

Two Gentlemen of Verona

The Duke - intends to marry his daughter, Silvia, to Sir Thurio; Owns *Duke's Saloon*. Like John Wayne.

Valentine - a cowboy who thinks that men in love are foolish until he himself falls head-over-heels for Silvia.

Proteus - a cowboy whose emotions are extremely changeable and lacks self-control.

Antonio - Proteus' father. A Rancher.

Annette - Proteus' mother. A Rancher's wife.

Thurio - a nerdy ranch hand in love with Silvia.

Eglamour - a cowgirl, like Annie Oakley or Calamity Jane

Mazie - a waitress at *Duke's Saloon*.

Sadie - a waitress at *Duke's Saloon*.

Caleb - a bandit.

Jake - a bandit.

Earl - a bandit.

Doc - a bandit.

Speed - a servant of Valentine's.

Dash - a servant of Valentine's.

Launce - Proteus's servant. Not the brightest.

Panthina - a servant of Antonio's.

Julia - a prairie lady beloved by Proteus.

Silvia - a city lady.

Lucetta - Julia's spunky cook.

Crab - a dog.

SCENE I. The frontier.

Enter VALENTINE and PROTEUS

VALENTINE

Cease to persuade, my loving Proteus:
I rather would entreat thy company
To see the wonders of the world abroad!
But since thou lovest, love still and thrive therein,
Even as I would when I to love begin.
My father at the road expects my coming
There to see me shipp'd.

PROTEUS

And thither will I bring thee, Valentine.

VALENTINE

Sweet Proteus, no; now let us take our leave.
Let me hear from thee by letters
Of thy success in love,

PROTEUS

All happiness bechance to thee in Milan!

VALENTINE

As much to you at home! and so, farewell. *Exit*

PROTEUS

He after honour hunts, I after love:
Thou, Julia, thou hast metamorphosed me,

Enter SPEED and DASH

SPEED

Sir Proteus, save you! Saw you our master?

PROTEUS

But now he parted hence, to embark for Milan.
Gavest thou my letter to Julia?

SPEED

Ay sir: We gave your letter to her,
and she gave us nothing for our labour.

PROTEUS

But what said she?

DASH

[First nodding] Ay.

PROTEUS

Come come, what said she?

SPEED

Open your purse, that the money and the matter may
be both at once delivered.

PROTEUS

Well, sir, here is for your pains. What said she?

SPEED

Truly, sir, I think you'll hardly win her.

PROTEUS

Why, couldst thou perceive so much from her?

SPEED

Sir, I could perceive nothing at all from her; no. Give her no token but stones;

DASH

For she's as hard as steel.

PROTEUS

What said she? nothing?

SPEED

No, not so much as 'Take this for thy pains.' henceforth carry your letters yourself: and so, sir, we'll commend you to our master.

PROTEUS

Go, go, be gone, *Exit SPEED and DASH*

I must go send some better messenger: *Exit*

SCENE 2. JULIA's house.

Enter JULIA and LUCETTA

JULIA

But say, Lucetta, now we are alone,
Wouldst thou then counsel me to fall in love?

LUCETTA

Ay, madam, so you stumble not unheedfully.

JULIA

Of all the fair resort of gentlemen
In thy opinion which is worthiest love?

LUCETTA

Please you repeat their names, I'll show my mind
But, were I you, he never should be mine.

JULIA

What think'st thou of the rich Mercatio?

LUCETTA

Well of his wealth; but of himself, so so.

JULIA

What think'st thou of the gentle Proteus?

LUCETTA

Lord, Lord! to see what folly reigns in us!

JULIA

How now! what means this passion at his name?

LUCETTA

Pardon, dear madam: 'tis a passing shame
That I, unworthy body as I am,
Should censure thus on lovely gentlemen.

JULIA

Why not on Proteus, as of all the rest?

LUCETTA

Then thus: of many good I think him best.

JULIA

Your reason?

LUCETTA

I have no other, but a woman's reason;

I think him so because I think him so.

JULIA

And wouldst thou have me cast my love on him?

LUCETTA

Ay, if you thought your love not cast away.

JULIA

Why he, of all the rest, hath never moved me.

LUCETTA

Yet he, of all the rest, I think, best loves ye.

JULIA

His little speaking shows his love but small.

LUCETTA

Fire that's closest kept burns most of all.

JULIA

They do not love that do not show their love.

LUCETTA

O, they love least that let men know their love.

JULIA

I would I knew his mind.

LUCETTA

Peruse this paper, madam.

JULIA

'To Julia.' Say, from whom?

LUCETTA

That the contents will show.

JULIA

Say, say, who gave it thee?

LUCETTA

Valentine's page; and sent, I think, from Proteus.

He would have given it you; but I, being in the way,

Did in your name receive it: pardon the fault I pray.

