

*The*  
TWO NOBLE KINSMEN

*By* WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

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

Folger Shakespeare Library

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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 exists 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

*The Two Noble Kinsmen*, derived from Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales*, begins as Athens defeats Thebes in war. Arcite and Palamon, Theban knights and devoted cousins, are imprisoned in Athens. From their cell, they see Emilia, the sister-in-law of Theseus, Duke of Athens. Both fall in love with her, becoming bitter rivals.

Arcite is released but, for love of Emilia, stays in Athens at the risk of his life. The jailer's daughter, who loves Palamon, helps him escape, but goes mad with anxiety. Her original wooer cures her by courting her while pretending to be Palamon.

Arcite encounters Palamon and challenges him to formal combat for Emilia. Theseus discovers them before they duel. He first sentences both to death, but then establishes a contest in which each will participate with Theban comrades. The loser and his knights will die. The winner will wed Emilia.

Arcite prays to Mars for victory; Palamon, to Venus for Emilia's love. Both prayers are answered. Arcite wins, but dies after a riding accident. Palamon, spared from execution, marries Emilia.

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# Characters in the Play

## PROLOGUE

ARCITE } *the two noble kinsmen, cousins,*  
PALAMON } *nephews of Creon, King of Thebes*

THESEUS, Duke of Athens

HIPPOLYTA, Queen of the Amazons, later Duchess of Athens

EMILIA, her sister

PIRITHOUS, friend to Theseus

Three QUEENS, widows of the kings killed in laying siege to Thebes

The JAILER of Theseus's prison

The Jailer's DAUGHTER

The Jailer's BROTHER

The WOOER of the Jailer's daughter

Two FRIENDS of the Jailer

A DOCTOR

ARTESIUS, an Athenian soldier

VALERIUS, a Theban

WOMAN, attending on Emilia

An Athenian GENTLEMAN

Six KNIGHTS, three accompanying Arcite, three Palamon

Six COUNTRYMEN, one dressed as a BAVIAN or baboon

A SCHOOLMASTER

NELL, a countrywoman

A TABORER

A singing BOY, a HERALD, MESSENGERS, a SERVANT

## EPILOGUE

Hymen (god of weddings), lords, soldiers, four countrywomen (Fritz, Maudlin, Luce, and Barbary), nymphs, attendants, maids, executioner, guard

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PROLOGUE

FTLN 0001 New plays and maidenheads are near akin:  
FTLN 0002 Much followed both, for both much money giv'n,  
FTLN 0003 If they stand sound and well. And a good play,  
FTLN 0004 Whose modest scenes blush on his marriage day  
FTLN 0005 And shake to lose his honor, is like her 5  
FTLN 0006 That after holy tie and first night's stir  
FTLN 0007 Yet still is modesty, and still retains  
FTLN 0008 More of the maid, to sight, than husband's pains.  
FTLN 0009 We pray our play may be so, for I am sure  
FTLN 0010 It has a noble breeder and a pure, 10  
FTLN 0011 A learnèd, and a poet never went  
FTLN 0012 More famous yet 'twixt Po and silver Trent.  
FTLN 0013 Chaucer, of all admired, the story gives;  
FTLN 0014 There, constant to eternity, it lives.  
FTLN 0015 If we let fall the nobleness of this, 15  
FTLN 0016 And the first sound this child hear be a hiss,  
FTLN 0017 How will it shake the bones of that good man  
FTLN 0018 And make him cry from underground "O, fan  
FTLN 0019 From me the witless chaff of such a writer  
FTLN 0020 That blasts my bays and my famed works makes 20  
FTLN 0021 lighter  
FTLN 0022 Than Robin Hood!" This is the fear we bring;  
FTLN 0023 For, to say truth, it were an endless thing  
FTLN 0024 And too ambitious, to aspire to him,  
FTLN 0025 Weak as we are, and, almost breathless, swim 25  
FTLN 0026 In this deep water. Do but you hold out  
FTLN 0027 Your helping hands, and we shall [tack] about  
FTLN 0028 And something do to save us. You shall hear  
FTLN 0029 Scenes, though below his art, may yet appear  
FTLN 0030 Worth two hours' travel. To his bones sweet sleep; 30

FTLN 0031

Content to you. If this play do not keep

FTLN 0032

A little dull time from us, we perceive

FTLN 0033

Our losses fall so thick we must needs leave.

*Flourish. [He exits.]*

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# ACT 1

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## 「Scene 1」

*Music. Enter Hymen with a torch burning, a Boy in a white robe before, singing and strewing flowers. After Hymen, a Nymph encompassed in her tresses, bearing a wheaten garland; then Theseus between two other Nymphs with wheaten chaplets on their heads. Then Hippolyta, the bride, led by 「Pirithous,」 and another holding a garland over her head, her tresses likewise hanging. After her, Emilia, holding up her train. 「Then Artesius and Attendants.」*

### *The Song, 「sung by the Boy.」*

FTLN 0034	<i>Roses, their sharp spines being gone,</i>	
FTLN 0035	<i>Not royal in their smells alone,</i>	
FTLN 0036	<i>But in their hue;</i>	
FTLN 0037	<i>Maiden pinks, of odor faint,</i>	
FTLN 0038	<i>Daisies smell-less, yet most quaint,</i>	5
FTLN 0039	<i>And sweet thyme true;</i>	
FTLN 0040	<i>Primrose, firstborn child of Ver,</i>	
FTLN 0041	<i>Merry springtime's harbinger,</i>	
FTLN 0042	<i>With her bells dim;</i>	
FTLN 0043	<i>Oxlips in their cradles growing,</i>	10
FTLN 0044	<i>Marigolds on deathbeds blowing,</i>	
FTLN 0045	<i>Lark's-heels trim;</i>	
FTLN 0046	<i>All dear Nature's children 「sweet</i>	
FTLN 0047	<i>Lie」 'fore bride and bridegroom's feet,</i>	
	<i>Strew flowers.</i>	

FTLN 0048           *Blessing their sense.* 15  
 FTLN 0049           *Not an angel of the air,*  
 FTLN 0050           *Bird melodious or bird fair,*  
 FTLN 0051           *Is absent hence.*  
 FTLN 0052           *The crow, the sland'rous cuckoo, nor*  
 FTLN 0053           *The boding raven, nor 'chough hoar,'* 20  
 FTLN 0054           *Nor chatt'ring pie,*  
 FTLN 0055           *May on our bridehouse perch or sing,*  
 FTLN 0056           *Or with them any discord bring,*  
 FTLN 0057           *But from it fly.*

*Enter three Queens in black, with veils stained, with imperial crowns. The first Queen falls down at the foot of Theseus; the second falls down at the foot of Hippolyta; the third before Emilia.*

FIRST QUEEN, 'to Theseus'  
 FTLN 0058           For pity's sake and true gentility's, 25  
 FTLN 0059           Hear and respect me.  
 SECOND QUEEN, 'to Hippolyta'   For your mother's sake,  
 FTLN 0060           And as you wish your womb may thrive with fair  
 FTLN 0061           ones,  
 FTLN 0062           Hear and respect me. 30  
 FTLN 0063  
 THIRD QUEEN, 'to Emilia'  
 FTLN 0064           Now for the love of him whom Jove hath marked  
 FTLN 0065           The honor of your bed, and for the sake  
 FTLN 0066           Of clear virginity, be advocate  
 FTLN 0067           For us and our distresses. This good deed  
 FTLN 0068           Shall raze you out o' th' book of trespasses 35  
 FTLN 0069           All you are set down there.  
 THESEUS, 'to First Queen'  
 FTLN 0070           Sad lady, rise.  
 FTLN 0071           HIPPOLYTA, 'to Second Queen'   Stand up.  
 FTLN 0072           EMILIA, 'to Third Queen'           No knees to me.  
 FTLN 0073           What woman I may stead that is distressed 40  
 FTLN 0074           Does bind me to her.

THESEUS, *['to First Queen']*

FTLN 0075	What's your request? Deliver you for all.	
	FIRST QUEEN	
FTLN 0076	We are three queens whose sovereigns fell before	
FTLN 0077	The wrath of cruel Creon; who endured	
FTLN 0078	The beaks of ravens, talons of the kites,	45
FTLN 0079	And pecks of crows in the foul fields of Thebes.	
FTLN 0080	He will not suffer us to burn their bones,	
FTLN 0081	To urn their ashes, nor to take th' offense	
FTLN 0082	Of mortal loathsomeness from the blest eye	
FTLN 0083	Of holy Phoebus, but infects the winds	50
FTLN 0084	With stench of our slain lords. O, pity, duke!	
FTLN 0085	Thou purger of the Earth, draw thy feared sword	
FTLN 0086	That does good turns to th' world; give us the bones	
FTLN 0087	Of our dead kings, that we may chapel them;	
FTLN 0088	And of thy boundless goodness take some note	55
FTLN 0089	That for our crownèd heads we have no roof	
FTLN 0090	Save this, which is the lion's and the bear's,	
FTLN 0091	And vault to everything.	
FTLN 0092	THESEUS	Pray you, kneel not.
FTLN 0093	I was transported with your speech and suffered	60
FTLN 0094	Your knees to wrong themselves. I have heard the	
FTLN 0095	fortunes	
FTLN 0096	Of your dead lords, which gives me such lamenting	
FTLN 0097	As wakes my vengeance and revenge for 'em.	
FTLN 0098	King Capaneus was your lord. The day	65
FTLN 0099	That he should marry you, at such a season	
FTLN 0100	As now it is with me, I met your groom	
FTLN 0101	By Mars's altar. You were that time fair—	
FTLN 0102	Not Juno's mantle fairer than your tresses,	
FTLN 0103	Nor in more bounty spread her. Your wheaten	70
FTLN 0104	wreath	
FTLN 0105	Was then nor threshed nor blasted. Fortune at you	
FTLN 0106	Dimpled her cheek with smiles. Hercules, our	
FTLN 0107	kinsman,	
FTLN 0108	Then weaker than your eyes, laid by his club;	75

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FTLN 0109	He tumbled down upon his <i>['Nemean']</i> hide	
FTLN 0110	And swore his sinews thawed. O grief and time,	
FTLN 0111	Fearful consumers, you will all devour!	
FTLN 0112	FIRST QUEEN O, I hope some god,	
FTLN 0113	Some god hath put his mercy in your manhood,	80
FTLN 0114	Whereto he'll infuse power, and press you forth	
FTLN 0115	Our undertaker.	
FTLN 0116	THESEUS O, no knees, none, widow!	
FTLN 0117	Unto the helmeted Bellona use them	
FTLN 0118	And pray for me, your soldier. <i>['The First Queen rises.']</i>	85
FTLN 0119	Troubled I am. <i>Turns away.</i>	
FTLN 0120	SECOND QUEEN Honored Hippolyta,	
FTLN 0121	Most dreaded Amazonian, that hast slain	
FTLN 0122	The scythe-tusked boar; that with thy arm, as strong	
FTLN 0123	As it is white, wast near to make the male	90
FTLN 0124	To thy sex captive, but that this thy lord,	
FTLN 0125	Born to uphold creation in that honor	
FTLN 0126	First nature styled it in, shrunk thee into	
FTLN 0127	The bound thou wast o'erflowing, at once subduing	
FTLN 0128	Thy force and thy affection; soldieress	95
FTLN 0129	That equally canst poise sternness with pity,	
FTLN 0130	Whom now I know hast much more power on him	
FTLN 0131	Than ever he had on thee, who ow'st his strength	
FTLN 0132	And his love too, who is a servant for	
FTLN 0133	The tenor of <i>['thy']</i> speech, dear glass of ladies,	100
FTLN 0134	Bid him that we, whom flaming war doth scorch,	
FTLN 0135	Under the shadow of his sword may cool us;	
FTLN 0136	Require him he advance it o'er our heads;	
FTLN 0137	Speak 't in a woman's key, like such a woman	
FTLN 0138	As any of us three; weep ere you fail.	105
FTLN 0139	Lend us a knee;	
FTLN 0140	But touch the ground for us no longer time	
FTLN 0141	Than a dove's motion when the head's plucked off.	
FTLN 0142	Tell him if he i' th' blood-sized field lay swoll'n,	
FTLN 0143	Showing the sun his teeth, grinning at the moon,	110
FTLN 0144	What you would do.	

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FTLN 0145	HIPPOLYTA	Poor lady, say no more.	
FTLN 0146		I had as lief trace this good action with you	
FTLN 0147		As that whereto I am going, and never yet	
FTLN 0148		Went I so willing way. My lord is taken	115
FTLN 0149		Heart-deep with your distress; let him consider.	
FTLN 0150		I'll speak anon.	<i>「Second Queen rises.」</i>
FTLN 0151	THIRD QUEEN	O, my petition was	
FTLN 0152		Set down in ice, which by hot grief uncandied	
FTLN 0153		Melts into drops; so sorrow, wanting form,	120
FTLN 0154		Is pressed with deeper matter.	
FTLN 0155	EMILIA	Pray stand up.	
FTLN 0156		Your grief is written in your cheek.	
FTLN 0157	THIRD QUEEN	O, woe!	
FTLN 0158		You cannot read it there.	<i>「She rises.」</i> 125
FTLN 0159		There through my tears,	
FTLN 0160		Like wrinkled pebbles in a <i>「glassy」</i> stream,	
FTLN 0161		You may behold 'em. Lady, lady, alack!	
FTLN 0162		He that will all the treasure know o' th' Earth	
FTLN 0163		Must know the center too; he that will fish	130
FTLN 0164		For my least minnow, let him lead his line	
FTLN 0165		To catch one at my heart. O, pardon me!	
FTLN 0166		Extremity, that sharpens sundry wits,	
FTLN 0167		Makes me a fool.	
FTLN 0168	EMILIA	Pray you say nothing, pray you.	135
FTLN 0169		Who cannot feel nor see the rain, being in 't,	
FTLN 0170		Knows neither wet nor dry. If that you were	
FTLN 0171		The groundpiece of some painter, I would buy you	
FTLN 0172		T' instruct me 'gainst a capital grief—indeed,	
FTLN 0173		Such heart-pierced demonstration. But, alas,	140
FTLN 0174		Being a natural sister of our sex,	
FTLN 0175		Your sorrow beats so ardently upon me	
FTLN 0176		That it shall make a counter-reflect 'gainst	
FTLN 0177		My brother's heart and warm it to some pity,	
FTLN 0178		Though it were made of stone. Pray have good	145
FTLN 0179		comfort.	

THESEUS, *['coming forward']*

FTLN 0180 Forward to th' temple. Leave not out a jot  
FTLN 0181 O' th' sacred ceremony.

FTLN 0182 FIRST QUEEN O, this celebration

FTLN 0183 Will *['longer']* last and be more costly than 150

FTLN 0184 Your suppliants' war. Remember that your fame

FTLN 0185 Knolls in the ear o' th' world; what you do quickly

FTLN 0186 Is not done rashly; your first thought is more

FTLN 0187 Than others' labored medittance, your premeditating

FTLN 0188 More than their actions. But, O Jove, your actions, 155

FTLN 0189 Soon as they *['move,']* as ospreys do the fish,

FTLN 0190 Subdue before they touch. Think, dear duke, think

FTLN 0191 What beds our slain kings have!

FTLN 0192 SECOND QUEEN What griefs our beds,

FTLN 0193 That our dear lords have none! 160

FTLN 0194 THIRD QUEEN None fit for th' dead.

FTLN 0195 Those that with cords, knives, drams, precipitance,

FTLN 0196 Weary of this world's light, have to themselves

FTLN 0197 Been death's most horrid agents, human grace

FTLN 0198 Affords them dust and shadow. 165

FTLN 0199 FIRST QUEEN But our lords

FTLN 0200 Lie blist'ring 'fore the visitating sun,

FTLN 0201 And were good kings when living.

THESEUS

FTLN 0202 It is true, and I will give you comfort

FTLN 0203 To give your dead lords graves; 170

FTLN 0204 The which to do must make some work with Creon.

FIRST QUEEN

FTLN 0205 And that work presents itself to th' doing.

FTLN 0206 Now 'twill take form; the heats are gone tomorrow.

FTLN 0207 Then, bootless toil must recompense itself

FTLN 0208 With its own sweat. Now he's secure, 175

FTLN 0209 Not dreams we stand before your puissance,

FTLN 0210 Rinsing our holy begging in our eyes

FTLN 0211 To make petition clear.

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FTLN 0212	SECOND QUEEN	Now you may take him,	
FTLN 0213		Drunk with his victory.	180
FTLN 0214	THIRD QUEEN	And his army full	
FTLN 0215		Of bread and sloth.	
FTLN 0216	THESEUS	Artesius, that best knowest	
FTLN 0217		How to draw out, fit to this enterprise,	
FTLN 0218		The prim'st for this proceeding, and the number	185
FTLN 0219		To carry such a business: forth and levy	
FTLN 0220		Our worthiest instruments, whilst we dispatch	
FTLN 0221		This grand act of our life, this daring deed	
FTLN 0222		Of fate in wedlock.	
	FIRST QUEEN, <i>['to Second and Third Queens']</i>		
FTLN 0223		Dowagers, take hands.	190
FTLN 0224		Let us be widows to our woes. Delay	
FTLN 0225		Commends us to a famishing hope.	
FTLN 0226	ALL <i>['THE QUEENS']</i>	Farewell.	
	SECOND QUEEN		
FTLN 0227		We come unseasonably; but when could grief	
FTLN 0228		Cull forth, as unpanged judgment can, fitt'st time	195
FTLN 0229		For best solicitation?	
FTLN 0230	THESEUS	Why, good ladies,	
FTLN 0231		This is a service whereto I am going	
FTLN 0232		Greater than any was; it more imports me	
FTLN 0233		Than all the actions that I have foregone,	200
FTLN 0234		Or futurely can cope.	
FTLN 0235	FIRST QUEEN	The more proclaiming	
FTLN 0236		Our suit shall be neglected when her arms,	
FTLN 0237		Able to lock Jove from a synod, shall	
FTLN 0238		By warranting moonlight corselet thee. O, when	205
FTLN 0239		Her twinning cherries shall their sweetness fall	
FTLN 0240		Upon thy tasteful lips, what wilt thou think	
FTLN 0241		Of rotten kings or blubbered queens? What care	
FTLN 0242		For what thou feel'st not, what thou feel'st being	
FTLN 0243		able	210
FTLN 0244		To make Mars spurn his drum? O, if thou couch	
FTLN 0245		But one night with her, every hour in 't will	

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FTLN 0246	Take hostage of thee for a hundred, and	
FTLN 0247	Thou shalt remember nothing more than what	
FTLN 0248	That banquet bids thee to.	215
FTLN 0249	HIPPOLYTA, 「 <i>to Theseus</i> 」	Though much unlike
FTLN 0250	You should be so transported, as much sorry	
FTLN 0251	I should be such a suitor, yet I think	
FTLN 0252	Did I not, by th' abstaining of my joy—	
FTLN 0253	Which breeds a deeper longing—cure their surfeit	220
FTLN 0254	That craves a present med'cine, I should pluck	
FTLN 0255	All ladies' scandal on me.	「 <i>She kneels.</i> 」
FTLN 0256		Therefore, sir,
FTLN 0257	As I shall here make trial of my prayers,	
FTLN 0258	Either presuming them to have some force,	225
FTLN 0259	Or sentencing for aye their vigor dumb,	
FTLN 0260	Prorogue this business we are going about, and	
FTLN 0261	hang	
FTLN 0262	Your shield afore your heart—about that neck	
FTLN 0263	Which is my fee, and which I freely lend	230
FTLN 0264	To do these poor queens service.	
FTLN 0265	ALL QUEENS, 「 <i>to Emilia</i> 」	O, help now!
FTLN 0266	Our cause cries for your knee.	
FTLN 0267	EMILIA, 「 <i>to Theseus, kneeling</i> 」	If you grant not
FTLN 0268	My sister her petition in that force,	235
FTLN 0269	With that celerity and nature which	
FTLN 0270	She makes it in, from henceforth I'll not dare	
FTLN 0271	To ask you anything, nor be so hardy	
FTLN 0272	Ever to take a husband.	
FTLN 0273	THESEUS	Pray stand up. 240
		「 <i>Hippolyta and Emilia rise.</i> 」
FTLN 0274	I am entreating of myself to do	
FTLN 0275	That which you kneel to have me.—Pirithous,	
FTLN 0276	Lead on the bride; get you and pray the gods	
FTLN 0277	For success and return; omit not anything	
FTLN 0278	In the pretended celebration.—Queens,	245
FTLN 0279	Follow your soldier. 「 <i>To Artesius.</i> 」	As before, hence
FTLN 0280	you,	

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FTLN 0281	And at the banks of 「Aulis」 meet us with	
FTLN 0282	The forces you can raise, where we shall find	
FTLN 0283	The moiety of a number for a business	250
FTLN 0284	More bigger looked.	「 <i>Artesius exits.</i> 」
FTLN 0285	「 <i>To Hippolyta.</i> 」 Since that our theme is haste,	
FTLN 0286	I stamp this kiss upon thy currant lip;	
FTLN 0287	Sweet, keep it as my token.—Set you forward,	
FTLN 0288	For I will see you gone.	255
		「 <i>The wedding procession begins to</i> 」 <i>exit</i> <i>towards the temple.</i>
FTLN 0289	Farewell, my beauteous sister.—Pirithous,	
FTLN 0290	Keep the feast full; bate not an hour on 't.	
FTLN 0291	PIRITHOUS	Sir,
FTLN 0292	I'll follow you at heels. The feast's solemnity	
FTLN 0293	Shall want till your return.	260
FTLN 0294	THESEUS	Cousin, I charge you,
FTLN 0295	Budge not from Athens. We shall be returning	
FTLN 0296	Ere you can end this feast, of which I pray you	
FTLN 0297	Make no abatement.—Once more, farewell all.	
		「 <i>All but Theseus and the Queens exit.</i> 」
	FIRST QUEEN	
FTLN 0298	Thus dost thou still make good the tongue o' th'	265
FTLN 0299	world.	
	SECOND QUEEN	
FTLN 0300	And earn'st a deity equal with Mars.	
FTLN 0301	THIRD QUEEN	If not above him, for
FTLN 0302	Thou, being but mortal, makest affections bend	
FTLN 0303	To godlike honors; they themselves, some say,	270
FTLN 0304	Groan under such a mast'ry.	
FTLN 0305	THESEUS	As we are men,
FTLN 0306	Thus should we do; being sensually subdued,	
FTLN 0307	We lose our human title. Good cheer, ladies.	
FTLN 0308	Now turn we towards your comforts.	275
		<i>Flourish. They exit.</i>

## Scene 2

*Enter Palamon and Arcite.*

ARCITE

FTLN 0309 Dear Palamon, dearer in love than blood  
 FTLN 0310 And our prime cousin, yet unhardened in  
 FTLN 0311 The crimes of nature, let us leave the city  
 FTLN 0312 Thebes, and the temptings in 't, before we further  
 FTLN 0313 Sully our gloss of youth, 5  
 FTLN 0314 And here to keep in abstinence we shame  
 FTLN 0315 As in incontinence; for not to swim  
 FTLN 0316 I' th' aid o' th' current were almost to sink,  
 FTLN 0317 At least to frustrate striving; and to follow  
 FTLN 0318 The common stream, 'twould bring us to an eddy 10  
 FTLN 0319 Where we should turn or drown; if labor through,  
 FTLN 0320 Our gain but life and weakness.

PALAMON

Your advice

FTLN 0322 Is cried up with example. What strange ruins,  
 FTLN 0323 Since first we went to school, may we perceive 15  
 FTLN 0324 Walking in Thebes! Scars and bare weeds  
 FTLN 0325 The gain o' th' martialist, who did propound  
 FTLN 0326 To his bold ends honor and golden ingots,  
 FTLN 0327 Which though he won, he had not, and now flirted  
 FTLN 0328 By peace for whom he fought. Who then shall offer 20  
 FTLN 0329 To Mars's so-scorned altar? I do bleed  
 FTLN 0330 When such I meet, and wish great Juno would  
 FTLN 0331 Resume her ancient fit of jealousy  
 FTLN 0332 To get the soldier work, that peace might purge  
 FTLN 0333 For her repletion, and retain anew 25  
 FTLN 0334 Her charitable heart, now hard and harsher  
 FTLN 0335 Than strife or war could be.

ARCITE

Are you not out?

FTLN 0337 Meet you no ruin but the soldier in  
 FTLN 0338 The cranks and turns of Thebes? You did begin 30  
 FTLN 0339 As if you met decays of many kinds.

