

## The Marry Wives of Windsor

### ACT I

#### SCENE I. Windsor. Before PAGE's house.

#### BLOCK I

*Enter SHALLOW, SLENDER, and SIR HUGH EVANS*

**SHALLOW**

Sir Hugh, persuade me not; I will make a Star-chamber matter of it: if he were twenty Sir John Falstaffs, he shall not abuse Robert Shallow, esquire.

**SIR HUGH EVANS**

If Sir John Falstaff have committed disparagements unto you, I am of the church, and will be glad to do my benevolence to make atonements and compromises between you.

**SHALLOW**

Ha! o' my life, if I were young again, the sword should end it.

**SIR HUGH EVANS**

It is petter that friends is the sword, and end it: and there is also another device in my prain, there is Anne Page, which is daughter to Master Thomas Page, which is pretty virginity.

**SLENDER**

Mistress Anne Page? She has brown hair, and speaks small like a woman.

**SIR HUGH EVANS**

It is that fery person for all the orld, and seven hundred pounds of moneys, is hers, when she is seventeen years old: it were a goot motion if we leave our pribbles and prabbles, and desire a marriage between Master Abraham and Mistress Anne Page.

**SLENDER**

Did her grandsire leave her seven hundred pound?

**SIR HUGH EVANS**

Ay, and her father is make her a petter penny.

**SHALLOW**

I know the young gentlewoman; she has good gifts.

**SIR HUGH EVANS**

Seven hundred pounds and possibilities is goot gifts.

*Enter PAGE*

**SHALLOW**

Well, let us see honest Master Page.

**PAGE**

I am glad to see your worships well.

**SHALLOW**

Is Sir John Falstaff here?

**PAGE**

Sir, he is within.

**SHALLOW**

He hath wronged me, Master Page.

**PAGE**

Sir, he doth in some sort confess it.

**SHALLOW**

If it be confessed, it is not redress'd: is not that so, Master Page? He hath wronged me; indeed he hath, at a word, he hath, believe me: Robert Shallow, esquire, saith, he is wronged.

**PAGE**

Here comes Sir John.

*Enter FALSTAFF, BARDOLPH, NYM, and PISTOL*

**FALSTAFF**

Now, Master Shallow, you'll complain of me to the king?

**SHALLOW**

Knight, you have beaten my men, killed my deer, and broke open my lodge.

**FALSTAFF**

But not kissed your keeper's daughter?

**SHALLOW**

Tut, a trifle! this shall be answered.

**FALSTAFF**

I will answer it straight; I have done all this. That is now answered.

**SHALLOW**

The council shall know this.

**FALSTAFF**

You'll be laughed at. Slender, I broke your head: what matter have you against me?

**SLENDER**

Marry, sir, I have matter in my head against you; and against your cony-catching rascals, Bardolph, Nym, and Pistol. They carried me to the Tavern and made me drunk, and afterward picked my pocket.

**BARDOLPH**

You Banbury cheese!

**SLENDER**

Ay, it is no matter.

**PISTOL**

How now, Mephostophilus!

**SLENDER**

Ay, it is no matter.

**NYM**

Slice, I say!: slice! that's my humour.

**SLENDER**

Where's Simple, my man? Can you tell, cousin?

**FALSTAFF**

Pistol, did you pick Master Slender's purse?

**SLENDER**

Ay, by these gloves, did he, by these gloves.

**FALSTAFF**

Is this true, Pistol?

**PISTOL**

Froth and scum, thou liest!

**SLENDER**

By these gloves, then, 'twas he.

**NYM**

Be avised, sir, and pass good humours: that is the very note of it.

**SLENDER**

By this hat, then, he in the red face had it; for though I cannot remember what I did when you made me drunk, yet I am not altogether an ass.

**FALSTAFF**

What say you, Scarlet and John?

**BARDOLPH**

Why, sir, for my part I say the gentleman had drunk himself out of his five sentences.

**SLENDER**

I'll ne'er be drunk whilst I live again, but in honest, civil, godly company, and not with drunken knaves.

**SIR HUGH EVANS**

So Got judge me, that is a virtuous mind.

**FALSTAFF**

You hear all these matters denied, gentlemen; you hear it.

*Enter ANNE PAGE, with wine; MISTRESS FORD and MISTRESS PAGE, following*

**PAGE**

Nay, daughter, carry the wine in; we'll drink within.

*Exit ANNE PAGE*

**SLENDER**

O heaven! this is Mistress Anne Page.

**PAGE**

How now, Mistress Ford!

**FALSTAFF**

Mistress Ford, by my troth, you are very well met: by your leave, good mistress. *Kisses her*  
And Mistress Page, I desire more acquaintance of you. *Kisses her*

**PAGE**

Wife, bid these gentlemen welcome. Come, we have a hot venison pasty to dinner: come, gentlemen, I hope we shall drink down all unkindness.

*Exeunt all except SHALLOW, SLENDER, and SIR HUGH EVANS*

**SLENDER**

I had rather than forty shillings I had my Book of Songs and Sonnets here.

**BLOCK 2**

*Enter SIMPLE*

How now, Simple! where have you been? I must wait on myself, must I? You have not the Book of Riddles about you, have you?

**SIMPLE**

Book of Riddles! why, did you not lend it to Alice Shortcake a fortnight afore Michaelmas?

**SHALLOW**

Come, coz; come, coz; we stay for you. A word with you, coz; marry, this, coz.

**SIR HUGH EVANS**

The question is concerning your marriage.

**SHALLOW**

Ay, there's the point, sir.

**SIR HUGH EVANS**

Marry, is it; the very point of it; to Mistress Anne Page.

**SLENDER**

Why, if it be so, I will marry her upon any reasonable demands.

**SIR HUGH EVANS**

But can you affection the 'oman? Let us command to know that of your mouth or of your lips; Therefore, precisely, can you carry your good will to the maid?

**SHALLOW**

Cousin Abraham Slender, can you love her?

**SLENDER**

I hope, sir, I will do as it shall become one that would do reason.

**SHALLOW**

Nay, conceive me, conceive me, sweet coz: Can you love the maid?

**SLENDER**

I will marry her, sir, at your request: but if there be no great love in the beginning, yet heaven may decrease it upon better acquaintance, but if you say, 'Marry her,' I will marry her.

**SIR HUGH EVANS**

*(to Simple)* Go your ways, and ask of Doctor Caius' house which is the way: and there dwells one Mistress Quickly,

**SIMPLE**

Well, sir.

**SIR HUGH EVANS**

Nay, it is petter yet. Give her this letter; for it is a 'oman that altogether's acquaintance with Mistress Anne Page: and the letter is, to desire and require her to solicit your master's desires to Mistress Anne Page. I pray you, be gone.

*Exit Simple*

**SHALLOW**

Here comes fair Mistress Anne.

*Re-enter ANNE PAGE*

Would I were young for your sake, Mistress Anne!

**ANNE PAGE**

The dinner is on the table; my father desires your worships' company.

**SHALLOW**

I will wait on him, fair Mistress Anne.

**SIR HUGH EVANS**

Od's plessed will! I will not be absence at the grace.

*Exeunt SHALLOW and SIR HUGH EVANS*

**ANNE PAGE**

Will't please your worship to come in, sir?

**SLENDER**

No, I thank you, forsooth, heartily; I am very well.

**ANNE PAGE**

The dinner attends you, sir.

**SLENDER**

I am not a-hungry, I thank you, forsooth.

**ANNE PAGE**

I may not go in without your worship: they will not sit till you come.

**SLENDER**

I' faith, I'll eat nothing; I thank you as much as though I did.

**ANNE PAGE**

I pray you, sir, walk in.

**SLENDER**

I had rather walk here, I thank you. I bruised my shin th' other day with playing at sword and, by my troth, I cannot abide the smell of hot meat since. Mistress Anne, yourself shall go first.

**ANNE PAGE**

Not I, sir; pray you, keep on.

**SLENDER**

I'll rather be unmannerly than troublesome.

*Exeunt*

**ACT 1, SCENE II. The same. A room in the Garter Inn.**

**BLOCK 3**

*Enter FALSTAFF, Host, BARDOLPH, NYM, PISTOL, and ROBIN*

**FALSTAFF**

Mine host of the Garter!

**Host**

What says my bully-rook? speak scholarly and wisely.

**FALSTAFF**

Truly, mine host, I must turn away some of my followers. My expenses run ten pounds a week.

**Host**

I will entertain Bardolph; he shall draw, he shall tap: said I well, bully Hector?

**FALSTAFF**

Do so, good mine host.

**Host**

I have spoke; let him follow.

*To BARDOLPH*

Let me see thee froth and lime: I am at a word; follow.

*Exit*

**FALSTAFF**

Bardolph, follow him. A tapster is a good trade: an old cloak makes a new jerkin; a withered serving-man a fresh tapster. Go; adieu.

**BARDOLPH**

It is a life that I have desired: I will thrive.

**PISTOL**

O thou beggarly rogue! wilt thou the spigot wield?

*Exit BARDOLPH*

**NYM**

He was conceived in drink: is not the humour conceited?

**FALSTAFF**

Well, sirs, I am almost penniless. Which of you know Ford of this town?

**PISTOL**

I know the knave: he is of substance good.

**FALSTAFF**

My honest lads, I will tell you what I am about.

**PISTOL**

Two yards, and more.

**FALSTAFF**

No quips now, Pistol! Indeed, I am in the waist two yards about; but I am now about no waste; I am about thrift. Briefly, I do mean to make love to Ford's wife: I spy entertainment in her; she discourses, she carves, she gives the leer of invitation; and the voice of her behavior, is, 'I am Sir John Falstaff's.'

**PISTOL**

He hath studied her will, and translated her will, out of honesty into English.

**FALSTAFF**

I have writ me here a letter to her: and here another to Page's wife, who even now gave me good eyes too, examined my parts with most judicious glances; sometimes the beam of her view gilded my foot, sometimes my portly belly.

**PISTOL**

Then did the sun on dunghill shine.

**NYM**

I thank thee for that humour.

**FALSTAFF**

O, she did so course o'er my exteriors with such a greedy intention, that the appetite of her eye did seem to scorch me up like a burning-glass! She bears the purse too; she is, all gold and bounty. I will be treasurer to them both, and they shall be exchequers to me; they shall be my East and West Indies, and I will trade to them both. Go bear thou this letter to Mistress Page; and thou this to Mistress Ford: we will thrive, lads, we will thrive.

**PISTOL**

Shall I Sir Pandarus of Troy become, and by my side wear steel? then, Lucifer take all!

**NYM**

I will run no base humour: here, take the humour-letter: I will keep my reputation.

**FALSTAFF**

[To ROBIN] Hold, sirrah, bear you these letters tightly; Sail to these golden shores. Rogues, hence, avaunt! vanish like hailstones, go; Trudge, away; seek shelter, pack! You rogues!

*Exeunt FALSTAFF and ROBIN*

**PISTOL**

Let vultures gripe thy guts! Sixpence I'll have in pouch when thou shalt lack, Base Phrygian Turk!

