」</i>	
FTLN 1882	FALSTAFF	I marvel I hear not of Master <i>「Brook.」</i> He	
FTLN 1883		sent me word to stay within. I like his money well.	
		<i>Enter Ford 「disguised as Brook.」</i>	
FTLN 1884		O, here <i>「he」</i> comes.	60
FTLN 1885	FORD, <i>「as Brook」</i>	<i>「God」</i> bless you, sir.	
FTLN 1886	FALSTAFF	Now, Master <i>「Brook,」</i> you come to know	
FTLN 1887		what hath passed between me and Ford's wife.	
FTLN 1888	FORD, <i>「as Brook」</i>	That indeed, Sir John, is my	
FTLN 1889		business.	65
FTLN 1890	FALSTAFF	Master <i>「Brook,」</i> I will not lie to you. I was at	
FTLN 1891		her house the hour she appointed me.	
FTLN 1892	FORD, <i>「as Brook」</i>	And sped you, sir?	
FTLN 1893	FALSTAFF	Very ill-favoredly, Master <i>「Brook.」</i>	
FTLN 1894	FORD, <i>「as Brook」</i>	How so, sir? Did she change her	70
FTLN 1895		determination?	
FTLN 1896	FALSTAFF	No, Master <i>「Brook,」</i> but the peaking cornuto	
FTLN 1897		her husband, Master <i>「Brook,」</i> dwelling in a continual	
FTLN 1898		'larum of jealousy, comes me in the instant of	

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FTLN 1899	our encounter, after we had embraced, kissed,	75
FTLN 1900	protested, and, as it were, spoke the prologue of	
FTLN 1901	our comedy, and, at his heels, a rabble of his companions,	
FTLN 1902	thither provoked and instigated by his	
FTLN 1903	distemper, and, forsooth, to search his house for	
FTLN 1904	his wife's love.	80
FTLN 1905	FORD, <i>as Brook</i> What, while you were there?	
FTLN 1906	FALSTAFF While I was there.	
FTLN 1907	FORD, <i>as Brook</i> And did he search for you and could	
FTLN 1908	not find you?	
FTLN 1909	FALSTAFF You shall hear. As good luck would have it,	85
FTLN 1910	comes in one Mistress Page, gives intelligence of	
FTLN 1911	Ford's approach, and, in her invention and Ford's	
FTLN 1912	wife's distraction, they conveyed me into a	
FTLN 1913	buck-basket.	
FTLN 1914	FORD, <i>as Brook</i> A buck-basket!	90
FTLN 1915	FALSTAFF 'By the Lord, a buck-basket! Rammed me	
FTLN 1916	in with foul shirts and smocks, socks, foul stockings,	
FTLN 1917	greasy napkins, that, Master 'Brook, there	
FTLN 1918	was the rankest compound of villainous smell that	
FTLN 1919	ever offended nostril.	95
FTLN 1920	FORD, <i>as Brook</i> And how long lay you there?	
FTLN 1921	FALSTAFF Nay, you shall hear, Master 'Brook, what I	
FTLN 1922	have suffered to bring this woman to evil for your	
FTLN 1923	good. Being thus crammed in the basket, a couple	
FTLN 1924	of Ford's knaves, his hinds, were called forth by	100
FTLN 1925	their mistress to carry me in the name of foul	
FTLN 1926	clothes to Datchet Lane. They took me on their	
FTLN 1927	shoulders, met the jealous knave their master in	
FTLN 1928	the door, who asked them once or twice what they	
FTLN 1929	had in their basket. I quaked for fear lest the lunatic	105
FTLN 1930	knave would have searched it, but fate, ordaining	
FTLN 1931	he should be a cuckold, held his hand.	
FTLN 1932	Well, on went he for a search, and away went I for	
FTLN 1933	foul clothes. But mark the sequel, Master 'Brook.	
FTLN 1934	I suffered the pangs of three several deaths: first,	110

FTLN 1935	an intolerable fright to be detected with a jealous	
FTLN 1936	rotten bellwether; next, to be compassed, like a	
FTLN 1937	good bilbo, in the circumference of a peck, hilt to	
FTLN 1938	point, heel to head; and then, to be stopped in, like	
FTLN 1939	a strong distillation, with stinking clothes that fretted	115
FTLN 1940	in their own grease. Think of that, a man of my	
FTLN 1941	kidney—think of that—that am as subject to heat	
FTLN 1942	as butter; a man of continual dissolution and thaw.	
FTLN 1943	It was a miracle to 'scape suffocation. And in	
FTLN 1944	the height of this bath, when I was more than half-stewed	120
FTLN 1945	in grease, like a Dutch dish, to be thrown	
FTLN 1946	into the Thames and cooled, glowing hot, in that	
FTLN 1947	surge, like a horseshoe! Think of that—hissing	
FTLN 1948	hot—think of that, Master 'Brook.'	
FTLN 1949	FORD, 'as Brook' In good sadness, sir, I am sorry that	125
FTLN 1950	for my sake you have suffered all this. My suit,	
FTLN 1951	then, is desperate. You'll undertake her no more?	
FTLN 1952	FALSTAFF Master 'Brook,' I will be thrown into Etna,	
FTLN 1953	as I have been into Thames, ere I will leave her	
FTLN 1954	thus. Her husband is this morning gone a-birding.	130
FTLN 1955	I have received from her another embassy of meeting.	
FTLN 1956	'Twixt eight and nine is the hour, Master	
FTLN 1957	'Brook.'	
FTLN 1958	FORD, 'as Brook' 'Tis past eight already, sir.	
FTLN 1959	FALSTAFF Is it? I will then address me to my appointment.	135
FTLN 1960	Come to me at your convenient leisure,	
FTLN 1961	and you shall know how I speed; and the conclusion	
FTLN 1962	shall be crowned with your enjoying her.	
FTLN 1963	Adieu. You shall have her, Master 'Brook.' Master	
FTLN 1964	'Brook,' you shall cuckold Ford. 'Falstaff exits.'	140
FTLN 1965	FORD Hum! Ha! Is this a vision? Is this a dream? Do I	
FTLN 1966	sleep? Master Ford, awake! Awake, Master Ford!	
FTLN 1967	There's a hole made in your best coat, Master	
FTLN 1968	Ford. This 'tis to be married; this 'tis to have linen	
FTLN 1969	and buck-baskets! Well, I will proclaim myself	145
FTLN 1970	what I am. I will now take the lecher. He is at my	

FTLN 1971  
FTLN 1972  
FTLN 1973  
FTLN 1974  
FTLN 1975  
FTLN 1976  
FTLN 1977  
FTLN 1978

house. He cannot 'scape me. 'Tis impossible he  
should. He cannot creep into a half-penny purse,  
nor into a pepper-box. But lest the devil that  
guides him should aid him, I will search impossible  
places. Though what I am I cannot avoid, yet to  
be what I would not shall not make me tame. If I  
have horns to make one mad, let the proverb go  
with me: I'll be horn-mad.

150

*He* exits.

## ACT 4

### Scene 1

*Enter Mistress Page, 'Mistress' Quickly, 'and' William.*

FTLN 1979	MISTRESS PAGE	Is he at Master Ford's already, think'st	
FTLN 1980		thou?	
FTLN 1981	MISTRESS QUICKLY	Sure he is by this, or will be presently.	
FTLN 1982		But truly he is very courageous mad about	
FTLN 1983		his throwing into the water. Mistress Ford desires	5
FTLN 1984		you to come suddenly.	
FTLN 1985	MISTRESS PAGE	I'll be with her by and by. I'll but bring	
FTLN 1986		my young man here to school.	

*Enter 'Sir Hugh' Evans.*

FTLN 1987		Look where his master comes. 'Tis a playing day, I	
FTLN 1988		see.—How now, Sir Hugh, no school today?	10
FTLN 1989	SIR HUGH	No. Master Slender is let the boys leave to	
FTLN 1990		play.	
FTLN 1991	MISTRESS QUICKLY	Blessing of his heart!	
FTLN 1992	MISTRESS PAGE	Sir Hugh, my husband says my son	
FTLN 1993		profits nothing in the world at his book. I pray you,	15
FTLN 1994		ask him some questions in his accidence.	
FTLN 1995	SIR HUGH	Come hither, William. Hold up your head.	
FTLN 1996		Come.	
FTLN 1997	MISTRESS PAGE	Come on, sirrah. Hold up your head.	
FTLN 1998		Answer your master. Be not afraid.	20
FTLN 1999	SIR HUGH	William, how many numbers is in nouns?	
FTLN 2000	WILLIAM	Two.	