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FTLN 0340	Perceive you none that do arouse your pity	
FTLN 0341	But th' unconsidered soldier?	
FTLN 0342	PALAMON	Yes, I pity
FTLN 0343	Decays where'er I find them, but such most	35
FTLN 0344	That, sweating in an honorable toil,	
FTLN 0345	Are paid with ice to cool 'em.	
FTLN 0346	ARCITE	'Tis not this
FTLN 0347	I did begin to speak of. This is virtue	
FTLN 0348	Of no respect in Thebes. I spake of Thebes—	40
FTLN 0349	How dangerous, if we will keep our honors,	
FTLN 0350	It is for our residing, where every evil	
FTLN 0351	Hath a good color; where every seeming good's	
FTLN 0352	A certain evil; where not to be e'en jump	
FTLN 0353	As they are here were to be strangers, and,	45
FTLN 0354	Such things to be, mere monsters.	
FTLN 0355	PALAMON	'Tis in our power—
FTLN 0356	Unless we fear that apes can tutor 's—to	
FTLN 0357	Be masters of our manners. What need I	
FTLN 0358	Affect another's gait, which is not catching	50
FTLN 0359	Where there is faith? Or to be fond upon	
FTLN 0360	Another's way of speech, when by mine own	
FTLN 0361	I may be reasonably conceived—saved too,	
FTLN 0362	Speaking it truly? Why am I bound	
FTLN 0363	By any generous bond to follow him	55
FTLN 0364	Follows his tailor, haply so long until	
FTLN 0365	The followed make pursuit? Or let me know	
FTLN 0366	Why mine own barber is unblest, with him	
FTLN 0367	My poor chin too, for 'tis not scissored just	
FTLN 0368	To such a favorite's glass? What canon is there	60
FTLN 0369	That does command my rapier from my hip	
FTLN 0370	To dangle 't in my hand, or to go tiptoe	
FTLN 0371	Before the street be foul? Either I am	
FTLN 0372	The forehorse in the team, or I am none	
FTLN 0373	That draw i' th' sequent trace. These poor slight	65
FTLN 0374	sores	

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FTLN 0375	Need not a plantain. That which rips my bosom	
FTLN 0376	Almost to th' heart's—	
FTLN 0377	ARCITE	Our Uncle Creon.
FTLN 0378	PALAMON	He. 70
FTLN 0379	A most unbounded tyrant, whose successes	
FTLN 0380	Makes heaven unfeared and villainy assured	
FTLN 0381	Beyond its power there's nothing; almost puts	
FTLN 0382	Faith in a fever, and deifies alone	
FTLN 0383	Voluble chance; who only attributes	75
FTLN 0384	The faculties of other instruments	
FTLN 0385	To his own nerves and act; commands men service,	
FTLN 0386	And what they win in 't, boot and glory; one	
FTLN 0387	That fears not to do harm; good, dares not. Let	
FTLN 0388	The blood of mine that's sib to him be sucked	80
FTLN 0389	From me with leeches; let them break and fall	
FTLN 0390	Off me with that corruption.	
FTLN 0391	ARCITE	Clear-spirited cousin,
FTLN 0392	Let's leave his court, that we may nothing share	
FTLN 0393	Of his loud infamy; for our milk	85
FTLN 0394	Will relish of the pasture, and we must	
FTLN 0395	Be vile or disobedient, not his kinsmen	
FTLN 0396	In blood unless in quality.	
FTLN 0397	PALAMON	Nothing truer.
FTLN 0398	I think the echoes of his shames have deafed	90
FTLN 0399	The ears of heav'nly justice. Widows' cries	
FTLN 0400	Descend again into their throats and have not	
FTLN 0401	Due audience of the gods.	

*Enter Valerius.*

FTLN 0402	Valerius.	
	VALERIUS	
FTLN 0403	The King calls for you; yet be leaden-footed	95
FTLN 0404	Till his great rage be off him. Phoebus, when	
FTLN 0405	He broke his whipstock and exclaimed against	
FTLN 0406	The horses of the sun, but whispered to	
FTLN 0407	The loudness of his fury.	

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FTLN 0408	PALAMON	Small winds shake him.	100
FTLN 0409		But what's the matter?	
	VALERIUS		
FTLN 0410		Theseus, who where he threats appalls, hath sent	
FTLN 0411		Deadly defiance to him and pronounces	
FTLN 0412		Ruin to Thebes, who is at hand to seal	
FTLN 0413		The promise of his wrath.	105
FTLN 0414	ARCITE	Let him approach.	
FTLN 0415		But that we fear the gods in him, he brings not	
FTLN 0416		A jot of terror to us. Yet what man	
FTLN 0417		Thirds his own worth—the case is each of ours—	
FTLN 0418		When that his action's dregged with mind assured	110
FTLN 0419		'Tis bad he goes about?	
FTLN 0420	PALAMON	Leave that unreasoned.	
FTLN 0421		Our services stand now for Thebes, not Creon.	
FTLN 0422		Yet to be neutral to him were dishonor,	
FTLN 0423		Rebellious to oppose. Therefore we must	115
FTLN 0424		With him stand to the mercy of our fate,	
FTLN 0425		Who hath bounded our last minute.	
FTLN 0426	ARCITE	So we must.	
FTLN 0427		「 <i>To Valerius.</i> 」 Is 't said this war's afoot? Or, it shall	
FTLN 0428		be,	120
FTLN 0429		On fail of some condition?	
FTLN 0430	VALERIUS	'Tis in motion;	
FTLN 0431		The intelligence of state came in the instant	
FTLN 0432		With the defier.	
FTLN 0433	PALAMON	Let's to the King, who, were he	125
FTLN 0434		A quarter carrier of that honor which	
FTLN 0435		His enemy come in, the blood we venture	
FTLN 0436		Should be as for our health, which were not spent,	
FTLN 0437		Rather laid out for purchase. But alas,	
FTLN 0438		Our hands advanced before our hearts, what will	130
FTLN 0439		The fall o' th' stroke do damage?	
FTLN 0440	ARCITE	Let th' event,	
FTLN 0441		That never-erring arbitrator, tell us	

FTLN 0442 When we know all ourselves, and let us follow  
 FTLN 0443 The becking of our chance. 135

*They exit.*

## Scene 3

*Enter Pirithous, Hippolyta, Emilia.*

PIRITHOUS  
 FTLN 0444 No further.

HIPPOLYTA Sir, farewell. Repeat my wishes  
 FTLN 0446 To our great lord, of whose success I dare not  
 FTLN 0447 Make any timorous question; yet I wish him  
 FTLN 0448 Excess and overflow of power, an 't might be, 5  
 FTLN 0449 To dure ill-dealing fortune. Speed to him.  
 FTLN 0450 Store never hurts good governors.

PIRITHOUS Though I know  
 FTLN 0452 His ocean needs not my poor drops, yet they  
 FTLN 0453 Must yield their tribute there.—My precious maid, 10  
 FTLN 0454 Those best affections that the heavens infuse  
 FTLN 0455 In their best-tempered pieces keep enthroned  
 FTLN 0456 In your dear heart!

EMILIA Thanks, sir. Remember me  
 FTLN 0458 To our all-royal brother, for whose speed 15  
 FTLN 0459 The great Bellona I'll solicit; and  
 FTLN 0460 Since in our terrene state petitions are not  
 FTLN 0461 Without gifts understood, I'll offer to her  
 FTLN 0462 What I shall be advised she likes. Our hearts  
 FTLN 0463 Are in his army, in his tent. 20

HIPPOLYTA In 's bosom.  
 FTLN 0465 We have been soldiers, and we cannot weep  
 FTLN 0466 When our friends don their helms or put to sea,  
 FTLN 0467 Or tell of babes broached on the lance, or women  
 FTLN 0468 That have sod their infants in—and after ate them— 25  
 FTLN 0469 The brine they wept at killing 'em. Then if

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FTLN 0470	You stay to see of us such spinsters, we	
FTLN 0471	Should hold you here forever.	
FTLN 0472	PIRITHOUS	Peace be to you
FTLN 0473	As I pursue this war, which shall be then	30
FTLN 0474	Beyond further requiring.	<i>Pirithous exits.</i>
FTLN 0475	EMILIA	How his longing
FTLN 0476	Follows his friend! Since his depart, his sports,	
FTLN 0477	Though craving seriousness and skill, passed slightly	
FTLN 0478	His careless execution, where nor gain	35
FTLN 0479	Made him regard, or loss consider, but	
FTLN 0480	Playing 「one」 business in his hand, another	
FTLN 0481	Directing in his head, his mind nurse equal	
FTLN 0482	To these so diff'ring twins. Have you observed him	
FTLN 0483	Since our great lord departed?	40
FTLN 0484	HIPPOLYTA	With much labor,
FTLN 0485	And I did love him for 't. They two have cabined	
FTLN 0486	In many as dangerous as poor a corner,	
FTLN 0487	Peril and want contending; they have skiffed	
FTLN 0488	Torrents whose roaring tyranny and power	45
FTLN 0489	I' th' least of these was dreadful, and they have	
FTLN 0490	Fought out together where Death's self was lodged.	
FTLN 0491	Yet fate hath brought them off. Their knot of love,	
FTLN 0492	Tied, weaved, entangled, with so true, so long,	
FTLN 0493	And with a finger of so deep a cunning,	50
FTLN 0494	May be outworn, never undone. I think	
FTLN 0495	Theseus cannot be umpire to himself,	
FTLN 0496	Cleaving his conscience into twain and doing	
FTLN 0497	Each side like justice, which he loves best.	
FTLN 0498	EMILIA	Doubtless
FTLN 0499	There is a best, and reason has no manners	55
FTLN 0500	To say it is not you. I was acquainted	
FTLN 0501	Once with a time when I enjoyed a playfellow;	
FTLN 0502	You were at wars when she the grave enriched,	
FTLN 0503	Who made too proud the bed; took leave o' th' moon,	60
FTLN 0504	Which then looked pale at parting, when our count	
FTLN 0505	Was each eleven.	

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FTLN 0506	HIPPOLYTA	'Twas 「Flavina.」	
FTLN 0507	EMILIA	Yes.	
FTLN 0508		You talk of Pirithous' and Theseus' love.	65
FTLN 0509		Theirs has more ground, is more maturely seasoned,	
FTLN 0510		More buckled with strong judgment, and their needs	
FTLN 0511		The one of th' other may be said to water	
FTLN 0512		Their intertangled roots of love. But I,	
FTLN 0513		And she I sigh and spoke of, were things innocent,	70
FTLN 0514		Loved for we did, and like the elements	
FTLN 0515		That know not what nor why, yet do effect	
FTLN 0516		Rare issues by their operance, our souls	
FTLN 0517		Did so to one another. What she liked	
FTLN 0518		Was then of me approved, what not, condemned,	75
FTLN 0519		No more arraignment. The flower that I would pluck	
FTLN 0520		And put between my breasts—O, then but beginning	
FTLN 0521		To swell about the blossom—she would long	
FTLN 0522		Till she had such another, and commit it	
FTLN 0523		To the like innocent cradle, where, Phoenix-like,	80
FTLN 0524		They died in perfume. On my head no toy	
FTLN 0525		But was her pattern; her affections—pretty,	
FTLN 0526		Though haply 「hers」 careless were—I followed	
FTLN 0527		For my most serious decking. Had mine ear	
FTLN 0528		Stol'n some new air, or at adventure hummed one	85
FTLN 0529		From musical coinage, why, it was a note	
FTLN 0530		Whereon her spirits would sojourn—rather, dwell	
FTLN 0531		on—	
FTLN 0532		And sing it in her slumbers. This rehearsal—	
FTLN 0533		Which fury-innocent wots well comes in	90
FTLN 0534		Like old importment's bastard—has this end,	
FTLN 0535		That the true love 'tween maid and maid may be	
FTLN 0536		More than in sex individual.	
FTLN 0537	HIPPOLYTA	You're out of breath,	
FTLN 0538		And this high-speeded pace is but to say	95
FTLN 0539		That you shall never—like the maid Flavina—	
FTLN 0540		Love any that's called man.	
FTLN 0541	EMILIA	I am sure I shall not.	

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FTLN 0542 HIPPOLYTA Now, alack, weak sister,  
 FTLN 0543 I must no more believe thee in this point— 100  
 FTLN 0544 Though in 't I know thou dost believe thyself—  
 FTLN 0545 Than I will trust a sickly appetite,  
 FTLN 0546 That loathes even as it longs. But sure, my sister,  
 FTLN 0547 If I were ripe for your persuasion, you  
 FTLN 0548 Have said enough to shake me from the arm 105  
 FTLN 0549 Of the all-noble Theseus, for whose fortunes  
 FTLN 0550 I will now in and kneel, with great assurance  
 FTLN 0551 That we, more than his Pirithous, possess  
 FTLN 0552 The high throne in his heart.  
 FTLN 0553 EMILIA I am not 110  
 FTLN 0554 Against your faith, yet I continue mine.

*They exit.*

#### Scene 4

*Cornets. A battle struck within; then a retreat.  
 Flourish. Then enter, 「through one door,」 Theseus,  
 victor, 「accompanied by Lords and Soldiers.  
 Entering through another door,」 the three Queens  
 meet him, and fall on their faces before him.*

FIRST QUEEN  
 FTLN 0555 To thee no star be dark!  
 FTLN 0556 SECOND QUEEN Both heaven and Earth  
 FTLN 0557 Friend thee forever.  
 FTLN 0558 THIRD QUEEN All the good that may  
 FTLN 0559 Be wished upon thy head, I cry “Amen” to 't! 5  
 THESEUS  
 FTLN 0560 Th' impartial gods, who from the mounted heavens  
 FTLN 0561 View us their mortal herd, behold who err  
 FTLN 0562 And, in their time, chastise. Go and find out  
 FTLN 0563 The bones of your dead lords and honor them  
 FTLN 0564 With treble ceremony; rather than a gap 10  
 FTLN 0565 Should be in their dear rites, we would supply 't;

FTLN 0566 But those we will depute which shall invest  
 FTLN 0567 You in your dignities and even each thing  
 FTLN 0568 Our haste does leave imperfect. So, adieu,  
 FTLN 0569 And heaven's good eyes look on you. *Queens exit.* 15

*¶Enter a Herald and Soldiers bearing Palamon  
 and Arcite on biers.¶*

FTLN 0570 What are those?  
 HERALD  
 FTLN 0571 Men of great quality, as may be judged  
 FTLN 0572 By their appointment. Some of Thebes have told 's  
 FTLN 0573 They are sisters' children, nephews to the King.  
 THESEUS  
 FTLN 0574 By th' helm of Mars, I saw them in the war, 20  
 FTLN 0575 Like to a pair of lions, smeared with prey,  
 FTLN 0576 Make lanes in troops aghast. I fixed my note  
 FTLN 0577 Constantly on them, for they were a mark  
 FTLN 0578 Worth a god's view. What prisoner was 't that told me  
 FTLN 0579 When I enquired their names? 25  
 FTLN 0580 HERALD ¶Wi' leave, they're called  
 FTLN 0581 Arcite and Palamon.  
 FTLN 0582 THESEUS 'Tis right; those, those.  
 FTLN 0583 They are not dead?  
 HERALD  
 FTLN 0584 Nor in a state of life. Had they been taken 30  
 FTLN 0585 When their last hurts were given, 'twas possible  
 FTLN 0586 They might have been recovered. Yet they breathe  
 FTLN 0587 And have the name of men.  
 FTLN 0588 THESEUS Then like men use 'em.  
 FTLN 0589 The very lees of such, millions of rates, 35  
 FTLN 0590 Exceed the wine of others. All our surgeons  
 FTLN 0591 Convent in their behoof; our richest balms,  
 FTLN 0592 Rather than niggard, waste. Their lives concern us  
 FTLN 0593 Much more than Thebes is worth. Rather than have  
 FTLN 0594 'em 40

FTLN 0595 Freed of this plight, and in their morning state,  
 FTLN 0596 Sound and at liberty, I would 'em dead.  
 FTLN 0597 But forty-thousandfold we had rather have 'em  
 FTLN 0598 Prisoners to us than Death. Bear 'em speedily  
 FTLN 0599 From our kind air, to them unkind, and minister 45  
 FTLN 0600 What man to man may do—for our sake, more,  
 FTLN 0601 Since I have known frights, fury, friends' behests,  
 FTLN 0602 Love's provocations, zeal, a mistress' task,  
 FTLN 0603 Desire of liberty, a fever, madness,  
 FTLN 0604 Hath set a mark which nature could not reach to 50  
 FTLN 0605 Without some imposition, sickness in will  
 FTLN 0606 「O'er-wrestling」 strength in reason. For our love  
 FTLN 0607 And great Apollo's mercy, all our best  
 FTLN 0608 Their best skill tender.—Lead into the city,  
 FTLN 0609 Where, having bound things scattered, we will post 55  
 FTLN 0610 To Athens 「'fore」 our army.

*Flourish. They exit.*

### Scene 5

*Music. Enter the Queens with the hearses of their knights, in a funeral solemnity, &c.*

「*The dirge.*」

FTLN 0611 *Urns and odors bring away;*  
 FTLN 0612 *Vapors, sighs, darken the day;*  
 FTLN 0613 *Our dole more deadly looks than dying;*  
 FTLN 0614 *Balms and gums and heavy cheers,*  
 FTLN 0615 *Sacred vials filled with tears, 5*  
 FTLN 0616 *And clamors through the wild air flying.*  
 FTLN 0617 *Come, all sad and solemn shows*  
 FTLN 0618 *That are quick-eyed Pleasure's foes;*  
 FTLN 0619 *We convent naught else but woes.*  
 FTLN 0620 *We convent naught else but woes. 10*

THIRD QUEEN, 「*to Second Queen*」

FTLN 0621       This funeral path brings to your household's grave.

FTLN 0622       Joy seize on you again; peace sleep with him.

SECOND QUEEN, 「*to First Queen*」

FTLN 0623       And this to yours.

FTLN 0624       FIRST QUEEN, 「*to Third Queen*」   Yours this way. Heavens

FTLN 0625       lend

15

FTLN 0626       A thousand differing ways to one sure end.

THIRD QUEEN

FTLN 0627       This world's a city full of straying streets,

FTLN 0628       And death's the market-place where each one meets.

*They exit severally.*

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# ACT 2

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## Scene 1

*Enter Jailer and Wooer.*

FTLN 0629 JAILER I may depart with little while I live; something I  
FTLN 0630 may cast to you, not much. Alas, the prison I keep,  
FTLN 0631 though it be for great ones, yet they seldom come;  
FTLN 0632 before one salmon you shall take a number of minnows.  
FTLN 0633 I am given out to be better lined than it can 5  
FTLN 0634 appear to me report is a true speaker. I would I  
FTLN 0635 were really that I am delivered to be. Marry, what  
FTLN 0636 I have, be it what it will, I will assure upon my  
FTLN 0637 daughter at the day of my death.  
FTLN 0638 WOOER Sir, I demand no more than your own offer, 10  
FTLN 0639 and I will estate your daughter in what I have  
FTLN 0640 promised.  
FTLN 0641 JAILER Well, we will talk more of this when the solemnity  
FTLN 0642 is past. But have you a full promise of her?  
FTLN 0643 When that shall be seen, I tender my consent. 15

*Enter [the Jailer's] Daughter, [carrying rushes.]*

FTLN 0644 WOOER I have sir. Here she comes.  
FTLN 0645 JAILER, [to Daughter] Your friend and I have chanced  
FTLN 0646 to name you here, upon the old business. But no  
FTLN 0647 more of that now; so soon as the court hurry is  
FTLN 0648 over, we will have an end of it. I' th' meantime, 20

FTLN 0649        look tenderly to the two prisoners. I can tell you  
 FTLN 0650        they are princes.

FTLN 0651    DAUGHTER    These strewings are for their chamber. 'Tis  
 FTLN 0652        pity they are in prison, and 'twere pity they should  
 FTLN 0653        be out. I do think they have patience to make any        25  
 FTLN 0654        adversity ashamed. The prison itself is proud of  
 FTLN 0655        'em, and they have all the world in their chamber.

FTLN 0656    JAILER      They are famed to be a pair of absolute men.

FTLN 0657    DAUGHTER    By my troth, I think fame but stammers  
 FTLN 0658        'em. They stand a grise above the reach of report.        30

FTLN 0659    JAILER      I heard them reported in the battle to be the  
 FTLN 0660        only doers.

FTLN 0661    DAUGHTER    Nay, most likely, for they are noble suff'ers.  
 FTLN 0662        I marvel how they would have looked had they  
 FTLN 0663        been victors, that with such a constant nobility enforce        35  
 FTLN 0664        a freedom out of bondage, making misery  
 FTLN 0665        their mirth and affliction a toy to jest at.

FTLN 0666    JAILER      Do they so?

FTLN 0667    DAUGHTER    It seems to me they have no more sense  
 FTLN 0668        of their captivity than I of ruling Athens. They eat        40  
 FTLN 0669        well, look merrily, discourse of many things, but  
 FTLN 0670        nothing of their own restraint and disasters. Yet  
 FTLN 0671        sometimes a divided sigh, martyred as 'twere i' th'  
 FTLN 0672        deliverance, will break from one of them—when  
 FTLN 0673        the other presently gives it so sweet a rebuke that        45  
 FTLN 0674        I could wish myself a sigh to be so chid, or at least  
 FTLN 0675        a sigher to be comforted.

FTLN 0676    WOOER      I never saw 'em.

FTLN 0677    JAILER      The Duke himself came privately in the night,  
 FTLN 0678        and so did they.        50

*Enter Palamon and Arcite, [in shackles,] above.*

FTLN 0679        What the reason of it is, I know not. Look, yonder  
 FTLN 0680        they are; that's Arcite looks out.

FTLN 0681    DAUGHTER    No, sir, no, that's Palamon. Arcite is the

FTLN 0682 lower of the twain; you may perceive a part of  
 FTLN 0683 him. 55  
 FTLN 0684 JAILER Go to, leave your pointing; they would not  
 FTLN 0685 make us their object. Out of their sight.  
 FTLN 0686 DAUGHTER It is a holiday to look on them. Lord, the  
 FTLN 0687 diff'rence of men!  
*〔Jailer, Daughter, and Wooer〕 exit.*

Scene 2  
*Palamon and Arcite 〔remain, above.〕*

PALAMON  
 FTLN 0688 How do you, noble cousin?  
 FTLN 0689 ARCITE How do you, sir?  
 PALAMON  
 FTLN 0690 Why, strong enough to laugh at misery  
 FTLN 0691 And bear the chance of war; yet we are prisoners  
 FTLN 0692 I fear forever, cousin. 5  
 FTLN 0693 ARCITE I believe it,  
 FTLN 0694 And to that destiny have patiently  
 FTLN 0695 Laid up my hour to come.  
 FTLN 0696 PALAMON O, cousin Arcite,  
 FTLN 0697 Where is Thebes now? Where is our noble country? 10  
 FTLN 0698 Where are our friends and kindreds? Never more  
 FTLN 0699 Must we behold those comforts, never see  
 FTLN 0700 The hardy youths strive for the games of honor,  
 FTLN 0701 Hung with the painted favors of their ladies,  
 FTLN 0702 Like tall ships under sail; then start amongst 'em 15  
 FTLN 0703 And as an east wind leave 'em all behind us,  
 FTLN 0704 Like lazy clouds, whilst Palamon and Arcite,  
 FTLN 0705 Even in the wagging of a wanton leg,  
 FTLN 0706 Outstripped the people's praises, won the garlands  
 FTLN 0707 Ere they have time to wish 'em ours. O, never 20  
 FTLN 0708 Shall we two exercise, like twins of honor,  
 FTLN 0709 Our arms again, and feel our fiery horses

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FTLN 0710	Like proud seas under us. Our good swords now—	
FTLN 0711	Better the red-eyed god of war ne'er <sup>1</sup> wore <sup>1</sup> —	
FTLN 0712	Ravished our sides, like age must run to rust	25
FTLN 0713	And deck the temples of those gods that hate us;	
FTLN 0714	These hands shall never draw 'em out like lightning	
FTLN 0715	To blast whole armies more.	
FTLN 0716	ARCITE	No, Palamon,
FTLN 0717	Those hopes are prisoners with us. Here we are	30
FTLN 0718	And here the graces of our youths must wither	
FTLN 0719	Like a too-timely spring. Here age must find us	
FTLN 0720	And—which is heaviest, Palamon—unmarried.	
FTLN 0721	The sweet embraces of a loving wife,	
FTLN 0722	Loaden with kisses, armed with thousand Cupids,	35
FTLN 0723	Shall never clasp our necks; no issue know us—	
FTLN 0724	No figures of ourselves shall we e'er see,	
FTLN 0725	To glad our age, and like young eagles teach 'em	
FTLN 0726	Boldly to gaze against bright arms and say	
FTLN 0727	“Remember what your fathers were, and conquer!”	40
FTLN 0728	The fair-eyed maids shall weep our banishments	
FTLN 0729	And in their songs curse ever-blinded Fortune	
FTLN 0730	Till she for shame see what a wrong she has done	
FTLN 0731	To youth and nature. This is all our world.	
FTLN 0732	We shall know nothing here but one another,	45
FTLN 0733	Hear nothing but the clock that tells our woes.	
FTLN 0734	The vine shall grow, but we shall never see it;	
FTLN 0735	Summer shall come, and with her all delights,	
FTLN 0736	But dead-cold winter must inhabit here still.	
	PALAMON	
FTLN 0737	'Tis too true, Arcite. To our Theban hounds	50
FTLN 0738	That shook the agèd forest with their echoes	
FTLN 0739	No more now must we halloo; no more shake	
FTLN 0740	Our pointed javelins whilst the angry swine	
FTLN 0741	Flies like a Parthian quiver from our rages,	
FTLN 0742	Struck with our well-steeled darts. All valiant uses,	55
FTLN 0743	The food and nourishment of noble minds,	
FTLN 0744	In us two here shall perish; we shall die,	

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FTLN 0745	Which is the curse of honor, lastly,	
FTLN 0746	Children of grief and ignorance.	
FTLN 0747	ARCITE	Yet, cousin, 60
FTLN 0748	Even from the bottom of these miseries,	
FTLN 0749	From all that fortune can inflict upon us,	
FTLN 0750	I see two comforts rising, two mere blessings,	
FTLN 0751	If the gods please: to hold here a brave patience,	
FTLN 0752	And the enjoying of our griefs together.	65
FTLN 0753	Whilst Palamon is with me, let me perish	
FTLN 0754	If I think this our prison!	
FTLN 0755	PALAMON	Certainly
FTLN 0756	'Tis a main goodness, cousin, that our fortunes	
FTLN 0757	Were twined together. 'Tis most true, two souls	70
FTLN 0758	Put in two noble bodies, let 'em suffer	
FTLN 0759	The gall of hazard, so they grow together,	
FTLN 0760	Will never sink; they must not, say they could.	
FTLN 0761	A willing man dies sleeping and all's done.	
	ARCITE	
FTLN 0762	Shall we make worthy uses of this place	75
FTLN 0763	That all men hate so much?	
FTLN 0764	PALAMON	How, gentle cousin?
	ARCITE	
FTLN 0765	Let's think this prison holy sanctuary	
FTLN 0766	To keep us from corruption of worse men.	
FTLN 0767	We are young and yet desire the ways of honor	80
FTLN 0768	That liberty and common conversation,	
FTLN 0769	The poison of pure spirits, might like women	
FTLN 0770	Woo us to wander from. What worthy blessing	
FTLN 0771	Can be but our imaginations	
FTLN 0772	May make it ours? And here being thus together,	85
FTLN 0773	We are an endless mine to one another;	
FTLN 0774	We are one another's wife, ever begetting	
FTLN 0775	New births of love; we are father, friends,	
FTLN 0776	acquaintance;	
FTLN 0777	We are, in one another, families;	90
FTLN 0778	I am your heir, and you are mine. This place	

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FTLN 0779	Is our inheritance; no hard oppressor	
FTLN 0780	Dare take this from us; here with a little patience	
FTLN 0781	We shall live long and loving. No surfeits seek us;	
FTLN 0782	The hand of war hurts none here, nor the seas	95
FTLN 0783	Swallow their youth. Were we at liberty,	
FTLN 0784	A wife might part us lawfully, or business;	
FTLN 0785	Quarrels consume us; envy of ill men	
FTLN 0786	Crave our acquaintance. I might sicken, cousin,	
FTLN 0787	Where you should never know it, and so perish	100
FTLN 0788	Without your noble hand to close mine eyes,	
FTLN 0789	Or prayers to the gods. A thousand chances,	
FTLN 0790	Were we from hence, would sever us.	
FTLN 0791	PALAMON	You have made
FTLN 0792	me—	105
FTLN 0793	I thank you, cousin Arcite—almost wanton	
FTLN 0794	With my captivity. What a misery	
FTLN 0795	It is to live abroad and everywhere!	
FTLN 0796	'Tis like a beast, methinks. I find the court here,	
FTLN 0797	I am sure, a more content; and all those pleasures	110
FTLN 0798	That woo the wills of men to vanity	
FTLN 0799	I see through now, and am sufficient	
FTLN 0800	To tell the world 'tis but a gaudy shadow	
FTLN 0801	That old Time as he passes by takes with him.	
FTLN 0802	What had we been, old in the court of Creon,	115
FTLN 0803	Where sin is justice, lust and ignorance	
FTLN 0804	The virtues of the great ones? Cousin Arcite,	
FTLN 0805	Had not the loving gods found this place for us,	
FTLN 0806	We had died as they do, ill old men, unwept,	
FTLN 0807	And had their epitaphs, the people's curses.	120
FTLN 0808	Shall I say more?	
FTLN 0809	ARCITE	I would hear you still.
FTLN 0810	PALAMON	You shall.
FTLN 0811	Is there record of any two that loved	
FTLN 0812	Better than we do, Arcite?	125
FTLN 0813	ARCITE	Sure there cannot.