**NYM**

I have humours of revenge.

**PISTOL**

Wilt thou revenge?

**NYM**

By welkin and her star!

**PISTOL**

With wit or steel?

**NYM**

With both the humours, I: I will discuss the humour of this love to Page.

**PISTOL**

And I to Ford shall unfold how Falstaff, varlet vile, his gold will hold, and his soft couch defile.

**NYM**

My humour shall not cool: I will incense Page and possess him with jealousy, that is my true humour.

**PISTOL**

Thou art the Mars of malecontents: I second thee; troop on.

*Exeunt*

**ACT I, SCENE III A room in DOCTOR CAIUS' house.**

**BLOCK 4**

*Enter MISTRESS QUICKLY, SIMPLE, and RUGBY*

**MISTRESS QUICKLY**

What, John Rugby! I pray thee, go to the casement, and see if you can see my master, Master Doctor Caius, coming. If he do, i' faith, and find any body in the house, here will be an old abusing of God's patience and the king's English.

**RUGBY**

I'll go watch.

*Exit RUGBY*

Peter Simple, you say your name is?

**SIMPLE**

Ay, for fault of a better.

**MISTRESS QUICKLY**

And Master Slender's your master?

**SIMPLE**

Ay, forsooth.

**MISTRESS QUICKLY**

A softly-sprighted man, is he not?

**SIMPLE**

Ay, forsooth: but he is as tall a man of his hands as any is between this and his head.

**MISTRESS QUICKLY**

Well, heaven send Anne Page no worse fortune! Tell Master Parson Evans I will do what I can for your master: Anne is a good girl, and I wish--

*Re-enter RUGBY*

**RUGBY**

Out, alas! here comes my master.

**MISTRESS QUICKLY**

We shall all be scolded. Run in here, good young man; go into this closet: he will not stay long.

*Shuts SIMPLE in the closet*

What, John Rugby! John! what, John, I say! Go, John, go inquire for my master; I doubt he be not well, that he comes not home.

*Singing*

And down, down, adown-a, & c.

*Enter DOCTOR CAIUS*

**DOCTOR CAIUS**

Vat is you sing? I do not like desk toys. Pray you, go and vetch me in my closet un boitier vert, a box, a green-a box: do intend vat I speak? a green-a box.

**MISTRESS QUICKLY**

Ay, forsooth; I'll fetch it you.

*Aside*

I am glad he went not in himself: if he had found the young man, he would have been horn-mad.

**DOCTOR CAIUS**

Fe, fe, fe, fe! ma foi, il fait fort chaud. Je m'en vais a la cour--la grande affaire.

**MISTRESS QUICKLY**

Is it this, sir?

**DOCTOR CAIUS**

Oui; mette le au mon pocket: depeche, quickly. Vere is dat knave Rugby?

**MISTRESS QUICKLY**

What, John Rugby! John!

**RUGBY**

Here, sir!

**DOCTOR CAIUS**

You are John Rugby, and you are Jack Rugby. Come, take-a your rapier, and come after my heel to the court.

**RUGBY**

'Tis ready, sir, here in the porch.

**DOCTOR CAIUS**

By my trot, I tarry too long. Od's me! Qu'ai-j'oublie! dere is some remedies in my closet, dat I vill not for the varld I shall leave behind. (*Mistress Quickly tries to obstruct him*)

O diable, diable! vat is in my closet? Villain! larron!

*Pulling SIMPLE out*

Rugby, my rapier!



**MISTRESS QUICKLY**

Good master, be content.

**BLOCK 5****DOCTOR CAIUS**

Wherefore shall I be content-a?

**MISTRESS QUICKLY**

The young man is an honest man.

**DOCTOR CAIUS**

What shall de honest man do in my closet? dere is no honest man dat shall come in my closet.

**MISTRESS QUICKLY**

I beseech you,. hear the truth of it: he came of an errand to me from Parson Hugh.

**DOCTOR CAIUS**

Vell.

**SIMPLE**

To desire this honest gentlewoman, your maid, to speak a good word to Mistress Anne Page for my master in the way of marriage.

**DOCTOR CAIUS**

Sir Hugh send-a you? Rugby, baille me some paper. (*to Simple*) Tarry you a little-a while.

*Writes*

**MISTRESS QUICKLY**

[Aside to SIMPLE] My master himself is in love with Mistress Anne Page: but notwithstanding that, I know Anne's mind,—that's neither here nor there.

**DOCTOR CAIUS**

You jack'nape, give-a this letter to Sir Hugh; by gar, it is a shallenge: I will cut his troat in dee park; and I will teach a scurvy jack-a-nape priest to meddle or make. You may be gone; it is not good you tarry here. By gar, I will cut all his two stones; by gar, he shall not have a stone to throw at his dog:

*Exit SIMPLE*

**MISTRESS QUICKLY**

Alas, he speaks but for his friend.

**DOCTOR CAIUS**

It is no matter-a ver dat: do not you tell-a me dat I shall have Anne Page for myself? By gar, I vill kill de Jack priest; and I have appointed mine host of de Jarteer to umpire the duel. By gar, I will myself have Anne Page.

**MISTRESS QUICKLY**

Sir, the maid loves you, and all shall be well.

**DOCTOR CAIUS**

Rugby, come to the court with me. By gar, if I have not Anne Page, I shall turn your head out of my door. Follow my heels, Rugby.

*Exeunt DOCTOR CAIUS and RUGBY*

**MISTRESS QUICKLY**

You shall have An... fool's-head of your own. No, I know Anne's mind for that: never a woman in Windsor knows more of Anne's mind than I do; nor can do more than I do with her, I thank heaven.

**FENTON**

[Within] Who's within there? ho!

**MISTRESS QUICKLY**

Who's there, I wonder! Come near the house, I pray you.

*Enter FENTON*

**FENTON**

How now, good woman? how dost thou? What news? how does pretty Mistress Anne?

**MISTRESS QUICKLY**

In truth, sir, and she is pretty, and honest, and gentle; and one that is your friend, I can tell you that by the way; I praise heaven for it.

**FENTON**

Shall I do any good, thinkest thou? shall I not lose my suit?

**MISTRESS QUICKLY**

Troth, sir, all is in his hands above: but notwithstanding, Master Fenton, I'll be sworn on a book, she loves you.

**FENTON**

Well, I shall see her to-day. Hold, there's money for thee; let me have thy voice in my behalf: if thou seest her before me, commend me.

**MISTRESS QUICKLY**

Will I? i'faith, that we will; and I will tell your worship more the next time we have confidence; and of other wooers.

**FENTON**

Well, farewell; I am in great haste now.

**MISTRESS QUICKLY**

Farewell to your worship.

*Exit FENTON*

Truly, an honest gentleman: but Anne loves him not; for I know Anne's mind as well as another does. Out upon't! what have I forgot?

*Exit*

## **ACT II**

## **BLOCK 6**

### **SCENE I. Before PAGE'S house.**

*Enter MISTRESS PAGE, with a letter*

**MISTRESS PAGE**

What, have I scaped love-letters in the holiday-time of my beauty, and am I now a subject for them? Let me see.

*Reads*

'Ask me no reason why I love you; for though Love use Reason for his physician, he admits him not for his counsellor. You are not young, no more am I; go to then, there's sympathy: you are merry, so am I; ha, ha! then there's more sympathy: you love wine, and so do I; would you desire better sympathy? Let it suffice thee, Mistress Page,—at the least, if the love of soldier can suffice,—that I love thee. I will not say, pity me; 'tis not a soldier-like phrase: but I say, love me. By me, Thine own true knight, By day or night, Or any kind of light, With all his might For thee to fight, JOHN FALSTAFF! O wicked world! Why, he hath not been thrice in my company! What should I say to him? I was then frugal of my mirth: Heaven forgive me! Why, I'll exhibit a

bill in the parliament for the putting down of men. How shall I be revenged on him? for revenged I will be, as sure as his guts are made of puddings.

*Enter MISTRESS FORD*

You look very ill.

**MISTRESS FORD**

O Mistress Page, give me some counsel!

**MISTRESS PAGE**

What's the matter, woman?

**MISTRESS FORD**

O woman, if it were not for one trifling respect, I could come to such honour!

**MISTRESS PAGE**

Hang the trifle, woman! take the honour. What is it? dispense with trifles; what is it?

**MISTRESS FORD**

If I would but go to hell for an eternal moment or so, I could be knighted.

**MISTRESS PAGE**

What? thou liest! Sir Alice Ford! Thou shouldst not alter thy rank.

**MISTRESS FORD**

We burn daylight: here, read, read; perceive how I might be knighted. I shall think the worse of fat men, as long as I have an eye to men's looks; and yet he praised women's modesty; and gave such orderly reproof to all uncomeliness. What tempest threw this whale, with so many tuns of oil in his belly, ashore at Windsor? How shall I be revenged on him? I think the best way were to entertain him with hope, till the wicked fire of lust have melted him in his own grease. Did you ever hear the like?

**MISTRESS PAGE**

Letter for letter, but that the name of Page and Ford differs! Here's the twin-brother of thy letter. I warrant he hath a thousand of these letters, writ with blank space for different names--sure, more,--and these are of the second edition: he will print them, out of doubt; for he cares not what he puts into the press, when he would put us two.

**MISTRESS FORD**

Why, this is the very same; the very hand, the very words. What doth he think of us?

**MISTRESS PAGE**

Nay, I know not: for, sure, unless he know some quality in me, that I know not myself, he would never have boarded me in this fury.

**MISTRESS FORD**

'Boarding,' call you it? I'll be sure to keep him above deck.

**MISTRESS PAGE**

So will I if he come under my hatches, I'll never to sea again. Let's be revenged on him: let's appoint him a meeting; give him a show of comfort in his suit and lead him on with a fine-baited delay, till he hath pawned his horses to mine host of the Garter.

**MISTRESS FORD**

Nay, I will consent to act any villany against him, that may not sully our chastity. O, that my husband saw this letter! it would give eternal food to his jealousy.

**MISTRESS PAGE**

Why, look where he comes; and my good man too: he's as far from jealousy as I am from giving him cause; and that I hope is an unmeasurable distance.

**MISTRESS FORD**

You are the happier woman.

**MISTRESS PAGE**

Let's consult together against this greasy knight. Come hither.

*They retire*

*Enter FORD with PISTOL, and PAGE with NYM*

**FORD**

Well, I hope it be not so.

**PISTOL**

Hope is a dog in some affairs: Sir John loves thy wife.

**FORD**

Why, sir, my wife is not young.

**PISTOL**

He wooes both high and low, both rich and poor, Both young and old, one with another, Ford; He loves the variety: Ford, consider.

**FORD**

Love my wife!

**PISTOL**

With liver burning hot. Prevent, or go thou,

**FORD**

What, sir?

**PISTOL**

Farewell.

Take heed, have open eye, for thieves do foot by night: Take heed, ere summer comes or cuckoo-birds do sing. Away, Sir Corporal Nym! Believe it, Page; he speaks sense.