FTLN 2001	MISTRESS QUICKLY	Truly, I thought there had been one	
FTLN 2002		number more, because they say "'Od's nouns."	
FTLN 2003	SIR HUGH	Peace your tattlings!—What is "fair,"	25
FTLN 2004		William?	
FTLN 2005	WILLIAM	<i>Pulcher.</i>	
FTLN 2006	MISTRESS QUICKLY	Polecats? There are fairer things	
FTLN 2007		than polecats, sure.	
FTLN 2008	SIR HUGH	You are a very simplicity 'oman. I pray you,	30
FTLN 2009		peace.—What is <i>lapis</i> , William?	
FTLN 2010	WILLIAM	A stone.	
FTLN 2011	SIR HUGH	And what is "a stone," William?	
FTLN 2012	WILLIAM	A pebble.	
FTLN 2013	SIR HUGH	No. It is <i>lapis</i> . I pray you, remember in your	35
FTLN 2014		prain.	
FTLN 2015	WILLIAM	<i>Lapis.</i>	
FTLN 2016	SIR HUGH	That is a good William. What is he, William,	
FTLN 2017		that does lend articles?	
FTLN 2018	WILLIAM	Articles are borrowed of the pronoun and be	40
FTLN 2019		thus declined: <i>singulariter, nominativo, hic, haec,</i>	
FTLN 2020		<i>hoc.</i>	
FTLN 2021	SIR HUGH	<i>Nominativo, hig, haeg, hog.</i> Pray you, mark:	
FTLN 2022		<i>genitivo, huius.</i> Well, what is your accusative case?	
FTLN 2023	WILLIAM	<i>Accusativo, hinc.</i>	45
FTLN 2024	SIR HUGH	I pray you, have your remembrance, child.	
FTLN 2025		<i>Accusativo, 'hung, 'hang, hog.</i>	
FTLN 2026	MISTRESS QUICKLY	"Hang-hog" is Latin for bacon, I	
FTLN 2027		warrant you.	
FTLN 2028	SIR HUGH	Leave your prabbles, 'oman.—What is the	50
FTLN 2029		focative case, William?	
FTLN 2030	WILLIAM	O— <i>vocativo</i> —O—	
FTLN 2031	SIR HUGH	Remember, William, focative is <i>caret.</i>	
FTLN 2032	MISTRESS QUICKLY	And that's a good root.	
FTLN 2033	SIR HUGH	'Oman, forbear.	55
FTLN 2034	MISTRESS PAGE, 'to Mistress Quickly'	Peace!	
FTLN 2035	SIR HUGH	What is your genitive case plural, William?	
FTLN 2036	WILLIAM	Genitive case?	

FTLN 2037 SIR HUGH Ay.

FTLN 2038 WILLIAM Genitive: *horum, harum, horum*. 60

FTLN 2039 MISTRESS QUICKLY Vengeance of Ginny's case! Fie on

FTLN 2040 her! Never name her, child, if she be a whore.

FTLN 2041 SIR HUGH For shame, 'oman!

FTLN 2042 MISTRESS QUICKLY You do ill to teach the child such

FTLN 2043 words.—He teaches him to hick and to hack, 65

FTLN 2044 which they'll do fast enough of themselves, and to

FTLN 2045 call "whorum."—Fie upon you!

FTLN 2046 SIR HUGH 'Oman, art thou lunatics? Hast thou no understandings

FTLN 2047 for thy cases and the numbers of the

FTLN 2048 genders? Thou art as foolish Christian creatures as 70

FTLN 2049 I would desires.

FTLN 2050 MISTRESS PAGE, *['to Mistress Quickly']* Prithee, hold thy

FTLN 2051 peace.

FTLN 2052 SIR HUGH Show me now, William, some declensions of

FTLN 2053 your pronouns. 75

FTLN 2054 WILLIAM Forsooth, I have forgot.

FTLN 2055 SIR HUGH It is *qui, quae, quod*. If you forget your *qui*'s,

FTLN 2056 your *quae*'s, and your *quod*'s, you must be

FTLN 2057 preeches. Go your ways and play, go.

FTLN 2058 MISTRESS PAGE He is a better scholar than I thought he 80

FTLN 2059 was.

FTLN 2060 SIR HUGH He is a good sprag memory. Farewell, Mistress

FTLN 2061 Page.

FTLN 2062 MISTRESS PAGE Adieu, good Sir Hugh.—Get you home,

FTLN 2063 boy. *['(To Mistress Quickly.)']* Come. We stay too 85

FTLN 2064 long.

*They exit.*

## Scene 2

*Enter ['Sir John'] Falstaff ['and'] Mistress Ford.*

FTLN 2065 FALSTAFF Mistress Ford, your sorrow hath eaten up

FTLN 2066 my sufferance. I see you are obsequious in your

FTLN 2067 love, and I profess requital to a hair's breadth, not

FTLN 2075	MISTRESS PAGE	How now, sweetheart, who's at home	
FTLN 2076		besides yourself?	
FTLN 2077	MISTRESS FORD	Why, none but mine own people.	
FTLN 2078	MISTRESS PAGE	Indeed?	
FTLN 2079	MISTRESS FORD	No, certainly. <i>Aside to her.</i> Speak	15
FTLN 2080		louder.	
FTLN 2081	MISTRESS PAGE	Truly, I am so glad you have nobody	
FTLN 2082		here.	
FTLN 2083	MISTRESS FORD	Why?	
FTLN 2084	MISTRESS PAGE	Why, woman, your husband is in his	20
FTLN 2085		old <i>lunes</i> again. He so takes on yonder with my	
FTLN 2086		husband, so rails against all married mankind, so	
FTLN 2087		curses all Eve's daughters of what complexion soever,	
FTLN 2088		and so buffets himself on the forehead, crying	
FTLN 2089		"Peer out, peer out!" that any madness I ever yet	25
FTLN 2090		beheld seemed but tameness, civility, and patience	
FTLN 2091		to this his distemper he is in now. I am glad the fat	
FTLN 2092		knight is not here.	
FTLN 2093	MISTRESS FORD	Why, does he talk of him?	
FTLN 2094	MISTRESS PAGE	Of none but him, and swears he was	30
FTLN 2095		carried out, the last time he searched for him, in a	
FTLN 2096		basket; protests to my husband he is now here;	
FTLN 2097		and hath drawn him and the rest of their company	
FTLN 2098		from their sport to make another experiment of	
FTLN 2099		his suspicion. But I am glad the knight is not here.	35
FTLN 2100		Now he shall see his own foolery.	

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FTLN 2101	MISTRESS FORD	How near is he, Mistress Page?	
FTLN 2102	MISTRESS PAGE	Hard by, at street end. He will be here	
FTLN 2103	anon.		
FTLN 2104	MISTRESS FORD	I am undone! The knight is here.	40
FTLN 2105	MISTRESS PAGE	Why then, you are utterly shamed, and	
FTLN 2106		he's but a dead man. What a woman are you! Away	
FTLN 2107		with him, away with him! Better shame than	
FTLN 2108		murder.	
FTLN 2109	MISTRESS FORD	Which way should he go? How should	45
FTLN 2110		I bestow him? Shall I put him into the basket	
FTLN 2111		again?	
<i>Enter Sir John Falstaff.</i>			
FTLN 2112	FALSTAFF	No, I'll come no more i' th' basket. May I not	
FTLN 2113		go out ere he come?	
FTLN 2114	MISTRESS PAGE	Alas, three of Master Ford's brothers	50
FTLN 2115		watch the door with pistols, that none shall issue	
FTLN 2116		out. Otherwise you might slip away ere he came.	
FTLN 2117		But what make you here?	
FTLN 2118	FALSTAFF	What shall I do? I'll creep up into the	
FTLN 2119		chimney.	55
FTLN 2120	MISTRESS FORD	There they always use to discharge	
FTLN 2121		their birding pieces.	
FTLN 2122	「MISTRESS PAGE」	Creep into the kiln-hole.	
FTLN 2123	FALSTAFF	Where is it?	
FTLN 2124	MISTRESS FORD	He will seek there, on my word. Neither	60
FTLN 2125		press, coffer, chest, trunk, well, vault, but he	
FTLN 2126		hath an abstract for the remembrance of such	
FTLN 2127		places, and goes to them by his note. There is no	
FTLN 2128		hiding you in the house.	
FTLN 2129	FALSTAFF	I'll go out, then.	65
FTLN 2130	MISTRESS 「PAGE」	If you go out in your own semblance,	
FTLN 2131		you die, Sir John—unless you go out disguised.	
FTLN 2132	MISTRESS FORD	How might we disguise him?	
FTLN 2133	MISTRESS PAGE	Alas the day, I know not. There is no	
FTLN 2134		woman's gown big enough for him; otherwise he	70