JULIA

Now, by my modesty, a goodly broker!

LUCETTA

To plead for love deserves more fee than hate.

JULIA

Will ye be gone?

LUCETTA

That you may ruminate.

Exit

JULIA

And yet I would I had o'erlooked the letter:
How churlishly I chid Lucetta hence,
When willingly I would have had her here!
My penance is to call Lucetta back
And ask remission for my folly past.
What ho! Lucetta!

Re-enter LUCETTA

LUCETTA

What would your ladyship?

JULIA

Is't near dinner-time?

LUCETTA

I would it were,
That you might kill your stomach on your meat
And not upon your maid.

JULIA

What is't that you took up so gingerly?

LUCETTA

Nothing.

JULIA

Why didst thou stoop, then?

LUCETTA

To take a paper up that I let fall.

JULIA

And is that paper nothing?

LUCETTA

Nothing concerning me.

JULIA

This babble shall not henceforth trouble me.

Tears the letter

Go get you gone, and let the papers lie.

Exit

JULIA

O hateful hands, to tear such loving words!
I'll kiss each several paper for amends.
Look, here is writ 'kind Julia.' Unkind Julia!
I throw thy name against the bruising stones.
And here is writ 'love-wounded Proteus.'
Poor wounded name! my bosom as a bed
Shall lodge thee till thy wound be thoroughly heal'd;
And thus I search it with a sovereign kiss.
But twice or thrice was 'Proteus' written down.
Be calm, good wind, blow not a word away
Till I have found each letter in the letter!
Lo, here in one line is his name twice writ,
'Poor forlorn Proteus, passionate Proteus,
To the sweet Julia:' that I'll tear away.
And yet I will not, sith so prettily
He couples it to his complaining names.
Thus will I fold them one on another:
Now kiss, embrace, contend, do what you will.

Re-enter LUCETTA

LUCETTA

Madam, dinner is ready, and your father stays.

JULIA

Well, let us go.

LUCETTA

What, shall these papers lie like tell-tales here?

JULIA

If you respect them, best to take them up.
Come, come; will't please you go?

Exeunt

SCENE 3. ANTONIO's house.

Enter ANTONIO, ANNETTE and PANTHINA

ANNETTE

Tell me, Panthina, what sad talk was that
Wherewith my brother held you in the cloister?

PANTHINA

'Twas of his nephew Proteus, your son.

ANTONIO

What of him?

PANTHINA

He said that Proteus your son was meet,
And did request me to importune you
To let him spend his time no more at home,
Which would be great impeachment to his age,
In having known no travel in his youth.

ANNETTE

I have consider'd well his loss of time
And how he cannot be a perfect man,
Not being tried and tutor'd in the world:
Then tell me, whither were I best to send him?

PANTHINA

I think your ladyship is not ignorant
How his companion, youthful Valentine,
Attends the Duke.

ANTONIO

I know it well.

PANTHINA

'Twere good, I think, your ladyship sent him thither:
There shall he practice tilts and tournaments,
Hear sweet discourse, converse with noblemen.

ANNETTE

I like thy counsel; well hast thou advised:
I will dispatch him to the Duke's.

Enter PROTEUS

PROTEUS

Sweet love! sweet life!
O heavenly Julia!

ANNETTE

How now! what letter are you reading there?

PROTEUS

'Tis a word or two sent from Valentine,
Deliver'd by a friend.

ANTONIO

Let me see.

PROTEUS

There is no news, my lord, but that he writes
How happily he lives,
Wishing me with him,

ANTONIO

And how stand you?

PROTEUS

As one relying on your lordship's will
And not depending on his friendly wish.

ANNETTE

Our will is something sorted with his wish.
We are resolved that thou shalt spend some time
With Valentine in the emperor's court:
To-morrow be in readiness to go:

PROTEUS

My lady, I cannot be so soon provided:
Please you, deliberate a day or two.

ANTONIO

Tomorrow thou must go.

ANNETTE

Come on, Panthina: you shall be employ'd
To hasten on his expedition.

Exeunt ANTONIO and ANNETTE

PANTHINA

Sir Proteus, your father is in haste;
Therefore, I pray you to go.

PROTEUS

Why, this it is: my heart accords thereto,
And yet a thousand times it answers 'no.'

Exeunt

SCENE 4. The road.

Enter VALENTINE, SPEED and DASH

SPEED

Sir, your glove.

VALENTINE

Not mine; my gloves are on.
Let me see: give it me, it's mine:
Ah, Silvia, Silvia!

SPEED

Madam Silvia!

DASH

Madam Silvia!

VALENTINE

How now, sirrah?

SPEED

She is not within hearing, sir.

VALENTINE

Why, sir, who bade you call her?

SPEED

Your worship, sir;

VALENTINE

Do you know Madam Silvia?

SPEED

She that your worship loves?