*Exit*

**FORD**

[Aside] I will be patient; I will find out this.

**NYM**

[To PAGE] And this is true; I like not the humour of lying. He hath wronged me in some humours: I should have borne the humoured letter to her. He loves your wife; there's the short and the long. My name is Corporal Nym; I speak and I avouch; 'tis true: my name is Nym and Falstaff loves your wife. and there's the humour of it. Adieu.

*Exit*

**FORD**

I will seek out Falstaff.

**PAGE**

I never heard such a drawling, affecting rogue.

**FORD**

If I do find it: well.

**PAGE**

I will not believe such a rogue, though the priest o' the town commended him for a true man.

**FORD**

'Twas a good sensible fellow: well.

**BLOCK 7**

**PAGE**

How now, Meg!

*MISTRESS PAGE and MISTRESS FORD come forward*

**MISTRESS PAGE**

Whither go you, George? Hark you.

**MISTRESS FORD**

How now, sweet Frank! why art thou melancholy?

**FORD**

I melancholy! I am not melancholy. Get you home, go.

**MISTRESS FORD**

Faith, thou hast some notions in thy head. Now, will you go, Mistress Page?

**MISTRESS PAGE**

I'll go with you. You'll come to dinner, George.

*Aside to MISTRESS FORD*

Look who comes yonder: she shall be our messenger to this paltry knight.

**MISTRESS FORD**

[Aside to MISTRESS PAGE] Trust me, I thought on her: she'll fit it.

*Enter MISTRESS QUICKLY*

**MISTRESS PAGE**

You are come to see my daughter Anne?

**MISTRESS QUICKLY**

Ay, forsooth; and, I pray, how does good Mistress Anne?

**MISTRESS PAGE**

Go in with us and see: we have an hour's talk with you.

*Exeunt MISTRESS PAGE, MISTRESS FORD, and MISTRESS QUICKLY*

**PAGE**

How now, Master Ford!

**FORD**

You heard what this knave told me, did you not?

**PAGE**

Yes: and you heard what the other told me?

**FORD**

Do you think there is truth in them?

**PAGE**

If he should intend this voyage towards my wife, I would turn her loose to him; and what he gets more of her than sharp words, let it lie on my head.

**FORD**

I do not misdoubt my wife; but I would be loath to turn them together. A man may be too confident: I would have nothing lie on my head: I cannot be thus satisfied.

**PAGE**

Look where my ranting host of the Garter comes: there is either liquor in his pate or money in his purse when he looks so merrily.

*Enter Host*

How now, mine host!

**Host**

How now, bully-rook! thou'rt a gentleman.

*Enter SHALLOW*

**SHALLOW**

Master Page, will you go with us? we have sport in hand.

**Host**

Tell him, bully-rook.

**SHALLOW**

Sir, there is a fray to be fought between Sir Hugh the Welsh priest and Caius the French doctor.

**FORD**

Good mine host o' the Garter, a word with you.

*Drawing him aside*

**Host**

What sayest thou, my bully-rook?

**SHALLOW**

[To PAGE] Will you go with us to behold it? My merry host will be umpire and, I think, hath appointed them contrary places;

*They converse apart*

**Host**

Hast thou no suit against my knight, my Bully-rook?

**FORD**

None, I protest: but I'll give you a pottle of burnt sack to give me recourse to him and tell him my name is Brook; only for a jest.

**Host**

My hand, bully; thou shalt have egress and regress; To him.-and thy name shall be Brook. It is a merry knight. Here, boys, here, here! shall we wag?

**PAGE**

Have with you. I would rather hear them scold than fight.

*Exeunt Host, SHALLOW, and PAGE*

**FORD**

Though Page be a secure fool, and stands so firmly on his wife's frailty, yet I cannot put off my opinion so easily: she was in his company at Page's house; and what they made there, I know not. Well, I will look further into't: and I have a disguise to sound Falstaff. If I find her honest, I lose not my labour; if she be otherwise, 'tis labour well bestowed.

*Exit*

**ACT II, SCENE II. A room in the Garter Inn.**

**BLOCK 8**

*Enter FALSTAFF and PISTOL*

**FALSTAFF**

I will not lend thee a penny.

**PISTOL**

Why, then the world's mine oyster which I with sword will open.

**FALSTAFF**

Not a penny. I have been content, sir, you should borrow against my name; I am damned in hell for swearing to gentlemen my friends, you were good soldiers and tall fellows; and when Mistress Bridget lost the golden handle of her fan, I took't upon mine honour thou hadst it not.

**PISTOL**

Didst not thou share? hadst thou not fifteen pence?

**FALSTAFF**

Reason, you rogue, reason: thinkest thou I'll endanger my soul gratis? You'll not bear a letter for me, you rogue! you stand upon your honour! Why, thou unconfinable baseness, I, I, I myself sometimes, leaving the fear of God on the left hand am fain to deceive, to cheat and to steal; and yet you, rogue, will hide under the shelter of your honour! You will not do it, you!

**PISTOL**

I do relent: what would thou more of man?

*Enter ROBIN*

**ROBIN**

Sir, here's a woman would speak with you.

**FALSTAFF**

Let her approach.

*Enter MISTRESS QUICKLY*

**MISTRESS QUICKLY**

Give your worship good morrow.

**FALSTAFF**

Good morrow, good wife.

**MISTRESS QUICKLY**

Not so, an't please your worship.

**FALSTAFF**

Good maid, then.

**MISTRESS QUICKLY**

I'll be sworn,

As my mother was, the first hour I was born.

**FALSTAFF**

I do believe the swearer. What with me?

**MISTRESS QUICKLY**

There is one Mistress Ford, sir:--I pray, come a little nearer this ways:--I myself dwell with master Doctor Caius,--

**FALSTAFF**

Well, on: Mistress Ford, you say,--

**MISTRESS QUICKLY**

Your worship says very true: I pray your worship, come a little nearer this ways.

**FALSTAFF**

I warrant thee, nobody hears; mine own people, mine own people.

Well, Mistress Ford; what of her?

**MISTRESS QUICKLY**

Marry, this is the short and the long of it; you have brought her into such a canaries as 'tis

wonderful. The best courtier of them all, when the court lay at Windsor, could never have brought her to such a canary. Yet there has been knights, and lords, and gentlemen, with their coaches, I warrant you, coach after coach, letter after letter, gift after gift; smelling so sweetly, all musk, and so...

**FALSTAFF**

But what says she to me? be brief, my good she-Mercury.

**MISTRESS QUICKLY**

Marry, she hath received your letter, for the which she thanks you a thousand times; and she gives you to notify that her husband will be absence from his house between ten and eleven.

**FALSTAFF**

Ten and eleven?

**MISTRESS QUICKLY**

Ay, forsooth; and then you may come and see the picture, she says, that you know of: Master Ford, her husband, will be from home. Alas! the sweet woman leads an ill life with him: he's a very jealousy man.

**FALSTAFF**

Ten and eleven. Woman, commend me to her; I will not fail her.

**MISTRESS QUICKLY**

Why, you say well. But I have another messenger to your worship. Mistress Page hath her hearty commendations to you too: and let me tell you in your ear, she's as fartuous a civil modest wife, as any is in Windsor, and she bade me tell your worship that her husband is seldom from home; but she hopes there will come a time. I never knew a woman so dote upon a man: surely I think you have charms, la; yes, in truth.

**FALSTAFF**

Not I, I assure thee: setting the attractions of my good parts aside I have no other charms.

**MISTRESS QUICKLY**

Blessing on your heart for't!

**FALSTAFF**

But, I pray thee, tell me this: has Ford's wife and Page's wife acquainted each other how they love me?

**MISTRESS QUICKLY**

That were a jest indeed! they have not so little grace, I hope: that were a trick indeed! but Mistress Page would desire you to send her your little page, of all loves: You must send her your page; no remedy.

**FALSTAFF**

Why, I will.

**MISTRESS QUICKLY**

Nay, but do so, then: and, look you, he may come and go between you both.

**FALSTAFF**

Fare thee well: commend me to them both: there's my purse; I am yet thy debtor. Boy, go along with this woman.

*Exeunt MISTRESS QUICKLY and ROBIN*

This news distracts me!

**PISTOL**

This strumpet is one of Cupid's carriers: Clap on more sails; pursue; Give fire: she is my prize, or ocean whelm them all! *Exit*



**FALSTAFF**

Good body, I thank thee. Let them say 'tis grossly done; so it be fairly done, no matter.

*Enter BARDOLPH*

**BARDOLPH**

Sir John, there's one Master Brook below would fain speak with you, and be acquainted with you; and hath sent your worship a morning's draught of sack.

**FALSTAFF**

Brook is his name?

**BARDOLPH**

Ay, sir.

**FALSTAFF**

Call him in.

*Exit BARDOLPH*

Such Brooks are welcome to me, that o'erflow such liquor.

*Re-enter BARDOLPH, with FORD disguised*

BLOCK 9

*Exit Bardolph*

**FORD**

Sir, I am a gentleman that have spent much; my name is Brook.

**FALSTAFF**

Good Master Brook, I desire more acquaintance of you.

**FORD**

Good Sir John, I sue for yours: for I must let you understand I think myself in better plight for a lender than you are: the which hath something embolden'd me to this unseasoned intrusion; for they say, if money go before, all ways do lie open.

**FALSTAFF**

Money is a good soldier, sir, and will on.

**FORD**

Troth, and I have a bag of money here troubles me: if you will help to bear it, Sir John, take all, or half, for easing me of the carriage.

**FALSTAFF**

Sir, I know not how I may deserve to be your porter.

**FORD**

I will tell you, sir, if you will give me the hearing.

**FALSTAFF**

Speak, good Master Brook: I shall be glad to be your servant.

**FORD**

There is a gentlewoman in this town; her husband's name is Ford.

**FALSTAFF**

Well, sir.

**FORD**

I have long loved her, and, I protest to you, bestowed much on her; followed her with a doting observance; engrossed opportunities to meet her, to give me sight of her. Briefly, I have pursued

her as love hath pursued me. But whatsoever I have merited, either in my mind or, in my means, reward I am sure, I have received none.

**FALSTAFF**

Of what quality was your love, then?

**FORD**

Like a fair house built on another man's ground; so that I have lost my edifice by mistaking the place where I erected it.

**FALSTAFF**

To what purpose have you unfolded this to me?

**FORD**

When I have told you that, I have told you all. Now, Sir John, here is the heart of my purpose: you are a gentleman of excellent breeding, admirable discourse. There is money; spend it, spend it; spend more; spend all I have; only give me so much of your time in exchange of it, as to lay an amiable siege to the honesty of this Ford's wife: use your art of wooing; win her to consent to you: if any man may, you may as soon as any.

**FALSTAFF**

Would it apply well to the vehemency of your affection, that I should win what you would enjoy? Methinks you prescribe to yourself very preposterously.