PALAMON

FTLN 0814 I do not think it possible our friendship  
FTLN 0815 Should ever leave us.

FTLN 0816 ARCITE Till our deaths it cannot.

*Enter Emilia and her Woman, 「below」*

FTLN 0817 And after death our spirits shall be led 130

FTLN 0818 To those that love eternally. *「Palamon catches sight  
of Emilia」*

FTLN 0819 Speak on, sir.

*「EMILIA, to her Woman」*

FTLN 0820 This garden has a world of pleasures in 't.

FTLN 0821 What flower is this?

FTLN 0822 WOMAN 'Tis called narcissus, madam. 135

EMILIA

FTLN 0823 That was a fair boy certain, but a fool

FTLN 0824 To love himself. Were there not maids enough?

ARCITE, *「to Palamon, who is stunned by the sight of Emilia」*

FTLN 0825 Pray, forward.

FTLN 0826 PALAMON Yes.

FTLN 0827 EMILIA, *「to Woman」* Or were they all hard-hearted? 140

WOMAN

FTLN 0828 They could not be to one so fair.

FTLN 0829 EMILIA Thou wouldst not.

WOMAN

FTLN 0830 I think I should not, madam.

FTLN 0831 EMILIA That's a good wench.

FTLN 0832 But take heed to your kindness, though. 145

FTLN 0833 WOMAN Why,

FTLN 0834 madam?

EMILIA

FTLN 0835 Men are mad things.

FTLN 0836 ARCITE, *「to Palamon」* Will you go forward,

FTLN 0837 cousin? 150

EMILIA, *「to Woman」*

FTLN 0838 Canst not thou work such flowers in silk, wench?

FTLN 0839 WOMAN Yes.

EMILIA

FTLN 0840 I'll have a gown full of 'em, and of these.  
 FTLN 0841 This is pretty color. Will 't not do  
 FTLN 0842 Rarely upon a skirt, wench? 155

FTLN 0843 WOMAN Dainty, madam.

ARCITE, *['to Palamon']*

FTLN 0844 Cousin, cousin! How do you, sir? Why, Palamon!

PALAMON

FTLN 0845 Never till now I was in prison, Arcite.

ARCITE

FTLN 0846 Why, what's the matter, man?

FTLN 0847 PALAMON Behold, and wonder! 160

FTLN 0848 By heaven, she is a goddess.

FTLN 0849 ARCITE, *['seeing Emilia']* Ha!

FTLN 0850 PALAMON Do reverence.

FTLN 0851 She is a goddess, Arcite.

FTLN 0852 EMILIA, *['to Woman']* Of all flowers 165

FTLN 0853 Methinks a rose is best.

FTLN 0854 WOMAN Why, gentle madam?

EMILIA

FTLN 0855 It is the very emblem of a maid.

FTLN 0856 For when the west wind courts her gently,

FTLN 0857 How modestly she blows and paints the sun 170

FTLN 0858 With her chaste blushes! When the north comes

FTLN 0859 near her,

FTLN 0860 Rude and impatient, then, like chastity,

FTLN 0861 She locks her beauties in her bud again,

FTLN 0862 And leaves him to base briers. 175

FTLN 0863 WOMAN Yet, good madam,

FTLN 0864 Sometimes her modesty will blow so far

FTLN 0865 She falls for 't. A maid,

FTLN 0866 If she have any honor, would be loath

FTLN 0867 To take example by her. 180

FTLN 0868 EMILIA Thou art wanton!

ARCITE, *['to Palamon']*

FTLN 0869 She is wondrous fair.

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FTLN 0870 PALAMON She is all the beauty extant.  
 EMILIA, 「*to Woman*」

FTLN 0871 The sun grows high. Let's walk in. Keep these  
 FTLN 0872 flowers. 185

FTLN 0873 We'll see how near art can come near their colors.  
 FTLN 0874 I am wondrous merry-hearted. I could laugh now.

WOMAN

FTLN 0875 I could lie down, I am sure.

FTLN 0876 EMILIA And take one with you?  
 WOMAN

FTLN 0877 That's as we bargain, madam. 190

FTLN 0878 EMILIA Well, agree then.  
*Emilia and Woman exit.*

PALAMON

FTLN 0879 What think you of this beauty?

FTLN 0880 ARCITE 'Tis a rare one.

PALAMON

FTLN 0881 Is 't but a rare one?

FTLN 0882 ARCITE Yes, a matchless beauty. 195

PALAMON

FTLN 0883 Might not a man well lose himself and love her?

ARCITE

FTLN 0884 I cannot tell what you have done; I have,  
 FTLN 0885 Beshrew mine eyes for 't! Now I feel my shackles.

PALAMON

FTLN 0886 You love her, then?

FTLN 0887 ARCITE Who would not? 200

FTLN 0888 PALAMON And desire her?  
 ARCITE

FTLN 0889 Before my liberty.

FTLN 0890 PALAMON I saw her first.  
 ARCITE

FTLN 0891 That's nothing.

FTLN 0892 PALAMON But it shall be. 205

FTLN 0893 ARCITE I saw her, too.

FTLN 0894 PALAMON Yes, but you must not love her.

ARCITE

FTLN 0895 I will not, as you do, to worship her  
 FTLN 0896 As she is heavenly and a blessed goddess.  
 FTLN 0897 I love her as a woman, to enjoy her. 210  
 FTLN 0898 So both may love.

FTLN 0899 PALAMON You shall not love at all.

FTLN 0900 ARCITE Not love at all! Who shall deny me?

PALAMON

FTLN 0901 I, that first saw her; I that took possession  
 FTLN 0902 First with mine eye of all those beauties 215  
 FTLN 0903 In her revealed to mankind. If thou lov'st her,  
 FTLN 0904 Or entertain'st a hope to blast my wishes,  
 FTLN 0905 Thou art a traitor, Arcite, and a fellow  
 FTLN 0906 False as thy title to her. Friendship, blood,  
 FTLN 0907 And all the ties between us I disclaim 220  
 FTLN 0908 If thou once think upon her.

FTLN 0909 ARCITE Yes, I love her,

FTLN 0910 And, if the lives of all my name lay on it,  
 FTLN 0911 I must do so. I love her with my soul.  
 FTLN 0912 If that will lose you, farewell, Palamon. 225  
 FTLN 0913 I say again, I love, and in loving her maintain  
 FTLN 0914 I am as worthy and as free a lover  
 FTLN 0915 And have as just a title to her beauty  
 FTLN 0916 As any Palamon or any living  
 FTLN 0917 That is a man's son. 230

FTLN 0918 PALAMON Have I called thee friend?

ARCITE

FTLN 0919 Yes, and have found me so. Why are you moved  
 FTLN 0920 thus?  
 FTLN 0921 Let me deal coldly with you: am not I  
 FTLN 0922 Part of 'your' blood, part of your soul? You have 235  
 FTLN 0923 told me  
 FTLN 0924 That I was Palamon and you were Arcite.

PALAMON

FTLN 0925 Yes.

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FTLN 0926	ARCITE	Am not I liable to those affections,	
FTLN 0927		Those joys, griefs, angers, fears, my friend shall	240
FTLN 0928		suffer?	
	PALAMON		
FTLN 0929		You may be.	
FTLN 0930	ARCITE	Why then would you deal so cunningly,	
FTLN 0931		So strangely, so unlike a noble kinsman,	
FTLN 0932		To love alone? Speak truly, do you think me	245
FTLN 0933		Unworthy of her sight?	
FTLN 0934	PALAMON	No, but unjust	
FTLN 0935		If thou pursue that sight.	
FTLN 0936	ARCITE	Because another	
FTLN 0937		First sees the enemy, shall I stand still	250
FTLN 0938		And let mine honor down, and never charge?	
	PALAMON		
FTLN 0939		Yes, if he be but one.	
FTLN 0940	ARCITE	But say that one	
FTLN 0941		Had rather combat me?	
FTLN 0942	PALAMON	Let that one say so,	255
FTLN 0943		And use thy freedom. Else, if thou pursuest her,	
FTLN 0944		Be as that cursèd man that hates his country,	
FTLN 0945		A branded villain.	
FTLN 0946	ARCITE	You are mad.	
FTLN 0947	PALAMON	I must be.	260
FTLN 0948		Till thou art worthy, Arcite, it concerns me.	
FTLN 0949		And in this madness if I hazard thee	
FTLN 0950		And take thy life, I deal but truly.	
FTLN 0951	ARCITE	Fie, sir!	
FTLN 0952		You play the child extremely. I will love her;	265
FTLN 0953		I must, I ought to do so, and I dare,	
FTLN 0954		And all this justly.	
FTLN 0955	PALAMON	O, that now, that now,	
FTLN 0956		Thy false self and thy friend had but this fortune	
FTLN 0957		To be one hour at liberty, and grasp	270
FTLN 0958		Our good swords in our hands, I would quickly	
FTLN 0959		teach thee	



FTLN 0987	And fruit and flowers more blessèd that still	300
FTLN 0988	blossom	
FTLN 0989	As her bright eyes shine on you, would I were,	
FTLN 0990	For all the fortune of my life hereafter,	
FTLN 0991	Yon little tree, yon blooming apricock!	
FTLN 0992	How I would spread and fling my wanton arms	305
FTLN 0993	In at her window; I would bring her fruit	
FTLN 0994	Fit for the gods to feed on; youth and pleasure	
FTLN 0995	Still as she tasted should be doubled on her;	
FTLN 0996	And, if she be not heavenly, I would make her	
FTLN 0997	So near the gods in nature, they should fear her.	310

*Enter* [Jailer, above.]

FTLN 0998	And then I am sure she would love me.—How now,	
FTLN 0999	keeper,	
FTLN 1000	Where's Arcite?	
FTLN 1001	JAILER                      Banished. Prince Pirithous	
FTLN 1002	Obtained his liberty, but never more	315
FTLN 1003	Upon his oath and life must he set foot	
FTLN 1004	Upon this kingdom.	
FTLN 1005	PALAMON                      He's a blessèd man.	
FTLN 1006	He shall see Thebes again, and call to arms	
FTLN 1007	The bold young men that, when he bids 'em charge,	320
FTLN 1008	Fall on like fire. Arcite shall have a fortune,	
FTLN 1009	If he dare make himself a worthy lover,	
FTLN 1010	Yet in the field to strike a battle for her,	
FTLN 1011	And, if he lose her then, he's a cold coward.	
FTLN 1012	How bravely may he bear himself to win her	325
FTLN 1013	If he be noble Arcite—thousand ways!	
FTLN 1014	Were I at liberty, I would do things	
FTLN 1015	Of such a virtuous greatness that this lady,	
FTLN 1016	This blushing virgin, should take manhood to her	
FTLN 1017	And seek to ravish me.	330
FTLN 1018	JAILER                      My lord, for you	
FTLN 1019	I have this charge to—	
FTLN 1020	PALAMON                      To discharge my life?	

JAILER

FTLN 1021       No, but from this place to remove your Lordship;  
FTLN 1022       The windows are too open. 335

FTLN 1023       PALAMON                       Devils take 'em  
FTLN 1024       That are so envious to me! Prithee, kill me.

JAILER

FTLN 1025       And hang for 't afterward!

FTLN 1026       PALAMON                       By this good light,  
FTLN 1027       Had I a sword I would kill thee. 340

FTLN 1028       JAILER                         Why, my lord?

PALAMON

FTLN 1029       Thou bringst such pelting, scurvy news continually,  
FTLN 1030       Thou art not worthy life. I will not go.

JAILER

FTLN 1031       Indeed 'you' must, my lord.

FTLN 1032       PALAMON                       May I see the garden? 345

JAILER

FTLN 1033       No.

FTLN 1034       PALAMON       Then I am resolved, I will not go.

JAILER

FTLN 1035       I must constrain you then; and, for you are  
FTLN 1036       dangerous,  
FTLN 1037       I'll clap more irons on you. 350

FTLN 1038       PALAMON                       Do, good keeper.

FTLN 1039       I'll shake 'em so, you shall not sleep;  
FTLN 1040       I'll make you a new morris. Must I go?

JAILER

FTLN 1041       There is no remedy.

FTLN 1042       PALAMON                       Farewell, kind window. 355

FTLN 1043       May rude wind never hurt thee. O, my lady,

FTLN 1044       If ever thou hast felt what sorrow was,

FTLN 1045       Dream how I suffer.—Come; now bury me.

*Palamon and Jailer exit.*

Scene 3  
*Enter Arcite.*

ARCITE

FTLN 1046	Banished the kingdom? 'Tis a benefit,	
FTLN 1047	A mercy I must thank 'em for; but banished	
FTLN 1048	The free enjoying of that face I die for,	
FTLN 1049	O, 'twas a studied punishment, a death	
FTLN 1050	Beyond imagination—such a vengeance	5
FTLN 1051	That, were I old and wicked, all my sins	
FTLN 1052	Could never pluck upon me. Palamon,	
FTLN 1053	Thou hast the start now; thou shalt stay and see	
FTLN 1054	Her bright eyes break each morning 'gainst thy	
FTLN 1055	window	10
FTLN 1056	And let in life into thee; thou shalt feed	
FTLN 1057	Upon the sweetness of a noble beauty	
FTLN 1058	That nature ne'er exceeded nor ne'er shall.	
FTLN 1059	Good gods, what happiness has Palamon!	
FTLN 1060	Twenty to one he'll come to speak to her,	15
FTLN 1061	And if she be as gentle as she's fair,	
FTLN 1062	I know she's his. He has a tongue will tame	
FTLN 1063	Tempests and make the wild rocks wanton.	
FTLN 1064	Come what can come,	
FTLN 1065	The worst is death. I will not leave the kingdom.	20
FTLN 1066	I know mine own is but a heap of ruins,	
FTLN 1067	And no redress there. If I go, he has her.	
FTLN 1068	I am resolved another shape shall make me	
FTLN 1069	Or end my fortunes. Either way I am happy.	
FTLN 1070	I'll see her and be near her, or no more.	25

*Enter four Country people, and one with  
a garland before them.*

「*Arcite steps aside.*」

FTLN 1071	FIRST COUNTRYMAN	My masters, I'll be there, that's
FTLN 1072		certain.
FTLN 1073	SECOND COUNTRYMAN	And I'll be there.

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FTLN 1074	THIRD COUNTRYMAN	And I.	
FTLN 1075	FOURTH COUNTRYMAN	Why, then, have with you, boys.	30
FTLN 1076		'Tis but a chiding. Let the plough play today; I'll	
FTLN 1077		tickle 't out of the jades' tails tomorrow.	
FTLN 1078	FIRST COUNTRYMAN	I am sure to have my wife as jealous	
FTLN 1079		as a turkey, but that's all one. I'll go through;	
FTLN 1080		let her mumble.	35
FTLN 1081	SECOND COUNTRYMAN	Clap her aboard tomorrow night	
FTLN 1082		and stow her, and all's made up again.	
FTLN 1083	THIRD COUNTRYMAN	Ay, do but put a fescue in her fist	
FTLN 1084		and you shall see her take a new lesson out and be	
FTLN 1085		a good wench. Do we all hold against the Maying?	40
FTLN 1086	FOURTH COUNTRYMAN	Hold? What should ail us?	
FTLN 1087	THIRD COUNTRYMAN	Arcas will be there.	
FTLN 1088	SECOND COUNTRYMAN	And Sennois and Rycas; and	
FTLN 1089		three better lads ne'er danced under green tree.	
FTLN 1090		And 'you' know what wenches, ha! But will the	45
FTLN 1091		dainty domine, the Schoolmaster, keep touch, do	
FTLN 1092		you think? For he does all, you know.	
FTLN 1093	THIRD COUNTRYMAN	He'll eat a hornbook ere he fail.	
FTLN 1094		Go to, the matter's too far driven between him and	
FTLN 1095		the tanner's daughter to let slip now; and she must	50
FTLN 1096		see the Duke, and she must dance too.	
FTLN 1097	FOURTH COUNTRYMAN	Shall we be lusty?	
FTLN 1098	SECOND COUNTRYMAN	All the boys in Athens blow wind	
FTLN 1099		i' th' breech on 's. And here I'll be and there I'll be,	
FTLN 1100		for our town, and here again, and there again. Ha,	55
FTLN 1101		boys, hey for the weavers!	
FTLN 1102	FIRST COUNTRYMAN	This must be done i' th' woods.	
FTLN 1103	FOURTH COUNTRYMAN	O pardon me.	
FTLN 1104	SECOND COUNTRYMAN	By any means; our thing of learning	
FTLN 1105		'says' so—where he himself will edify the Duke	60
FTLN 1106		most parlously in our behalfs. He's excellent i' th'	
FTLN 1107		woods; bring him to th' plains, his learning makes	
FTLN 1108		no cry.	

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FTLN 1109	THIRD COUNTRYMAN	We'll see the sports, then every	
FTLN 1110		man to 's tackle. And, sweet companions, let's rehearse,	65
FTLN 1111		by any means, before the ladies see us, and	
FTLN 1112		do sweetly, and God knows what may come on 't.	
FTLN 1113	FOURTH COUNTRYMAN	Content. The sports once ended,	
FTLN 1114		we'll perform. Away, boys, and hold.	
		<i>「Arcite comes forward.」</i>	
FTLN 1115	ARCITE	By your leaves, honest friends: pray you,	70
FTLN 1116		whither go you?	
FTLN 1117	FOURTH COUNTRYMAN	Whither?	
FTLN 1118		Why, what a question's that?	
FTLN 1119	ARCITE	Yes, 'tis a question	
FTLN 1120		To me that know not.	75
FTLN 1121	THIRD COUNTRYMAN	To the games, my friend.	
	SECOND COUNTRYMAN		
FTLN 1122		Where were you bred, you know it not?	
FTLN 1123	ARCITE	Not far, sir.	
FTLN 1124		Are there such games today?	
FTLN 1125	FIRST COUNTRYMAN	Yes, marry, are there,	80
FTLN 1126		And such as you never saw. The Duke himself	
FTLN 1127		Will be in person there.	
FTLN 1128	ARCITE	What pastimes are they?	
	SECOND COUNTRYMAN		
FTLN 1129		Wrestling and running.—'Tis a pretty fellow.	
	THIRD COUNTRYMAN		
FTLN 1130		Thou wilt not go along?	85
FTLN 1131	ARCITE	Not yet, sir.	
FTLN 1132	FOURTH COUNTRYMAN	Well, sir,	
FTLN 1133		Take your own time.—Come, boys.	
FTLN 1134	FIRST COUNTRYMAN, <i>「aside to the others」</i>	My mind misgives	
FTLN 1135		me. This fellow has a vengeance trick o' th'	90
FTLN 1136		hip. Mark how his body's made for 't.	
FTLN 1137	SECOND COUNTRYMAN, <i>「aside to the others」</i>	I'll be	
FTLN 1138		hanged, though, if he dare venture. Hang him,	
FTLN 1139		plum porridge! He wrestle? He roast eggs! Come,	
FTLN 1140		let's be gone, lads. <i>The four exit.</i>	95

ARCITE

FTLN 1141 This is an offered opportunity  
 FTLN 1142 I durst not wish for. Well I could have wrestled—  
 FTLN 1143 The best men called it excellent—and run  
 FTLN 1144 Swifter than wind upon a field of corn,  
 FTLN 1145 Curling the wealthy ears, never flew. I'll venture, 100  
 FTLN 1146 And in some poor disguise be there. Who knows  
 FTLN 1147 Whether my brows may not be girt with garlands,  
 FTLN 1148 And happiness prefer me to a place  
 FTLN 1149 Where I may ever dwell in sight of her?

*Arcite exits.*

## Scene 4

*Enter Jailer's Daughter, alone.*

DAUGHTER

FTLN 1150 Why should I love this gentleman? 'Tis odds  
 FTLN 1151 He never will affect me. I am base,  
 FTLN 1152 My father the mean keeper of his prison,  
 FTLN 1153 And he a prince. To marry him is hopeless;  
 FTLN 1154 To be his whore is witless. Out upon 't! 5  
 FTLN 1155 What pushes are we wenches driven to  
 FTLN 1156 When fifteen once has found us! First, I saw him;  
 FTLN 1157 I, seeing, thought he was a goodly man;  
 FTLN 1158 He has as much to please a woman in him,  
 FTLN 1159 If he please to bestow it so, as ever 10  
 FTLN 1160 These eyes yet looked on. Next, I pitied him,  
 FTLN 1161 And so would any young wench, o' my conscience,  
 FTLN 1162 That ever dreamed, or vowed her maidenhead  
 FTLN 1163 To a young handsome man. Then I loved him,  
 FTLN 1164 Extremely loved him, infinitely loved him! 15  
 FTLN 1165 And yet he had a cousin, fair as he too.  
 FTLN 1166 But in my heart was Palamon, and there,  
 FTLN 1167 Lord, what a coil he keeps! To hear him  
 FTLN 1168 Sing in an evening, what a heaven it is!

FTLN 1169 And yet his songs are sad ones. Fairer spoken 20  
 FTLN 1170 Was never gentleman. When I come in  
 FTLN 1171 To bring him water in a morning, first  
 FTLN 1172 He bows his noble body, then salutes me thus:  
 FTLN 1173 “Fair, gentle maid, good morrow. May thy goodness  
 FTLN 1174 Get thee a happy husband.” Once he kissed me; 25  
 FTLN 1175 I loved my lips the better ten days after.  
 FTLN 1176 Would he would do so ev’ry day! He grieves much—  
 FTLN 1177 And me as much to see his misery.  
 FTLN 1178 What should I do to make him know I love him?  
 FTLN 1179 For I would fain enjoy him. Say I ventured 30  
 FTLN 1180 To set him free? What says the law then?  
 FTLN 1181 Thus much for law or kindred! I will do it,  
 FTLN 1182 And this night, or tomorrow, he shall love me.

*She exits.*

Scene 「5」

*This short flourish of cornets and shouts within.  
 Enter Theseus, Hippolyta, Pirithous, Emilia, Arcite  
 「in disguise,」 with a garland, 「Attendants, and others.」*

THESEUS, 「to Arcite」  
 FTLN 1183 You have done worthily. I have not seen,  
 FTLN 1184 Since Hercules, a man of tougher sinews.  
 FTLN 1185 Whate’er you are, you run the best and wrestle  
 FTLN 1186 That these times can allow.  
 FTLN 1187 ARCITE I am proud to please you. 5  
 THESEUS  
 FTLN 1188 What country bred you?  
 FTLN 1189 ARCITE This; but far off, prince.  
 THESEUS  
 FTLN 1190 Are you a gentleman?  
 FTLN 1191 ARCITE My father said so,  
 FTLN 1192 And to those gentle uses gave me life. 10

THESEUS

FTLN 1193       Are you his heir?

FTLN 1194   ARCITE                   His youngest, sir.

FTLN 1195   THESEUS                               Your father,

FTLN 1196       Sure, is a happy sire, then. What proves you?