VALENTINE

Why, how know you that I am in love?

SPEED

You have learned, like Sir Proteus, to wreath your arms,
to relish a love-song, to sigh, to weep, that, when I look
on you, I can hardly think you my master.

If you love her, you cannot see her.

VALENTINE

Why?

DASH

Because Love is blind.

SPEED

O, that you had mine eyes;

VALENTINE

What should I see then?

SPEED

Your own present folly

VALENTINE

Last night she enjoined me to write some lines to
one she loves.

SPEED

And have you?

VALENTINE

I have.

Peace! here she comes.

Enter SILVIA

VALENTINE

Madam and mistress, a thousand good-morrows.

As you enjoin'd me, I have writ your letter

Unto the secret nameless friend of yours.

SILVIA

I thank you gentle servant.

VALENTINE

Being ignorant to whom it goes

I writ at random, very doubtfully.

SILVIA

I thank you,

Meaning henceforth to trouble you no more.

VALENTINE

What means your ladyship? do you not like it?

SILVIA

Yes, yes; the lines are very quaintly writ;
But since unwillingly, take them again.

VALENTINE

Madam, they are for you.

SILVIA

Ay, ay: you writ them, sir, at my request;
But I will none of them; they are for you;
I would have had them writ more movingly.

VALENTINE

Please you, I'll write your ladyship another.

SILVIA

And when it's writ, for my sake read it over,
And if it please you, so; if not, why, so.

VALENTINE

If it please me, madam, what then?

SILVIA

Why, if it please you, take it for your labour:
And so, good morrow, servant. *Exit*

SPEED

My master sues to her, and she hath taught her suitor,
He being her pupil, to become her tutor.
O excellent device! was there ever heard a better,
That my master, being scribe,
To himself should write the letter?

VALENTINE

Why, she hath not writ to me?
That's the letter I writ to her friend.

SPEED

And that letter hath she delivered, and there an end.
Why muse you, sir? 'tis dinner-time.

SPEED and DASH EXIT

VALENTINE

I have dined. *EXIT*

SCENE 5. JULIA'S house.

Enter PROTEUS and JULIA

PROTEUS

Have patience, gentle Julia.
When possibly I can, I will return.

JULIA

Keep this remembrance for thy Julia's sake.

Giving a ring

PROTEUS

Why then, we'll make exchange; here, take you this.

JULIA

And seal the bargain with a holy kiss.

PROTEUS

Here is my hand for my true constancy;
Julia, farewell! *Exit JULIA*

Enter PANTHINA

PANTHINA

Sir Proteus, you are stay'd for.

PROTEUS

Go; I come, I come.

Alas! this parting strikes poor lovers dumb. *EXIT*

SCENE 6. The frontier.

Enter LAUNCE, leading a dog

LAUNCE

Nay, 'twill be this hour ere I have done weeping; all the kind of the Launces have this very fault. I am going with Sir Proteus. I think Crab, my dog, be the sourest-natured dog that lives: my mother weeping, my father wailing, my sister crying, our maid howling, our cat wringing her hands, and all our house in a great perplexity, yet did not this cruel-hearted cur shed one tear: he is a stone, a very pebble stone, and has no more pity in him than a dog: why, my grandma, having no eyes, look you, wept herself blind at my parting. Nay, I'll show you the manner of it. This shoe is my father: no, this left shoe is my father: no, no, this left shoe is my mother: nay, that cannot be so neither: yes, it is so, it is so, it hath the worser sole. This shoe, with the hole in it, is my mother, and this my father; a vengeance on't! there 'tis: now, sit, this staff is my sister, for, look you, she is as white as a lily and as small as a wand: this hat is Nan, our maid: I am the dog: no, the dog is himself, and I am the dog--Oh! the dog is me, and I am myself; ay, so so. Now come I to my father; Father,

your blessing: now should not the shoe speak a word for weeping: now should I kiss my father; well, he weeps on. Now come I to my mother: O, that she could speak now like a wood woman! Well, I kiss her; why, there 'tis; here's my mother's breath up and down. Now come I to my sister; mark the moan she makes. Now the dog all this while sheds not a tear nor speaks a word; but see how I lay the dust with my tears.

Enter PANTHINA

PANTHINA

Launce, away, away, aboard! thy master is shipped.
What's the matter? why weepest thou, man?
Away, ass! You'll lose the tide, if you tarry any longer.

LAUNCE

Well, I will go. *PANTHINA and LAUNCE Exit*

SCENE 7. The saloon.

Enter SILVIA followed by THURIO from one direction.

Enter VALENTINE, SPEED and DASH from another.

SILVIA

Servant!

VALENTINE

Mistress?

SPEED

Master, Sir Thurio frowns on you.

VALENTINE

Ay, boy, it's for love.

DASH

Not of you.

VALENTINE

Of my mistress, then.