**FORD**

O, understand my drift. She dwells so securely on the excellency of her honour, that the folly of my soul dares not present itself: she is too bright to be looked against. Now, could I could come to her with any detection in my hand, I could drive her then from the ward of her purity, her reputation, and her marriage-vow, which now are too too strongly embattled against me. What say you to't, Sir John?

**FALSTAFF**

Master Brook, I will first make bold with your money; next, give me your hand; and last, as I am a gentleman, you shall, if you will, enjoy Ford's wife.

**FORD**

O good sir!

**FALSTAFF**

I say you shall.

**FORD**

Want no money, Sir John; you shall want none.

**FALSTAFF**

Want no Mistress Ford, Master Brook; you shall want none. I shall be with her, I may tell you, by her own appointment: I say I shall be with her between ten and eleven; for at that time the jealous rascally knave her husband will be forth. Come you to me at night; you shall know how I speed.

**FORD**

I am blest in your acquaintance. Do you know Ford, sir?

**FALSTAFF**

Hang him, poor cuckoldly knave! I know him not: yet I wrong him to call him poor; they say the jealous wittolly knave hath masses of money; for the which his wife seems to me well-favored. I will use her as the key of the cuckoldly rogue's coffer; and there's my harvest-home.

**FORD**

I would you knew Ford, sir, that you might avoid him if you saw him.

**FALSTAFF**

Hang him, vulgar salt-butter rogue! I will stare him out of his wits; I will awe him with my cudgel: it shall hang like a meteor o'er the cuckold's horns. Master Brook, thou shalt know I will predominate over the peasant, and thou shalt lie with his wife. Come to me soon at night.

*Exit*

**FORD**

What a damned Epicurean rascal is this! My heart is ready to crack with impatience. Who says this is improvident jealousy? my wife hath sent to him; the hour is fixed; the match is made. Would any man have thought this? See the hell of having a false woman! My bed shall be abused, my coffers ransacked, my reputation gnawn at; Page is an ass, a secure ass: he will trust his wife; he will not be jealous. God be praised for my jealousy! Eleven o'clock the hour. I will prevent this, detect my wife, be revenged on Falstaff, and laugh at Page. I will about it; better three hours too soon than a minute too late. Fie, fie, fie! cuckold! cuckold! cuckold!

*Exit*

**ACT II SCENE III. A field near Windsor.****BLOCK 10**

*Enter DOCTOR CAIUS and RUGBY*

**DOCTOR CAIUS**

Jack Rugby!

**RUGBY**

Sir?

**DOCTOR CAIUS**

Vat is de clock, Jack?

**RUGBY**

'Tis past the hour, sir, that Sir Hugh promised to meet.

**DOCTOR CAIUS**

By gar, he has save his soul, dat he is no come; he has pray his Pible well, dat he is no come: by gar, Jack Rugby, he is dead already, if he be come.

**RUGBY**

He is wise, sir; he knew your worship would kill him, if he came.

**DOCTOR CAIUS**

By gar, de herring is no dead so as I vill kill him. Take your rapier, Jack; I vill tell you how I vill kill him.

**RUGBY**

Alas, sir, I cannot fence.

**DOCTOR CAIUS**

Villany, take your rapier.

**RUGBY**

Forbear; here's company.

*Enter Host, SHALLOW, SLENDER, and PAGE*

**DOCTOR CAIUS**

Vat be all you, one, two, tree, four, come for?

**Host**

To see thee fight, to see thee foin, to see thee traverse; to see thee here, to see thee there; to

see thee pass thy punto, thy stock, thy reverse. Is he dead, my Aesculapius? is he dead?

**DOCTOR CAIUS**

By gar, he is de coward Jack priest of de worlde; he is not show his face. I pray you, bear vitness that me have stay six or seven, two, tree hours for him, and he is no come.

**SHALLOW**

He is the wiser man, master doctor: he is a curer of souls, and you a curer of bodies; if you should fight, you go against the hair of your professions. Is it not true, Master Page?

**PAGE**

Master Shallow, you have yourself been a great fighter, though now a man of peace.

**SHALLOW**

Though we are justices and doctors and churchmen, Master Page, we have some salt of our youth in us; we are the sons of women, Master Page.

**PAGE**

'Tis true, Master Shallow.

**SHALLOW**

Master Doctor Caius, I am come to fetch you home. I am sworn of the peace. You must go with me, master doctor.

**DOCTOR CAIUS**

Scurvy jack-dog priest! by gar, me vill cut his ears. for he speak for a jack-an-ape to Anne Page.

**Host**

Let him die:: go about the fields with me through Frogmore: I will bring thee where Mistress Anne Page is, and thou shalt woo her. Said I well?

**DOCTOR CAIUS**

By gar, me dank you for dat: by gar, I love you; Come at my heels, Jack Rugby.

*Exeunt*

### **ACT III**

### **BLOCK II**

#### **SCENE I. A field near Frogmore.**

*Enter SIR HUGH EVANS*

**SIR HUGH EVANS**

'Pless my soul, how full of anger I am, and treampling of mind! I will knog his urinals about his knave's costard. Mercy on me! I have a great dispositions to cry.

*Sings*

*Enter PAGE, SHALLOW, and SLENDER*

**SHALLOW**

How now, master Parson!

**SLENDER**

[Aside] Ah, sweet Anne Page!

**PAGE**

'Save you, good Sir Hugh!

**SIR HUGH EVANS**

'Pless you from his mercy sake, all of you!

**SHALLOW**

What, the sword and the word! do you study them both, master parson?

**SIR HUGH EVANS**

There is reasons and causes for it.

**PAGE**

Yonder is a most reverend gentleman, who, is at most odds with his own gravity and patience.

**SIR HUGH EVANS**

What is he?

**PAGE**

I think you know him; Master Doctor Caius, the renowned French physician.

**SIR HUGH EVANS**

Got's will, a cowardly knave as you would desires to be acquainted withal.

**SLENDER**

[Aside] O sweet Anne Page!

*Enter Host, DOCTOR CAIUS, and RUGBY*

**SHALLOW**

Keep them asunder.

**PAGE**

Nay, good master parson, keep in your weapon.

**SHALLOW**

So do you, good master doctor.

**Host**

Disarm them, and let them question: let them keep their limbs whole and hack our English.

*(They start to fight)*

**DOCTOR CAIUS**

*(Aside to Evans)* I pray you, wherefore vill you not meet-a me?

**SIR HUGH EVANS**

*[Aside to DOCTOR CAIUS]* Pray you, use your patience:*(aloud)* In good time.

**DOCTOR CAIUS**

By gar, you are de coward, de Jack dog, John ape.

**SIR HUGH EVANS**

*[Aside to DOCTOR CAIUS]* Pray you let us not be laughing-stocks to other men's humours; I desire you in friendship, and I will one way or other make you amends.

*(Aloud)* I will knog your urinals about your knave's cockscomb for missing your meetings and appointments.

**DOCTOR CAIUS**

Diable! Jack Rugby,--mine host de Jarteer,--have I not stay for him to kill him? have I not, at de place I did appoint?

**SIR HUGH EVANS**

As I am a Christians soul now, this is the place appointed.

**Host**

Peace, I say! hear mine host of the Garter. Shall I lose my doctor? no; he gives me the potions and the motions. Shall I lose my parson, my priest, my Sir Hugh? no; he gives me the proverbs and the no-verbs. Give me thy hand, terrestrial; so. Give me thy hand, celestial; so. Boys of art, I

have deceived you both; I have directed you to wrong places: your hearts are mighty, your skins are whole, and let burnt sack be the issue. Come, lay their swords to pawn. Follow me, lads of peace; follow, follow, follow.

**SHALLOW**

Trust me, a mad host. Follow, gentlemen, follow.

**SLENDER**

[Aside] O sweet Anne Page!

*Exeunt SHALLOW, SLENDER, PAGE, and Host*

**DOCTOR CAIUS**

Ha, do I perceive dat? have you make-a de sot of us, ha, ha?

**SIR HUGH EVANS**

This is well; he has made us his laughing stock. I desire you that we may be friends; and let us knog our prains together to be revenge on this same scall, scurvy cogging companion, the host of the Garter.

**DOCTOR CAIUS**

By gar, with all my heart. He promise to bring me where is Anne Page; by gar, he deceive me too.

**SIR HUGH EVANS**

Well, I will smite his noddles. Pray you, follow.

*Exeunt*

**Act III, SCENE II. A street.**

**BLOCK 12**

*Enter MISTRESS PAGE and ROBIN*

**MISTRESS PAGE**

Nay, keep your way, little gallant; you were wont to be a follower, but now you are a leader. Whether had you rather lead mine eyes, or eye your master's heels?

**ROBIN**

I had rather, forsooth, go before you like a man than follow him like a dwarf.

*Enter FORD*

**FORD**

Well met, Mistress Page. Whither go you?

**MISTRESS PAGE**

Truly, sir, to see your wife. Is she at home?

**FORD**

Ay; and as idle as she may hang together, for want of company. I think, if your husbands were dead, you two would marry.

**MISTRESS PAGE**

Be sure of that,--two other husbands.

**FORD**

Where had you this pretty weather-cock?

**ROBIN**

Sir John Falstaff.

**FORD**

Sir John Falstaff!

**MISTRESS PAGE**

Is your wife at home indeed?

**FORD**

Indeed she is.

**MISTRESS PAGE**

By your leave, sir: I am sick till I see her.

*Exeunt MISTRESS PAGE and ROBIN*

**FORD**

Has Page any brains? hath he any eyes? hath he any thinking? Sure, they sleep; he hath no use of them. His wife is going to my wife, and to these violent proceedings our revolted wives share damnation together and all my neighbours applaud

*Clock heard*

The clock gives me my cue, and my assurance bids me search: there I shall find Falstaff: I shall be rather praised for this than mocked; for it is as positive as the earth is firm that Falstaff is there: I will go.

*Enter PAGE, SHALLOW, SLENDER, Host, SIR HUGH EVANS, DOCTOR CAIUS, and RUGBY*

**SHALLOW PAGE & C**

Well met, Master Ford.

**FORD**

Trust me, a good company: I have good cheer at home; and I pray you all go with me.

**SHALLOW**

I must excuse myself, Master Ford.

**SLENDER**

And so must I, sir: we have appointed to dine with Mistress Anne, and I would not break with her for more money than I'll speak of.

**SHALLOW**

We have lingered about a match between Anne Page and my cousin Slender, and this day we shall have our answer.

**SLENDER**

I hope I have your good will, father Page.

**PAGE**

You have, Master Slender; I stand wholly for you: but my wife, master doctor, is for you altogether.

**DOCTOR CAIUS**

Ay, be-gar; and de maid is love-a me: my nursh-a Quickly tell me so mush.

**Host**

What say you to young Master Fenton? he capers, he dances, he has eyes of youth, he writes verses, he speaks holiday, he smells April and May: he will carry't, he will carry't; 'tis in his buttons; he will carry't.

**PAGE**

Not by my consent, I promise you.