FTLN 2135	might put on a hat, a muffler, and a kerchief, and	
FTLN 2136	so escape.	
FTLN 2137	FALSTAFF Good hearts, devise something. Any extremity	
FTLN 2138	rather than a mischief.	
FTLN 2139	MISTRESS FORD My maid's aunt, the fat woman of	75
FTLN 2140	Brentford, has a gown above.	
FTLN 2141	MISTRESS PAGE On my word, it will serve him. She's as	
FTLN 2142	big as he is. And there's her thrummed hat and her	
FTLN 2143	muffler too.—Run up, Sir John.	
FTLN 2144	MISTRESS FORD Go, go, sweet Sir John. Mistress Page	80
FTLN 2145	and I will look some linen for your head.	
FTLN 2146	MISTRESS PAGE Quick, quick! We'll come dress you	
FTLN 2147	straight. Put on the gown the while.	
	<i>「Falstaff exits.」</i>	
FTLN 2148	MISTRESS FORD I would my husband would meet him	
FTLN 2149	in this shape. He cannot abide the old woman of	85
FTLN 2150	Brentford. He swears she's a witch, forbade her my	
FTLN 2151	house, and hath threatened to beat her.	
FTLN 2152	MISTRESS PAGE Heaven guide him to thy husband's	
FTLN 2153	cudgel, and the devil guide his cudgel afterwards!	
FTLN 2154	MISTRESS FORD But is my husband coming?	90
FTLN 2155	MISTRESS PAGE Ay, in good sadness is he, and talks of	
FTLN 2156	the basket too, howsoever he hath had	
FTLN 2157	intelligence.	
FTLN 2158	MISTRESS FORD We'll try that; for I'll appoint my men	
FTLN 2159	to carry the basket again, to meet him at the door	95
FTLN 2160	with it as they did last time.	
FTLN 2161	MISTRESS PAGE Nay, but he'll be here presently. Let's go	
FTLN 2162	dress him like the witch of Brentford.	
FTLN 2163	MISTRESS FORD I'll first direct my men what they shall	
FTLN 2164	do with the basket. Go up. I'll bring linen for him	100
FTLN 2165	straight.	
	<i>「She exits.」</i>	
FTLN 2166	MISTRESS PAGE Hang him, dishonest varlet! We cannot	
FTLN 2167	misuse <i>「him」</i> enough.	
FTLN 2168	We'll leave a proof, by that which we will do,	
FTLN 2169	Wives may be merry and yet honest too.	105

FTLN 2170 We do not act that often jest and laugh;  
 FTLN 2171 'Tis old but true: "Still swine eats all the draff."  
*She exits.*

*Enter Mistress Ford with Robert and John,  
 who bring the buck-basket.*

FTLN 2172 MISTRESS FORD Go, sirs, take the basket again on your  
 FTLN 2173 shoulders. Your master is hard at door. If he bid  
 FTLN 2174 you set it down, obey him. Quickly, dispatch. 110  
*She exits.*

FTLN 2175 *ROBERT* Come, come, take it up.  
 FTLN 2176 *JOHN* Pray heaven it be not full of knight again.  
 FTLN 2177 *ROBERT* I hope not. I had lief as bear so much lead.  
*They pick up the basket.*

*Enter Ford, Page, Doctor Caius, Sir Hugh  
 Evans, and Shallow.*

FTLN 2178 FORD Ay, but if it prove true, Master Page, have you  
 FTLN 2179 any way then to unfool me again?—Set down the 115  
 FTLN 2180 basket, villain. *They put the basket down.* Somebody  
 FTLN 2181 call my wife. Youth in a basket! O, you panderly  
 FTLN 2182 rascals! There's a knot, a *gang,* a pack, a  
 FTLN 2183 conspiracy against me. Now shall the devil be  
 FTLN 2184 shamed.—What, wife, I say! Come, come forth! 120  
 FTLN 2185 Behold what honest clothes you send forth to  
 FTLN 2186 bleaching!  
 FTLN 2187 PAGE Why, this passes, Master Ford! You are not to go  
 FTLN 2188 loose any longer; you must be pinioned.  
 FTLN 2189 SIR HUGH Why, this is lunatics. This is mad as a mad 125  
 FTLN 2190 dog.  
 FTLN 2191 SHALLOW Indeed, Master Ford, this is not well, indeed.  
 FTLN 2192 FORD So say I too, sir.

*Enter Mistress Ford.*

FTLN 2193 Come hither, Mistress Ford.—Mistress Ford, the  
 FTLN 2194 honest woman, the modest wife, the virtuous creature, 130

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FTLN 2195       that hath the jealous fool to her husband!—I  
 FTLN 2196       suspect without cause, mistress, do I?

FTLN 2197   MISTRESS FORD   Heaven be my witness you do, if you  
 FTLN 2198       suspect me in any dishonesty.

FTLN 2199   FORD   Well said, brazen-face. Hold it out.—Come       135  
 FTLN 2200       forth, sirrah.       *‘He pulls clothes out of the basket.’*

FTLN 2201   PAGE   This passes.

FTLN 2202   MISTRESS FORD   Are you not ashamed? Let the clothes  
 FTLN 2203       alone.

FTLN 2204   FORD   I shall find you anon.       140

FTLN 2205   SIR HUGH   ’Tis unreasonable. Will you take up your  
 FTLN 2206       wife’s clothes? Come, away.

FTLN 2207   FORD, *‘to the Servants’*   Empty the basket, I say.

FTLN 2208   MISTRESS FORD   Why, man, why?

FTLN 2209   FORD   Master Page, as I am a man, there was one conveyed       145  
 FTLN 2210       out of my house yesterday in this basket.  
 FTLN 2211       Why may not he be there again? In my house I am  
 FTLN 2212       sure he is. My intelligence is true, my jealousy is  
 FTLN 2213       reasonable.—Pluck me out all the linen.

FTLN 2214   MISTRESS FORD   If you find a man there, he shall die a       150  
 FTLN 2215       flea’s death.       *‘Robert and John empty the basket.’*

FTLN 2216   PAGE   Here’s no man.

FTLN 2217   SHALLOW   By my fidelity, this is not well, Master Ford.  
 FTLN 2218       This wrongs you.

FTLN 2219   SIR HUGH   Master Ford, you must pray, and not follow       155  
 FTLN 2220       the imaginations of your own heart. This is  
 FTLN 2221       jealousies.

FTLN 2222   FORD   Well, he’s not here I seek for.

FTLN 2223   PAGE   No, nor nowhere else but in your brain.

FTLN 2224   FORD   Help to search my house this one time. If I find       160  
 FTLN 2225       not what I seek, show no color for my extremity.  
 FTLN 2226       Let me forever be your table-sport. Let them say of  
 FTLN 2227       me “As jealous as Ford, that searched a hollow  
 FTLN 2228       walnut for his wife’s leman.” Satisfy me once  
 FTLN 2229       more. Once more search with me.       165  
              *‘Robert and John refill the basket and carry it off.’*

FTLN 2230	MISTRESS FORD, <i>['calling offstage']</i> What ho, Mistress	
FTLN 2231	Page! Come you and the old woman down. My	
FTLN 2232	husband will come into the chamber.	
FTLN 2233	FORD “Old woman”? What old woman’s that?	
FTLN 2234	MISTRESS FORD Why, it is my maid’s aunt of Brentford.	170
FTLN 2235	FORD A witch, a quean, an old cozening quean! Have	
FTLN 2236	I not forbid her my house? She comes of errands,	
FTLN 2237	does she? We are simple men; we do not know	
FTLN 2238	what’s brought to pass under the profession of	
FTLN 2239	fortune-telling. She works by charms, by spells, by	175
FTLN 2240	th’ figure, and such daubery as this is, beyond our	
FTLN 2241	element. We know nothing.—Come down, you	
FTLN 2242	witch, you hag, you! Come down, I say!	
	<i>['Ford seizes a cudgel.']</i>	
FTLN 2243	MISTRESS FORD Nay, good sweet husband!—Good gentlemen,	
FTLN 2244	let him <i>['not']</i> strike the old woman.	180
	<i>['Enter Mistress Page and Sir John Falstaff disguised as an old woman.']</i>	
FTLN 2245	MISTRESS PAGE Come, Mother Pratt; come, give me	
FTLN 2246	your hand.	
FTLN 2247	FORD I’ll pratt her. <i>['(He beats Falstaff.)']</i> Out of my	
FTLN 2248	door, you witch, you rag, you baggage, you polecat,	
FTLN 2249	you runnion! Out, out! I’ll conjure you, I’ll	185
FTLN 2250	fortune-tell you! <i>['Falstaff exits.']</i>	
FTLN 2251	MISTRESS PAGE Are you not ashamed? I think you have	
FTLN 2252	killed the poor woman.	
FTLN 2253	MISTRESS FORD Nay, he will do it.—’Tis a goodly credit	
FTLN 2254	for you.	190
FTLN 2255	FORD Hang her, witch!	
FTLN 2256	SIR HUGH By yea and no, I think the ’oman is a witch	
FTLN 2257	indeed. I like not when a ’oman has a great peard.	
FTLN 2258	I spy a great peard under <i>['her']</i> muffler.	
FTLN 2259	FORD Will you follow, gentlemen? I beseech you, follow.	195
FTLN 2260	See but the issue of my jealousy. If I cry out	
FTLN 2261	thus upon no trail, never trust me when I open	
FTLN 2262	again.	