ARCITE

FTLN 1197       A little of all noble qualities. 15

FTLN 1198       I could have kept a hawk and well have hallowed

FTLN 1199       To a deep cry of dogs. I dare not praise

FTLN 1200       My feat in horsemanship, yet they that knew me

FTLN 1201       Would say it was my best piece. Last, and greatest,

FTLN 1202       I would be thought a soldier. 20

FTLN 1203   THESEUS                               You are perfect.

PIRITHOUS

FTLN 1204       Upon my soul, a proper man.

FTLN 1205   EMILIA                               He is so.

PIRITHOUS, *['to Hippolyta']*

FTLN 1206       How do you like him, lady?

FTLN 1207   HIPPOLYTA                            I admire him. 25

FTLN 1208       I have not seen so young a man so noble,

FTLN 1209       If he say true, of his sort.

FTLN 1210   EMILIA                               Believe,

FTLN 1211       His mother was a wondrous handsome woman;

FTLN 1212       His face, methinks, goes that way. 30

FTLN 1213   HIPPOLYTA                            But his body

FTLN 1214       And fiery mind illustrate a brave father.

PIRITHOUS

FTLN 1215       Mark how his virtue, like a hidden sun,

FTLN 1216       Breaks through his baser garments.

FTLN 1217   HIPPOLYTA                            He's well got, sure. 35

THESEUS, *['to Arcite']*

FTLN 1218       What made you seek this place, sir?

FTLN 1219   ARCITE                               Noble Theseus,

FTLN 1220       To purchase name and do my ablest service

FTLN 1221       To such a well-found wonder as thy worth;

FTLN 1222	For only in thy court, of all the world,	40
FTLN 1223	Dwells fair-eyed Honor.	
FTLN 1224	PIRITHOUS All his words are worthy.	
	THESEUS	
FTLN 1225	Sir, we are much indebted to your travel,	
FTLN 1226	Nor shall you lose your wish.—Pirithous,	
FTLN 1227	Dispose of this fair gentleman.	45
FTLN 1228	PIRITHOUS Thanks, Theseus.—	
FTLN 1229	Whate'er you are, you're mine, and I shall give you	
FTLN 1230	To a most noble service: to this lady,	
FTLN 1231	This bright young virgin.	
	<i>〔He brings Arcite to Emilia.〕</i>	
FTLN 1232	Pray observe her goodness;	50
FTLN 1233	You have honored her fair birthday with your	
FTLN 1234	virtues,	
FTLN 1235	And, as your due, you're hers. Kiss her fair hand, sir.	
	ARCITE	
FTLN 1236	Sir, you're a noble giver.—Dearest beauty,	
FTLN 1237	Thus let me seal my vowed faith.	55
	<i>〔He kisses her hand.〕</i>	
FTLN 1238	When your servant,	
FTLN 1239	Your most unworthy creature, but offends you,	
FTLN 1240	Command him die, he shall.	
FTLN 1241	EMILIA That were too cruel.	
FTLN 1242	If you deserve well, sir, I shall soon see 't.	60
FTLN 1243	You're mine, and somewhat better than your rank	
FTLN 1244	I'll use you.	
	PIRITHOUS, <i>〔to Arcite〕</i>	
FTLN 1245	I'll see you furnished, and because you say	
FTLN 1246	You are a horseman, I must needs entreat you	
FTLN 1247	This afternoon to ride—but 'tis a rough one.	65
	ARCITE	
FTLN 1248	I like him better, prince; I shall not then	
FTLN 1249	Freeze in my saddle.	
FTLN 1250	THESEUS, <i>〔to Hippolyta〕</i> Sweet, you must be ready,—	
FTLN 1251	And you, Emilia,—and you, friend,—and all,	



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FTLN 1281 I love him beyond love and beyond reason  
 FTLN 1282 Or wit or safety. I have made him know it;  
 FTLN 1283 I care not, I am desperate. If the law  
 FTLN 1284 Find me and then condemn me for 't, some wenches,  
 FTLN 1285 Some honest-hearted maids, will sing my dirge 15  
 FTLN 1286 And tell to memory my death was noble,  
 FTLN 1287 Dying almost a martyr. That way he takes  
 FTLN 1288 I purpose is my way too. Sure he cannot  
 FTLN 1289 Be so unmanly as to leave me here.  
 FTLN 1290 If he do, maids will not so easily 20  
 FTLN 1291 Trust men again. And yet he has not thanked me  
 FTLN 1292 For what I have done; no, not so much as kissed me,  
 FTLN 1293 And that, methinks, is not so well; nor scarcely  
 FTLN 1294 Could I persuade him to become a free man,  
 FTLN 1295 He made such scruples of the wrong he did 25  
 FTLN 1296 To me and to my father. Yet I hope,  
 FTLN 1297 When he considers more, this love of mine  
 FTLN 1298 Will take more root within him. Let him do  
 FTLN 1299 What he will with me, so he use me kindly;  
 FTLN 1300 For use me so he shall, or I'll proclaim him, 30  
 FTLN 1301 And to his face, no man. I'll presently  
 FTLN 1302 Provide him necessaries and pack my clothes up,  
 FTLN 1303 And where there is a path of ground I'll venture,  
 FTLN 1304 So he be with me. By him like a shadow  
 FTLN 1305 I'll ever dwell. Within this hour the hubbub 35  
 FTLN 1306 Will be all o'er the prison. I am then  
 FTLN 1307 Kissing the man they look for. Farewell, father!  
 FTLN 1308 Get many more such prisoners and such daughters,  
 FTLN 1309 And shortly you may keep yourself. Now to him.

[*She exits.*]

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# ACT 3

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## Scene 1

*Cornets in sundry places. Noise and hallowing  
as people a-Maying. Enter Arcite alone.*

ARCITE

FTLN 1310	The Duke has lost Hippolyta; each took	
FTLN 1311	A several laund. This is a solemn rite	
FTLN 1312	They owe bloomed May, and the Athenians pay it	
FTLN 1313	To th' heart of ceremony. O Queen Emilia,	
FTLN 1314	Fresher than May, sweeter	5
FTLN 1315	Than her gold buttons on the boughs, or all	
FTLN 1316	Th' enameled knacks o' th' mead or garden—yea,	
FTLN 1317	We challenge too the bank of any nymph	
FTLN 1318	That makes the stream seem flowers; thou, O jewel	
FTLN 1319	O' th' wood, o' th' world, hast likewise blessed a pace	10
FTLN 1320	With thy sole presence. In thy rumination	
FTLN 1321	That I, poor man, might eftsoons come between	
FTLN 1322	And chop on some cold thought! Thrice blessed	
FTLN 1323	chance	
FTLN 1324	To drop on such a mistress, expectation	15
FTLN 1325	Most guiltless on 't. Tell me, O Lady Fortune,	
FTLN 1326	Next after Emily my sovereign, how far	
FTLN 1327	I may be proud. She takes strong note of me,	
FTLN 1328	Hath made me near her; and this beauteous morn,	
FTLN 1329	The prim'st of all the year, presents me with	20
FTLN 1330	A brace of horses; two such steeds might well	

FTLN 1331 Be by a pair of kings backed, in a field  
 FTLN 1332 That their crowns' titles tried. Alas, alas,  
 FTLN 1333 Poor cousin Palamon, poor prisoner, thou  
 FTLN 1334 So little dream'st upon my fortune that 25  
 FTLN 1335 Thou think'st thyself the happier thing, to be  
 FTLN 1336 So near Emilia; me thou deem'st at Thebes,  
 FTLN 1337 And therein wretched, although free. But if  
 FTLN 1338 Thou knew'st my mistress breathed on me, and that  
 FTLN 1339 I eared her language, lived in her eye—O coz, 30  
 FTLN 1340 What passion would enclose thee!

*Enter Palamon as out of a bush, with his shackles;  
 [he] bends his fist at Arcite.*

FTLN 1341 PALAMON Traitor kinsman,  
 FTLN 1342 Thou shouldst perceive my passion if these signs  
 FTLN 1343 Of prisonment were off me, and this hand  
 FTLN 1344 But owner of a sword. By all oaths in one, 35  
 FTLN 1345 I and the justice of my love would make thee  
 FTLN 1346 A confessed traitor, O thou most perfidious  
 FTLN 1347 That ever gently looked, the [void'st] of honor  
 FTLN 1348 That e'er bore gentle token, falsest cousin  
 FTLN 1349 That ever blood made kin! Call'st thou her thine? 40  
 FTLN 1350 I'll prove it in my shackles, with these hands,  
 FTLN 1351 Void of appointment, that thou liest, and art  
 FTLN 1352 A very thief in love, a chaffy lord,  
 FTLN 1353 Nor worth the name of villain. Had I a sword,  
 FTLN 1354 And these house clogs away— 45

FTLN 1355 ARCITE Dear cousin Palamon—

FTLN 1356 PALAMON Cozener Arcite, give me language such  
 FTLN 1357 As thou hast showed me feat.  
 FTLN 1358 ARCITE Not finding in  
 FTLN 1359 The circuit of my breast any gross stuff 50  
 FTLN 1360 To form me like your blazon holds me to  
 FTLN 1361 This gentleness of answer: 'tis your passion  
 FTLN 1362 That thus mistakes, the which, to you being enemy,

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FTLN 1363	Cannot to me be kind. Honor and honesty	
FTLN 1364	I cherish and depend on, howsoe'er	55
FTLN 1365	You skip them in me, and with them, fair coz,	
FTLN 1366	I'll maintain my proceedings. Pray be pleased	
FTLN 1367	To show in generous terms your griefs, since that	
FTLN 1368	Your question's with your equal, who professes	
FTLN 1369	To clear his own way with the mind and sword	60
FTLN 1370	Of a true gentleman.	
FTLN 1371	PALAMON	That thou durst, Arcite!
	ARCITE	
FTLN 1372	My coz, my coz, you have been well advertised	
FTLN 1373	How much I dare; you've seen me use my sword	
FTLN 1374	Against th' advice of fear. Sure, of another	65
FTLN 1375	You would not hear me doubted, but your silence	
FTLN 1376	Should break out, though i' th' sanctuary.	
FTLN 1377	PALAMON	Sir,
FTLN 1378	I have seen you move in such a place which well	
FTLN 1379	Might justify your manhood; you were called	70
FTLN 1380	A good knight and a bold. But the whole week's not	
FTLN 1381	fair	
FTLN 1382	If any day it rain; their valiant temper	
FTLN 1383	Men lose when they incline to treachery,	
FTLN 1384	And then they fight like compelled bears—would fly	75
FTLN 1385	Were they not tied.	
FTLN 1386	ARCITE	Kinsman, you might as well
FTLN 1387	Speak this and act it in your glass as to	
FTLN 1388	His ear which now disdains you.	
FTLN 1389	PALAMON	Come up to me;
FTLN 1390	Quit me of these cold gyves, give me a sword	80
FTLN 1391	Though it be rusty, and the charity	
FTLN 1392	Of one meal lend me. Come before me then,	
FTLN 1393	A good sword in thy hand, and do but say	
FTLN 1394	That Emily is thine, I will forgive	85
FTLN 1395	The trespass thou hast done me—yea, my life,	
FTLN 1396	If then thou carry 't; and brave souls in shades	
FTLN 1397	That have died manly, which will seek of me	

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FTLN 1398	Some news from Earth, they shall get none but this:	
FTLN 1399	That thou art brave and noble.	90
FTLN 1400	ARCITE	Be content.
FTLN 1401	Again betake you to your hawthorn house.	
FTLN 1402	With counsel of the night I will be here	
FTLN 1403	With wholesome viands. These impediments	
FTLN 1404	Will I file off. You shall have garments and	95
FTLN 1405	Perfumes to kill the smell o' th' prison. After,	
FTLN 1406	When you shall stretch yourself and say but "Arcite,	
FTLN 1407	I am in plight," there shall be at your choice	
FTLN 1408	Both sword and armor.	
FTLN 1409	PALAMON	O you heavens, dares any
FTLN 1410	So noble bear a guilty business? None	100
FTLN 1411	But only Arcite. Therefore none but Arcite	
FTLN 1412	In this kind is so bold.	
FTLN 1413	ARCITE	Sweet Palamon.
	PALAMON	
FTLN 1414	I do embrace you and your offer; for	105
FTLN 1415	Your offer do 't I only. Sir, your person	
FTLN 1416	Without hypocrisy I may not wish	
FTLN 1417	More than my sword's edge on 't.	
		<i>Wind horns off; [sound] cornets.</i>
FTLN 1418	ARCITE	You hear the horns.
FTLN 1419	Enter your [muset,] lest this match between 's	110
FTLN 1420	Be crossed ere met. Give me your hand; farewell.	
FTLN 1421	I'll bring you every needful thing. I pray you,	
FTLN 1422	Take comfort and be strong.	
FTLN 1423	PALAMON	Pray hold your promise,
FTLN 1424	And do the deed with a bent brow. Most certain	115
FTLN 1425	You love me not; be rough with me, and pour	
FTLN 1426	This oil out of your language. By this air,	
FTLN 1427	I could for each word give a cuff, my stomach	
FTLN 1428	Not reconciled by reason.	
FTLN 1429	ARCITE	Plainly spoken,
FTLN 1430	Yet pardon me hard language. When I spur	120
FTLN 1431	My horse, I chide him not; content and anger	

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FTLN 1432	In me have but one face.	<i>Wind horns.</i>	
FTLN 1433	Hark, sir, they call		
FTLN 1434	The scattered to the banquet; you must guess		125
FTLN 1435	I have an office there.		
FTLN 1436	PALAMON Sir, your attendance		
FTLN 1437	Cannot please heaven, and I know your office		
FTLN 1438	Unjustly is achieved.		
FTLN 1439	ARCITE 「'Tis」 a good title.		130
FTLN 1440	I am persuaded this question, sick between 's,		
FTLN 1441	By bleeding must be cured. I am a suitor		
FTLN 1442	That to your sword you will bequeath this plea,		
FTLN 1443	And talk of it no more.		
FTLN 1444	PALAMON But this one word:		135
FTLN 1445	You are going now to gaze upon my mistress,		
FTLN 1446	For note you, mine she is—		
FTLN 1447	ARCITE Nay then,—		
FTLN 1448	PALAMON Nay, pray you,		
FTLN 1449	You talk of feeding me to breed me strength.		140
FTLN 1450	You are going now to look upon a sun		
FTLN 1451	That strengthens what it looks on; there		
FTLN 1452	You have a vantage o'er me, but enjoy 't till		
FTLN 1453	I may enforce my remedy. Farewell.		
		<i>They exit.</i>	

## Scene 2

*Enter Jailer's Daughter, alone.*

DAUGHTER

FTLN 1454	He has mistook the 「brake」 I meant, is gone		
FTLN 1455	After his fancy. 'Tis now well-nigh morning.		
FTLN 1456	No matter; would it were perpetual night,		
FTLN 1457	And darkness lord o' th' world. Hark, 'tis a wolf!		
FTLN 1458	In me hath grief slain fear, and but for one thing,		5
FTLN 1459	I care for nothing, and that's Palamon.		
FTLN 1460	I reckon not if the wolves would jaw me, so		

FTLN 1461 He had this file. What if I hallowed for him?  
 FTLN 1462 I cannot hallow. If I whooped, what then?  
 FTLN 1463 If he not answered, I should call a wolf, 10  
 FTLN 1464 And do him but that service. I have heard  
 FTLN 1465 Strange howls this livelong night; why may 't not be  
 FTLN 1466 They have made prey of him? He has no weapons;  
 FTLN 1467 He cannot run; the jingling of his gyves  
 FTLN 1468 Might call fell things to listen, who have in them 15  
 FTLN 1469 A sense to know a man unarmed and can  
 FTLN 1470 Smell where resistance is. I'll set it down  
 FTLN 1471 He's torn to pieces; they howled many together,  
 FTLN 1472 And then they 'fed' on him; so much for that.  
 FTLN 1473 Be bold to ring the bell. How stand I then? 20  
 FTLN 1474 All's chared when he is gone. No, no, I lie.  
 FTLN 1475 My father's to be hanged for his escape;  
 FTLN 1476 Myself to beg, if I prized life so much  
 FTLN 1477 As to deny my act, but that I would not,  
 FTLN 1478 Should I try death by dozens. I am moped; 25  
 FTLN 1479 Food took I none these two days;  
 FTLN 1480 Sipped some water. I have not closed mine eyes  
 FTLN 1481 Save when my lids scoured off their brine. Alas,  
 FTLN 1482 Dissolve, my life! Let not my sense unsettle,  
 FTLN 1483 Lest I should drown, or stab, or hang myself. 30  
 FTLN 1484 O state of nature, fail together in me,  
 FTLN 1485 Since thy best props are warped! So, which way now?  
 FTLN 1486 The best way is the next way to a grave;  
 FTLN 1487 Each errant step beside is torment. Lo,  
 FTLN 1488 The moon is down, the crickets chirp, the screech 35  
 FTLN 1489 owl  
 FTLN 1490 Calls in the dawn. All offices are done  
 FTLN 1491 Save what I fail in. But the point is this—  
 FTLN 1492 An end, and that is all.

*She exits.*

## Scene 3

*Enter Arcite with meat, wine, and files.*

ARCITE

FTLN 1493 I should be near the place.—Ho! Cousin Palamon!

PALAMON, 「*within*」

FTLN 1494 Arcite?

FTLN 1495 ARCITE The same. I have brought you food and files.

FTLN 1496 Come forth and fear not; here's no Theseus.

*Enter Palamon.*

PALAMON

FTLN 1497 Nor none so honest, Arcite. 5

FTLN 1498 ARCITE That's no matter.

FTLN 1499 We'll argue that hereafter. Come, take courage;

FTLN 1500 You shall not die thus beastly. Here, sir, drink—

FTLN 1501 I know you are faint—then I'll talk further with you.

PALAMON

FTLN 1502 Arcite, thou mightst now poison me. 10

FTLN 1503 ARCITE I might;

FTLN 1504 But I must fear you first. Sit down and, good now,

FTLN 1505 No more of these vain parleys. Let us not,

FTLN 1506 Having our ancient reputation with us,

FTLN 1507 Make talk for fools and cowards. To your health. 15

「*He drinks.*」

FTLN 1508 PALAMON Do!

ARCITE

FTLN 1509 Pray sit down, then, and let me entreat you,

FTLN 1510 By all the honesty and honor in you,

FTLN 1511 No mention of this woman; 'twill disturb us.

FTLN 1512 We shall have time enough. 20

FTLN 1513 PALAMON Well, sir, I'll pledge you.

「*He drinks.*」

ARCITE

FTLN 1514     Drink a good hearty draught; it breeds good blood,  
 FTLN 1515     man.  
 FTLN 1516     Do not you feel it thaw you?  
 FTLN 1517    PALAMON                     Stay, I'll tell you                     25  
 FTLN 1518     After a draught or two more.  
 FTLN 1519    ARCITE                     Spare it not.  
 FTLN 1520     The Duke has more, coz. Eat now.  
 FTLN 1521    PALAMON                     Yes.             [*He eats.*]  
 FTLN 1522    ARCITE                     I am glad                     30  
 FTLN 1523     You have so good a stomach.  
 FTLN 1524    PALAMON                     I am gladder  
 FTLN 1525     I have so good meat to 't.  
 FTLN 1526    ARCITE                     Is 't not mad lodging  
 FTLN 1527     Here in the wild woods, cousin?                     35  
 FTLN 1528    PALAMON                     Yes, for [*them*]  
 FTLN 1529     That have wild consciences.  
 FTLN 1530    ARCITE                     How tastes your  
 FTLN 1531     victuals?  
 FTLN 1532     Your hunger needs no sauce, I see.                     40  
 FTLN 1533    PALAMON                     Not much.  
 FTLN 1534     But if it did, yours is too tart, sweet cousin.  
 FTLN 1535     What is this?  
 FTLN 1536    ARCITE                     Venison.  
 FTLN 1537    PALAMON                     'Tis a lusty meat.                     45  
 FTLN 1538     Give me more wine. Here, Arcite, to the wenches  
 FTLN 1539     We have known in our days!  
   [*He raises his cup in a toast.*]  
 FTLN 1540                                    The Lord Steward's  
 FTLN 1541     daughter!  
 FTLN 1542     Do you remember her?                     50  
 FTLN 1543    ARCITE                     After you, coz.  
 FTLN 1544    PALAMON  
 FTLN 1544     She loved a black-haired man.  
 FTLN 1545    ARCITE                     She did so; well, sir?

PALAMON

FTLN 1546 And I have heard some call him Arcite, and—

ARCITE

FTLN 1547 Out with 't, faith. 55

FTLN 1548 PALAMON She met him in an arbor.

FTLN 1549 What did she there, coz? Play o' th' virginals?

ARCITE

FTLN 1550 Something she did, sir.

FTLN 1551 PALAMON Made her groan a month

FTLN 1552 for 't— 60

FTLN 1553 Or two, or three, or ten.

FTLN 1554 ARCITE The Marshal's sister

FTLN 1555 Had her share, too, as I remember, cousin,

FTLN 1556 Else there be tales abroad. You'll pledge her?

FTLN 1557 PALAMON Yes. 65

*〔He lifts his cup and then drinks.〕*

ARCITE

FTLN 1558 A pretty brown wench 'tis. There was a time

FTLN 1559 When young men went a-hunting, and a wood,

FTLN 1560 And a broad beech—and thereby hangs a tale.

FTLN 1561 Heigh ho!

FTLN 1562 PALAMON For Emily, upon my life! Fool, 70

FTLN 1563 Away with this strained mirth. I say again

FTLN 1564 That sigh was breathed for Emily. Base cousin,

FTLN 1565 Dar'st thou break first?

FTLN 1566 ARCITE You are wide.

FTLN 1567 PALAMON By heaven and 75

FTLN 1568 Earth,

FTLN 1569 There's nothing in thee honest.

FTLN 1570 ARCITE Then I'll leave you.

FTLN 1571 You are a beast now.

FTLN 1572 PALAMON As thou mak'st me, traitor. 80

ARCITE

FTLN 1573 There's all things needful: files and shirts and

FTLN 1574 perfumes.

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FTLN 1575	I'll come again some two hours hence and bring	
FTLN 1576	That that shall quiet all.	
FTLN 1577	PALAMON	A sword and armor. 85
	ARCITE	
FTLN 1578	Fear me not. You are now too foul. Farewell.	
FTLN 1579	Get off your trinkets; you shall want naught.	
FTLN 1580	PALAMON	Sirrah—
	ARCITE	
FTLN 1581	I'll hear no more.	
		<i>He exits.</i>
FTLN 1582	PALAMON	If he keep touch, he dies for 't. 90
		<i>He exits.</i>

## Scene 4

*Enter Jailer's Daughter.*

## DAUGHTER

FTLN 1583	I am very cold, and all the stars are out too,	
FTLN 1584	The little stars and all, that look like aglets.	
FTLN 1585	The sun has seen my folly.—Palamon!	
FTLN 1586	Alas, no; he's in heaven. Where am I now?	
FTLN 1587	Yonder's the sea, and there's a ship. How 't tumbles!	5
FTLN 1588	And there's a rock lies watching under water.	
FTLN 1589	Now, now, it beats upon it; now, now, now,	
FTLN 1590	There's a leak sprung, a sound one! How they cry!	
FTLN 1591	「Open」 her before the wind; you'll lose all else.	
FTLN 1592	Up with a course or two, and 「tack」 about, boys!	10
FTLN 1593	Good night, good night; you're gone. I am very	
FTLN 1594	hungry.	
FTLN 1595	Would I could find a fine frog; he would tell me	
FTLN 1596	News from all parts o' th' world; then would I make	
FTLN 1597	A carrack of a cockleshell, and sail	15
FTLN 1598	By east and northeast to the king of pygmies,	
FTLN 1599	For he tells fortunes rarely. Now my father,	

FTLN 1600 Twenty to one, is trussed up in a trice  
 FTLN 1601 Tomorrow morning. I'll say never a word.  
 (*Sing.*)  
 FTLN 1602 *For I'll cut my green coat a foot above my knee,* 20  
 FTLN 1603 *And I'll clip my yellow locks an inch below mine*  
 FTLN 1604 *eye.*  
 FTLN 1605 *Hey nonny, nonny, nonny.*  
 FTLN 1606 *He's buy me a white cut, forth for to ride,*  
 FTLN 1607 *And I'll go seek him through the world that is so* 25  
 FTLN 1608 *wide.*  
 FTLN 1609 *Hey nonny, nonny, nonny.*  
 FTLN 1610 O, for a prick now, like a nightingale,  
 FTLN 1611 To put my breast against. I shall sleep like a top else.  
*She exits.*

## Scene 「5」

*Enter a Schoolmaster and 「six」 Countrymen,  
 「one dressed as a Bavian.」*

FTLN 1612 SCHOOLMASTER Fie, fie, what tediousity and disinsanity  
 FTLN 1613 is here among you! Have my rudiments been labored  
 FTLN 1614 so long with you, milked unto you, and, by a  
 FTLN 1615 figure, even the very plum broth and marrow of  
 FTLN 1616 my understanding laid upon you, and do you still 5  
 FTLN 1617 cry “Where?” and “How?” and “Wherefore?” You  
 FTLN 1618 most coarse-frieze capacities, you 「jean」 judgments,  
 FTLN 1619 have I said “Thus let be” and “There let be”  
 FTLN 1620 and “Then let be” and no man understand me? *Proh*  
 FTLN 1621 *deum, medius fidius*, you are all dunces! Forwhy, 10  
 FTLN 1622 here stand I; here the Duke comes; there are you,  
 FTLN 1623 close in the thicket; the Duke appears; I meet him  
 FTLN 1624 and unto him I utter learnèd things and many figures;  
 FTLN 1625 he hears, and nods, and hums, and then cries  
 FTLN 1626 “Rare!” and I go forward. At length I fling my cap 15  
 FTLN 1627 up—mark there! Then do you as once did Meleager

FTLN 1628           and the boar—break comely out before him;  
 FTLN 1629           like true lovers, cast yourselves in a body decently,  
 FTLN 1630           and sweetly, by a figure, trace and turn, boys.  
 FTLN 1631   FIRST COUNTRYMAN   And sweetly we will do it, Master           20  
 FTLN 1632           Gerald.  
 FTLN 1633   SECOND COUNTRYMAN   Draw up the company. Where's  
 FTLN 1634           the taborer?  
 FTLN 1635   THIRD COUNTRYMAN   Why, Timothy!