**FORD**

I beseech you heartily, some of you go home with me to dinner: besides your cheer, you shall have sport; I will show you a monster. Master doctor, you shall go; so shall you, Master Page; and you, Sir Hugh.

**SHALLOW**

Well, fare you well: we shall have the freer wooing at Master Page's.

*Exeunt SHALLOW, and SLENDER*

**DOCTOR CAIUS**

Go home, John Rugby; I come anon.

*Exit RUGBY*

**Host**

Farewell, my hearts: I will to my honest knight Falstaff, and drink canary with him.

*Exit*

**FORD**

[Aside] I think I shall drink in pipe wine first with him; I'll make him dance. Will you go, gentles?

**PAGE**

Have with you to see this monster.

*Exeunt*

**ACT III, SCENE III. A room in FORD'S house.****BLOCK 13**

*Enter MISTRESS FORD and MISTRESS PAGE*

**MISTRESS PAGE**

Give your men the charge; we must be brief.

**MISTRESS FORD**

Marry, as I told you before, John and Robert, be ready here hard by: and when I suddenly call you, come forth, and without any pause or staggering take this basket, trudge with it in all haste, and empty it in the muddy ditch close by the Thames side. Be gone, and come when you are called.

*Exeunt Servants*

*Enter ROBIN*

**MISTRESS FORD**

How now, my sparrow-hawk! what news with you?

**ROBIN**

My master, Sir John, is come in at your back-door, Mistress Ford, and requests your company.

**MISTRESS PAGE**

You little Jack-a-Lent, have you been true to us?

**ROBIN**

Ay, I'll be sworn. My master knows not of your being here and hath threatened to put me into everlasting liberty if I tell you of it; for he swears he'll turn me away.



**MISTRESS PAGE**

Thou'rt a good boy: I'll go hide me.

**MISTRESS FORD**

Do so. Go tell thy master I am alone.

*Exit ROBIN*

Mistress Page, remember you your cue.

**MISTRESS PAGE**

I warrant thee; if I do not act it, hiss me.

*Exit*

*Enter FALSTAFF*

**FALSTAFF**

Have I caught thee, my heavenly jewel? Why, now let me die, for I have lived long enough: this is the period of my ambition: O this blessed hour!

**MISTRESS FORD**

O sweet Sir John!

**FALSTAFF**

Mistress Ford, I cannot cog, I cannot prate, Mistress Ford. Now shall I sin in my wish: I would thy husband were dead: I'll speak it before the best lord; I would make thee my lady.

**MISTRESS FORD**

I your lady, Sir John! alas, I should be a pitiful lady!

**FALSTAFF**

Let the court of France show me such another. I see how thine eye would emulate the diamond: thou hast the arched beauty of the brow that becomes the Venetian headdress.

**MISTRESS FORD**

A plain kerchief, Sir John: my brows become nothing else.

**FALSTAFF**

Thou art a traitor to say so: the firm fixture of thy foot would give an excellent motion to thy gait. Come, thou canst not hide it.

**MISTRESS FORD**

Believe me, there is no such thing in me.

**FALSTAFF**

What made me love thee? let that persuade thee there's something extraordinary in thee. Come, I cannot cog and say thou art this and that, like a many of these lisping hawthorn-buds, that come like women in men's apparel, and smell like Bucklersberries; I cannot: but I love thee; none but thee; and thou deservest it.

**MISTRESS FORD**

Do not betray me, sir. I fear you love Mistress Page.

**FALSTAFF**

Thou mightst as well say I love to walk by the Debtor's prison, which is as hateful to me as the reek of a lime-kiln.

**MISTRESS FORD**

Well, heaven knows how I love you; and you shall one day find it.

**FALSTAFF**

Keep in that mind; I'll deserve it.

**MISTRESS FORD**

Nay, I must tell you, so you do; or else I could not be in that mind.

**ROBIN**

[Within] Mistress Ford, Mistress Ford! here's Mistress Page at the door, sweating and blowing and looking wildly, and would needs speak with you presently.

**FALSTAFF**

She shall not see me: I will ensconce me behind the arras.

**MISTRESS FORD**

Pray you, do so: she's a very tattling woman.

*FALSTAFF hides himself*

*Re-enter MISTRESS PAGE and ROBIN*

What's the matter? how now!

**MISTRESS PAGE**

O Mistress Ford, what have you done? You're shamed, you're overthrown, you're undone for ever!

**MISTRESS FORD**

What's the matter, good Mistress Page?

**MISTRESS PAGE**

O well-a-day, Mistress Ford! having an honest man to your husband, to give him such cause of suspicion!

**MISTRESS FORD**

What cause of suspicion?

**MISTRESS PAGE**

What cause of suspicion! Out pon you! how am I mistook in you!

**MISTRESS FORD**

Why, alas, what's the matter?

**MISTRESS PAGE**

Your husband's coming hither, woman, with all the officers in Windsor, to search for a gentleman that he says is here now in the house by your consent, to take an ill advantage of his absence: you are undone.

**MISTRESS FORD**

'Tis not so, I hope.

**MISTRESS FORD**

What shall I do? There is a gentleman my dear friend; and I fear not mine own shame so much as his peril: I had rather than a thousand pound he were out of the house.

**MISTRESS PAGE**

For shame! never lose time over 'you had rather' and 'you had rather:' your husband's here at hand, bethink you of some conveyance: in the house you cannot hide him. O, how have you deceived me! Look, here is a basket: if he be of any reasonable stature, he may creep in here; and throw foul linen upon him, as if it were going to washing: or--it is bleaching-time--send him by your two men to Datchet-mead.

**MISTRESS FORD**

He's too big to go in there. What shall I do?

**FALSTAFF**

*(Coming forward)*

Let me see't, let me see't, O, let me see't! I'll in, I'll in. Follow your friend's counsel. I'll in.

**MISTRESS PAGE**

What, Sir John Falstaff! Are these your letters, knight?

**FALSTAFF**

I love thee. Help me away. Let me creep in here. I'll never--

*Gets into the basket; they cover him with foul linen*

**MISTRESS PAGE**

Help to cover your master, boy. Call your men, Mistress Ford. You dissembling knight!

**MISTRESS FORD**

What, John! Robert! John!

*Exit ROBIN*

*Re-enter Servants*

Go take up these clothes here quickly. Convey them to the laundress in Datchet-meat; quickly, come.

*Enter FORD, PAGE, DOCTOR CAIUS, and SIR HUGH EVANS*

**BLOCK 14**

**FORD**

Pray you, come near: if I suspect without cause, why then make sport at me; then let me be your jest; I deserve it. How now! whither bear you this?

**Servant**

To the laundress, forsooth.

**MISTRESS FORD**

Why, what have you to do whither they bear it? You were best meddle with clothes-washing.

*Exeunt Servants with the basket*

**FORD**

Here, here, here be my keys: ascend my chambers; search, seek, find out: I'll warrant we'll unkennel the fox. Let me stop this way first.

*Locking the door*

So, now flush him out.

**PAGE**

Good Master Ford, be contented: you wrong yourself too much.

**FORD**

True, Master Page. Up, gentlemen: you shall see sport anon: follow me, gentlemen.

*Exit*

**SIR HUGH EVANS**

This is fery fantastical humours and jealousies.

**DOCTOR CAIUS**

By gar, 'tis no the fashion of France; it is not jealous in France.

**PAGE**

Nay, follow him, gentlemen; see the issue of his search.

*Exeunt PAGE, DOCTOR CAIUS, and SIR HUGH EVANS*

**MISTRESS PAGE**

Is there not a double excellency in this?

**MISTRESS FORD**

I am half afraid he will have need of washing; so throwing him into the water will do him a benefit. Shall we send that foolish carrion, Mistress Quickly, to him, and excuse his throwing into the water; and give him another hope, to betray him to another punishment?

**MISTRESS PAGE**

We will do it: let him be sent for to-morrow, eight o'clock, to have amends.

*Re-enter FORD, PAGE, DOCTOR CAIUS, and SIR HUGH EVANS*

**FORD**

I cannot find him: may be the knave bragged of that he could not compass.

**MISTRESS PAGE**

[Aside to MISTRESS FORD] Heard you that?

**MISTRESS FORD**

You use me well, Master Ford, do you?

**FORD**

Ay, I do so.

**MISTRESS FORD**

Heaven make you better than your thoughts!

**FORD**

Amen!

**MISTRESS PAGE**

You do yourself mighty wrong, Master Ford.

**FORD**

Ay, ay; I must bear it.

**SIR HUGH EVANS**

If there be any pody in the house, and in the chambers, and in the coffers, and in the presses, heaven forgive my sins at the day of judgment!

**DOCTOR CAIUS**

By gar, nor I too: there is no bodies.

**PAGE**

Fie, fie, Master Ford! are you not ashamed? What spirit, what devil suggests this imagination?

**SIR HUGH EVANS**

Your wife is as honest a 'omans as I will desires among five thousand..

**DOCTOR CAIUS**

By gar, I see 'tis an honest woman.

**FORD**

Well, I promised you a dinner. Come, come, walk in the Park: I pray you, pardon me; I will hereafter make known to you why I have done this. Come, wife; come, Mistress Page. I pray you, pardon me; pray heartily, pardon me.

**PAGE**

Let's go in, gentlemen; but, trust me, we'll mock him. I do invite you to-morrow morning to my house to breakfast: after, we'll a-birding together; Shall it be so?

**FORD**

Any thing.

**SIR HUGH EVANS**

If there is one, I shall make two in the company.

**DOCTOR CAIUS**

If dere be one or two, I shall make-a de turd.

**FORD**

Pray you, go, Master Page.

**SIR HUGH EVANS**

I pray you now, remembrance tomorrow on the lousy knave, mine host.

**DOCTOR CAIUS**

Dat is good; by gar, with all my heart!

**SIR HUGH EVANS**

A lousy knave, to have his gibes and his mockeries!

*Exeunt*

**ACT III, SCENE IV. A room in PAGE'S house.**

**BLOCK 15**

*Enter FENTON and ANNE PAGE*

**FENTON**

I see I cannot get thy father's love; Therefore no more turn me to him, sweet Nan.

**ANNE PAGE**

Alas, how then?

**FENTON**

Why, thou must be thyself. He doth object I am too great of birth—, and that, my state being squandered away, I seek to heal it only by his wealth: and tells me 'tis a thing impossible I should love thee but as a property.

**ANNE PAGE**

May be he tells you true.

**FENTON**

No, heaven so speed me in my time to come! Albeit I will confess thy father's wealth was the first motive that I woo'd thee, Anne: yet, wooing thee, I found thee of more value than gold; and 'tis the very riches of thyself that now I aim at.

**ANNE PAGE**

Gentle Master Fenton, yet seek my father's love; still seek it, sir: if opportunity and humblest suit Cannot attain it, why, then,—hark you hither!

*They converse apart*

*Enter SHALLOW, SLENDER, and MISTRESS QUICKLY*

**SHALLOW**

Break their talk, Mistress Quickly: my kinsman shall speak for himself. Be not dismayed.