FTLN 2263 PAGE Let's obey his humor a little further. Come,  
 FTLN 2264 gentlemen. 200  
     *「Ford, Page, Caius, Sir Hugh, and Shallow exit.」*  
 FTLN 2265 MISTRESS PAGE Trust me, he beat him most pitifully.  
 FTLN 2266 MISTRESS FORD Nay, by th' Mass, that he did not; he  
 FTLN 2267 beat him most unpitifully, methought.  
 FTLN 2268 MISTRESS PAGE I'll have the cudgel hallowed and hung  
 FTLN 2269 o'er the altar. It hath done meritorious service. 205  
 FTLN 2270 MISTRESS FORD What think you? May we, with the  
 FTLN 2271 warrant of womanhood and the witness of a good  
 FTLN 2272 conscience, pursue him with any further revenge?  
 FTLN 2273 MISTRESS PAGE The spirit of wantonness is, sure,  
 FTLN 2274 scared out of him. If the devil have him not in fee 210  
 FTLN 2275 simple, with fine and recovery, he will never, I  
 FTLN 2276 think, in the way of waste, attempt us again.  
 FTLN 2277 MISTRESS FORD Shall we tell our husbands how we  
 FTLN 2278 have served him?  
 FTLN 2279 MISTRESS PAGE Yes, by all means—if it be but to scrape 215  
 FTLN 2280 the figures out of your husband's brains. If they  
 FTLN 2281 can find in their hearts the poor unvirtuous fat  
 FTLN 2282 knight shall be any further afflicted, we two will  
 FTLN 2283 still be the ministers.  
 FTLN 2284 MISTRESS FORD I'll warrant they'll have him publicly 220  
 FTLN 2285 shamed, and methinks there would be no period to  
 FTLN 2286 the jest should he not be publicly shamed.  
 FTLN 2287 MISTRESS PAGE Come, to the forge with it, then shape  
 FTLN 2288 it. I would not have things cool.

*They exit.*

### Scene 3

*Enter Host and Bardolph.*

FTLN 2289 BARDOLPH Sir, the *「Germans desire」* to have three of  
 FTLN 2290 your horses. The Duke himself will be tomorrow at  
 FTLN 2291 court, and they are going to meet him.

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FTLN 2292 HOST What duke should that be comes so secretly? I  
 FTLN 2293 hear not of him in the court. Let me speak with the 5  
 FTLN 2294 gentlemen. They speak English?  
 FTLN 2295 BARDOLPH Ay, sir. I'll call 'them' to you.  
 FTLN 2296 HOST They shall have my horses, but I'll make them  
 FTLN 2297 pay. I'll sauce them. They have had my 'house' a  
 FTLN 2298 week at command; I have turned away my other 10  
 FTLN 2299 guests. They must come off. I'll sauce them. Come.  
*They exit.*

## Scene 4

*Enter Page, Ford, Mistress Page, Mistress Ford, and  
 'Sir Hugh' Evans.*

FTLN 2300 SIR HUGH 'Tis one of the best discretions of a 'oman as  
 FTLN 2301 ever I did look upon.  
 FTLN 2302 PAGE And did he send you both these letters at an  
 FTLN 2303 instant?  
 FTLN 2304 MISTRESS PAGE Within a quarter of an hour. 5  
 FORD  
 FTLN 2305 Pardon me, wife. Henceforth do what thou wilt.  
 FTLN 2306 I rather will suspect the sun with 'cold'  
 FTLN 2307 Than thee with wantonness. Now doth thy honor  
 FTLN 2308 stand,  
 FTLN 2309 In him that was of late an heretic, 10  
 FTLN 2310 As firm as faith.  
 FTLN 2311 PAGE 'Tis well, 'tis well. No more.  
 FTLN 2312 Be not as extreme in submission as in offense.  
 FTLN 2313 But let our plot go forward. Let our wives  
 FTLN 2314 Yet once again, to make us public sport, 15  
 FTLN 2315 Appoint a meeting with this old fat fellow,  
 FTLN 2316 Where we may take him and disgrace him for it.  
 FORD  
 FTLN 2317 There is no better way than that they spoke of.  
 FTLN 2318 PAGE How, to send him word they'll meet him in the  
 FTLN 2319 park at midnight? Fie, fie, he'll never come. 20

FTLN 2320	SIR HUGH	You say he has been thrown in the rivers	
FTLN 2321		and has been grievously peaten as an old 'oman.	
FTLN 2322		Methinks there should be terrors in him, that he	
FTLN 2323		should not come. Methinks his flesh is punished;	
FTLN 2324		he shall have no desires.	25
FTLN 2325	PAGE	So think I too.	
	MISTRESS FORD		
FTLN 2326		Devise but how you'll use him when he comes,	
FTLN 2327		And let us two devise to bring him thither.	
	MISTRESS PAGE		
FTLN 2328		There is an old tale goes that Herne the Hunter,	
FTLN 2329		Sometime a keeper here in Windsor Forest,	30
FTLN 2330		Doth all the wintertime, at still midnight,	
FTLN 2331		Walk round about an oak, with great ragged horns,	
FTLN 2332		And there he blasts the tree, and takes the cattle,	
FTLN 2333		And 'makes' milch-kine yield blood, and shakes a	
FTLN 2334		chain	35
FTLN 2335		In a most hideous and dreadful manner.	
FTLN 2336		You have heard of such a spirit, and well you know	
FTLN 2337		The superstitious idle-headed eld	
FTLN 2338		Received and did deliver to our age	
FTLN 2339		This tale of Herne the Hunter for a truth.	40
	PAGE		
FTLN 2340		Why, yet there want not many that do fear	
FTLN 2341		In deep of night to walk by this Herne's oak.	
FTLN 2342		But what of this?	
FTLN 2343	MISTRESS FORD	Marry, this is our device,	
FTLN 2344		That Falstaff at that oak shall meet with us.	45
	PAGE		
FTLN 2345		Well, let it not be doubted but he'll come.	
FTLN 2346		And in this shape when you have brought him	
FTLN 2347		thither,	
FTLN 2348		What shall be done with him? What is your plot?	
	MISTRESS PAGE		
FTLN 2349		That likewise have we thought upon, and thus:	50
FTLN 2350		Nan Page my daughter, and my little son,	

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FTLN 2351	And three or four more of their growth we'll dress	
FTLN 2352	Like urchins, aufs, and fairies, green and white,	
FTLN 2353	With rounds of waxen tapers on their heads	
FTLN 2354	And rattles in their hands. Upon a sudden,	55
FTLN 2355	As Falstaff, she, and I are newly met,	
FTLN 2356	Let them from forth a sawpit rush at once	
FTLN 2357	With some diffusèd song. Upon their sight,	
FTLN 2358	We two in great amazedness will fly.	
FTLN 2359	Then let them all encircle him about,	60
FTLN 2360	And, fairy-like, to pinch the unclean knight,	
FTLN 2361	And ask him why, that hour of fairy revel,	
FTLN 2362	In their so sacred paths he dares to tread	
FTLN 2363	In shape profane.	
FTLN 2364	FORD And till he tell the truth,	65
FTLN 2365	Let the supposed fairies pinch him sound	
FTLN 2366	And burn him with their tapers.	
FTLN 2367	MISTRESS PAGE The truth being known,	
FTLN 2368	We'll all present ourselves, dis-horn the spirit,	
FTLN 2369	And mock him home to Windsor.	70
FTLN 2370	FORD The children must	
FTLN 2371	Be practiced well to this, or they'll ne'er do 't.	
FTLN 2372	SIR HUGH I will teach the children their behaviors, and	
FTLN 2373	I will be like a jackanapes also, to burn the knight	
FTLN 2374	with my taber.	75
FTLN 2375	FORD That will be excellent. I'll go buy them vizards.	
	MISTRESS PAGE	
FTLN 2376	My Nan shall be the queen of all the fairies,	
FTLN 2377	Finely attired in a robe of white.	
	PAGE	
FTLN 2378	That silk will I go buy. <i>「(Aside.)」</i> And in that time	
FTLN 2379	Shall Master Slender steal my Nan away	80
FTLN 2380	And marry her at Eton.—Go, send to Falstaff	
FTLN 2381	straight.	
	FORD	
FTLN 2382	Nay, I'll to him again in name of <i>「Brook.」</i>	
FTLN 2383	He'll tell me all his purpose. Sure he'll come.	

MISTRESS PAGE

FTLN 2384      Fear not you that. Go get us properties 85

FTLN 2385      And tricking for our fairies.

FTLN 2386      SIR HUGH    Let us about it. It is admirable pleasures and

FTLN 2387      fery honest knaveries.

[*Page, Ford, and Sir Hugh exit.*]

FTLN 2388      MISTRESS PAGE    Go, Mistress Ford,

FTLN 2389      Send quickly to Sir John to know his mind. 90

[*Mistress Ford exits.*]

FTLN 2390      I'll to the doctor. He hath my good will,

FTLN 2391      And none but he, to marry with Nan Page.

FTLN 2392      That Slender, though well-landed, is an idiot,

FTLN 2393      And he my husband best of all affects.

FTLN 2394      The doctor is well-moneyed, and his friends 95

FTLN 2395      Potent at court. He, none but he, shall have her,

FTLN 2396      Though twenty thousand worthier come to crave her.

[*She exits.*]

### Scene 5

*Enter Host [and] Simple.*

FTLN 2397      HOST    What wouldst thou have, boor? What, thickskin?

FTLN 2398      Speak, breathe, discuss; brief, short, quick,

FTLN 2399      snap.

FTLN 2400      SIMPLE    Marry, sir, I come to speak with Sir John Falstaff

FTLN 2401      from Master Slender. 5

FTLN 2402      HOST    There's his chamber, his house, his castle, his

FTLN 2403      standing-bed and truckle-bed. 'Tis painted about

FTLN 2404      with the story of the Prodigal, fresh and new. Go,

FTLN 2405      knock and call. He'll speak like an Anthropophaginian

FTLN 2406      unto thee. Knock, I say. 10

FTLN 2407      SIMPLE    There's an old woman, a fat woman, gone up

FTLN 2408      into his chamber. I'll be so bold as stay, sir, till she

FTLN 2409      come down. I come to speak with her, indeed.