*Enter the Taborer.*

FTLN 1636   TABORER   Here, my mad boys. Have at you!           25  
 FTLN 1637   SCHOOLMASTER   But I say, where's their women?

*Enter five Wenches.*

FTLN 1638   FOURTH COUNTRYMAN   Here's Fritz and Maudlin.  
 FTLN 1639   SECOND COUNTRYMAN   And little Luce with the white  
 FTLN 1640           legs, and bouncing Barbary.  
 FTLN 1641   FIRST COUNTRYMAN   And freckled Nell, that never failed           30  
 FTLN 1642           her master.  
 FTLN 1643   SCHOOLMASTER   Where be your ribbons, maids? Swim  
 FTLN 1644           with your bodies, and carry it sweetly and deliverly,  
 FTLN 1645           and now and then a favor and a frisk.  
 FTLN 1646   NELL   Let us alone, sir.           35  
 FTLN 1647   SCHOOLMASTER   Where's the rest o' th' music?  
 FTLN 1648   THIRD COUNTRYMAN   Dispersed, as you commanded.  
 FTLN 1649   SCHOOLMASTER   Couple, then, and see what's wanting.  
 FTLN 1650           Where's the Bavian?—My friend, carry your tail  
 FTLN 1651           without offense or scandal to the ladies; and be           40  
 FTLN 1652           sure you tumble with audacity and manhood, and  
 FTLN 1653           when you bark, do it with judgment.  
 FTLN 1654   BAVIAN   Yes, sir.  
 FTLN 1655   SCHOOLMASTER   *Quo usque tandem?* Here is a woman  
 FTLN 1656           wanting.           45  
 FTLN 1657   FOURTH COUNTRYMAN   We may go whistle; all the fat's i'  
 FTLN 1658           th' fire.  
 FTLN 1659   SCHOOLMASTER   We have, as learnèd authors utter,

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FTLN 1660	washed a tile; we have been <i>fatuus</i> and labored	
FTLN 1661	vainly.	50
FTLN 1662	SECOND COUNTRYMAN This is that scornful piece, that	
FTLN 1663	scurvy hilding that gave her promise faithfully she	
FTLN 1664	would be here—Cicely, the sempster's daughter.	
FTLN 1665	The next gloves that I give her shall be dogskin;	
FTLN 1666	nay, an she fail me once—you can tell, Arcas, she	55
FTLN 1667	swore by wine and bread she would not break.	
FTLN 1668	SCHOOLMASTER An eel and woman, a learned poet	
FTLN 1669	says, unless by th' tail and with thy teeth thou hold,	
FTLN 1670	will either fail. In manners, this was false	
FTLN 1671	position.	60
FTLN 1672	FIRST COUNTRYMAN A fire ill take her! Does she flinch	
FTLN 1673	now?	
FTLN 1674	THIRD COUNTRYMAN What shall we determine, sir?	
FTLN 1675	SCHOOLMASTER Nothing. Our business is become a	
FTLN 1676	nullity, yea, and a woeful and a piteous nullity.	65
FTLN 1677	FOURTH COUNTRYMAN Now, when the credit of our town	
FTLN 1678	lay on it, now to be frampold, now to piss o' th'	
FTLN 1679	nettle! Go thy ways; I'll remember thee. I'll fit	
FTLN 1680	thee!	

*Enter Jailer's Daughter.*

	DAUGHTER, <i>「sings」</i>	
FTLN 1681	<i>The George Alow came from the south,</i>	70
FTLN 1682	<i>From the coast of Barbary-a,</i>	
FTLN 1683	<i>And there he met with brave gallants of war,</i>	
FTLN 1684	<i>By one, by two, by three-a.</i>	
FTLN 1685	<i>“Well hailed, well hailed, you jolly gallants,</i>	
FTLN 1686	<i>And whither now are you bound-a?</i>	75
FTLN 1687	<i>O, let me have your company</i>	
FTLN 1688	<i>Till 「I」 come to the sound-a.”</i>	
FTLN 1689	There was three fools, fell out about an owl—	
FTLN 1690	<i>「Sings」 The one 「he」 said it was an owl,</i>	
FTLN 1691	<i>The other he said nay,</i>	80

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FTLN 1692	<i>The third he said it was a hawk,</i>	
FTLN 1693	<i>And her bells were cut away.</i>	
FTLN 1694	THIRD COUNTRYMAN	There's a dainty madwoman, master,
FTLN 1695		comes i' th' nick, as mad as a March hare. If we
FTLN 1696		can get her dance, we are made again. I warrant
FTLN 1697		her, she'll do the rarest gambols.
FTLN 1698	FIRST COUNTRYMAN	A madwoman? We are made, boys.
FTLN 1699	SCHOOLMASTER, 「 <i>to Jailer's Daughter</i> 」	And are you mad,
FTLN 1700		good woman?
FTLN 1701	DAUGHTER	I would be sorry else. Give me your hand.
FTLN 1702	SCHOOLMASTER	Why?
FTLN 1703	DAUGHTER	I can tell your fortune. 「 <i>She looks at his</i>
FTLN 1704		<i>hand.</i> 」 You are a fool. Tell ten.—I have posed him.
FTLN 1705		Buzz!—Friend, you must eat no white bread; if
FTLN 1706		you do, your teeth will bleed extremely. Shall we
FTLN 1707		dance, ho? I know you, you're a tinker. Sirrah tinker,
FTLN 1708		stop no more holes but what you should.
FTLN 1709	SCHOOLMASTER	<i>Dii boni!</i> A tinker, damsel?
FTLN 1710	DAUGHTER	Or a conjurer. Raise me a devil now, and let
FTLN 1711		him play 「 <i>Chi</i> 」 <i>passa o' th' bells and bones.</i>
FTLN 1712	SCHOOLMASTER	Go, take her, and fluently persuade her
FTLN 1713		to a peace. <i>Et opus exegi, quod nec Iovis ira, nec</i>
FTLN 1714		<i>ignis.</i> Strike up, and lead her in.
FTLN 1715	SECOND COUNTRYMAN	Come, lass, let's trip it.
FTLN 1716	DAUGHTER	I'll lead.
FTLN 1717	THIRD COUNTRYMAN	Do, do!
FTLN 1718	SCHOOLMASTER	Persuasively, and cunningly.
		<i>Wind horns.</i>
FTLN 1719		Away, boys! I hear the horns. Give me some
FTLN 1720		meditation, and mark your cue.
		<i>All but Schoolmaster exit.</i>
FTLN 1721		Pallas, inspire me!
		110
		<i>Enter Theseus, Pirithous, Hippolyta, Emilia, and train.</i>
FTLN 1722	THESEUS	This way the stag took.
FTLN 1723	SCHOOLMASTER	Stay, and edify!



FTLN 1757 And his fat Spouse, that welcomes to their cost  
 FTLN 1758 The gallèd traveler, and with a beck'ning  
 FTLN 1759 Informs the tapster to inflame the reck'ning;  
 FTLN 1760 Then the beest-eating Clown; and next the Fool,  
 FTLN 1761 The Bavian with long tail and eke long tool, 150  
 FTLN 1762 *Cum multis aliis* that make a dance;  
 FTLN 1763 Say "ay," and all shall presently advance.

THESEUS

FTLN 1764 Ay, ay, by any means, dear Domine.

FTLN 1765 PIRITHOUS Produce!

SCHOOLMASTER

FTLN 1766 *Intrate, filii.* Come forth and foot it. 155

*Music.* [Enter the Countrymen, Countrywomen, and  
 Jailer's Daughter; they perform a morris<sup>1</sup> dance.]

[SCHOOLMASTER<sup>1</sup>]

FTLN 1767 Ladies, if we have been merry  
 FTLN 1768 And have pleased [ye<sup>1</sup>] with a derry,  
 FTLN 1769 And a derry and a down,  
 FTLN 1770 Say the Schoolmaster's no clown.—  
 FTLN 1771 Duke, if we have pleased [thee<sup>1</sup>] too 160  
 FTLN 1772 And have done as good boys should do,  
 FTLN 1773 Give us but a tree or twain  
 FTLN 1774 For a Maypole, and again,  
 FTLN 1775 Ere another year run out,  
 FTLN 1776 We'll make thee laugh, and all this rout. 165

THESEUS

FTLN 1777 Take twenty, Domine.—How does my sweetheart?

HIPPOLYTA

FTLN 1778 Never so pleased, sir.

FTLN 1779 EMILIA 'Twas an excellent dance,

FTLN 1780 And, for a preface, I never heard a better.

THESEUS

FTLN 1781 Schoolmaster, I thank you.—One see 'em all 170

FTLN 1782 rewarded. [An Attendant gives money.<sup>1</sup>]



FTLN 1806 If it but hold, I kill him with. 'Tis justice.  
 FTLN 1807 So, love and fortune for me!

*Enter Arcite with armors and swords.*

FTLN 1808 O, good morrow.

ARCITE

FTLN 1809 Good morrow, noble kinsman.

FTLN 1810 PALAMON I have put you 20

FTLN 1811 To too much pains, sir.

FTLN 1812 ARCITE That too much, fair cousin,

FTLN 1813 Is but a debt to honor and my duty.

PALAMON

FTLN 1814 Would you were so in all, sir; I could wish you

FTLN 1815 As kind a kinsman as you force me find 25

FTLN 1816 A beneficial foe, that my embraces

FTLN 1817 Might thank you, not my blows.

FTLN 1818 ARCITE I shall think either,

FTLN 1819 Well done, a noble recompense.

FTLN 1820 PALAMON Then I shall quit you. 30

ARCITE

FTLN 1821 Defy me in these fair terms, and you show

FTLN 1822 More than a mistress to me. No more anger,

FTLN 1823 As you love anything that's honorable!

FTLN 1824 We were not bred to talk, man; when we are armed

FTLN 1825 And both upon our guards, then let our fury, 35

FTLN 1826 Like meeting of two tides, fly strongly from us,

FTLN 1827 And then to whom the birthright of this beauty

FTLN 1828 Truly pertains—without upbraidings, scorns,

FTLN 1829 Despising of our persons, and such poutings,

FTLN 1830 Fitter for girls and schoolboys—will be seen, 40

FTLN 1831 And quickly, yours or mine. Will 't please you arm,

FTLN 1832 sir?

FTLN 1833 Or if you feel yourself not fitting yet

FTLN 1834 And furnished with your old strength, I'll stay,

FTLN 1835 cousin, 45

FTLN 1836 And ev'ry day discourse you into health,

FTLN 1837 As I am spared. Your person I am friends with,  
 FTLN 1838 And I could wish I had not said I loved her,  
 FTLN 1839 Though I had died. But loving such a lady,  
 FTLN 1840 And justifying my love, I must not fly from 't. 50  
 PALAMON  
 FTLN 1841 Arcite, thou art so brave an enemy  
 FTLN 1842 That no man but thy cousin's fit to kill thee.  
 FTLN 1843 I am well and lusty. Choose your arms.  
 FTLN 1844 ARCITE Choose you, sir.  
 PALAMON  
 FTLN 1845 Wilt thou exceed in all, or dost thou do it 55  
 FTLN 1846 To make me spare thee?  
 FTLN 1847 ARCITE If you think so, cousin,  
 FTLN 1848 You are deceived, for as I am a soldier,  
 FTLN 1849 I will not spare you.  
 FTLN 1850 PALAMON That's well said. 60  
 FTLN 1851 ARCITE You'll find it.  
 PALAMON  
 FTLN 1852 Then, as I am an honest man and love  
 FTLN 1853 With all the justice of affection,  
 FTLN 1854 I'll pay thee soundly. *「He chooses armor.」*  
 FTLN 1855 This I'll take. 65  
 FTLN 1856 ARCITE *「taking the other」* That's mine, then.  
 FTLN 1857 I'll arm you first.  
 FTLN 1858 PALAMON Do. *「Arcite begins arming him.」*  
 FTLN 1859 Pray thee tell me, cousin,  
 FTLN 1860 Where got'st thou this good armor? 70  
 FTLN 1861 ARCITE 'Tis the Duke's,  
 FTLN 1862 And to say true, I stole it. Do I pinch you?  
 FTLN 1863 PALAMON No.  
 ARCITE  
 FTLN 1864 Is 't not too heavy?  
 FTLN 1865 PALAMON I have worn a lighter, 75  
 FTLN 1866 But I shall make it serve.  
 FTLN 1867 ARCITE I'll buckle 't close.

PALAMON

FTLN 1868 By any means.

FTLN 1869 ARCITE You care not for a grand guard?

PALAMON

FTLN 1870 No, no, we'll use no horses. I perceive 80

FTLN 1871 You would fain be at that fight.

FTLN 1872 ARCITE I am indifferent.

PALAMON

FTLN 1873 Faith, so am I. Good cousin, thrust the buckle

FTLN 1874 Through far enough.

FTLN 1875 ARCITE I warrant you. 85

FTLN 1876 PALAMON My casque now.

ARCITE

FTLN 1877 Will you fight bare-armed?

FTLN 1878 PALAMON We shall be the nimbler.

ARCITE

FTLN 1879 But use your gauntlets though. Those are o' th' least.

FTLN 1880 Prithee take mine, good cousin. 90

FTLN 1881 PALAMON Thank you, Arcite.

FTLN 1882 How do I look? Am I fall'n much away?

ARCITE

FTLN 1883 Faith, very little; love has used you kindly.

PALAMON

FTLN 1884 I'll warrant thee, I'll strike home.

FTLN 1885 ARCITE Do, and spare not. 95

FTLN 1886 I'll give you cause, sweet cousin.

FTLN 1887 PALAMON Now to you, sir.

*〔He begins to arm Arcite.〕*

FTLN 1888 Methinks this armor's very like that, Arcite,

FTLN 1889 Thou wor'st that day the three kings fell, but lighter.

ARCITE

FTLN 1890 That was a very good one, and that day, 100

FTLN 1891 I well remember, you outdid me, cousin.

FTLN 1892 I never saw such valor. When you charged

FTLN 1893 Upon the left wing of the enemy,

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FTLN 1894	I spurred hard to come up, and under me	
FTLN 1895	I had a right good horse.	105
FTLN 1896	PALAMON	You had, indeed;
FTLN 1897	A bright bay, I remember.	
FTLN 1898	ARCITE	Yes, but all
FTLN 1899	Was vainly labored in me; you outwent me,	
FTLN 1900	Nor could my wishes reach you; yet a little	110
FTLN 1901	I did by imitation.	
FTLN 1902	PALAMON	More by virtue;
FTLN 1903	You are modest, cousin.	
FTLN 1904	ARCITE	When I saw you charge first,
FTLN 1905	Methought I heard a dreadful clap of thunder	115
FTLN 1906	Break from the troop.	
FTLN 1907	PALAMON	But still before that flew
FTLN 1908	The lightning of your valor. Stay a little;	
FTLN 1909	Is not this piece too strait?	
FTLN 1910	ARCITE	No, no, 'tis well.
	PALAMON	
FTLN 1911	I would have nothing hurt thee but my sword.	
FTLN 1912	A bruise would be dishonor.	
FTLN 1913	ARCITE	Now I am perfect.
	PALAMON	
FTLN 1914	Stand off, then.	
FTLN 1915	ARCITE	Take my sword; I hold it better.
	PALAMON	125
FTLN 1916	I thank you, no; keep it; your life lies on it.	
FTLN 1917	Here's one; if it but hold, I ask no more	
FTLN 1918	For all my hopes. My cause and honor guard me!	
	ARCITE	
FTLN 1919	And me my love!	
	<i>They bow several ways, then advance and stand.</i>	
FTLN 1920	Is there aught else to say?	130
	PALAMON	
FTLN 1921	This only, and no more: thou art mine aunt's son.	
FTLN 1922	And that blood we desire to shed is mutual—	
FTLN 1923	In me thine, and in thee mine. My sword	

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FTLN 1924	Is in my hand, and if thou kill'st me,	
FTLN 1925	The gods and I forgive thee. If there be	135
FTLN 1926	A place prepared for those that sleep in honor,	
FTLN 1927	I wish his weary soul that falls may win it.	
FTLN 1928	Fight bravely, cousin. Give me thy noble hand.	
	ARCITE, <i>「as they shake hands」</i>	
FTLN 1929	Here, Palamon. This hand shall never more	
FTLN 1930	Come near thee with such friendship.	140
FTLN 1931	PALAMON	I commend thee.
	ARCITE	
FTLN 1932	If I fall, curse me, and say I was a coward,	
FTLN 1933	For none but such dare die in these just trials.	
FTLN 1934	Once more farewell, my cousin.	
FTLN 1935	PALAMON	Farewell, Arcite. 145
		<i>Fight.</i>
		<i>Horns within. They stand.</i>
	ARCITE	
FTLN 1936	Lo, cousin, lo, our folly has undone us!	
FTLN 1937	PALAMON Why?	
	ARCITE	
FTLN 1938	This is the Duke, a-hunting, as I told you.	
FTLN 1939	If we be found, we are wretched. O, retire,	
FTLN 1940	For honor's sake, and safely, presently	150
FTLN 1941	Into your bush again. Sir, we shall find	
FTLN 1942	Too many hours to die in. Gentle cousin,	
FTLN 1943	If you be seen, you perish instantly	
FTLN 1944	For breaking prison, and I, if you reveal me,	
FTLN 1945	For my contempt. Then all the world will scorn us,	155
FTLN 1946	And say we had a noble difference,	
FTLN 1947	But base disposers of it.	
FTLN 1948	PALAMON	No, no, cousin,
FTLN 1949	I will no more be hidden, nor put off	
FTLN 1950	This great adventure to a second trial.	160
FTLN 1951	I know your cunning, and I know your cause.	
FTLN 1952	He that faints now, shame take him! Put thyself	
FTLN 1953	Upon thy present guard—	

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FTLN 1954	ARCITE	You are not mad?	
	PALAMON		
FTLN 1955		Or I will make th' advantage of this hour	165
FTLN 1956		Mine own, and what to come shall threaten me	
FTLN 1957		I fear less than my fortune. Know, weak cousin,	
FTLN 1958		I love Emilia, and in that I'll bury	
FTLN 1959		Thee and all crosses else.	
FTLN 1960	ARCITE	Then come what can come,	170
FTLN 1961		Thou shalt know, Palamon, I dare as well	
FTLN 1962		Die as discourse or sleep. Only this fears me:	
FTLN 1963		The law will have the honor of our ends.	
FTLN 1964		Have at thy life!	
FTLN 1965	PALAMON	Look to thine own well, Arcite.	175
		<i>Fight again.</i>	

*Horns. Enter Theseus, Hippolyta, Emilia,  
Pirithous and train.*

	THESEUS		
FTLN 1966		What ignorant and mad malicious traitors	
FTLN 1967		Are you, that 'gainst the tenor of my laws	
FTLN 1968		Are making battle, thus like knights appointed,	
FTLN 1969		Without my leave and officers of arms?	
FTLN 1970		By Castor, both shall die.	180
FTLN 1971	PALAMON	Hold thy word, Theseus.	
FTLN 1972		We are certainly both traitors, both despisers	
FTLN 1973		Of thee and of thy goodness. I am Palamon,	
FTLN 1974		That cannot love thee, he that broke thy prison.	
FTLN 1975		Think well what that deserves. And this is Arcite.	185
FTLN 1976		A bolder traitor never trod thy ground,	
FTLN 1977		A falser ne'er seemed friend. This is the man	
FTLN 1978		Was begged and banished; this is he contemns thee	
FTLN 1979		And what thou dar'st do; and in this disguise,	
FTLN 1980		Against 'thine' own edict, follows thy sister,	190
FTLN 1981		That fortunate bright star, the fair Emilia,	
FTLN 1982		Whose servant—if there be a right in seeing	
FTLN 1983		And first bequeathing of the soul to—justly	

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FTLN 1984	I am; and, which is more, dares think her his.	
FTLN 1985	This treachery, like a most trusty lover,	195
FTLN 1986	I called him now to answer. If thou be'st	
FTLN 1987	As thou art spoken, great and virtuous,	
FTLN 1988	The true decider of all injuries,	
FTLN 1989	Say "Fight again," and thou shalt see me, Theseus,	
FTLN 1990	Do such a justice thou thyself wilt envy.	200
FTLN 1991	Then take my life; I'll woo thee to 't.	
FTLN 1992	PIRITHOUS	O heaven,
FTLN 1993	What more than man is this!	
FTLN 1994	THESEUS	I have sworn.
FTLN 1995	ARCITE	We seek not
FTLN 1996	Thy breath of mercy, Theseus. 'Tis to me	205
FTLN 1997	A thing as soon to die as thee to say it,	
FTLN 1998	And no more moved. Where this man calls me	
FTLN 1999	traitor,	
FTLN 2000	Let me say thus much: if in love be treason,	210
FTLN 2001	In service of so excellent a beauty,	
FTLN 2002	As I love most, and in that faith will perish,	
FTLN 2003	As I have brought my life here to confirm it,	
FTLN 2004	As I have served her truest, worthiest,	
FTLN 2005	As I dare kill this cousin that denies it,	215
FTLN 2006	So let me be most traitor, and you please me.	
FTLN 2007	For scorning thy edict, duke, ask that lady	
FTLN 2008	Why she is fair, and why her eyes command me	
FTLN 2009	Stay here to love her; and if she say "traitor,"	
FTLN 2010	I am a villain fit to lie unburied.	220
	PALAMON	
FTLN 2011	Thou shalt have pity of us both, O Theseus,	
FTLN 2012	If unto neither thou show mercy. Stop,	
FTLN 2013	As thou art just, thy noble ear against us;	
FTLN 2014	As thou art valiant, for thy cousin's soul,	
FTLN 2015	Whose twelve strong labors crown his memory,	225
FTLN 2016	Let's die together at one instant, duke;	
FTLN 2017	Only a little let him fall before me,	
FTLN 2018	That I may tell my soul he shall not have her.	

THESEUS

FTLN 2019 I grant your wish, for to say true, your cousin  
 FTLN 2020 Has ten times more offended, for I gave him 230  
 FTLN 2021 More mercy than you found, sir, your offenses  
 FTLN 2022 Being no more than his.—None here speak for 'em,  
 FTLN 2023 For ere the sun set both shall sleep forever.

HIPPOLYTA

FTLN 2024 Alas, the pity! Now or never, sister,  
 FTLN 2025 Speak not to be denied. That face of yours 235  
 FTLN 2026 Will bear the curses else of after ages  
 FTLN 2027 For these lost cousins.

EMILIA

In my face, dear sister,  
 FTLN 2028 I find no anger to 'em, nor no ruin.  
 FTLN 2029 The misadventure of their own eyes kill 'em. 240  
 FTLN 2030 Yet that I will be woman and have pity,  
 FTLN 2031 My knees shall grow to th' ground but I'll get mercy.

*She kneels.*

FTLN 2033 Help me, dear sister; in a deed so virtuous,  
 FTLN 2034 The powers of all women will be with us.

*Hippolyta kneels.*

FTLN 2035 Most royal brother— 245

HIPPOLYTA

Sir, by our tie of marriage—

EMILIA

FTLN 2037 By your own spotless honor—

HIPPOLYTA

By that faith,

FTLN 2038 That fair hand, and that honest heart you gave me—

EMILIA

FTLN 2040 By that you would have pity in another; 250

FTLN 2041 By your own virtues infinite—

HIPPOLYTA

By valor;

FTLN 2042 By all the chaste nights I have ever pleased you—

THESEUS

FTLN 2044 These are strange conjurings.