**SLENDER**

No, but I am afeard.

**MISTRESS QUICKLY**

Hark ye; Master Slender would speak a word with you.

**ANNE PAGE**

I come to him.

*Aside*

This is my father's choice. O, what a world of vile ill-favor'd faults looks handsome in three hundred pounds a-year!

**MISTRESS QUICKLY**

And how does good Master Fenton? Pray you, a word with you. *(they converse together)*

**SHALLOW**

She's coming; to her, coz. O boy, thou hadst a father!

**SLENDER**

I had a father, Mistress Anne.

**SHALLOW**

Mistress Anne, my cousin loves you.

**SLENDER**

Ay, that I do; as well as I love any woman.

**SHALLOW**

He will maintain you like a gentlewoman.

**SLENDER**

Ay, that I will.

**SHALLOW**

He will make you a hundred and fifty pounds jointure.

**ANNE PAGE**

Good Master Shallow, let him woo for himself.

**SHALLOW**

Marry, I thank you for it; I thank you for that good comfort. She calls you, coz: I'll leave you.

**ANNE PAGE**

Now, Master Slender,--

**SLENDER**

Now, good Mistress Anne,--

**ANNE PAGE**

What is your will?

**SLENDER**

My will! 'od's heartlings, that's a pretty jest indeed! I ne'er made my will yet, I thank heaven; I am not such a sickly creature, I give heaven praise.

**ANNE PAGE**

I mean, Master Slender, what would you with me?

**SLENDER**

Truly, for mine own part, I would little or nothing with you. Your father and my uncle hath made motions: They can tell you how things go better than I can.

*Enter PAGE and MISTRESS PAGE*

**PAGE**

Now, Master Slender: love him, daughter Anne. Why, how now! what does Master Fenton here?

I told you, sir, my daughter is disposed of.

**FENTON**

Nay, Master Page, be not impatient.

**MISTRESS PAGE**

Good Master Fenton, come not to my child.

**PAGE**

She is no match for you.

**FENTON**

Sir, will you hear me?

**PAGE**

No, good Master Fenton. Come, Master Shallow; come, son Slender, in. Knowing my mind, you wrong me, Master Fenton.

*Exeunt PAGE, SHALLOW, and SLENDER*

**MISTRESS QUICKLY**

Speak to Mistress Page.

**FENTON**

Good Mistress Page, for that I love your daughter in such a righteous fashion as I do: let me have your good will.

**ANNE PAGE**

Good mother, do not marry me to yond fool.

**MISTRESS PAGE**

I mean it not; I seek you a better husband.

**MISTRESS QUICKLY**

*(aside)* That's my master, master doctor.

**ANNE PAGE**

Alas, I had rather be bowl'd to death with turnips!

**MISTRESS PAGE**

Come, trouble not yourself. Good Master Fenton, I will not be your friend nor enemy: My daughter will I question how she loves you, and as I find her, so am I affected. till then farewell, sir:

**FENTON**

Farewell, gentle mistress: farewell, Nan.

*Exeunt MISTRESS PAGE and ANNE PAGE*

**MISTRESS QUICKLY**

This is my doing, now: 'Nay,' said I, 'will you cast away your child on a fool, and a physician? Look on Master Fenton:' this is my doing.

**FENTON**

I thank thee; and I pray thee, give my sweet Nan this ring: there's for thy pains.

**MISTRESS QUICKLY**

Now heaven send thee good fortune!

*Exit FENTON*

A kind heart he hath: a woman would run through fire and water for such a kind heart. But yet I would my master had Mistress Anne; or I would Master Slender had her; or, in sooth, I would Master Fenton had her; I will do what I can for them all three; for so I have promised, and I'll be as good as my word; but speciously for Master Fenton. Well, I must of another errand to Sir John Falstaff from my two mistresses: what a beast am I to slack it! *exit*

**ACT III, SCENE V. A room in the Garter Inn.****BLOCK 16***Enter FALSTAFF and BARDOLPH***FALSTAFF**

Bardolph, I say,--

**BARDOLPH**

Here, sir.

**FALSTAFF**

Go fetch me a quart of sack; put a toast in't.

*Exit BARDOLPH*

Have I lived to be carried in a basket, like a barrow of butcher's offal, and to be thrown in the Thames? and you may know by my size that I have a kind of alacrity in sinking; if the bottom were as deep as hell, I should down. I had been drowned, but that the shore was shelvy and shallow,--a death that I abhor; for the water swells a man; and what a thing should I have been when I had been swelled! I should have been a mountain of mummy.

*Re-enter BARDOLPH with sack***BARDOLPH**

Here's Mistress Quickly, sir, to speak with you.

**FALSTAFF**

Let me pour in some sack to the Thames water; for my belly's as cold as if I had swallowed snowballs for pills to cool the kidneys. Call her in.

**BARDOLPH**

Come in, woman!

*Enter MISTRESS QUICKLY***MISTRESS QUICKLY**

By your leave; I cry you mercy: give your worship good morrow.

**FALSTAFF**

Take away these chalices. Go brew me a pottle of sack finely.

**BARDOLPH**

Yes sir.

*Exit BARDOLPH***FALSTAFF**

How now!

**MISTRESS QUICKLY**

Marry, sir, I come to your worship from Mistress Ford.

**FALSTAFF**

Mistress Ford! I have had ford enough; I was thrown into the ford; I have my belly full of ford.

**MISTRESS QUICKLY**

Alas the day! good heart, that was not her fault: she does so take on with her men; they mistook their erection.



**FALSTAFF**

So did I mine, to build upon a foolish woman's promise.

**MISTRESS QUICKLY**

Well, she laments, sir, for it, that it would yearn your heart to see it. Her husband goes this morning a-birding; she desires you once more to come to her between eight and nine: I must carry her word quickly: she'll make you amends, I warrant you.

**FALSTAFF**

Well, I will visit her: tell her so; and bid her think what a man is: let her consider his frailty, and then judge of my merit.

**MISTRESS QUICKLY**

I will tell her.

**FALSTAFF**

Do so. Between nine and ten, sayest thou?

**MISTRESS QUICKLY**

Eight and nine, sir.

**FALSTAFF**

Well, be gone: I will not miss her.

**MISTRESS QUICKLY**

Peace be with you, sir.

*Exit*

**FALSTAFF**

I marvel I hear not of Master Brook; he sent me word to stay within: I like his money well. O, here he comes.

*Enter FORD*

**FORD**

Bless you, sir!

**FALSTAFF**

Now, master Brook, you come to know what hath passed between me and Ford's wife?

**FORD**

That, indeed, Sir John, is my business.

**FALSTAFF**

Master Brook, I will not lie to you: I was at her house the hour she appointed me.

**FORD**

And sped you, sir?

**FALSTAFF**

Very ill-favoredly, Master Brook.

**FORD**

How so, sir? Did she change her determination?

**FALSTAFF**

No, Master Brook; but the peaking Cornuto her husband, Master Brook, comes me in the instant of our encounter, after we had embraced, kissed, protested, and, as it were, spoke the prologue of our comedy; and at his heels a rabble of his companions, to search his house for his wife's love.

**FORD**

What, while you were there?

**FALSTAFF**

While I was there.

**FORD**

And did he search for you, and could not find you?

**FALSTAFF**

You shall hear. As good luck would have it, comes in one Mistress Page; gives intelligence of Ford's approach; and, in her invention and Ford's wife's distraction, they conveyed me into a buck-basket.

**FORD**

A buck-basket!

**FALSTAFF**

By the Lord, a buck-basket! rammed me in with foul shirts and smocks, socks, foul stockings, greasy napkins; that, Master Brook, there was the rankest compound of villanous smell that ever offended nostril.

**FORD**

And how long lay you there?

**FALSTAFF**

Nay, you shall hear, Master Brook. Being thus crammed in the basket, a couple of Ford's knaves, were called forth by their mistress to carry me in the name of foul clothes to Datchet-lane: they took me and away went I for foul clothes: it was a miracle to scape suffocation. And in the height of this bath, when I was more than half stewed in grease, like a Dutch dish, to be thrown into the Thames, and cooled, glowing hot, in that surge, like a horse-shoe; think of that,--hissing hot,--think of that, Master Brook.

**FORD**

In good sadness, I am sorry that for my sake you have suffered all this. My suit then is desperate; you'll undertake her no more?

**FALSTAFF**

Master Brook, I will be thrown into Etna, as I have been into Thames, ere I will leave her thus. Her husband is this morning gone a-birding: I have received from her another embassy of meeting; 'twixt eight and nine is the hour, Master Brook.

**FORD**

'Tis past eight already, sir.

**FALSTAFF**

Is it? I will then address me to my appointment. Come to me at your convenient leisure, and you shall know how I speed; and the conclusion shall be crowned with your enjoying her. Adieu. You shall have her, Master Brook; Master Brook, you shall cuckold Ford.

*Exit*

**FORD**

Hum! ha! is this a vision? is this a dream? do I sleep? Master Ford awake! awake, Master Ford! there's a hole made in your best coat, Master Ford. This 'tis to be married! this 'tis to have linen and buck-baskets! Well, I will proclaim myself what I am: I will now take the lecher; he is at my house; he cannot 'scape me; 'tis impossible he should; he cannot creep into a halfpenny purse, nor into a pepper-box: but, lest the devil that guides him should aid him, I will search impossible places. I'll be horn-mad.

*Exit*

**ACT IV, SCENE I. A room in FORD'S house.****BLOCK 17**

*Enter FALSTAFF and MISTRESS FORD*

**FALSTAFF**

Mistress Ford, your sorrow is greater than my sufferance. I see you are devoted in your love, and I profess requital; not only, Mistress Ford, in the simple office of love, but in all the complement and ceremony of it. But are you sure of your husband now?

**MISTRESS FORD**

He's a-birding, sweet Sir John.

**MISTRESS PAGE**

[Within] What, ho, gossip Ford! what, ho!

**MISTRESS FORD**

Step into the chamber, Sir John.

*Exit FALSTAFF*

*Enter MISTRESS PAGE*

**MISTRESS PAGE**

How now, sweetheart! who's at home besides yourself?

**MISTRESS FORD**

Why, none but mine own people.

**MISTRESS PAGE**

Indeed!

**MISTRESS FORD**

No, certainly.

*Aside to her*

Speak louder.

**MISTRESS PAGE**

Truly, I am so glad you have nobody here.

**MISTRESS FORD**

Why?

**MISTRESS PAGE**

Why, woman, your husband is up to his old tricks again: he so takes on yonder with my husband; so rails against all married mankind; I am glad the fat knight is not here.

**MISTRESS FORD**

Why, does he talk of him?

**MISTRESS PAGE**

Of none but him.

**MISTRESS FORD**

How near is he, Mistress Page?

**MISTRESS PAGE**

Hard by; at street end; he will be here anon.

**MISTRESS FORD**

I am undone! The knight is here.

**MISTRESS PAGE**

Why then you are utterly shamed, and he's but a dead man. What a woman are you!--Away with him, away with him! better shame than murder.