FTLN 2410      HOST    Ha? A fat woman? The knight may be robbed.

FTLN 2411      I'll call.—Bully knight! Bully Sir John! Speak from 15

FTLN 2412 thy lungs military. Art thou there? It is thine Host,  
 FTLN 2413 thine Ephesian, calls.  
 FTLN 2414 FALSTAFF, *['within']* How now, mine Host?  
 FTLN 2415 HOST Here's a Bohemian Tartar tarries the coming  
 FTLN 2416 down of thy fat woman. Let her descend, bully, let 20  
 FTLN 2417 her descend. My chambers are honorable. Fie! Privacy?  
 FTLN 2418 Fie!

*Enter ['Sir John'] Falstaff.*

FTLN 2419 FALSTAFF There was, mine Host, an old fat woman  
 FTLN 2420 even now with me, but she's gone.  
 FTLN 2421 SIMPLE Pray you, sir, was 't not the wise woman of 25  
 FTLN 2422 Brentford?  
 FTLN 2423 FALSTAFF Ay, marry, was it, mussel-shell. What would  
 FTLN 2424 you with her?  
 FTLN 2425 SIMPLE My master, sir, my Master Slender, sent to her,  
 FTLN 2426 seeing her go through the streets, to know, sir, 30  
 FTLN 2427 whether one Nym, sir, that beguiled him of a chain,  
 FTLN 2428 had the chain or no.  
 FTLN 2429 FALSTAFF I spake with the old woman about it.  
 FTLN 2430 SIMPLE And what says she, I pray, sir?  
 FTLN 2431 FALSTAFF Marry, she says that the very same man that 35  
 FTLN 2432 beguiled Master Slender of his chain cozened him  
 FTLN 2433 of it.  
 FTLN 2434 SIMPLE I would I could have spoken with the woman  
 FTLN 2435 herself. I had other things to have spoken with her  
 FTLN 2436 too from him. 40  
 FTLN 2437 FALSTAFF What are they? Let us know.  
 FTLN 2438 HOST Ay, come. Quick!  
 FTLN 2439 *['SIMPLE']* I may not conceal them, sir.  
 FTLN 2440 HOST Conceal them, or thou diest.  
 FTLN 2441 SIMPLE Why, sir, they were nothing but about Mistress 45  
 FTLN 2442 Anne Page, to know if it were my master's fortune  
 FTLN 2443 to have her or no.  
 FTLN 2444 FALSTAFF 'Tis; 'tis his fortune.  
 FTLN 2445 SIMPLE What, sir?

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FTLN 2446 FALSTAFF To have her or no. Go. Say the woman told 50  
 FTLN 2447 me so.  
 FTLN 2448 SIMPLE May I be bold to say so, sir?  
 FTLN 2449 FALSTAFF Ay, sir; like who more bold.  
 FTLN 2450 SIMPLE I thank your Worship. I shall make my master  
 FTLN 2451 glad with these tidings. *「He exits.」* 55  
 FTLN 2452 HOST Thou *「art」* clerkly, thou art clerkly, Sir John. Was  
 FTLN 2453 there a wise woman with thee?  
 FTLN 2454 FALSTAFF Ay, that there was, mine Host, one that hath  
 FTLN 2455 taught me more wit than ever I learned before in  
 FTLN 2456 my life. And I paid nothing for it neither, but was 60  
 FTLN 2457 paid for my learning.

*Enter Bardolph.*

FTLN 2458 BARDOLPH, *「to Host」* Out, alas, sir, cozenage, mere  
 FTLN 2459 cozenage!  
 FTLN 2460 HOST Where be my horses? Speak well of them,  
 FTLN 2461 varletto. 65  
 FTLN 2462 BARDOLPH Run away with the cozeners. For so soon as  
 FTLN 2463 I came beyond Eton, they threw me off from behind  
 FTLN 2464 one of them in a slough of mire, and set  
 FTLN 2465 spurs, and away, like three German devils, three  
 FTLN 2466 Doctor Faustuses. 70  
 FTLN 2467 HOST They are gone but to meet the Duke, villain. Do  
 FTLN 2468 not say they be fled. Germans are honest men.

*Enter 「Sir Hugh」 Evans.*

FTLN 2469 SIR HUGH Where is mine Host?  
 FTLN 2470 HOST What is the matter, sir?  
 FTLN 2471 SIR HUGH Have a care of your entertainments. There is 75  
 FTLN 2472 a friend of mine come to town tells me there is  
 FTLN 2473 three cozen-Germans that has cozened all the  
 FTLN 2474 hosts of Readings, of Maidenhead, of Colnbrook,  
 FTLN 2475 of horses and money. I tell you for good will, look  
 FTLN 2476 you. You are wise, and full of gibes and vlouting-stocks, 80  
 FTLN 2477 and 'tis not convenient you should be cozened.  
 FTLN 2478 Fare you well. *「He exits.」*

*Enter 'Doctor' Caius.*

FTLN 2479 DOCTOR CAIUS Vere is mine Host de Jarteer?  
 FTLN 2480 HOST Here, Master Doctor, in perplexity and doubtful  
 FTLN 2481 dilemma. 85  
 FTLN 2482 DOCTOR CAIUS I cannot tell vat is dat. But it is tell-a me  
 FTLN 2483 dat you make grand preparation for a duke de  
 FTLN 2484 Jamanie. By my trot, dere is no duke that the court  
 FTLN 2485 is know to come. I tell you for good will. Adieu.

*'He exits.'*

FTLN 2486 HOST, *'to Bardolph'* Hue and cry, villain, go!—Assist 90  
 FTLN 2487 me, knight. I am undone.—Fly, run; hue and cry,  
 FTLN 2488 villain! I am undone. *'Host and Bardolph exit.'*

FTLN 2489 FALSTAFF I would all the world might be cozened, for I  
 FTLN 2490 have been cozened and beaten too. If it should  
 FTLN 2491 come to the ear of the court how I have been transformed, 95  
 FTLN 2492 and how my transformation hath been  
 FTLN 2493 washed and cudgeled, they would melt me out of  
 FTLN 2494 my fat drop by drop, and liquor fishermen's boots  
 FTLN 2495 with me. I warrant they would whip me with their  
 FTLN 2496 fine wits till I were as crestfallen as a dried pear. I 100  
 FTLN 2497 never prospered since I forswore myself at  
 FTLN 2498 primero. Well, if my wind were but long enough, I  
 FTLN 2499 would repent.

*Enter 'Mistress' Quickly.*

FTLN 2500 Now, whence come you?  
 FTLN 2501 MISTRESS QUICKLY From the two parties, forsooth. 105  
 FTLN 2502 FALSTAFF The devil take one party, and his dam the  
 FTLN 2503 other, and so they shall be both bestowed. I have  
 FTLN 2504 suffered more for their sakes, more than the villainous  
 FTLN 2505 inconstancy of man's disposition is able to  
 FTLN 2506 bear. 110  
 FTLN 2507 MISTRESS QUICKLY And have not they suffered? Yes, I  
 FTLN 2508 warrant, speciously one of them. Mistress Ford,



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FTLN 2509           good heart, is beaten black and blue that you cannot  
 FTLN 2510           see a white spot about her.

FTLN 2511   FALSTAFF   What tell'st thou me of black and blue? I was           115  
 FTLN 2512           beaten myself into all the colors of the rainbow,  
 FTLN 2513           and I was like to be apprehended for the witch of  
 FTLN 2514           Brentford. But that my admirable dexterity of wit,  
 FTLN 2515           my counterfeiting the action of an old woman, delivered  
 FTLN 2516           me, the knave constable had set me i' th'           120  
 FTLN 2517           stocks, i' th' common stocks, for a witch.

FTLN 2518   MISTRESS QUICKLY   Sir, let me speak with you in your  
 FTLN 2519           chamber. You shall hear how things go, and, I warrant,  
 FTLN 2520           to your content. Here is a letter will say  
 FTLN 2521           somewhat. *['She gives him a paper.']* Good hearts,           125  
 FTLN 2522           what ado here is to bring you together! Sure, one  
 FTLN 2523           of you does not serve heaven well, that you are so  
 FTLN 2524           crossed.

FTLN 2525   FALSTAFF   Come up into my chamber.

*They exit.*

## Scene 6

*Enter Fenton 'and' Host.*

FTLN 2526   HOST   Master Fenton, talk not to me. My mind is  
 FTLN 2527           heavy. I will give over all.

FTLN 2528   FENTON  
 FTLN 2529           Yet hear me speak. Assist me in my purpose,  
 FTLN 2530           And, as I am a gentleman, I'll give thee           5  
 FTLN 2531           A hundred pound in gold more than your loss.

FTLN 2531   HOST   I will hear you, Master Fenton, and I will, at the  
 FTLN 2532           least, keep your counsel.