PIRITHOUS

Nay, then, I'll in too. 255

*He kneels.*



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FTLN 2073	Better they fall by th' law than one another.	
FTLN 2074	Bow not my honor.	
FTLN 2075	EMILIA O, my noble brother,	285
FTLN 2076	That oath was rashly made, and in your anger;	
FTLN 2077	Your reason will not hold it. If such vows	
FTLN 2078	Stand for express will, all the world must perish.	
FTLN 2079	Besides, I have another oath 'gainst yours,	
FTLN 2080	Of more authority, I am sure more love,	290
FTLN 2081	Not made in passion neither, but good heed.	
	THESEUS	
FTLN 2082	What is it, sister?	
FTLN 2083	PIRITHOUS Urge it home, brave lady.	
	EMILIA	
FTLN 2084	That you would ne'er deny me anything	
FTLN 2085	Fit for my modest suit and your free granting.	295
FTLN 2086	I tie you to your word now; if you <sup>fail</sup> in 't,	
FTLN 2087	Think how you maim your honor—	
FTLN 2088	For now I am set a-begging, sir, I am deaf	
FTLN 2089	To all but your compassion—how their lives	
FTLN 2090	Might breed the ruin of my name. Opinion!	300
FTLN 2091	Shall anything that loves me perish for me?	
FTLN 2092	That were a cruel wisdom. Do men prune	
FTLN 2093	The straight young boughs that blush with thousand	
FTLN 2094	blossoms	
FTLN 2095	Because they may be rotten? O, Duke Theseus,	305
FTLN 2096	The goodly mothers that have groaned for these,	
FTLN 2097	And all the longing maids that ever loved,	
FTLN 2098	If your vow stand, shall curse me and my beauty,	
FTLN 2099	And in their funeral songs for these two cousins	
FTLN 2100	Despise my cruelty, and cry woe worth me,	310
FTLN 2101	Till I am nothing but the scorn of women.	
FTLN 2102	For heaven's sake, save their lives, and banish 'em.	
	THESEUS	
FTLN 2103	On what conditions?	
FTLN 2104	EMILIA Swear 'em never more	
FTLN 2105	To make me their contention, or to know me,	315

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FTLN 2106	To tread upon thy dukedom, and to be,	
FTLN 2107	Wherever they shall travel, ever strangers	
FTLN 2108	To one another.	
FTLN 2109	PALAMON                    I'll be cut a-pieces	
FTLN 2110	Before I take this oath! Forget I love her?	320
FTLN 2111	O, all you gods, despise me then! Thy banishment	
FTLN 2112	I not mislike, so we may fairly carry	
FTLN 2113	Our swords and cause along; else never trifle,	
FTLN 2114	But take our lives, duke. I must love, and will,	
FTLN 2115	And for that love must and dare kill this cousin	325
FTLN 2116	On any piece the Earth has.	
FTLN 2117	THESEUS                                    Will you, Arcite,	
FTLN 2118	Take these conditions?	
FTLN 2119	PALAMON                                    He's a villain, then.	
FTLN 2120	PIRITHOUS    These are men!	330
	ARCITE	
FTLN 2121	No, never, duke. 'Tis worse to me than begging	
FTLN 2122	To take my life so basely; though I think	
FTLN 2123	I never shall enjoy her, yet I'll preserve	
FTLN 2124	The honor of affection, and die for her,	
FTLN 2125	Make death a devil!	335
	THESEUS	
FTLN 2126	What may be done? For now I feel compassion.	
	PIRITHOUS	
FTLN 2127	Let it not fall again, sir.	
FTLN 2128	THESEUS                                    Say, Emilia,	
FTLN 2129	If one of them were dead, as one must, are you	
FTLN 2130	Content to take th' other to your husband?	340
FTLN 2131	They cannot both enjoy you. They are princes	
FTLN 2132	As goodly as your own eyes, and as noble	
FTLN 2133	As ever fame yet spoke of. Look upon 'em,	
FTLN 2134	And, if you can love, end this difference.	
FTLN 2135	I give consent.—Are you content too, princes?	345
	BOTH	
FTLN 2136	With all our souls.	
FTLN 2137	THESEUS                                    He that she refuses	
FTLN 2138	Must die then.	

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FTLN 2139	BOTH	Any death thou canst invent, duke.	
	PALAMON		
FTLN 2140		If I fall from that mouth, I fall with favor,	350
FTLN 2141		And lovers yet unborn shall bless my ashes.	
	ARCITE		
FTLN 2142		If she refuse me, yet my grave will wed me,	
FTLN 2143		And soldiers sing my epitaph.	
FTLN 2144	THESEUS, 「 <i>to Emilia</i> 」	Make choice, then.	
	EMILIA		
FTLN 2145		I cannot, sir; they are both too excellent.	355
FTLN 2146		For me, a hair shall never fall of these men.	
	HIPPOLYTA		
FTLN 2147		What will become of 'em?	
FTLN 2148	THESEUS	Thus I ordain it—	
FTLN 2149		And, by mine honor, once again, it stands,	
FTLN 2150		Or both shall die: you shall both to your country,	360
FTLN 2151		And each within this month, accompanied	
FTLN 2152		With three fair knights, appear again in this place,	
FTLN 2153		In which I'll plant a pyramid; and whether,	
FTLN 2154		Before us that are here, can force his cousin	
FTLN 2155		By fair and knightly strength to touch the pillar,	365
FTLN 2156		He shall enjoy her; the other lose his head,	
FTLN 2157		And all his friends; nor shall he grudge to fall,	
FTLN 2158		Nor think he dies with interest in this lady.	
FTLN 2159		Will this content you?	
FTLN 2160	PALAMON	Yes.—Here, Cousin Arcite,	370
FTLN 2161		I am friends again till that hour. 「 <i>He offers his hand.</i> 」	
FTLN 2162	ARCITE	I embrace you.	
		「 <i>They shake hands.</i> 」	
	THESEUS		
FTLN 2163		Are you content, sister?	
FTLN 2164	EMILIA	Yes, I must, sir,	
FTLN 2165		Else both miscarry.	375
	THESEUS, 「 <i>to Palamon and Arcite</i> 」		
FTLN 2166		Come, shake hands again, then,	





SECOND FRIEND

FTLN 2193 Be of good comfort, man; I bring you news, 20  
 FTLN 2194 Good news.

FTLN 2195 JAILER They are welcome.

FTLN 2196 SECOND FRIEND Palamon has cleared  
 FTLN 2197 you

FTLN 2198 And got your pardon, and discovered how 25  
 FTLN 2199 And by whose means he escaped, which was your  
 FTLN 2200 daughter's,

FTLN 2201 Whose pardon is procured too; and the prisoner,  
 FTLN 2202 Not to be held ungrateful to her goodness,  
 FTLN 2203 Has given a sum of money to her marriage— 30  
 FTLN 2204 A large one, I'll assure you.

FTLN 2205 JAILER You are a good man  
 FTLN 2206 And ever bring good news.

FTLN 2207 FIRST FRIEND How was it ended?

SECOND FRIEND

FTLN 2208 Why, as it should be: they that ne'er begged 35  
 FTLN 2209 But they prevailed had their suits fairly granted;  
 FTLN 2210 The prisoners have their lives.

FTLN 2211 FIRST FRIEND I knew 'twould be so.

SECOND FRIEND

FTLN 2212 But there be new conditions, which you'll hear of  
 FTLN 2213 At better time. 40

FTLN 2214 JAILER I hope they are good.

FTLN 2215 SECOND FRIEND They are  
 FTLN 2216 honorable;

FTLN 2217 How good they'll prove I know not.

FTLN 2218 FIRST FRIEND 'Twill be known. 45

*Enter Wooer.*

WOOER

FTLN 2219 Alas, sir, where's your daughter?

FTLN 2220 JAILER Why do you ask?

WOOER

FTLN 2221 O, sir, when did you see her?

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FTLN 2222	SECOND FRIEND, <i>aside</i>	How he looks!	
	JAILER		
FTLN 2223		This morning.	50
FTLN 2224	WOOER	Was she well? Was she in health?	
FTLN 2225		Sir, when did she sleep?	
FTLN 2226	FIRST FRIEND, <i>aside</i>	These are strange questions.	
	JAILER		
FTLN 2227		I do not think she was very well—for now	
FTLN 2228		You make me mind her; but this very day	55
FTLN 2229		I asked her questions, and she answered me	
FTLN 2230		So far from what she was, so childishly,	
FTLN 2231		So sillily, as if she were a fool,	
FTLN 2232		An innocent, and I was very angry.	
FTLN 2233		But what of her, sir?	60
FTLN 2234	WOOER	Nothing but my pity;	
FTLN 2235		But you must know it, and as good by me	
FTLN 2236		As by another that less loves her.	
FTLN 2237	JAILER	Well, sir?	
	WOOER		
FTLN 2238		No, sir, not well.	65
FTLN 2239	FIRST FRIEND	Not right?	
FTLN 2240	SECOND FRIEND	Not well?	
	WOOER		
FTLN 2241		'Tis too true; she is mad.	
FTLN 2242	FIRST FRIEND	It cannot be.	
	WOOER		
FTLN 2243		Believe you'll find it so.	70
FTLN 2244	JAILER	I half suspected	
FTLN 2245		What you told me. The gods comfort her!	
FTLN 2246		Either this was her love to Palamon,	
FTLN 2247		Or fear of my miscarrying on his 'scape,	
FTLN 2248		Or both.	75
FTLN 2249	WOOER	'Tis likely.	
FTLN 2250	JAILER	But why all this haste, sir?	
	WOOER		
FTLN 2251		I'll tell you quickly. As I late was angling	

FTLN 2252	In the great lake that lies behind the palace,	
FTLN 2253	From the far shore—thick set with reeds and	80
FTLN 2254	sedges—	
FTLN 2255	As patiently I was attending sport,	
FTLN 2256	I heard a voice, a shrill one; and, attentive,	
FTLN 2257	I gave my ear, when I might well perceive	
FTLN 2258	'Twas one that sung, and by the smallness of it	85
FTLN 2259	A boy or woman. I then left my angle	
FTLN 2260	To his own skill, came near, but yet perceived not	
FTLN 2261	Who made the sound, the rushes and the reeds	
FTLN 2262	Had so encompassed it. I laid me down	
FTLN 2263	And listened to the words she 「sung,」 for then,	90
FTLN 2264	Through a small glade cut by the fishermen,	
FTLN 2265	I saw it was your daughter.	
FTLN 2266	JAILER	Pray go on, sir.
	WOOER	
FTLN 2267	She sung much, but no sense; only I heard her	
FTLN 2268	Repeat this often: “Palamon is gone,	95
FTLN 2269	Is gone to th' wood to gather mulberries;	
FTLN 2270	I'll find him out tomorrow.”	
FTLN 2271	FIRST FRIEND	Pretty soul!
	WOOER	
FTLN 2272	“His shackles will betray him; he'll be taken,	
FTLN 2273	And what shall I do then? I'll bring a bevy,	100
FTLN 2274	A hundred black-eyed maids that love as I do,	
FTLN 2275	With chaplets on their heads of daffadillies,	
FTLN 2276	With cherry lips and cheeks of damask roses,	
FTLN 2277	And all we'll dance an antic 'fore the Duke,	
FTLN 2278	And beg his pardon.” Then she talked of you, sir—	105
FTLN 2279	That you must lose your head tomorrow morning,	
FTLN 2280	And she must gather flowers to bury you,	
FTLN 2281	And see the house made handsome. Then she sung	
FTLN 2282	Nothing but “Willow, willow, willow,” and between	
FTLN 2283	Ever was “Palamon, fair Palamon,”	110
FTLN 2284	And “Palamon was a tall young man.” The place	
FTLN 2285	Was knee-deep where she sat; her careless tresses,	

FTLN 2286 A [wreath] of bulrush rounded; about her stuck  
 FTLN 2287 Thousand freshwater flowers of several colors,  
 FTLN 2288 That methought she appeared like the fair nymph 115  
 FTLN 2289 That feeds the lake with waters, or as Iris  
 FTLN 2290 Newly dropped down from heaven. Rings she made  
 FTLN 2291 Of rushes that grew by, and to 'em spoke  
 FTLN 2292 The prettiest posies: "Thus our true love's tied,"  
 FTLN 2293 "This you may lose, not me," and many a one; 120  
 FTLN 2294 And then she wept, and sung again, and sighed,  
 FTLN 2295 And with the same breath smiled and kissed her  
 FTLN 2296 hand.

## SECOND FRIEND

FTLN 2297 Alas, what pity it is!  
 FTLN 2298 WOOER I made in to her. 125  
 FTLN 2299 She saw me, and straight sought the flood. I saved  
 FTLN 2300 her  
 FTLN 2301 And set her safe to land, when presently  
 FTLN 2302 She slipped away, and to the city made  
 FTLN 2303 With such a cry and swiftness that, believe me, 130  
 FTLN 2304 She left me far behind her. Three or four  
 FTLN 2305 I saw from far off cross her—one of 'em  
 FTLN 2306 I knew to be your brother—where she stayed  
 FTLN 2307 And fell, scarce to be got away. I left them with her  
 FTLN 2308 And hither came to tell you. 135

*Enter [Jailer's] Brother, [Jailer's] Daughter, and others.*

FTLN 2309 Here they are.  
 DAUGHTER, [sings]  
 FTLN 2310 *May you never more enjoy the light, etc.*  
 FTLN 2311 Is not this a fine song?  
 FTLN 2312 BROTHER O, a very fine one.  
 FTLN 2313 DAUGHTER I can sing twenty more. 140  
 FTLN 2314 BROTHER I think you can.  
 FTLN 2315 DAUGHTER Yes, truly can I. I can sing "The Broom"  
 FTLN 2316 and "Bonny Robin." Are not you a tailor?  
 FTLN 2317 BROTHER Yes.

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FTLN 2318	DAUGHTER	Where's my wedding gown?	145
FTLN 2319	BROTHER	I'll bring it tomorrow.	
FTLN 2320	DAUGHTER	Do, very rarely, I must be abroad else to	
FTLN 2321		call the maids and pay the minstrels, for I must	
FTLN 2322		lose my maidenhead by cocklight. 'Twill never	
FTLN 2323		thrive else.	150
FTLN 2324	<i>Sings.</i>	<i>O fair, O sweet, etc.</i>	
FTLN 2325	BROTHER, 「to Jailer」	You must e'en take it patiently.	
FTLN 2326	JAILER	'Tis true.	
FTLN 2327	DAUGHTER	Good e'en, good men. Pray, did you ever	
FTLN 2328		hear of one young Palamon?	155
FTLN 2329	JAILER	Yes, wench, we know him.	
FTLN 2330	DAUGHTER	Is 't not a fine young gentleman?	
FTLN 2331	JAILER	'Tis, love.	
FTLN 2332	BROTHER, 「aside to others」	By no mean cross her; she	
FTLN 2333		is then distempered 「far」 worse than now she	160
FTLN 2334		shows.	
FTLN 2335	FIRST FRIEND, 「to Daughter」	Yes, he's a fine man.	
FTLN 2336	DAUGHTER	O, is he so? You have a sister.	
FTLN 2337	FIRST FRIEND	Yes.	
FTLN 2338	DAUGHTER	But she shall never have him—tell her so—	165
FTLN 2339		for a trick that I know; you'd best look to her, for	
FTLN 2340		if she see him once, she's gone, she's done and	
FTLN 2341		undone in an hour. All the young maids of our	
FTLN 2342		town are in love with him, but I laugh at 'em and	
FTLN 2343		let 'em all alone. Is 't not a wise course?	170
FTLN 2344	FIRST FRIEND	Yes.	
FTLN 2345	DAUGHTER	There is at least two hundred now with	
FTLN 2346		child by him—there must be four; yet I keep close	
FTLN 2347		for all this, close as a cockle; and all these must be	
FTLN 2348		boys—he has the trick on 't—and at ten years old	175
FTLN 2349		they must be all gelt for musicians and sing the	
FTLN 2350		wars of Theseus.	
FTLN 2351	SECOND FRIEND	This is strange.	
FTLN 2352	DAUGHTER	As ever you heard, but say nothing.	
FTLN 2353	FIRST FRIEND	No.	180

FTLN 2354 DAUGHTER They come from all parts of the dukedom  
 FTLN 2355 to him; I'll warrant you, he had not so few last  
 FTLN 2356 night as twenty to dispatch. He'll tickle 't up in two  
 FTLN 2357 hours, if his hand be in.

FTLN 2358 JAILER, *「aside」* She's lost past all cure. 185

FTLN 2359 BROTHER Heaven forbid, man!

FTLN 2360 DAUGHTER, *「to Jailer」* Come hither; you are a wise  
 FTLN 2361 man.

FTLN 2362 FIRST FRIEND, *「aside」* Does she know him?  
 FTLN 2363 *「SECOND」* FRIEND No; would she did. 190

FTLN 2364 DAUGHTER You are master of a ship?

FTLN 2365 JAILER Yes.

FTLN 2366 DAUGHTER Where's your compass?

FTLN 2367 JAILER Here.

FTLN 2368 DAUGHTER Set it to th' north. And now direct your 195  
 FTLN 2369 course to th' wood, where Palamon lies longing for  
 FTLN 2370 me. For the tackling, let me alone.—Come, weigh,  
 FTLN 2371 my hearts, cheerly.

FTLN 2372 ALL, *「as if sailing a ship」* Owgh, owgh, owgh!—'Tis up!  
 FTLN 2373 The wind's fair!—Top the bowline!—Out with the 200  
 FTLN 2374 main sail! Where's your whistle, master?

FTLN 2375 BROTHER Let's get her in!

FTLN 2376 JAILER Up to the top, boy!

FTLN 2377 BROTHER Where's the pilot?

FTLN 2378 FIRST FRIEND Here. 205

FTLN 2379 DAUGHTER What kenn'st thou?

FTLN 2380 SECOND FRIEND A fair wood.

FTLN 2381 DAUGHTER Bear for it, master. *「Tack」* about!  
*Sings.*

FTLN 2382 *When Cynthia with her borrowed light, etc.*

*They exit.*

## Scene 2

*Enter Emilia alone, with two pictures.*

EMILIA

FTLN 2383 Yet I may bind those wounds up that must open  
 FTLN 2384 And bleed to death for my sake else. I'll choose,  
 FTLN 2385 And end their strife. Two such young handsome men  
 FTLN 2386 Shall never fall for me; their weeping mothers,  
 FTLN 2387 Following the dead cold ashes of their sons, 5  
 FTLN 2388 Shall never curse my cruelty.

*「Looks at one of the pictures.」*

FTLN 2389 Good heaven,  
 FTLN 2390 What a sweet face has Arcite! If wise Nature,  
 FTLN 2391 With all her best endowments, all those beauties  
 FTLN 2392 She sows into the births of noble bodies, 10  
 FTLN 2393 Were here a mortal woman, and had in her  
 FTLN 2394 The coy denials of young maids, yet doubtless  
 FTLN 2395 She would run mad for this man. What an eye,  
 FTLN 2396 Of what a fiery sparkle and quick sweetness,  
 FTLN 2397 Has this young prince! Here Love himself sits 15  
 FTLN 2398 smiling;  
 FTLN 2399 Just such another wanton Ganymede  
 FTLN 2400 Set 「Jove」 afire with, and enforced the god  
 FTLN 2401 Snatch up the goodly boy and set him by him,  
 FTLN 2402 A shining constellation. What a brow, 20  
 FTLN 2403 Of what a spacious majesty, he carries,  
 FTLN 2404 Arched like the great-eyed Juno's but far sweeter,  
 FTLN 2405 Smoother than Pelops' shoulder! Fame and Honor,  
 FTLN 2406 Methinks, from hence as from a promontory  
 FTLN 2407 Pointed in heaven, should clap their wings and sing 25  
 FTLN 2408 To all the under world the loves and fights  
 FTLN 2409 Of gods and such men near 'em.

*「Looks at the other picture.」*

FTLN 2410 Palamon  
 FTLN 2411 Is but his foil, to him a mere dull shadow;  
 FTLN 2412 He's swart and meager, of an eye as heavy 30

FTLN 2413 As if he had lost his mother; a still temper,  
 FTLN 2414 No stirring in him, no alacrity;  
 FTLN 2415 Of all this sprightly sharpness not a smile.  
 FTLN 2416 Yet these that we count errors may become him;  
 FTLN 2417 Narcissus was a sad boy but a heavenly. 35  
 FTLN 2418 O, who can find the bent of woman's fancy?  
 FTLN 2419 I am a fool; my reason is lost in me;  
 FTLN 2420 I have no choice, and I have lied so lewdly  
 FTLN 2421 That women ought to beat me. On my knees  
 FTLN 2422 I ask thy pardon: Palamon, thou art alone 40  
 FTLN 2423 And only beautiful, and these the eyes,  
 FTLN 2424 These the bright lamps of beauty, that command  
 FTLN 2425 And threaten love, and what young maid dare cross  
 FTLN 2426 'em?  
 FTLN 2427 What a bold gravity, and yet inviting, 45  
 FTLN 2428 Has this brown manly face! O Love, this only  
 FTLN 2429 From this hour is complexion. Lie there, Arcite.  
   *¶She puts aside his picture.¶*  
 FTLN 2430 Thou art a changeling to him, a mere gypsy,  
 FTLN 2431 And this the noble body. I am sotted,  
 FTLN 2432 Utterly lost. My virgin's faith has fled me. 50  
 FTLN 2433 For if my brother but even now had asked me  
 FTLN 2434 Whether I loved, I had run mad for Arcite.  
 FTLN 2435 Now, if my sister, more for Palamon.  
 FTLN 2436 Stand both together. Now, come ask me, brother.  
 FTLN 2437 Alas, I know not! Ask me now, sweet sister. 55  
 FTLN 2438 I may go look! What a mere child is Fancy,  
 FTLN 2439 That, having two fair gauds of equal sweetness,  
 FTLN 2440 Cannot distinguish, but must cry for both.

*Enter ¶a¶ Gentleman.*

FTLN 2441 How now, sir?  
 FTLN 2442 GENTLEMAN From the noble duke, your brother, 60  
 FTLN 2443 Madam, I bring you news: the knights are come.  
 EMILIA  
 FTLN 2444 To end the quarrel?

FTLN 2445 GENTLEMAN Yes.  
 FTLN 2446 EMILIA Would I might end first!  
 FTLN 2447 What sins have I committed, chaste Diana, 65  
 FTLN 2448 That my unspotted youth must now be soiled  
 FTLN 2449 With blood of princes, and my chastity  
 FTLN 2450 Be made the altar where the lives of lovers—  
 FTLN 2451 Two greater and two better never yet  
 FTLN 2452 Made mothers joy—must be the sacrifice 70  
 FTLN 2453 To my unhappy beauty?

*Enter Theseus, Hippolyta, Pirithous and Attendants.*

FTLN 2454 THESEUS, [to Attendant] Bring 'em in  
 FTLN 2455 Quickly, by any means; I long to see 'em.  
 FTLN 2456 [To Emilia.] Your two contending lovers are  
 FTLN 2457 returned, 75  
 FTLN 2458 And with them their fair knights. Now, my fair  
 FTLN 2459 sister,  
 FTLN 2460 You must love one of them.  
 FTLN 2461 EMILIA I had rather both,  
 FTLN 2462 So neither for my sake should fall untimely. 80  
 THESEUS  
 FTLN 2463 Who saw 'em?  
 FTLN 2464 PIRITHOUS I awhile.  
 FTLN 2465 GENTLEMAN And I.

*Enter [a] Messenger.*

THESEUS  
 FTLN 2466 From whence come you, sir?  
 FTLN 2467 MESSENGER From the knights. 85  
 FTLN 2468 THESEUS Pray  
 FTLN 2469 speak,  
 FTLN 2470 You that have seen them, what they are.  
 FTLN 2471 MESSENGER I will, sir,  
 FTLN 2472 And truly what I think. Six braver spirits 90  
 FTLN 2473 Than these they have brought, if we judge by the  
 FTLN 2474 outside,

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FTLN 2475	I never saw nor read of. He that stands	
FTLN 2476	In the first place with Arcite, by his seeming,	
FTLN 2477	Should be a stout man, by his face a prince—	95
FTLN 2478	His very looks so say him; his complexion	
FTLN 2479	Nearer a brown than black—stern and yet noble—	
FTLN 2480	Which shows him hardy, fearless, proud of dangers;	
FTLN 2481	The circles of his eyes show <sup>1</sup> fire <sup>1</sup> within him,	
FTLN 2482	And as a heated lion, so he looks.	100
FTLN 2483	His hair hangs long behind him, black and shining	
FTLN 2484	Like ravens' wings; his shoulders broad and strong,	
FTLN 2485	Armed long and round; and on his thigh a sword	
FTLN 2486	Hung by a curious baldric, when he frowns	
FTLN 2487	To seal his will with. Better, o' my conscience,	105
FTLN 2488	Was never soldier's friend.	
	THESEUS	
FTLN 2489	Thou hast well described him.	
FTLN 2490	PIRITHOUS	Yet a great
FTLN 2491	deal short,	
FTLN 2492	Methinks, of him that's first with Palamon.	110
	THESEUS	
FTLN 2493	Pray speak him, friend.	
FTLN 2494	PIRITHOUS	I guess he is a prince too,
FTLN 2495	And, if it may be, greater; for his show	
FTLN 2496	Has all the ornament of honor in 't:	
FTLN 2497	He's somewhat bigger than the knight he spoke of,	115
FTLN 2498	But of a face far sweeter; his complexion	
FTLN 2499	Is, as a ripe grape, ruddy. He has felt	
FTLN 2500	Without doubt what he fights for, and so apter	
FTLN 2501	To make this cause his own. In 's face appears	
FTLN 2502	All the fair hopes of what he undertakes,	120
FTLN 2503	And when he's angry, then a settled valor,	
FTLN 2504	Not tainted with extremes, runs through his body	
FTLN 2505	And guides his arm to brave things. Fear he cannot;	
FTLN 2506	He shows no such soft temper. His head's yellow,	
FTLN 2507	Hard-haired and curled, thick-twined like ivy <sup>1</sup> tods, <sup>1</sup>	125
FTLN 2508	Not to undo with thunder. In his face	
FTLN 2509	The livery of the warlike maid appears,	

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FTLN 2510	Pure red and white, for yet no beard has blessed him.	
FTLN 2511	And in his rolling eyes sits Victory,	
FTLN 2512	As if she ever meant to 「crown」 his valor.	130
FTLN 2513	His nose stands high, a character of honor;	
FTLN 2514	His red lips, after fights, are fit for ladies.	
	EMILIA	
FTLN 2515	Must these men die too?	
FTLN 2516	PIRITHOUS	When he speaks, his tongue
FTLN 2517	Sounds like a trumpet. All his lineaments	135
FTLN 2518	Are as a man would wish 'em, strong and clean.	
FTLN 2519	He wears a well-steeled axe, the staff of gold;	
FTLN 2520	His age some five-and-twenty.	
FTLN 2521	MESSENGER	There's another—
FTLN 2522	A little man, but of a tough soul, seeming	140
FTLN 2523	As great as any; fairer promises	
FTLN 2524	In such a body yet I never looked on.	
	PIRITHOUS	
FTLN 2525	O, he that's freckle-faced?	
FTLN 2526	MESSENGER	The same, my lord.
FTLN 2527	Are they not sweet ones?	145
FTLN 2528	PIRITHOUS	Yes, they are well.
FTLN 2529	MESSENGER	Methinks,
FTLN 2530	Being so few, and well disposed, they show	
FTLN 2531	Great and fine art in nature. He's white-haired—	
FTLN 2532	Not wanton white, but such a manly color	150
FTLN 2533	Next to an auburn; tough and nimble-set,	
FTLN 2534	Which shows an active soul. His arms are brawny,	
FTLN 2535	Lined with strong sinews—to the shoulder-piece	
FTLN 2536	Gently they swell, like women new-conceived,	
FTLN 2537	Which speaks him prone to labor, never fainting	155
FTLN 2538	Under the weight of arms; stout-hearted still,	
FTLN 2539	But when he stirs, a tiger. He's grey-eyed,	
FTLN 2540	Which yields compassion where he conquers; sharp	
FTLN 2541	To spy advantages, and where he finds 'em,	
FTLN 2542	He's swift to make 'em his. He does no wrongs,	160

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FTLN 2543	Nor takes none. He's round-faced, and when he	
FTLN 2544	smiles	
FTLN 2545	He shows a lover; when he frowns, a soldier.	
FTLN 2546	About his head he wears the winner's oak,	
FTLN 2547	And in it stuck the favor of his lady.	165
FTLN 2548	His age some six-and-thirty. In his hand	
FTLN 2549	He bears a charging-staff embossed with silver.	
	THESEUS	
FTLN 2550	Are they all thus?	
FTLN 2551	PIRITHOUS                    They are all the sons of honor.	
	THESEUS	
FTLN 2552	Now, as I have a soul, I long to see 'em.—	170
FTLN 2553	Lady, you shall see men fight now.	
FTLN 2554	HIPPOLYTA    I wish it,	
FTLN 2555	But not the cause, my lord. They would show	
FTLN 2556	Bravely about the titles of two kingdoms;	
FTLN 2557	'Tis pity love should be so tyrannous.—	175
FTLN 2558	O, my soft-hearted sister, what think you?	
FTLN 2559	Weep not till they weep blood. Wench, it must be.	
	THESEUS, <i>['to Emilia']</i>	
FTLN 2560	You have steeled 'em with your beauty. ( <i>['To</i>	
FTLN 2561	<i>Pirithous.</i> '] Honored friend,	
FTLN 2562	To you I give the field; pray order it	180
FTLN 2563	Fitting the persons that must use it.	
FTLN 2564	PIRITHOUS    Yes, sir.	
	THESEUS	
FTLN 2565	Come, I'll go visit 'em. I cannot stay—	
FTLN 2566	Their fame has fired me so—till they appear.	
FTLN 2567	Good friend, be royal.	185
FTLN 2568	PIRITHOUS    There shall want no bravery.	
	<i>['All but Emilia'] exit.</i>	
	EMILIA	
FTLN 2569	Poor wench, go weep, for whosoever wins	
FTLN 2570	Loses a noble cousin for thy sins.	
		<i>She exits.</i>

## Scene 3

*Enter Jailer, Wooer, Doctor.*

FTLN 2571 DOCTOR Her distraction is more at some time of the  
 FTLN 2572 moon than at other some, is it not?  
 FTLN 2573 JAILER She is continually in a harmless distemper,  
 FTLN 2574 sleeps little, altogether without appetite, save often  
 FTLN 2575 drinking, dreaming of another world, and a better; 5  
 FTLN 2576 and what broken piece of matter soe'er she's about,  
 FTLN 2577 the name *Palamon* lards it, that she farces ev'ry  
 FTLN 2578 business withal, fits it to every question.