**MISTRESS FORD**

Which way should he go? Shall I put him into the basket again?

*Re-enter FALSTAFF*

**FALSTAFF**

No, I'll come no more i' the basket. May I not go out ere he come?

**MISTRESS PAGE**

Alas, three of Master Ford's brothers watch the door with pistols, that none shall issue out.

**FALSTAFF**

What shall I do? I'll creep up into the chimney.

**MISTRESS FORD**

There they always use to discharge their birding-pieces. There is no hiding you in the house.

**FALSTAFF**

I'll go out then.

**MISTRESS PAGE**

If you go out in your own semblance, you die, Sir John. Unless you go out disguised--

**MISTRESS FORD**

How might we disguise him?

**MISTRESS PAGE**

Alas the day, I know not! There is no woman's gown big enough for him otherwise he might put on a hat, a muffler and a kerchief, and so escape.

**FALSTAFF**

Good hearts, devise something: any extremity rather than a mischief.

**MISTRESS FORD**

My maid's aunt, the fat woman of Brentford, has a gown above.

**MISTRESS PAGE**

On my word, it will serve him; she's as big as he is: and there's her laced hat and her muffler too. Run up, Sir John.

**MISTRESS FORD**

Go, go, sweet Sir John: Mistress Page and I will look some linen for your head.

**MISTRESS PAGE**

Quick, quick! we'll come dress you straight: put on the gown the while.

*Exit FALSTAFF*

**MISTRESS FORD**

John! Robert! I would my husband would meet him in this shape: he cannot abide the old woman of Brentford; he swears she's a witch; forbade her my house and hath threatened to beat her.

**MISTRESS PAGE**

Heaven guide him to thy husband's cudgel.

*Enter two servants*

**MISTRESS FORD**

Go, sirs, take the basket again. your master is hard at door; if he bid you stop, obey him: quickly, dispatch.

*Exit*

**First Servant**

Come, come, let us take it.

**Second Servant**

Pray heaven it be not full of knight again.

*Enter FORD, PAGE, SHALLOW, DOCTOR CAIUS, and SIR HUGH EVANS.* **BLOCK 18**

**FORD**

Ay, but if it prove true, Master Page, you may then unfool me! Let loose the basket, villain! Somebody call my wife. What's in the basket! O you rascals! there's a knot, a pack, a conspiracy against me: What, wife, I say! Come, come forth! Behold what honest clothes you send forth to bleaching!

**PAGE**

Why, this passes all, Master Ford; you are not to go loose any longer; you must be pinioned.

**SIR HUGH EVANS**

Why, this is lunatics! this is mad as a mad dog!

**SHALLOW**

Indeed, Master Ford, this is not well, indeed.

**FORD**

So say I too, sir.

*Re-enter MISTRESS FORD*

Come hither, Mistress Ford; Mistress Ford the honest woman, the modest wife, the virtuous creature, that hath the jealous fool to her husband! I suspect without cause, mistress, do I?

**MISTRESS FORD**

Heaven be my witness you do, if you suspect me in any dishonesty.

**FORD**

Well said, brazen-face! hold it out. Come forth, sirrah!

*Pulling clothes out of the basket*

**PAGE**

This passes all!

**MISTRESS FORD**

Are you not ashamed? let the clothes alone.

**FORD**

I shall find you anon.

**SIR HUGH EVANS**

'Tis unreasonable! Will you take up your wife's clothes? Come away.

**FORD**

Empty the basket, I say!

**MISTRESS FORD**

Why, man, why?

**FORD**

Master Page, as I am a man, there was one conveyed  
out of my house yesterday in this basket.

**MISTRESS FORD**

If you find a man there, he shall die a flea's death.

**PAGE**

Here's no man.

**SHALLOW**

By my fidelity, this is not well, Master Ford; this wrongs you.

**FORD**

Well, he's not here I seek for.

**PAGE**

No, nor nowhere else but in your brain.

**FORD**

Help to search my house this one time. Satisfy me once more.

**MISTRESS FORD**

What, ho, Mistress Page! come you and the old woman down; my husband will come into the chamber.

**FORD**

Old woman! what old woman's that?

**MISTRESS FORD**

Nay, it is my maid's aunt of Brentford.

**FORD**

A witch, a hussey, an old cheating hussey! Have I not forbid her my house? She works by charms, by spells, Come down, you witch, you hag, you; come down, I say!

**MISTRESS FORD**

Nay, good, sweet husband! Good gentlemen, let him not strike the old woman.

*Re-enter FALSTAFF in woman's clothes, and MISTRESS PAGE*

**FORD**

*Beating Falstaff*

Out of my door, you witch, you hag, you baggage! out, out! I'll conjure you, I'll fortune-tell you.

*Exit FALSTAFF*

**MISTRESS PAGE**

Are you not ashamed? I think you have killed the poor woman.

**MISTRESS FORD**

Nay, he will do it. 'Tis a goodly credit for you.

**FORD**

Hang her, witch!

**SIR HUGH EVANS**

By the yea and no, I think the 'oman is a witch indeed: I like not when a 'oman has a great peard; I spy a great peard under her muffler.

**FORD**

Will you follow, gentlemen? I beseech you, follow;  
see but the issue of my jealousy.

**PAGE**

Let's obey his humour a little further: come, gentlemen.

*Exeunt FORD, PAGE, SHALLOW, DOCTOR CAIUS, and SIR HUGH EVANS*

**MISTRESS PAGE**

Trust me, he beat him most pitifully.

**MISTRESS FORD**

Nay, he beat him most unpitifully, methought.

**MISTRESS PAGE**

I'll have the cudgel hallowed and hung o'er the altar; it hath done meritorious service.

**MISTRESS FORD**

What think you? may we pursue him with any further revenge?

**MISTRESS PAGE**

The spirit of wantonness is, sure, scared out of him: he will never, I think, attempt us again.

**MISTRESS FORD**

Shall we tell our husbands how we have served him?

**MISTRESS PAGE**

Yes, by all means; if it be but to scrape the mad ideas out of your husband's brains.

**MISTRESS FORD**

I'll warrant they'll have him publicly shamed.

**MISTRESS PAGE**

Come, let us shape it: I would not have things cool.

*Exeunt*

**ACT 4, SCENE II. A Street in Windsor.****BLOCK 19**

Enter FALSTAFF

**FALSTAFF**

I would all the world might be cheated; for I have been cheated and beaten too. If it should come to the ear of the world, how I have been transformed and how my transformation hath been washed and cudgelled, they would melt me out of my fat drop by drop. Well, if my wind were but long enough to say my prayers, I would repent.

**ACT 4, SCENE III. A room in FORD'S house.****BLOCK 20**

*Enter PAGE, FORD, MISTRESS PAGE, MISTRESS FORD, and SIR HUGH EVANS*

**SIR HUGH EVANS**

'Tis one of the best discretions of a 'oman as ever I did look upon.

**PAGE**

And did he send you both these letters at an instant?

**MISTRESS PAGE**

Within a quarter of an hour.

**FORD**

Pardon me, wife. Henceforth do what thou wilt; I rather will suspect the sun with cold than thee with wantonness.

**PAGE**

Tis well, 'tis well; no more. But let our plot go forward: let our wives yet once again, to make us public sport, appoint a meeting with this old fat fellow, where we may take him and disgrace him for it.

**MISTRESS FORD**

Devise but how you'll use him when he comes, and let us two devise to bring him thither.

**MISTRESS PAGE**

There is an old tale goes that Herne the hunter, once a keeper here in Windsor forest, doth, at still midnight, walk round about an oak, with great ragg'd horns; and there he blights the tree and bewitches the cattle and makes milk-cows yield blood.

**PAGE**

Why, yet there want not many that do fear in deep of night to walk by this Herne's oak: But what of this?

**MISTRESS FORD**

Marry, this is our device; that Falstaff at that oak shall meet with us, disguised like Hearne with huge horns on his head.

**MISTRESS PAGE**

Nan Page my daughter and and three or four more of her growth we'll dress like urchins, elves and fairies, green and white, Then let them all encircle him about and, fairy-like, to-pinch the unclean knight, and ask him why, in their so sacred paths he dares to tread.

**MISTRESS FORD**

And till he tell the truth, let the supposed fairies pinch him sound.

**MISTRESS PAGE**

My Nan shall be the queen of all the fairies, finely attired in a robe of white.

**PAGE**

*Aside*

And in that time shall Master Slender steal my Nan away and marry her at Eton. Go send to Falstaff straight.

**FORD**

Nay I'll to him again in name of Brook. He'll tell me all his purpose: sure, he'll come.

**MISTRESS PAGE**

Fear not you that. Go get us properties and tricking for our fairies.

**SIR HUGH EVANS**

Let us about it: it is admirable pleasures and fery honest knaveries.

*Exeunt PAGE, FORD, and SIR HUGH EVANS*

**MISTRESS PAGE**

Go, Mistress Ford, send quickly to Sir John, to know his mind.

*Exit MISTRESS FORD*

I'll to the doctor: he hath my good will, and none but he, to marry with Nan Page. That Slender, though well landed, is an idiot; the doctor is well money'd, he, none but he, shall have her,

*Exit*



**ACT 4, SCENE IV. A room in the Garter Inn.****BLOCK 21***Enter FENTON and Host***FENTON**

Yet hear me speak. assist me in my purpose, and, as I am a gentleman, I'll give thee A hundred pound in gold.

**Host**

I will hear you, Master Fenton; and I will at the least keep your counsel.

**FENTON**

From time to time I have acquainted you with the dear love I bear to fair Anne Page; who mutually hath answer'd my affection, To-night at Herne's oak, just 'twixt twelve and one, must my sweet Nan present the Fairy Queen; the purpose why, is here: in which disguise, while other jests are abundantly on foot, her father hath commanded her, dressed all in white, to slip away with Slender and with him at Eton immediately to marry: she hath consented: Now, sir, her mother, ever strong against that match and firm for Doctor Caius, hath appointed that he shall likewise shuffle her away, but she dressed in green, while other sports are tasking of their minds, And at the deanery, where a priest attends, straight marry her: to this her mother's plot she seemingly obedient likewise hath made promise to the doctor.

**Host**

Which means she to deceive, father or mother?

**FENTON**

Both, my good host, to go along with me: and here it rests, that you'll procure the vicar to stay for me at church 'twixt twelve and one, and, in the lawful name of marrying, to give our hearts united ceremony.

**Host**

Well, I'll to the vicar: bring you the maid, you shall not lack a priest.

**FENTON**

So shall I evermore be bound to thee; besides, I'll make a present recompense.

*Exeunt***ACT V****SCENE I. A room in the Garter Inn.****BLOCK 22***Enter FALSTAFF and MISTRESS QUICKLY***FALSTAFF**

Prithee, no more prattling; go. I'll keep the engagement. This is the third time; I hope good luck lies in odd numbers. Away, go.

**MISTRESS QUICKLY**

I'll do what I can to get you a pair of horns.