FTLN 2533   FENTON  
 FTLN 2534           From time to time I have acquainted you  
 FTLN 2535           With the dear love I bear to fair Anne Page,  
 FTLN 2536           Who mutually hath answered my affection,           10  
 FTLN 2536           So far forth as herself might be her chooser,

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FTLN 2537	Even to my wish. I have a letter from her	
FTLN 2538	Of such contents as you will wonder at,	
FTLN 2539	The mirth whereof so larded with my matter	
FTLN 2540	That neither singly can be manifested	15
FTLN 2541	Without the show of both. Fat Falstaff	
FTLN 2542	Hath a great scene; the image of the jest	
FTLN 2543	I'll show you here at large. <i>He shows the Host a</i>	
FTLN 2544	<i>paper.</i> Hark, good mine Host:	
FTLN 2545	Tonight at Herne's oak, just 'twixt twelve and one,	20
FTLN 2546	Must my sweet Nan present the Fairy Queen—	
FTLN 2547	The purpose why is here—in which disguise,	
FTLN 2548	While other jests are something rank on foot,	
FTLN 2549	Her father hath commanded her to slip	
FTLN 2550	Away with Slender, and with him at Eton	25
FTLN 2551	Immediately to marry. She hath consented. Now, sir,	
FTLN 2552	Her mother, 'ever strong against that match	
FTLN 2553	And firm for Doctor Caius, hath appointed	
FTLN 2554	That he shall likewise shuffle her away,	
FTLN 2555	While other sports are tasking of their minds,	30
FTLN 2556	And at the dean'ry, where a priest attends,	
FTLN 2557	Straight marry her. To this her mother's plot	
FTLN 2558	She, seemingly obedient, likewise hath	
FTLN 2559	Made promise to the doctor. Now, thus it rests:	
FTLN 2560	Her father means she shall be all in white,	35
FTLN 2561	And in that habit, when Slender sees his time	
FTLN 2562	To take her by the hand and bid her go,	
FTLN 2563	She shall go with him. Her mother hath intended	
FTLN 2564	The better to 'denote' her to the doctor—	
FTLN 2565	For they must all be masked and vizarded—	40
FTLN 2566	That quaint in green she shall be loose enrobed,	
FTLN 2567	With ribbons pendent flaring 'bout her head;	
FTLN 2568	And when the doctor spies his vantage ripe,	
FTLN 2569	To pinch her by the hand, and on that token	
FTLN 2570	The maid hath given consent to go with him.	45

HOST

FTLN 2571 Which means she to deceive, father or mother?

FENTON

FTLN 2572 Both, my good Host, to go along with me.

FTLN 2573 And here it rests, that you'll procure the vicar

FTLN 2574 To stay for me at church 'twixt twelve and one,

FTLN 2575 And, in the lawful name of marrying, 50

FTLN 2576 To give our hearts united ceremony.

HOST

FTLN 2577 Well, husband your device. I'll to the vicar.

FTLN 2578 Bring you the maid, you shall not lack a priest.

FENTON

FTLN 2579 So shall I evermore be bound to thee;

FTLN 2580 Besides, I'll make a present recompense. 55

*They exit.*

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## ACT 5

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### Scene 1

*Enter* 'Sir John' Falstaff 'and Mistress' Quickly.

FTLN 2581 FALSTAFF Prithee, no more prattling. Go. I'll hold. This  
FTLN 2582 is the third time; I hope good luck lies in odd numbers.  
FTLN 2583 Away, go. They say there is divinity in odd  
FTLN 2584 numbers, either in nativity, chance, or death.  
FTLN 2585 Away.

5

FTLN 2586 MISTRESS QUICKLY I'll provide you a chain, and I'll do  
FTLN 2587 what I can to get you a pair of horns.

FTLN 2588 FALSTAFF Away, I say! Time wears. Hold up your head,  
FTLN 2589 and mince. 'Mistress Quickly exits.'

*Enter Ford* 'disguised as Brook.'

FTLN 2590 How now, Master 'Brook!' Master 'Brook,' the 10  
FTLN 2591 matter will be known tonight or never. Be you in  
FTLN 2592 the park about midnight, at Herne's oak, and you  
FTLN 2593 shall see wonders.

FTLN 2594 FORD, 'as Brook' Went you not to her yesterday, sir, as  
FTLN 2595 you told me you had appointed? 15

FTLN 2596 FALSTAFF I went to her, Master 'Brook,' as you see,  
FTLN 2597 like a poor old man, but I came from her, Master  
FTLN 2598 'Brook,' like a poor old woman. That same knave  
FTLN 2599 Ford, her husband, hath the finest mad devil of  
FTLN 2600 jealousy in him, Master 'Brook,' that ever governed 20  
FTLN 2601 frenzy. I will tell you, he beat me grievously,  
FTLN 2602 in the shape of a woman; for in the shape of man,

FTLN 2603 Master 'Brook,' I fear not Goliath with a weaver's  
 FTLN 2604 beam, because I know also life is a shuttle. I am in  
 FTLN 2605 haste. Go along with me; I'll tell you all, Master 25  
 FTLN 2606 'Brook.' Since I plucked geese, played truant, and  
 FTLN 2607 whipped top, I knew not what 'twas to be beaten  
 FTLN 2608 till lately. Follow me. I'll tell you strange things of  
 FTLN 2609 this knave Ford, on whom tonight I will be revenged,  
 FTLN 2610 and I will deliver his wife into your hand. 30  
 FTLN 2611 Follow. Strange things in hand, Master 'Brook!'  
 FTLN 2612 Follow.

*They exit.*

## Scene 2

*Enter Page, Shallow, 'and' Slender.*

FTLN 2613 PAGE Come, come. We'll couch i' th' castle ditch till we  
 FTLN 2614 see the light of our fairies.—Remember, son Slender,  
 FTLN 2615 my—  
 FTLN 2616 SLENDER Ay, forsooth, I have spoke with her, and we  
 FTLN 2617 have a nayword how to know one another. I come 5  
 FTLN 2618 to her in white and cry "mum," she cries "budget,"  
 FTLN 2619 and by that we know one another.  
 FTLN 2620 SHALLOW That's good too. But what needs either your  
 FTLN 2621 "mum" or her "budget"? The white will decipher  
 FTLN 2622 her well enough. It hath struck ten o'clock. 10  
 FTLN 2623 PAGE The night is dark. Light and spirits will become  
 FTLN 2624 it well. Heaven prosper our sport! No man means  
 FTLN 2625 evil but the devil, and we shall know him by his  
 FTLN 2626 horns. Let's away. Follow me.

*They exit.*

## Scene 3

*Enter Mistress Page, Mistress Ford, 'and Doctor' Caius.*

FTLN 2627 MISTRESS PAGE Master Doctor, my daughter is in  
 FTLN 2628 green. When you see your time, take her by the

FTLN 2629 hand; away with her to the deanery, and dispatch  
 FTLN 2630 it quickly. Go before into the park. We two must go  
 FTLN 2631 together. 5

FTLN 2632 DOCTOR CAIUS I know vat I have to do. Adieu.

FTLN 2633 MISTRESS PAGE Fare you well, sir. *「Caius exits.」*

FTLN 2634 My husband will not rejoice so much at the abuse  
 FTLN 2635 of Falstaff as he will chafe at the doctor's marrying  
 FTLN 2636 my daughter. But 'tis no matter. Better a little chiding 10  
 FTLN 2637 than a great deal of heartbreak.

FTLN 2638 MISTRESS FORD Where is Nan now, and her troop of  
 FTLN 2639 fairies, and the Welsh devil *「Hugh?」*

FTLN 2640 MISTRESS PAGE They are all couched in a pit hard by  
 FTLN 2641 Herne's oak, with obscured lights, which, at the 15  
 FTLN 2642 very instant of Falstaff's and our meeting, they will  
 FTLN 2643 at once display to the night.

FTLN 2644 MISTRESS FORD That cannot choose but amaze him.

FTLN 2645 MISTRESS PAGE If he be not amazed, he will be  
 FTLN 2646 mocked. If he be amazed, he will every way be 20  
 FTLN 2647 mocked.

FTLN 2648 MISTRESS FORD We'll betray him finely.

FTLN 2649 MISTRESS PAGE  
 FTLN 2650 Against such lewdsters and their lechery,  
 FTLN 2650 Those that betray them do no treachery.

FTLN 2651 MISTRESS FORD The hour draws on. To the oak, to the 25  
 FTLN 2652 oak!