*Enter [Jailer's] Daughter.*

FTLN 2579 Look where she comes; you shall perceive her  
 FTLN 2580 behavior. *[They stand aside.]* 10  
 FTLN 2581 DAUGHTER I have forgot it quite. The burden on 't was  
 FTLN 2582 "down-a down-a," and penned by no worse man  
 FTLN 2583 than Geraldo, Emilia's schoolmaster. He's as fantastical,  
 FTLN 2584 too, as ever he may go upon 's legs, for in  
 FTLN 2585 the next world will Dido see Palamon, and then 15  
 FTLN 2586 will she be out of love with Aeneas.  
 FTLN 2587 DOCTOR, *[aside to Jailer and Wooer]* What stuff's here?  
 FTLN 2588 Poor soul.  
 FTLN 2589 JAILER E'en thus all day long.  
 FTLN 2590 DAUGHTER Now for this charm that I told you of, you 20  
 FTLN 2591 must bring a piece of silver on the tip of your  
 FTLN 2592 tongue, or no ferry; then if it be your chance to  
 FTLN 2593 come where the blessed spirits *[are,]* there's a  
 FTLN 2594 sight now! We maids that have our livers perished,  
 FTLN 2595 cracked to pieces with love, we shall come there, 25  
 FTLN 2596 and do nothing all day long but pick flowers with  
 FTLN 2597 Proserpine. Then will I make Palamon a nosegay;  
 FTLN 2598 then let him mark me then.  
 FTLN 2599 DOCTOR How prettily she's amiss! Note her a little  
 FTLN 2600 further. 30  
 FTLN 2601 DAUGHTER Faith, I'll tell you, sometime we go to

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FTLN 2602	barley-break, we of the blessed. Alas, 'tis a sore life	
FTLN 2603	they have i' th' other place—such burning, frying,	
FTLN 2604	boiling, hissing, howling, chatt'ring, cursing—O,	
FTLN 2605	they have shrewd measure, take heed! If one be	35
FTLN 2606	mad, or hang or drown themselves, thither they	
FTLN 2607	go, Jupiter bless us, and there shall we be put in	
FTLN 2608	a cauldron of lead and usurers' grease, amongst a	
FTLN 2609	whole million of cutpurses, and there boil like a	
FTLN 2610	gammon of bacon that will never be enough.	40
FTLN 2611	DOCTOR How her brains coins!	
FTLN 2612	DAUGHTER Lords and courtiers that have got maids	
FTLN 2613	with child, they are in this place. They shall stand	
FTLN 2614	in fire up to the navel and in ice up to th' heart, and	
FTLN 2615	there th' offending part burns and the deceiving	45
FTLN 2616	part freezes: in troth, a very grievous punishment,	
FTLN 2617	as one would think, for such a trifle. Believe me,	
FTLN 2618	one would marry a leprous witch to be rid on 't, I'll	
FTLN 2619	assure you.	
FTLN 2620	DOCTOR How she continues this fancy! 'Tis not an engrafted	50
FTLN 2621	madness, but a most thick and profound	
FTLN 2622	melancholy.	
FTLN 2623	DAUGHTER To hear there a proud lady and a proud city	
FTLN 2624	wife howl together—I were a beast an I'd call it	
FTLN 2625	good sport. One cries "O this smoke!" 'th' other, <sup>1</sup>	55
FTLN 2626	"This fire!"; one cries, "O, that ever I did it behind	
FTLN 2627	the arras!" and then howls; th' other curses a suing	
FTLN 2628	fellow and her garden house.	
	<i>Sings.</i>	
FTLN 2629	<i>I will be true, my stars, my fate, etc.</i>	
	<i>Daughter exits.</i>	
FTLN 2630	JAILER What think you of her, sir?	60
FTLN 2631	DOCTOR I think she has a perturbed mind, which I	
FTLN 2632	cannot minister to.	
FTLN 2633	JAILER Alas, what then?	
FTLN 2634	DOCTOR Understand you she ever affected any man	
FTLN 2635	ere she beheld Palamon?	65

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FTLN 2636 JAILER I was once, sir, in great hope she had fixed her  
 FTLN 2637 liking on this gentleman, my friend.

FTLN 2638 WOOER I did think so, too, and would account I had a  
 FTLN 2639 great penn'orth on 't to give half my state that both  
 FTLN 2640 she and I, at this present, stood unfeignedly on the 70  
 FTLN 2641 same terms.

FTLN 2642 DOCTOR That intemp'rate surfeit of her eye hath distempered  
 FTLN 2643 the other senses. They may return and  
 FTLN 2644 settle again to execute their preordained faculties,  
 FTLN 2645 but they are now in a most extravagant vagary. 75  
 FTLN 2646 This you must do: confine her to a place where  
 FTLN 2647 the light may rather seem to steal in than be  
 FTLN 2648 permitted.—Take upon you, young sir, her friend,  
 FTLN 2649 the name of Palamon; say you come to eat with  
 FTLN 2650 her, and to commune of love. This will catch her 80  
 FTLN 2651 attention, for this her mind beats upon; other  
 FTLN 2652 objects that are inserted 'tween her mind and eye  
 FTLN 2653 become the pranks and friskins of her madness.  
 FTLN 2654 Sing to her such green songs of love as she says  
 FTLN 2655 Palamon hath sung in prison. Come to her stuck 85  
 FTLN 2656 in as sweet flowers as the season is mistress of,  
 FTLN 2657 and thereto make an addition of some other compounded  
 FTLN 2658 odors which are grateful to the sense.  
 FTLN 2659 All this shall become Palamon, for Palamon can  
 FTLN 2660 sing, and Palamon is sweet and ev'ry good thing. 90  
 FTLN 2661 Desire to eat with her, 「carve」 her, drink to her, and  
 FTLN 2662 still among intermingle your petition of grace and  
 FTLN 2663 acceptance into her favor. Learn what maids have  
 FTLN 2664 been her companions and playferes, and let them  
 FTLN 2665 repair to her with *Palamon* in their mouths, and 95  
 FTLN 2666 appear with tokens, as if they suggested for him.—  
 FTLN 2667 It is a falsehood she is in, which is with falsehoods  
 FTLN 2668 to be combated. This may bring her to eat,  
 FTLN 2669 to sleep, and reduce what's now out of square in  
 FTLN 2670 her into their former law and regiment. I have seen 100  
 FTLN 2671 it approved, how many times I know not, but to

FTLN 2672       make the number more, I have great hope in this.  
FTLN 2673       I will between the passages of this project come  
FTLN 2674       in with my appliance. Let us put it in execution  
FTLN 2675       and hasten the success, which doubt not will bring       105  
FTLN 2676       forth comfort.

*They exit.*

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# ACT 5

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## Scene 1

*Flourish. Enter Theseus, Pirithous, Hippolyta,  
[and] Attendants. [Three altars set up onstage.]*

THESEUS

FTLN 2677 Now let 'em enter and before the gods  
FTLN 2678 Tender their holy prayers. Let the temples  
FTLN 2679 Burn bright with sacred fires, and the altars  
FTLN 2680 In hallowed clouds commend their swelling incense  
FTLN 2681 To those above us. Let no due be wanting. 5  
FTLN 2682 They have a noble work in hand will honor  
FTLN 2683 The very powers that love 'em.

FTLN 2684 PIRITHOUS Sir, they enter.

*Flourish of cornets. Enter Palamon and Arcite  
and their Knights.*

THESEUS

FTLN 2685 You valiant and strong-hearted enemies,  
FTLN 2686 You royal german foes, that this day come 10  
FTLN 2687 To blow that nearness out that flames between you,  
FTLN 2688 Lay by your anger for an hour and, dove-like,  
FTLN 2689 Before the holy altars of your helpers,  
FTLN 2690 The all-feared gods, bow down your stubborn  
FTLN 2691 bodies. 15  
FTLN 2692 Your ire is more than mortal; so your help be.  
FTLN 2693 And as the gods regard you, fight with justice.

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FTLN 2694	I'll leave you to your prayers, and betwixt you	
FTLN 2695	I part my wishes.	
FTLN 2696	PIRITHOUS	Honor crown the worthiest! 20
		<i>Theseus and his train exit.</i>
	PALAMON	
FTLN 2697	The glass is running now that cannot finish	
FTLN 2698	Till one of us expire. Think you but thus,	
FTLN 2699	That were there aught in me which strove to show	
FTLN 2700	Mine enemy in this business, were 't one eye	
FTLN 2701	Against another, arm oppressed by arm,	25
FTLN 2702	I would destroy th' offender, coz—I would	
FTLN 2703	Though parcel of myself. Then from this gather	
FTLN 2704	How I should tender you.	
FTLN 2705	ARCITE	I am in labor
FTLN 2706	To push your name, your ancient love, our kindred	30
FTLN 2707	Out of my memory, and i' th' selfsame place	
FTLN 2708	To seat something I would confound. So hoist we	
FTLN 2709	The sails that must these vessels port even where	
FTLN 2710	The heavenly Limiter pleases.	
FTLN 2711	PALAMON	You speak well. 35
FTLN 2712	Before I turn, let me embrace thee, cousin.	
		<i>「They embrace.」</i>
FTLN 2713	This I shall never do again.	
FTLN 2714	ARCITE	One farewell.
	PALAMON	
FTLN 2715	Why, let it be so. Farewell, coz.	
FTLN 2716	ARCITE	Farewell, sir. 40
		<i>Palamon and his Knights exit.</i>
FTLN 2717	Knights, kinsmen, lovers, yea, my sacrifices,	
FTLN 2718	True worshippers of Mars, whose spirit in you	
FTLN 2719	Expels the seeds of fear and th' apprehension	
FTLN 2720	Which still is 「father of」 it, go with me	
FTLN 2721	Before the god of our profession. There	45
FTLN 2722	Require of him the hearts of lions and	
FTLN 2723	The breath of tigers, yea, the fierceness too,	
FTLN 2724	Yea, the speed also—to go on, I mean;	

FTLN 2725 Else wish we to be snails. You know my prize  
 FTLN 2726 Must be dragged out of blood; force and great feat 50  
 FTLN 2727 Must put my garland on, where she sticks,  
 FTLN 2728 The queen of flowers. Our intercession, then,  
 FTLN 2729 Must be to him that makes the camp a cistern  
 FTLN 2730 Brimmed with the blood of men. Give me your aid,  
 FTLN 2731 And bend your spirits towards him. 55

*They* <sup>↑</sup>*go to Mars's altar, fall on  
their faces before it, and then* <sup>↓</sup>*kneel.*

FTLN 2732 Thou mighty one, that with thy power hast turned  
 FTLN 2733 Green Neptune into purple, <sup>↑</sup>whose approach<sup>↓</sup>  
 FTLN 2734 Comets prewarn, whose havoc in vast field  
 FTLN 2735 Unearthèd skulls proclaim, whose breath blows  
 FTLN 2736 down 60  
 FTLN 2737 The teeming Ceres' foison, who dost pluck  
 FTLN 2738 With hand armipotent from forth blue clouds  
 FTLN 2739 The masoned turrets, that both mak'st and break'st  
 FTLN 2740 The stony girths of cities; me thy pupil,  
 FTLN 2741 Youngest follower of thy drum, instruct this day 65  
 FTLN 2742 With military skill, that to thy laud  
 FTLN 2743 I may advance my streamer, and by thee  
 FTLN 2744 Be styled the lord o' th' day. Give me, great Mars,  
 FTLN 2745 Some token of thy pleasure.

*Here they fall on their faces as formerly, and  
there is heard clanging of armor, with a short  
thunder, as the burst of a battle, whereupon  
they all rise and bow to the altar.*

FTLN 2746 O, great corrector of enormous times, 70  
 FTLN 2747 Shaker of o'er-rank states, thou grand decider  
 FTLN 2748 Of dusty and old titles, that heal'st with blood  
 FTLN 2749 The Earth when it is sick, and <sup>↑</sup>cur'st<sup>↓</sup> the world  
 FTLN 2750 O' th' pleurisy of people, I do take  
 FTLN 2751 Thy signs auspiciously, and in thy name 75  
 FTLN 2752 To my design march boldly.—Let us go. *They exit.*

*Enter Palamon and his Knights,  
with the former observance.*

PALAMON

FTLN 2753 Our stars must glister with new fire, or be  
FTLN 2754 Today extinct. Our argument is love,  
FTLN 2755 Which, if the goddess of it grant, she gives  
FTLN 2756 Victory too. Then blend your spirits with mine, 80  
FTLN 2757 You whose free nobleness do make my cause  
FTLN 2758 Your personal hazard. To the goddess Venus  
FTLN 2759 Commend we our proceeding, and implore  
FTLN 2760 Her power unto our party.

*Here they <sup>↑</sup>go to Venus's altar, fall on  
their faces before it, and then <sup>↓</sup>kneel.*

FTLN 2761 Hail, sovereign queen of secrets, who hast power 85  
FTLN 2762 To call the fiercest tyrant from his rage  
FTLN 2763 And weep unto a girl; that hast the might  
FTLN 2764 Even with an eye-glance to choke Mars's drum  
FTLN 2765 And turn th' alarm to whispers; that canst make  
FTLN 2766 A cripple flourish with his crutch, and cure him 90  
FTLN 2767 Before Apollo; that mayst force the king  
FTLN 2768 To be his subject's vassal, and induce  
FTLN 2769 Stale gravity to dance. The polled bachelor,  
FTLN 2770 Whose youth, like wanton boys through bonfires,  
FTLN 2771 Have skipped thy flame, at seventy thou canst catch, 95  
FTLN 2772 And make him, to the scorn of his hoarse throat,  
FTLN 2773 Abuse young lays of love. What godlike power  
FTLN 2774 Hast thou not power upon? To Phoebus thou  
FTLN 2775 Add'st flames hotter than his; the heavenly fires  
FTLN 2776 Did scorch his mortal son, thine him. The huntress, 100  
FTLN 2777 All moist and cold, some say, began to throw  
FTLN 2778 Her bow away and sigh. Take to thy grace  
FTLN 2779 Me, thy vowed soldier, who do bear thy yoke  
FTLN 2780 As 'twere a wreath of roses, yet is heavier  
FTLN 2781 Than lead itself, stings more than nettles. 105  
FTLN 2782 I have never been foul-mouthed against thy law,

FTLN 2783 Ne'er revealed secret, for I knew none—would not,  
 FTLN 2784 Had I kenned all that were. I never practiced  
 FTLN 2785 Upon man's wife, nor would the libels read  
 FTLN 2786 Of liberal wits. I never at great feasts 110  
 FTLN 2787 Sought to betray a beauty, but have blushed  
 FTLN 2788 At simp'ring sirs that did. I have been harsh  
 FTLN 2789 To large confessors, and have hotly asked them  
 FTLN 2790 If they had mothers—I had one, a woman,  
 FTLN 2791 And women 'twere they wronged. I knew a man 115  
 FTLN 2792 Of eighty winters—this I told them—who  
 FTLN 2793 A lass of fourteen bridged; 'twas thy power  
 FTLN 2794 To put life into dust. The aged cramp  
 FTLN 2795 Had screwed his square foot round;  
 FTLN 2796 The gout had knit his fingers into knots; 120  
 FTLN 2797 Torturing convulsions from his globy eyes  
 FTLN 2798 Had almost drawn their spheres, that what was life  
 FTLN 2799 In him seemed torture. This anatomy  
 FTLN 2800 Had by his young fair fere a boy, and I  
 FTLN 2801 Believed it was his, for she swore it was, 125  
 FTLN 2802 And who would not believe her? Brief, I am  
 FTLN 2803 To those that prate and have done, no companion;  
 FTLN 2804 To those that boast and have not, a defier;  
 FTLN 2805 To those that would and cannot, a rejoicer.  
 FTLN 2806 Yea, him I do not love that tells close offices 130  
 FTLN 2807 The foulest way, nor names concealments in  
 FTLN 2808 The boldest language. Such a one I am,  
 FTLN 2809 And vow that lover never yet made sigh  
 FTLN 2810 Truer than I. O, then, most soft sweet goddess,  
 FTLN 2811 Give me the victory of this question, which 135  
 FTLN 2812 Is true love's merit, and bless me with a sign  
 FTLN 2813 Of thy great pleasure.

*Here music is heard; doves are  
 seen to flutter. They fall again upon  
 their faces, then on their knees.*

FTLN 2814 O thou that from eleven to ninety reign'st  
 FTLN 2815 In mortal bosoms, whose chase is this world

FTLN 2816 And we in herds thy game, I give thee thanks 140  
 FTLN 2817 For this fair token, which being laid unto  
 FTLN 2818 Mine innocent true heart, arms in assurance  
 FTLN 2819 My body to this business.—Let us rise  
 FTLN 2820 And bow before the goddess. *They* <sup>↑</sup>*rise and* <sup>↓</sup>*bow.*  
 FTLN 2821 Time comes on. 145  
*They exit.*

*Still music of* <sup>↑</sup>*recorders.* <sup>↓</sup>*Enter Emilia in white, her hair about her shoulders, wearing a wheaten wreath; one in white holding up her train, her hair stuck with flowers; one before her carrying a silver hind, in which is conveyed incense and sweet odors, which being set upon the altar of Diana, her maids standing aloof, she sets fire to it. Then they curtsy and kneel.*

## EMILIA

FTLN 2822 O sacred, shadowy, cold, and constant queen,  
 FTLN 2823 Abandoner of revels, mute contemplative,  
 FTLN 2824 Sweet, solitary, white as chaste, and pure  
 FTLN 2825 As wind-fanned snow, who to thy female knights  
 FTLN 2826 Allow'st no more blood than will make a blush, 150  
 FTLN 2827 Which is their order's robe, I here, thy priest,  
 FTLN 2828 Am humbled 'fore thine altar. O, vouchsafe  
 FTLN 2829 With that thy rare green eye, which never yet  
 FTLN 2830 Beheld thing maculate, look on thy virgin,  
 FTLN 2831 And, sacred silver mistress, lend thine ear— 155  
 FTLN 2832 Which ne'er heard scurrile term, into whose port  
 FTLN 2833 Ne'er entered wanton sound—to my petition,  
 FTLN 2834 Seasoned with holy fear. This is my last  
 FTLN 2835 Of vestal office. I am bride-habited  
 FTLN 2836 But maiden-hearted. A husband I have 'pointed, 160  
 FTLN 2837 But do not know him. Out of two I should  
 FTLN 2838 Choose one, and pray for his success, but I  
 FTLN 2839 Am guiltless of election. Of mine eyes,  
 FTLN 2840 Were I to lose one—they are equal precious—  
 FTLN 2841 I could doom neither; that which perished should 165

FTLN 2842 Go to 't unsentenced. Therefore, most modest queen,  
 FTLN 2843 He of the two pretenders that best loves me  
 FTLN 2844 And has the truest title in 't, let him  
 FTLN 2845 Take off my wheaten garland, or else grant  
 FTLN 2846 The file and quality I hold I may 170  
 FTLN 2847 Continue in thy band.

*Here the hind vanishes under the  
 altar, and in the place ascends a rose  
 tree, having one rose upon it.*

FTLN 2848 See what our general of ebbs and flows  
 FTLN 2849 Out from the bowels of her holy altar  
 FTLN 2850 With sacred act advances: but one rose.  
 FTLN 2851 If well inspired, this battle shall confound 175  
 FTLN 2852 Both these brave knights, and I, a virgin flower,  
 FTLN 2853 Must grow alone unplucked.

*Here is heard a sudden twang of instruments,  
 and the rose falls from the tree.*

FTLN 2854 The flower is fall'n, the tree descends. O mistress,  
 FTLN 2855 Thou here dischargest me. I shall be gathered;  
 FTLN 2856 I think so, but I know not thine own will. 180  
 FTLN 2857 Unclasp thy mystery!—I hope she's pleased;  
 FTLN 2858 Her signs were gracious.

*They curtsy and exit.*

## Scene 2

*Enter Doctor, Jailer, and Wooer in  
 'the' habit of Palamon.*

DOCTOR

FTLN 2859 Has this advice I told you done any good upon her?

WOOER

FTLN 2860 O, very much. The maids that kept her company  
 FTLN 2861 Have half-persuaded her that I am Palamon;  
 FTLN 2862 Within this half-hour she came smiling to me,

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FTLN 2863	And asked me what I would eat, and when I would	5
FTLN 2864	kiss her.	
FTLN 2865	I told her “Presently,” and kissed her twice.	
	DOCTOR	
FTLN 2866	’Twas well done; twenty times had been far better,	
FTLN 2867	For there the cure lies mainly.	
FTLN 2868	WOOER	Then she told me
FTLN 2869	She would watch with me tonight, for well she knew	10
FTLN 2870	What hour my fit would take me.	
FTLN 2871	DOCTOR	Let her do so,
FTLN 2872	And when your fit comes, fit her home,	
FTLN 2873	And presently.	15
FTLN 2874	WOOER	She would have me sing.
	DOCTOR	
FTLN 2875	You did so?	
FTLN 2876	WOOER	No.
FTLN 2877	DOCTOR	’Twas very ill done, then.
FTLN 2878	You should observe her ev’ry way.	20
FTLN 2879	WOOER	Alas,
FTLN 2880	I have no voice, sir, to confirm her that way.	
	DOCTOR	
FTLN 2881	That’s all one, if you make a noise.	
FTLN 2882	If she entreat again, do anything.	
FTLN 2883	Lie with her, if she ask you.	25
FTLN 2884	JAILER	Ho there, doctor!
	DOCTOR	
FTLN 2885	Yes, in the way of cure.	
FTLN 2886	JAILER	But first, by your leave,
FTLN 2887	I’ th’ way of honesty.	
FTLN 2888	DOCTOR	That’s but a niceness.
FTLN 2889	Ne’er cast your child away for honesty.	30
FTLN 2890	Cure her first this way; then if she will be honest,	
FTLN 2891	She has the path before her.	
	JAILER	
FTLN 2892	Thank you, doctor.	