**FALSTAFF**

Away, I say; time wears: trip off.

*Exit MISTRESS QUICKLY**Enter FORD*

How now, Master Brook! Master Brook, the matter will be known to-night, or never. Be you in the Park about midnight, at Herne's oak, and you shall see wonders.

**FORD**

Went you not to her yesterday, sir, as you told me you had appointed?

**FALSTAFF**

I went to her, Master Brook, as you see, like a poor old man: but I came from her, Master Brook, like a poor old woman. That same knave Ford, her husband, beat me grievously, in the shape of a woman. I am in haste; go along with me: I'll tell you all, Master Brook. I'll tell you strange things of this knave Ford, on whom to-night I will be revenged. Follow. Strange things in hand, Master Brook! Follow.

*Exeunt*

**ACT 5, SCENE II. Windsor Park.**

**BLOCK 23**

*Enter PAGE, SHALLOW, and SLENDER*

**PAGE**

Remember, son Slender, my daughter will come to you in white.

**SLENDER**

Ay, forsooth; I have spoke with her.

**SHALLOW**

That's good too: the white will decipher her well.

**PAGE**

The night is dark; light and spirits will become it well. Heaven prosper our sport! No man means evil but the devil, and we shall know him by his horns. Let's away; follow me.

*Exeunt*

**Act 5, SCENE III. A street leading to the Park.**

**BLOCK 24**

*Enter MISTRESS PAGE, MISTRESS FORD, and DOCTOR CAIUS*

**MISTRESS PAGE**

Master doctor, my daughter is in green: when you see your time, take her by the band, away with her to the deanery, and dispatch it quickly. Go before into the Park: we two must go together.

**DOCTOR CAIUS**

I know vat I have to do. Adieu.

**MISTRESS PAGE**

Fare you well, sir.

*Exit DOCTOR CAIUS*

My husband will not rejoice so much at the abuse of Falstaff as he will chafe at the doctor's marrying my daughter.

**MISTRESS FORD**

Where is Nan now and her troop of fairies, and the Welsh devil Hugh?

**MISTRESS PAGE**

They are all hidden in a pit hard by Herne's oak, with obscured lights; which, at the very instant of Falstaff's and our meeting, they will at once display to the night.

**MISTRESS FORD**

That cannot choose but fright him.

**MISTRESS PAGE**

If he be not frightened, he will every way be mocked.

**MISTRESS FORD**

The hour draws on. To the oak, to the oak!

*Exeunt*

**ACT V, SCENE IV. Another part of Windsor Park.****BLOCK 25**

*Enter SIR HUGH EVANS, disguised, with others as Fairies*

**SIR HUGH EVANS**

Trib, trib, fairies; come; and remember your parts: be pold, I pray you; come, come; trib, trib.

*Exeunt*

*Enter FALSTAFF disguised as Herne*

**FALSTAFF**

The Windsor bell hath struck twelve; the minute draws on. Now, the hot-blooded gods assist me!

O powerful love! that, in some respects, makes a beast a man, in some other, a man a beast. For me, I am here a Windsor stag; and the fattest, I think, i' the forest. Who comes here? my doe?

*Enter MISTRESS FORD and MISTRESS PAGE*

**MISTRESS FORD**

Sir John! art thou there, my deer? my male deer?

**FALSTAFF**

My doe with the black tail! Let the sky rain potatoes; let there come a tempest of provocation, I will shelter me here. *Hugs her*

**MISTRESS FORD**

Mistress Page is come with me, sweetheart.

**FALSTAFF**

Divide me like a stolen buck, each a haunch: I will keep my sides to myself, and my horns I bequeath your husbands. Speak I like Herne the hunter? As I am a true spirit, welcome!

*Noise within*

**MISTRESS PAGE**

Alas, what noise?

**MISTRESS FORD**

Heaven forgive our sins

**FALSTAFF**

What should this be?

**MISTRESS FORD MISTRESS PAGE**

Away, away!

*They run off*

**FALSTAFF**

I think the devil will not have me damned, lest the oil that's in me should set hell on fire.

*Enter SIR HUGH EVANS, disguised as before; PISTOL, as Hobgoblin; MISTRESS QUICKLY, ANNE PAGE, and others, as Fairies, with tapers*

**MISTRESS QUICKLY**

Fairies, black, grey, green, and white,  
You moonshine revellers and shades of night,  
Attend your duty and your profession.

**PISTOL**

Elves, list your names; silence, you airy toys.

**FALSTAFF**

They are fairies; he that speaks to them shall die: I'll close my eyes and hide: no man their works must eye.

*Lies down upon his face*

**SIR HUGH EVANS**

Those that sleep and think not on their sins, pinch them, arms, legs, backs, shoulders, sides and shins.

**MISTRESS QUICKLY**

About, about; till 'tis one o'clock, our dance of custom round about the oak of Herne the hunter, let us not forget.

**SIR HUGH EVANS**

But, stay; I smell a man of middle-earth.

**FALSTAFF**

Heavens defend me from that Welsh fairy, lest he transform me to a piece of cheese!

**PISTOL**

Vile worm, thou wast o'erlook'd even in thy birth.

**MISTRESS QUICKLY**

With trial-fire touch me his finger-end: If he be chaste, the flame will back descend and turn him to no pain; but if he start, it is the flesh of a corrupted heart.

**PISTOL**

A trial, come.

**SIR HUGH EVANS**

Come, will this wood take fire?

*They burn him with their tapers*

**FALSTAFF**

Oh, Oh, Oh!

**MISTRESS QUICKLY**

Corrupt, corrupt, and tainted in desire! About him, fairies; sing a scornful rhyme; and, as you trip, still pinch him to your time.

**SONG.****BLOCK 26**

Fie on sinful fantasy!

Fie on lust and luxury!

Lust is but a bloody fire,

Kindled with unchaste desire,  
 Fed in heart, whose flames aspire  
 As thoughts do blow them, higher and higher.  
 Pinch him, fairies, mutually;  
 Pinch him for his villany;  
 Pinch him, and burn him, and turn him about,  
 Till candles and starlight and moonshine be out.

*During this song they pinch FALSTAFF. DOCTOR CAIUS comes one way, and steals away a boy in green; SLENDER another way, and takes off a boy in white; and FENTON comes and steals away ANN PAGE. A noise of hunting is heard within. All the Fairies run away. FALSTAFF pulls off his buck's head, and rises*

*Enter PAGE, FORD, MISTRESS PAGE, and MISTRESS FORD*

**PAGE**

Nay, do not fly; I think we have caught you now. Will none but Herne the hunter serve your turn?

**MISTRESS PAGE**

I pray you, come, hold up the jest no higher. Now, good Sir John, how like you Windsor wives?

**FORD**

Now, sir, who's a cuckold now? Master Brook, Falstaff's a knave, a cuckoldly knave; here are his horns, Master Brook: and, Master Brook, he hath enjoyed nothing of Ford's but his buck-basket, his cudgel, and twenty pounds of money, which must be paid to Master Brook.

**MISTRESS FORD**

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

**FALSTAFF**

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

**FORD**

Ay, and an ox too.

**FALSTAFF**

And these are not fairies? I was three or four times in the thought they were not fairies.

**SIR HUGH EVANS**

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

**SHALLOW**

Well said, fairy Hugh.

**SIR HUGH EVANS** *(to Ford)*

And leave your jealousies too, I pray you.

**FORD** *(to Evans)*

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

**FALSTAFF**

Am I ridden with a Welsh goat too?

**MISTRESS PAGE**

Why Sir John, do you think, though we would have thrust virtue out of our hearts that ever the devil could have made you our delight?

**FORD**

What, a pudding? a bag of flax?

**MISTRESS PAGE**

A puffed man?

**PAGE**

Old, cold, withered and of intolerable entrails?

**SIR HUGH EVANS**

And given to fornications, and to taverns and sack.

**FALSTAFF**

Well, I am your theme: you have the advantage of me; I am dejected; use me as you will.

**FORD**

Marry, sir, we'll bring you to Windsor, to one Master Brook, that you have cheated of money, I think to repay that money will be a biting affliction.

**PAGE**

Yet be cheerful, knight: thou shalt eat a posset to-night at my house; where I will desire thee to laugh at my wife, that now laughs at thee: tell her Master Slender hath married her daughter.

**MISTRESS PAGE**

*[Aside]* I doubt that: if Anne Page be my daughter, she is, by this, Doctor Caius' wife.

*Enter SLENDER*

**SLENDER**

Whoa ho! ho, father Page!

**PAGE**

Son, how now! how now, son?

**SLENDER**

Settled! I came yonder at Eton to marry Mistress Anne Page, and she's a great brutish boy. If it had not been i' the church, I would have beaten him, or he should have beaten me.

**PAGE**

Upon my life, then, you took the wrong.

**SLENDER**

What need you tell me that? I think so, when I took a boy for a girl.

**PAGE**

Why, this is your own folly. Did not I tell you how you should know my daughter by her garments?

**SLENDER**

I went to her in white, and yet it was not Anne, but a postmaster's boy.

**MISTRESS PAGE**

Good George, be not angry: I knew of your purpose; turned my daughter into green; and, indeed, she is now with the doctor at the deanery, and there married.

*Enter DOCTOR CAIUS*

**DOCTOR CAIUS**

Vere is Mistress Page? By gar, I am cheated: I ha' married un garcon, a boy; un paysan, by gar, a boy; it is not Anne Page: by gar, I am cheated.

**MISTRESS PAGE**

Why, did you take her in green?

**DOCTOR CAIUS**

Ay, by gar, and 'tis a boy: by gar, I'll raise all Windsor.

*Exit*

**FORD**

This is strange. Who hath got the right Anne?

**PAGE**

My heart misgives me: here comes Master Fenton.

*Enter FENTON and ANNE PAGE*

How now, Master Fenton!

**ANNE PAGE**

Pardon, good father! good my mother, pardon!

**PAGE**

Now, mistress, how chance you went not with Master Slender?

**MISTRESS PAGE**

Why went you not with master doctor, maid?

**FENTON**

You do confuse her: hear the truth of it. You would have married her most shamefully, where there was no proportion held in love. The truth is, she and I, long since betrothed, are now so sure that nothing can dissolve us. The offence is holy that she hath committed.

**FORD**

Stand not amazed; here is no remedy: In love the heavens themselves do guide the state; Money buys lands, and wives are sold by fate.

**FALSTAFF**

I am glad, though you have ta'en a special stand to strike at me, that your arrow hath glanced.

**PAGE**

Well, what remedy? Fenton, heaven give thee joy! What cannot be avoided must be embraced.

**FALSTAFF**

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

**MISTRESS PAGE**

Well, I will muse no further. Master Fenton, Heaven give you many, many merry days! Good husband, let us every one go home, and laugh this sport o'er by a country fire; Sir John and all.

**FORD**

Let it be so. Sir John,

To Master Brook you yet shall keep your word

For he tonight shall lie with Mistress Ford.

*Exeunt*