*They exit.*

#### Scene 4

*Enter 「Sir Hugh」 Evans and 「boys disguised,  
 like him, as」 Fairies.*

FTLN 2653 SIR HUGH Trib, trib, fairies! Come, and remember  
 FTLN 2654 your parts. Be pold, I pray you. Follow me into the  
 FTLN 2655 pit, and when I give the watch-'ords, do as I pid  
 FTLN 2656 you. Come, come; trib, trib. *They exit.*

## Scene 5

*Enter* 「Sir John」 *Falstaff* 「wearing a buck's head.」

FTLN 2657	FALSTAFF	The Windsor bell hath struck twelve. The	
FTLN 2658		minute draws on. Now, the 「hot-blooded」 gods assist	
FTLN 2659		me! Remember, Jove, thou wast a bull for thy	
FTLN 2660		Europa; love set on thy horns. O powerful love,	
FTLN 2661		that in some respects makes a beast a man, in	5
FTLN 2662		some other a man a beast! You were also, Jupiter,	
FTLN 2663		a swan for the love of Leda. O omnipotent love,	
FTLN 2664		how near the god drew to the complexion of a	
FTLN 2665		goose! A fault done first in the form of a beast; O	
FTLN 2666		Jove, a beastly fault! And then another fault in the	10
FTLN 2667		semblance of a fowl; think on 't, Jove, a foul fault.	
FTLN 2668		When gods have hot backs, what shall poor men	
FTLN 2669		do? For me, I am here a Windsor stag, and the fattest,	
FTLN 2670		I think, i' th' forest. Send me a cool rut-time,	
FTLN 2671		Jove, or who can blame me to piss my tallow?	15

*Enter Mistress Page* 「and」 *Mistress Ford.*

FTLN 2672		Who comes here? My doe?	
FTLN 2673	MISTRESS FORD	Sir John? Art thou there, my deer, my	
FTLN 2674		male deer?	
FTLN 2675	FALSTAFF	My doe with the black scut! Let the sky rain	
FTLN 2676		potatoes, let it thunder to the tune of "Greensleeves,"	20
FTLN 2677		hail kissing-comfits, and snow eryngoes; let there	
FTLN 2678		come a tempest of provocation, I will shelter me	
FTLN 2679		here. 「 <i>He embraces her.</i> 」	
FTLN 2680	MISTRESS FORD	Mistress Page is come with me,	
FTLN 2681		sweetheart.	25
FTLN 2682	FALSTAFF	Divide me like a bribed buck, each a haunch.	
FTLN 2683		I will keep my sides to myself, my shoulders for	
FTLN 2684		the fellow of this walk, and my horns I bequeath	
FTLN 2685		your husbands. Am I a woodman, ha? Speak I like	
FTLN 2686		Herne the Hunter? Why, now is Cupid a child of	30
FTLN 2687		conscience; he makes restitution. As I am a true	
FTLN 2688		spirit, welcome. 「 <i>A noise of horns within.</i> 」	

FTLN 2689	MISTRESS PAGE	Alas, what noise?	
FTLN 2690	MISTRESS FORD	Heaven forgive our sins!	
FTLN 2691	FALSTAFF	What should this be?	35
FTLN 2692	MISTRESS FORD AND MISTRESS PAGE	Away, away. <i>「The two women run off.」</i>	
FTLN 2693	FALSTAFF	I think the devil will not have me damned,	
FTLN 2694		lest the oil that's in me should set hell on fire. He	
FTLN 2695		would never else cross me thus.	
		<i>Enter 「Mistress」 Quickly, Pistol, 「Sir Hugh」 Evans, Anne Page 「and boys, all disguised as」 Fairies 「and carrying tapers.」</i>	
	MISTRESS QUICKLY, 「as Fairy Queen」		
FTLN 2696		Fairies black, gray, green, and white,	40
FTLN 2697		You moonshine revelers and shades of night,	
FTLN 2698		You orphan heirs of fixèd destiny,	
FTLN 2699		Attend your office and your quality.	
FTLN 2700		Crier Hobgoblin, make the fairy oyes.	
	PISTOL, 「as Hobgoblin」		
FTLN 2701		Elves, list your names. Silence, you airy toys!—	45
FTLN 2702		Cricket, to Windsor chimneys shalt thou leap,	
FTLN 2703		Where fires thou find'st unraked and hearths	
FTLN 2704		unswept.	
FTLN 2705		There pinch the maids as blue as bilberry.	
FTLN 2706		Our radiant queen hates sluts and sluttery.	50
	FALSTAFF, 「aside」		
FTLN 2707		They are fairies. He that speaks to them shall die.	
FTLN 2708		I'll wink and couch. No man their works must eye. <i>「He crouches down and covers his eyes.」</i>	
	SIR HUGH, 「as a fairy」		
FTLN 2709		Where's Bead? Go you, and where you find a maid	
FTLN 2710		That ere she sleep has thrice her prayers said,	
FTLN 2711		Raise up the organs of her fantasy;	55
FTLN 2712		Sleep she as sound as careless infancy.	
FTLN 2713		But those as sleep and think not on their sins,	
FTLN 2714		Pinch them, arms, legs, backs, shoulders, sides, and	
FTLN 2715		shins.	



FTLN 2716	MISTRESS QUICKLY, <i>as Fairy Queen</i>	About, about!	60
FTLN 2717	Search Windsor Castle, elves, within and out.		
FTLN 2718	Strew good luck, aufs, on every sacred room,		
FTLN 2719	That it may stand till the perpetual doom		
FTLN 2720	In state as wholesome as in state 'tis fit,		
FTLN 2721	Worthy the owner, and the owner it.		65
FTLN 2722	The several chairs of order look you scour		
FTLN 2723	With juice of balm and every precious flower.		
FTLN 2724	Each fair installment, coat, and sev'ral crest		
FTLN 2725	With loyal blazon evermore be blest!		
FTLN 2726	And nightly, meadow fairies, look you sing,		70
FTLN 2727	Like to the Garter's compass, in a ring.		
FTLN 2728	Th' expressure that it bears, green let it be,		
FTLN 2729	<i>More</i> fertile-fresh than all the field to see;		
FTLN 2730	And <i>Honi soit qui mal y pense</i> write		
FTLN 2731	In em'rald tufts, flowers purple, blue, and white,		75
FTLN 2732	Like sapphire, pearl, and rich embroidery,		
FTLN 2733	Buckled below fair knighthood's bending knee.		
FTLN 2734	Fairies use flowers for their charactery.		
FTLN 2735	Away, disperse! But till 'tis one o'clock,		
FTLN 2736	Our dance of custom round about the oak		80
FTLN 2737	Of Herne the Hunter let us not forget.		
	SIR HUGH, <i>as a fairy</i>		
FTLN 2738	Pray you, lock hand in hand. Yourselves in order set;		
FTLN 2739	And twenty glowworms shall our lanterns be,		
FTLN 2740	To guide our measure round about the tree.		
FTLN 2741	But stay! I smell a man of middle earth.		85
FTLN 2742	FALSTAFF, <i>aside</i>	Heavens defend me from that Welsh	
FTLN 2743	fairy, lest he transform me to a piece of cheese.		
	PISTOL, <i>as Hobgoblin, to Falstaff</i>		
FTLN 2744	Vile worm, thou wast o'erlooked even in thy birth.		
	MISTRESS QUICKLY, <i>as Fairy Queen, to Sir Hugh</i>		
FTLN 2745	With trial-fire touch me his finger-end.		
FTLN 2746	If he be chaste, the flame will back descend		90
FTLN 2747	And turn him to no pain. But if he start,		
FTLN 2748	It is the flesh of a corrupted heart.		

PISTOL, *as Hobgoblin*

FTLN 2749

A trial, come!

FTLN 2750

SIR HUGH, *as a fairy* Come, will this wood take fire?

*['Sir Hugh puts a taper to Falstaff's finger, and he starts.]*

FTLN 2751

FALSTAFF O, O, O!

95

MISTRESS QUICKLY, *as Fairy Queen*

FTLN 2752

Corrupt, corrupt, and tainted in desire!

FTLN 2753

About him, fairies. Sing a scornful rhyme,

FTLN 2754

And, as you trip, still pinch him to your time.

*['Here they pinch him and sing about him, and Doctor Caius comes one way and steals away a boy in white. And Slender comes another way; he takes a boy in green. And Fenton steals Mistress Anne Page.]*

*['FAIRIES sing']*

FTLN 2755

Fie on sinful fantasy!

FTLN 2756

Fie on lust and luxury!

100

FTLN 2757

Lust is but a bloody fire

FTLN 2758

Kindled with unchaste desire,

FTLN 2759

Fed in heart whose flames aspire

FTLN 2760

As thoughts do blow them higher and higher.

FTLN 2761

Pinch him, fairies, mutually;

105

FTLN 2762

Pinch him for his villainy.

FTLN 2763

Pinch him and burn him and turn him about,

FTLN 2764

Till candles and starlight and moonshine be out.

*['A noise of hunting is made within, and all the fairies run away from Falstaff, who pulls off his buck's head and rises up.] Enter Page, 'Mistress Page, Mistress Ford and' Ford.*

PAGE, *to Falstaff*

FTLN 2765

Nay, do not fly. I think we have watched you now.

FTLN 2766

Will none but Herne the Hunter serve your turn?

110

MISTRESS PAGE

FTLN 2767

I pray you, come, hold up the jest no higher.—

FTLN 2768

Now, good Sir John, how like you Windsor wives?

*She points to the horns.*

FTLN 2769

See you these, husband? Do not these fair yokes

FTLN 2770

Become the forest better than the town?

FTLN 2771

FORD, *to Falstaff* Now, sir, who's a cuckold now? 115

FTLN 2772

Master *Brook*, Falstaff's a knave, a cuckoldly

FTLN 2773

knave. Here are his horns, Master *Brook*. And,

FTLN 2774

Master *Brook*, he hath enjoyed nothing of Ford's

FTLN 2775

but his buck-basket, his cudgel, and twenty

FTLN 2776

pounds of money, which must be paid to Master 120

FTLN 2777

*Brook*. His horses are arrested for it, Master

FTLN 2778

*Brook*.