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FTLN 2893	DOCTOR	Pray bring her in	35
FTLN 2894		And let's see how she is.	
FTLN 2895	JAILER	I will, and tell her	
FTLN 2896		Her Palamon stays for her. But, doctor,	
FTLN 2897		Methinks you are i' th' wrong still. <i>Jailer exits.</i>	
FTLN 2898	DOCTOR	Go, go.	40
FTLN 2899		You fathers are fine fools. Her honesty?	
FTLN 2900		And we should give her physic till we find that!	
	WOOER		
FTLN 2901		Why, do you think she is not honest, sir?	
	DOCTOR		
FTLN 2902		How old is she?	
FTLN 2903	WOOER	She's eighteen.	45
FTLN 2904	DOCTOR	She may be.	
FTLN 2905		But that's all one; 'tis nothing to our purpose.	
FTLN 2906		Whate'er her father says, if you perceive	
FTLN 2907		Her mood inclining that way that I spoke of,	
FTLN 2908		<i>Videlicet</i> , the way of flesh—you have me?	50
	WOOER		
FTLN 2909		「Yes,」 very well, sir.	
FTLN 2910	DOCTOR	Please her appetite,	
FTLN 2911		And do it home; it cures her, <i>ipso facto</i> ,	
FTLN 2912		The melancholy humor that infects her.	
	WOOER		
FTLN 2913		I am of your mind, doctor.	55
FTLN 2914	DOCTOR	You'll find it so.	
		<i>Enter Jailer, Daughter, 「and」 Maid.</i>	
FTLN 2915		She comes; pray 「humor」 her.	
		「 <i>Wooer and Doctor stand aside.</i> 」	
	JAILER, 「to Daughter」		
FTLN 2916		Come, your love Palamon stays for you, child,	
FTLN 2917		And has done this long hour, to visit you.	
	DAUGHTER		
FTLN 2918		I thank him for his gentle patience.	60



JAILER

FTLN 2948       What dowry has she? 90

FTLN 2949   DAUGHTER                   Some two hundred bottles,

FTLN 2950       And twenty strike of oats, but he'll ne'er have her.

FTLN 2951       He lisps in 's neighing able to entice

FTLN 2952       A miller's mare. He'll be the death of her.

FTLN 2953   DOCTOR, *['aside']*   What stuff she utters! 95

*['Wooer and Doctor come forward.']*

JAILER

FTLN 2954       Make curtsy; here your love comes.

FTLN 2955   WOOER                           Pretty soul,

FTLN 2956       How do you?                   *['Daughter curtsies.']*

FTLN 2957                           That's a fine maid; there's a curtsy!

DAUGHTER

FTLN 2958       Yours to command i' th' way of honesty.— 100

FTLN 2959       How far is 't now to th' end o' th' world, my masters?

DOCTOR

FTLN 2960       Why, a day's journey, wench.

FTLN 2961   DAUGHTER, *['to Wooer']*       Will you go with me?

WOOER

FTLN 2962       What shall we do there, wench?

FTLN 2963   DAUGHTER                           Why, play at 105

FTLN 2964       stool-ball.

FTLN 2965       What is there else to do?

FTLN 2966   WOOER                           I am content,

FTLN 2967       If we shall keep our wedding there.

FTLN 2968   DAUGHTER                           'Tis true, 110

FTLN 2969       For there, I will assure you, we shall find

FTLN 2970       Some blind priest for the purpose, that will venture

FTLN 2971       To marry us; for here they are nice and foolish.

FTLN 2972       Besides, my father must be hanged tomorrow,

FTLN 2973       And that would be a blot i' th' business. 115

FTLN 2974       Are not you Palamon?

FTLN 2975   WOOER                           Do not you know me?

DAUGHTER

FTLN 2976 Yes, but you care not for me; I have nothing  
FTLN 2977 But this poor petticoat and two coarse smocks.

WOOER

FTLN 2978 That's all one; I will have you. 120

FTLN 2979 DAUGHTER Will you surely?

WOOER, *〔taking her hand〕*

FTLN 2980 Yes, by this fair hand, will I.

FTLN 2981 DAUGHTER We'll to bed then.

WOOER

FTLN 2982 E'en when you will. *〔He kisses her.〕*

FTLN 2983 DAUGHTER, *〔wiping her face〕* O, sir, you would fain 125

FTLN 2984 be nibbling.

WOOER

FTLN 2985 Why do you rub my kiss off?

FTLN 2986 DAUGHTER 'Tis a sweet one,

FTLN 2987 And will perfume me finely against the wedding.

FTLN 2988 Is not this your cousin Arcite? *〔She indicates Doctor.〕* 130

FTLN 2989 DOCTOR Yes, sweetheart,

FTLN 2990 And I am glad my cousin Palamon

FTLN 2991 Has made so fair a choice.

FTLN 2992 DAUGHTER Do you think he'll have me?

DOCTOR

FTLN 2993 Yes, without doubt. 135

FTLN 2994 DAUGHTER, *〔to Jailer〕* Do you think so too?

FTLN 2995 JAILER Yes.

DAUGHTER

FTLN 2996 We shall have many children. (*〔To Doctor.〕*) Lord,  
FTLN 2997 how you're grown!

FTLN 2998 My Palamon, I hope, will grow too, finely, 140

FTLN 2999 Now he's at liberty. Alas, poor chicken,

FTLN 3000 He was kept down with hard meat and ill lodging,

FTLN 3001 But I'll kiss him up again.

*Enter a Messenger.*

MESSENGER

FTLN 3002       What do you here? You'll lose the noblest sight  
FTLN 3003       That e'er was seen. 145

FTLN 3004   JAILER                       Are they i' th' field?

FTLN 3005   MESSENGER                       They are.

FTLN 3006       You bear a charge there too.

FTLN 3007   JAILER                       I'll away straight.—

FTLN 3008       I must e'en leave you here. 150

FTLN 3009   DOCTOR                       Nay, we'll go with you.

FTLN 3010       I will not lose the <sup>⌈</sup>sight. <sup>⌋</sup>

FTLN 3011   JAILER, <sup>⌈</sup>*aside to Doctor* <sup>⌋</sup>       How did you like her?

DOCTOR

FTLN 3012       I'll warrant you, within these three or four days

FTLN 3013       I'll make her right again.       <sup>⌈</sup>*Jailer and Messenger exit.* <sup>⌋</sup> 155

FTLN 3014   (<sup>⌈</sup>*To Wooer.* <sup>⌋</sup>)               You must not from her,

FTLN 3015       But still preserve her in this way.

FTLN 3016   WOOER                       I will.

DOCTOR

FTLN 3017       Let's get her in.

FTLN 3018   WOOER                       Come, sweet, we'll go to dinner 160

FTLN 3019       And then we'll play at cards.

FTLN 3020   DAUGHTER                       And shall we kiss too?

WOOER

FTLN 3021       A hundred times.

FTLN 3022   DAUGHTER                       And twenty.

FTLN 3023   WOOER                       Ay, and twenty. 165

DAUGHTER

FTLN 3024       And then we'll sleep together.

FTLN 3025   DOCTOR, <sup>⌈</sup>*to Wooer* <sup>⌋</sup>               Take her offer.

WOOER

FTLN 3026       Yes, marry, will we.

FTLN 3027   DAUGHTER                       But you shall not hurt me.

WOOER

FTLN 3028       I will not, sweet. 170

FTLN 3029   DAUGHTER                       If you do, love, I'll cry.

*They exit.*

## Scene 3

*Flourish. Enter Theseus, Hippolyta,  
Emilia, Pirithous, and some Attendants.*

EMILIA

FTLN 3030 I'll no step further.

FTLN 3031 PIRITHOUS Will you lose this sight?

EMILIA

FTLN 3032 I had rather see a wren hawk at a fly  
FTLN 3033 Than this decision; ev'ry blow that falls  
FTLN 3034 Threats a brave life; each stroke laments 5  
FTLN 3035 The place whereon it falls, and sounds more like  
FTLN 3036 A bell than blade. I will stay here.

FTLN 3037 It is enough my hearing shall be punished  
FTLN 3038 With what shall happen, 'gainst the which there is  
FTLN 3039 No deafing but to hear; not taint mine eye 10  
FTLN 3040 With dread sights it may shun.

FTLN 3041 PIRITHOUS, *['to Theseus']* Sir, my good lord,  
FTLN 3042 Your sister will no further.

FTLN 3043 THESEUS O, she must.  
FTLN 3044 She shall see deeds of honor in their kind, 15  
FTLN 3045 Which sometime show well, penciled. Nature now  
FTLN 3046 Shall make and act the story, the belief  
FTLN 3047 Both sealed with eye and ear.—You must be present;  
FTLN 3048 You are the victor's meed, the price and garland  
FTLN 3049 To crown the question's title. 20

FTLN 3050 EMILIA Pardon me.

FTLN 3051 If I were there, I'd wink.

FTLN 3052 THESEUS You must be there;  
FTLN 3053 This trial is as 'twere i' th' night, and you  
FTLN 3054 The only star to shine. 25

FTLN 3055 EMILIA I am extinct;  
FTLN 3056 There is but envy in that light which shows  
FTLN 3057 The one the other. Darkness, which ever was  
FTLN 3058 The dam of horror, who does stand accursed  
FTLN 3059 Of many mortal millions, may even now, 30

---

FTLN 3060	By casting her black mantle over both,	
FTLN 3061	That neither could find other, get herself	
FTLN 3062	Some part of a good name, and many a murder	
FTLN 3063	Set off whereto she's guilty.	
FTLN 3064	HIPPOLYTA	You must go. 35
	EMILIA	
FTLN 3065	In faith, I will not.	
FTLN 3066	THESEUS	Why, the knights must kindle
FTLN 3067	Their valor at your eye. Know, of this war	
FTLN 3068	You are the treasure, and must needs be by	
FTLN 3069	To give the service pay.	40
FTLN 3070	EMILIA	Sir, pardon me.
FTLN 3071	The title of a kingdom may be tried	
FTLN 3072	Out of itself.	
FTLN 3073	THESEUS	Well, well, then; at your pleasure.
FTLN 3074	Those that remain with you could wish their office	45
FTLN 3075	To any of their enemies.	
FTLN 3076	HIPPOLYTA	Farewell, sister.
FTLN 3077	I am like to know your husband 'fore yourself	
FTLN 3078	By some small start of time. He whom the gods	
FTLN 3079	Do of the two know best, I pray them he	50
FTLN 3080	Be made your lot.	
	<i>Theseus, Hippolyta, Pirithous, [and others,] exit. [Emilia remains, comparing again the pictures of Arcite and Palamon.]</i>	
	EMILIA	
FTLN 3081	Arcite is gently visaged, yet his eye	
FTLN 3082	Is like an engine bent, or a sharp weapon	
FTLN 3083	In a soft sheath; mercy and manly courage	
FTLN 3084	Are bedfellows in his visage. Palamon	55
FTLN 3085	Has a most menacing aspect; his brow	
FTLN 3086	Is graved, and seems to bury what it frowns on;	
FTLN 3087	Yet sometimes 'tis not so, but alters to	
FTLN 3088	The quality of his thoughts. Long time his eye	
FTLN 3089	Will dwell upon his object. Melancholy	60
FTLN 3090	Becomes him nobly; so does Arcite's mirth;	

FTLN 3091 But Palamon's sadness is a kind of mirth,  
 FTLN 3092 So mingled, as if mirth did make him sad  
 FTLN 3093 And sadness merry. Those darker humors that  
 FTLN 3094 Stick misbecomingly on others, on them 65  
 FTLN 3095 Live in fair dwelling.

*Cornets. Trumpets sound as to a charge.*

FTLN 3096 Hark how yon spurs to spirit do incite  
 FTLN 3097 The princes to their proof! Arcite may win me,  
 FTLN 3098 And yet may Palamon wound Arcite to  
 FTLN 3099 The spoiling of his figure. O, what pity 70  
 FTLN 3100 Enough for such a chance? If I were by,  
 FTLN 3101 I might do hurt, for they would glance their eyes  
 FTLN 3102 Towards my seat, and in that motion might  
 FTLN 3103 Omit a ward or forfeit an offense  
 FTLN 3104 Which craved that very time. 75

*Cornets. A great cry and  
 noise*

*within crying "À Palamon!"*

FTLN 3105 It is much better  
 FTLN 3106 I am not there. O, better never born  
 FTLN 3107 Than minister to such harm!

*Enter Servant.*

FTLN 3108 What is the chance?  
 FTLN 3109 SERVANT The cry's "À Palamon." 80  
 FTLN 3110 EMILIA Then he has won. 'Twas ever likely.  
 FTLN 3111 He looked all grace and success, and he is  
 FTLN 3112 Doubtless the prim'st of men. I prithee run  
 FTLN 3113 And tell me how it goes.

*Shout and cornets, crying "À Palamon!"*

FTLN 3114 SERVANT Still "Palamon." 85  
 EMILIA

FTLN 3115 Run and inquire. *〔Servant exits.〕*  
 FTLN 3116 *〔Addressing Arcite's picture.〕* Poor servant, thou hast  
 FTLN 3117 lost.

FTLN 3118 Upon my right side still I wore thy picture,  
 FTLN 3119 Palamon's on the left—why so, I know not. 90



FTLN 3149 No more be hid in him than fire in flax, 120  
 FTLN 3150 Than humble banks can go to law with waters  
 FTLN 3151 That drift-winds force to raging. I did think  
 FTLN 3152 Good Palamon would miscarry, yet I knew not  
 FTLN 3153 Why I did think so. Our reasons are not prophets  
 FTLN 3154 When oft our fancies are. They are coming off. 125  
 FTLN 3155 Alas, poor Palamon!

*Cornets. Enter Theseus, Hippolyta, Pirithous,  
 Arcite as victor, and Attendants [and others.]*

THESEUS

FTLN 3156 Lo, where our sister is in expectation,  
 FTLN 3157 Yet quaking and unsettled.—Fairest Emily,  
 FTLN 3158 The gods by their divine arbitrament  
 FTLN 3159 Have given you this knight; he is a good one 130  
 FTLN 3160 As ever struck at head.—Give me your hands.  
 FTLN 3161 Receive you her, you him. Be plighted with  
 FTLN 3162 A love that grows as you decay.

ARCITE

Emily,

FTLN 3164 To buy you I have lost what's dearest to me 135  
 FTLN 3165 Save what is bought, and yet I purchase cheaply,  
 FTLN 3166 As I do rate your value.

THESEUS

O loved sister,

FTLN 3168 He speaks now of as brave a knight as e'er  
 FTLN 3169 Did spur a noble steed. Surely the gods 140  
 FTLN 3170 Would have him die a bachelor, lest his race  
 FTLN 3171 Should show i' th' world too godlike. His behavior  
 FTLN 3172 So charmed me that methought Alcides was  
 FTLN 3173 To him a sow of lead. If I could praise  
 FTLN 3174 Each part of him to th' all I have spoke, your Arcite 145  
 FTLN 3175 Did not lose by 't, for he that was thus good  
 FTLN 3176 Encountered yet his better. I have heard  
 FTLN 3177 Two emulous Philomels beat the ear o' th' night  
 FTLN 3178 With their contentious throats, now one the higher,  
 FTLN 3179 Anon the other, then again the first, 150  
 FTLN 3180 And by-and-by out-breasted, that the sense



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FTLN 3208	Have their good wishes; we prevent	
FTLN 3209	The loathsome misery of age, beguile	
FTLN 3210	The gout and rheum that in lag hours attend	
FTLN 3211	For gray approachers; we come towards the gods	
FTLN 3212	Young and unwappered, not halting under crimes	10
FTLN 3213	Many and stale. That sure shall please the gods	
FTLN 3214	Sooner than such, to give us nectar with 'em,	
FTLN 3215	For we are more clear spirits. My dear kinsmen,	
FTLN 3216	Whose lives for this poor comfort are laid down,	
FTLN 3217	You have sold 'em too too cheap.	15
FTLN 3218	FIRST KNIGHT	What ending could be
FTLN 3219	Of more content? O'er us the victors have	
FTLN 3220	Fortune, whose title is as momentary	
FTLN 3221	As to us death is certain. A grain of honor	
FTLN 3222	They not o'er-weigh us.	20
FTLN 3223	SECOND KNIGHT	Let us bid farewell;
FTLN 3224	And with our patience anger tott'ring Fortune,	
FTLN 3225	Who at her certain'st reels.	
FTLN 3226	THIRD KNIGHT	Come, who begins?
FTLN 3227	PALAMON	E'en he that led you to this banquet shall
FTLN 3228	Taste to you all. <i>['To Jailer.']</i> Ah ha, my friend, my	25
FTLN 3229	friend,	
FTLN 3230	Your gentle daughter gave me freedom once;	
FTLN 3231	You'll see 't done now forever. Pray, how does she?	
FTLN 3232	I heard she was not well; her kind of ill	30
FTLN 3233	Gave me some sorrow.	
FTLN 3234	JAILER	Sir, she's well restored,
FTLN 3235	And to be married shortly.	
FTLN 3236	PALAMON	By my short life,
FTLN 3237	I am most glad on 't. 'Tis the latest thing	35
FTLN 3238	I shall be glad of; prithee, tell her so.	
FTLN 3239	Commend me to her, and to piece her portion,	
FTLN 3240	Tender her this. <i>['He gives his purse to Jailer.']</i>	
FTLN 3241	FIRST KNIGHT	Nay, let's be offerers all.

SECOND KNIGHT

FTLN 3242 Is it a maid? 40

FTLN 3243 PALAMON Verily, I think so.

FTLN 3244 A right good creature, more to me deserving

FTLN 3245 Than I can quit or speak of.

FTLN 3246 ALL KNIGHTS Commend us to her.

*They give their purses.*

JAILER

FTLN 3247 The gods requite you all and make her thankful! 45

PALAMON

FTLN 3248 Adieu, and let my life be now as short

FTLN 3249 As my leave-taking. *「Lays his head」 on the block.*

FTLN 3250 FIRST KNIGHT Lead, courageous cousin.

FTLN 3251 SECOND *「AND THIRD」* KNIGHTS We'll follow cheerfully.

*A great noise within crying "Run!" "Save!" "Hold!"*

*Enter in haste a Messenger.*

MESSENGER

FTLN 3252 Hold, hold! O, hold, hold, hold! 50

*Enter Pirithous in haste.*

PIRITHOUS

FTLN 3253 Hold, ho! It is a cursèd haste you made

FTLN 3254 If you have done so quickly!—Noble Palamon,

FTLN 3255 The gods will show their glory in a life

FTLN 3256 That thou art yet to lead.

FTLN 3257 PALAMON Can that be, 55

FTLN 3258 When Venus, I have said, is false? How do things

FTLN 3259 fare?

PIRITHOUS

FTLN 3260 Arise, great sir, and give the tidings ear

FTLN 3261 That are most *「dearly」* sweet and bitter.

FTLN 3262 PALAMON, *「rising」* What 60

FTLN 3263 Hath waked us from our dream?

FTLN 3264 PIRITHOUS List then: your

FTLN 3265 cousin,

---

FTLN 3266 Mounted upon a steed that Emily  
 FTLN 3267 Did first bestow on him—a black one, owing 65  
 FTLN 3268 Not a hair worth of white, which some will say  
 FTLN 3269 Weakens his price, and many will not buy  
 FTLN 3270 His goodness with this note, which superstition  
 FTLN 3271 Here finds allowance—on this horse is Arcite  
 FTLN 3272 Trotting the stones of Athens—which the calkins 70  
 FTLN 3273 Did rather tell than trample, for the horse  
 FTLN 3274 Would make his length a mile, if 't pleased his rider  
 FTLN 3275 To put pride in him. As he thus went counting  
 FTLN 3276 The flinty pavement, dancing, as 'twere, to th' music  
 FTLN 3277 His own hooves made—for, as they say, from iron 75  
 FTLN 3278 Came music's origin—what envious flint,  
 FTLN 3279 Cold as old Saturn, and like him possessed  
 FTLN 3280 With fire malevolent, darted a spark,  
 FTLN 3281 Or what fierce sulphur else, to this end made,  
 FTLN 3282 I comment not; the hot horse, hot as fire, 80  
 FTLN 3283 Took toy at this and fell to what disorder  
 FTLN 3284 His power could give his will; bounds, comes on end,  
 FTLN 3285 Forgets school-doing, being therein trained  
 FTLN 3286 And of kind manage. Pig-like he whines  
 FTLN 3287 At the sharp rowel, which he frets at rather 85  
 FTLN 3288 Than any jot obeys; seeks all foul means  
 FTLN 3289 Of boist'rous and rough jadery to disseat  
 FTLN 3290 His lord that kept it bravely. When naught served,  
 FTLN 3291 When neither curb would crack, girth break, nor  
 FTLN 3292 diff'ring plunges 90  
 FTLN 3293 Disroot his rider whence he grew, but that  
 FTLN 3294 He kept him 'tween his legs, on his hind hoofs  
 FTLN 3295 On end he stands  
 FTLN 3296 That Arcite's legs, being higher than his head,  
 FTLN 3297 Seemed with strange art to hang. His victor's wreath 95  
 FTLN 3298 Even then fell off his head, and presently  
 FTLN 3299 Backward the jade comes o'er, and his full poise  
 FTLN 3300 Becomes the rider's load. Yet is he living,  
 FTLN 3301 But such a vessel 'tis that floats but for

FTLN 3302 The surge that next approaches. He much desires 100  
 FTLN 3303 To have some speech with you. Lo, he appears.

*Enter Theseus, Hippolyta, Emilia,  
 「and」 Arcite 「carried」 in a chair.*

PALAMON

FTLN 3304 O, miserable end of our alliance!  
 FTLN 3305 The gods are mighty, Arcite. If thy heart,  
 FTLN 3306 Thy worthy, manly heart, be yet unbroken,  
 FTLN 3307 Give me thy last words. I am Palamon, 105  
 FTLN 3308 One that yet loves thee dying.

ARCITE

Take Emilia

FTLN 3310 And with her all the world's joy. Reach thy hand;  
 FTLN 3311 Farewell. I have told my last hour. I was false,  
 FTLN 3312 Yet never treacherous. Forgive me, cousin. 110  
 FTLN 3313 One kiss from fair Emilia. *「She kisses him.」*

FTLN 3314 'Tis done.

FTLN 3315 Take her. I die. *「He dies.」*

FTLN 3316 PALAMON Thy brave soul seek Elysium!

EMILIA

FTLN 3317 I'll close thine eyes, prince. Blessed souls be with 115  
 FTLN 3318 thee!  
 FTLN 3319 Thou art a right good man, and while I live,  
 FTLN 3320 This day I give to tears.

FTLN 3321 PALAMON And I to honor.

THESEUS

FTLN 3322 In this place first you fought; e'en very here 120  
 FTLN 3323 I sundered you. Acknowledge to the gods  
 FTLN 3324 Our thanks that you are living.  
 FTLN 3325 His part is played, and though it were too short,  
 FTLN 3326 He did it well. Your day is lengthened, and  
 FTLN 3327 The blissful dew of heaven does arouse you. 125  
 FTLN 3328 The powerful Venus well hath graced her altar,  
 FTLN 3329 And given you your love. Our master, Mars,  
 FTLN 3330 「Hath」 vouched his oracle, and to Arcite gave

---

FTLN 3331	The grace of the contention. So the deities	
FTLN 3332	Have showed due justice.—Bear this hence.	130
FTLN 3333	PALAMON	O cousin,
FTLN 3334	That we should things desire which do cost us	
FTLN 3335	The loss of our desire, that naught could buy	
FTLN 3336	Dear love but loss of dear love.	
		[ <i>Arcite's body is carried out.</i> ]
FTLN 3337	THESEUS	Never Fortune
FTLN 3338	Did play a subtler game. The conquered triumphs;	135
FTLN 3339	The victor has the loss; yet in the passage	
FTLN 3340	The gods have been most equal.—Palamon,	
FTLN 3341	Your kinsman hath confessed the right o' th' lady	
FTLN 3342	Did lie in you, for you first saw her and	140
FTLN 3343	Even then proclaimed your fancy. He restored her	
FTLN 3344	As your stol'n jewel and desired your spirit	
FTLN 3345	To send him hence forgiven. The gods my justice	
FTLN 3346	Take from my hand and they themselves become	
FTLN 3347	The executioners. Lead your lady off,	145
FTLN 3348	And call your lovers from the stage of death,	
FTLN 3349	Whom I adopt my friends. A day or two	
FTLN 3350	Let us look sadly, and give grace unto	
FTLN 3351	The funeral of Arcite, in whose end	
FTLN 3352	The visages of bridegrooms we'll put on	150
FTLN 3353	And smile with Palamon—for whom an hour,	
FTLN 3354	But one hour since, I was as dearly sorry	
FTLN 3355	As glad of Arcite, and am now as glad	
FTLN 3356	As for him sorry. O you heavenly charmers,	
FTLN 3357	What things you make of us! For what we lack	155
FTLN 3358	We laugh, for what we have are sorry, still	
FTLN 3359	Are children in some kind. Let us be thankful	
FTLN 3360	For that which is, and with you leave dispute	
FTLN 3361	That are above our question. Let's go off	
FTLN 3362	And bear us like the time.	160

*Flourish. They exit.*

「*Enter Epilogue.*」

## EPILOGUE

FTLN 3363 I would now ask you how you like the play,  
 FTLN 3364 But, as it is with schoolboys, cannot say.  
 FTLN 3365 I am cruel fearful! Pray yet, stay a while,  
 FTLN 3366 And let me look upon you. No man smile?  
 FTLN 3367 Then it goes hard, I see. He that has 5  
 FTLN 3368 Loved a young handsome wench, then, show his  
 FTLN 3369 face—  
 FTLN 3370 'Tis strange if none be here—and, if he will,  
 FTLN 3371 Against his conscience let him hiss and kill  
 FTLN 3372 Our market. 'Tis in vain, I see, to stay you. 10  
 FTLN 3373 Have at the worst can come, then! Now what say  
 FTLN 3374 you?  
 FTLN 3375 And yet mistake me not: I am not bold.  
 FTLN 3376 We have no such cause. If the tale we have told—  
 FTLN 3377 For 'tis no other—any way content you— 15  
 FTLN 3378 For to that honest purpose it was meant you—  
 FTLN 3379 We have our end; and you shall have ere long,  
 FTLN 3380 I dare say, many a better, to prolong  
 FTLN 3381 Your old loves to us. We, and all our might,  
 FTLN 3382 Rest at your service. Gentlemen, good night. 20

*Flourish.* 「*He exits.*」