FTLN 2779

MISTRESS FORD Sir John, we have had ill luck. We  
could never meet. I will never take you for my love  
again, but I will always count you my deer. 125

FTLN 2780

FTLN 2781

FALSTAFF I do begin to perceive that I am made an ass.

FTLN 2782

FTLN 2783

FORD Ay, and an ox too. Both the proofs are extant.

FTLN 2784

FALSTAFF And these are not fairies. I was three or four  
times in the thought they were not fairies; and yet  
the guiltiness of my mind, the sudden surprise of  
my powers, drove the grossness of the foppery into  
a received belief, in despite of the teeth of all  
rhyme and reason, that they were fairies. See now  
how wit may be made a Jack-a-Lent when 'tis upon  
ill employment. 130

FTLN 2785

FTLN 2786

FTLN 2787

FTLN 2788

FTLN 2789

FTLN 2790

FTLN 2791

SIR HUGH Sir John Falstaff, serve Got and leave your  
desires, and fairies will not pinse you. 135

FTLN 2792

FTLN 2793

FORD Well said, Fairy Hugh.

FTLN 2794

SIR HUGH And leave you your jealousies too, I pray  
you. 140

FTLN 2795

FTLN 2796

FORD I will never mistrust my wife again till thou art  
able to woo her in good English.

FTLN 2797

FTLN 2798

FALSTAFF Have I laid my brain in the sun and dried it,  
that it wants matter to prevent so gross o'erreaching  
as this? Am I ridden with a Welsh goat too? 145  
Shall I have a coxcomb of frieze? 'Tis time I were  
choked with a piece of toasted cheese.

FTLN 2799

FTLN 2800

FTLN 2801

FTLN 2802

FTLN 2803

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FTLN 2804	SIR HUGH	Seese is not good to give putter. Your belly is	
FTLN 2805		all putter.	
FTLN 2806	FALSTAFF	“Seese” and “putter”? Have I lived to stand at	150
FTLN 2807		the taunt of one that makes fritters of English?	
FTLN 2808		This is enough to be the decay of lust and late	
FTLN 2809		walking through the realm.	
FTLN 2810	MISTRESS PAGE	Why, Sir John, do you think though we	
FTLN 2811		would have thrust virtue out of our hearts by the	155
FTLN 2812		head and shoulders, and have given ourselves	
FTLN 2813		without scruple to hell, that ever the devil could	
FTLN 2814		have made you our delight?	
FTLN 2815	FORD	What, a hodge-pudding? A bag of flax?	
FTLN 2816	MISTRESS PAGE	A puffed man?	160
FTLN 2817	PAGE	Old, cold, withered, and of intolerable entrails?	
FTLN 2818	FORD	And one that is as slanderous as Satan?	
FTLN 2819	PAGE	And as poor as Job?	
FTLN 2820	FORD	And as wicked as his wife?	
FTLN 2821	SIR HUGH	And given to fornications, and to taverns,	165
FTLN 2822		and sack, and wine, and metheglins, and to drinkings	
FTLN 2823		and swearings and starings, pribbles and	
FTLN 2824		prabbles?	
FTLN 2825	FALSTAFF	Well, I am your theme. You have the start of	
FTLN 2826		me. I am dejected. I am not able to answer the	170
FTLN 2827		Welsh flannel. Ignorance itself is a plummet o’er	
FTLN 2828		me. Use me as you will.	
FTLN 2829	FORD	Marry, sir, we’ll bring you to Windsor to one	
FTLN 2830		Master ‘Brook,’ that you have cozened of money,	
FTLN 2831		to whom you should have been a pander. Over and	175
FTLN 2832		above that you have suffered, I think to repay that	
FTLN 2833		money will be a biting affliction.	
FTLN 2834	PAGE	Yet be cheerful, knight. Thou shalt eat a posset	
FTLN 2835		tonight at my house, where I will desire thee to	
FTLN 2836		laugh at my wife, that now laughs at thee. Tell her	180
FTLN 2837		Master Slender hath married her daughter.	
FTLN 2838	MISTRESS PAGE, ‘aside’	Doctors doubt that. If Anne	
FTLN 2839		Page be my daughter, she is, by this, Doctor Caius’	
FTLN 2840		wife.	

*Enter Slender.*

FTLN 2841	SLENDER	Whoa, ho, ho, Father Page!	185
FTLN 2842	PAGE	Son, how now! How now, son! Have you	
FTLN 2843		dispatched?	
FTLN 2844	SLENDER	“Dispatched”? I’ll make the best in Gloucestershire	
FTLN 2845		know on ’t. Would I were hanged, la, else!	
FTLN 2846	PAGE	Of what, son?	190
FTLN 2847	SLENDER	I came yonder at Eton to marry Mistress	
FTLN 2848		Anne Page, and she’s a great lubberly boy. If it had	
FTLN 2849		not been i’ th’ church, I would have swung him,	
FTLN 2850		or he should have swung me. If I did not think it	
FTLN 2851		had been Anne Page, would I might never stir! And	195
FTLN 2852		’tis a post-master’s boy.	
FTLN 2853	PAGE	Upon my life, then, you took the wrong—	
FTLN 2854	SLENDER	What need you tell me that? I think so, when	
FTLN 2855		I took a boy for a girl. If I had been married to him,	
FTLN 2856		for all he was in woman’s apparel, I would not	200
FTLN 2857		have had him.	
FTLN 2858	PAGE	Why, this is your own folly. Did not I tell you	
FTLN 2859		how you should know my daughter by her	
FTLN 2860		garments?	
FTLN 2861	SLENDER	I went to her in ‘white,’ and cried “mum,”	205
FTLN 2862		and she cried “budget,” as Anne and I had appointed,	
FTLN 2863		and yet it was not Anne, but a post-master’s	
FTLN 2864		boy.	
FTLN 2865	MISTRESS PAGE	Good George, be not angry. I knew of	
FTLN 2866		your purpose, turned my daughter into ‘green,’	210
FTLN 2867		and indeed she is now with the doctor at the deanery,	
FTLN 2868		and there married.	

*Enter ‘Doctor’ Caius.*

FTLN 2869	DOCTOR CAIUS	Vere is Mistress Page? By gar, I am cozened!	
FTLN 2870		I ha’ married <i>un garçon</i> , a boy; <i>un paysan</i> , by	
FTLN 2871		gar, a boy. It is not Anne Page. By gar, I am	215
FTLN 2872		cozened.	

FTLN 2873 MISTRESS PAGE Why? Did you take her in 'green?'  
 FTLN 2874 DOCTOR CAIUS Ay, be gar, and 'tis a boy. Be gar, I'll raise  
 FTLN 2875 all Windsor.  
 FTLN 2876 FORD This is strange. Who hath got the right Anne? 220

*Enter Fenton and Anne Page.*

FTLN 2877 PAGE My heart misgives me. Here comes Master Fenton.—  
 FTLN 2878 How now, Master Fenton!  
 FTLN 2879 ANNE Pardon, good father. Good my mother, pardon.  
 FTLN 2880 PAGE Now, mistress, how chance you went not with  
 FTLN 2881 Master Slender? 225

MISTRESS PAGE  
 FTLN 2882 Why went you not with Master Doctor, maid?  
 FENTON  
 FTLN 2883 You do amaze her. Hear the truth of it.  
 FTLN 2884 You would have married her most shamefully,  
 FTLN 2885 Where there was no proportion held in love.  
 FTLN 2886 The truth is, she and I, long since contracted, 230  
 FTLN 2887 Are now so sure that nothing can dissolve us.  
 FTLN 2888 Th' offense is holy that she hath committed,  
 FTLN 2889 And this deceit loses the name of craft,  
 FTLN 2890 Of disobedience, or unduteous title,  
 FTLN 2891 Since therein she doth evitate and shun 235  
 FTLN 2892 A thousand irreligious cursèd hours  
 FTLN 2893 Which forcèd marriage would have brought upon her.

FORD, 'to Page and Mistress Page'  
 FTLN 2894 Stand not amazed. Here is no remedy.  
 FTLN 2895 In love the heavens themselves do guide the state.  
 FTLN 2896 Money buys lands, and wives are sold by fate. 240  
 FTLN 2897 FALSTAFF I am glad, though you have ta'en a special  
 FTLN 2898 stand to strike at me, that your arrow hath  
 FTLN 2899 glanced.

PAGE  
 FTLN 2900 Well, what remedy? Fenton, heaven give thee joy.  
 FTLN 2901 What cannot be eschewed must be embraced. 245

FALSTAFF

FTLN 2902     When night-dogs run, all sorts of deer are chased.

MISTRESS PAGE

FTLN 2903     Well, I will muse no further.—Master Fenton,

FTLN 2904     Heaven give you many, many merry days.—

FTLN 2905     Good husband, let us every one go home

FTLN 2906     And laugh this sport o'er by a country fire—

250

FTLN 2907     Sir John and all.

FTLN 2908     FORD                     Let it be so, Sir John.

FTLN 2909     To Master 'Brook' you yet shall hold your word,

FTLN 2910     For he tonight shall lie with Mistress Ford.

*They exit.*

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