SPEED

'Twere good you knocked him.

SPEED and DASH Exit

SILVIA

Servant, you are sad.

VALENTINE

Indeed, madam, I seem so.

THURIO

Seem you that you are not?

VALENTINE

Haply I do.

THURIO

What seem I that I am not?

VALENTINE

Wise.

SILVIA

No more, gentlemen, no more:--here comes my father.

Enter DUKE

DUKE

Sir Valentine,
Know ye Antonio, your countryman?

VALENTINE

Ay, my good lord,

DUKE

Hath he not a son?

VALENTINE

Ay, my good lord;

DUKE

Here he means to spend his time awhile:

VALENTINE

Should I have wish'd a thing, it had been he.

DUKE

Welcome him.

I will send him hither. *Exit*

VALENTINE

This is the gentleman I told your ladyship
Had come along with me, but that his mistress
Did hold his eyes lock'd in her crystal looks.

THURIO

They say that Love hath not an eye at all.

VALENTINE

To see such lovers, Thurio, as yourself:
Upon a homely object Love can wink. *Exit THURIO*

SILVIA

Have done, have done; here comes the gentleman.

Enter PROTEUS

VALENTINE

Welcome, dear Proteus! Mistress, entertain him
To be my fellow-servant to your ladyship.

SILVIA

Too low a mistress for so high a servant.
Servant, you are welcome to a worthless mistress.

PROTEUS

I'll die on him that says so but yourself.

SILVIA

That you are welcome?

PROTEUS

That you are worthless.

Re-enter THURIO

THURIO

Madam, my lord your father would speak with you.

SILVIA

I wait upon his pleasure. Come, Sir Thurio,
Go with me.

PROTEUS

We'll both attend upon your ladyship.

Exeunt SILVIA and THURIO

VALENTINE

Now, tell me, how do all from whence you came?

PROTEUS

Your friends are well and have them much commended.

VALENTINE

And how do yours?

PROTEUS

I left them all in health.

VALENTINE

How does your lady? and how thrives your love?

PROTEUS

My tales of love were wont to weary you;

I know you joy not in a love discourse.

VALENTINE

Ay, Proteus, but that life is alter'd now:
I have done penance for contemning Love,
O gentle Proteus, Love's a mighty lord,
And hath so humbled me, as, I confess,
There is no discourse, except it be of love;

PROTEUS

Was this the idol that you worship so?

VALENTINE

Even she; and is she not a heavenly saint?

PROTEUS

No; but she is an earthly paragon.

VALENTINE

Good Proteus, go with me to my chamber,
In these affairs to aid me with thy counsel.

PROTEUS

Go on before; I shall inquire you forth:
I must unto the road, to disembark
Some necessaries that I needs must use,
And then I'll presently attend you.

VALENTINE

Will you make haste?

PROTEUS

I will.

Exit VALENTINE

Even as one heat another heat expels,
So the remembrance of my former love
Is by a newer object quite forgotten.
At first I did adore a twinkling star,
But now I worship a celestial sun.
I will forget that Julia is alive,
And Valentine I'll hold an enemy,
This night he meaneth with a corded ladder
To climb celestial Silvia's chamber-window,
Myself in counsel, his competitor.
Now presently I'll give her father notice
Of their disguising and pretended flight;
Who, all enraged, will banish Valentine;
For Thurio, he intends, shall wed his daughter;
But, Valentine being gone, I'll quickly cross
By some sly trick blunt Thurio's dull proceeding.
Love, lend me wings to make my purpose swift,
As thou hast lent me wit to plot this drift!

Exit

SCENE 8. JULIA'S house. [Left loge]

Enter JULIA and LUCETTA

JULIA

Counsel, Lucetta; gentle girl,
How, with my honour, I may undertake
A journey to my loving Proteus.

LUCETTA

Alas, the way is wearisome and long!
Better forbear till Proteus make return.

JULIA

O, know'st thou not his looks are my soul's food?
Then let me go and hinder not my course.

LUCETTA

But in what habit will you go along?

JULIA

Not like a woman; for I would prevent
The loose encounters of lascivious men:
Gentle Lucetta, fit me with such weeds
As may beseem some well-reputed page.
But tell me, wench, how will the world repute me
For undertaking so unstaid a journey?
I fear me, it will make me scandalized.

LUCETTA

If you think so, then stay at home and go not.

JULIA

Nay, that I will not.

LUCETTA

If Proteus like your journey when you come,
No matter who's displeas'd when you are gone:
I fear me, he will scarce be pleas'd withal.

JULIA

Now, presently go with me to my chamber,
To take a note of what I stand in need of,
To furnish me upon my longing journey.

Exit

SCENE 9. The saloon.

Enter DUKE, THURIO, and PROTEUS

DUKE

Sir Thurio, give us leave, I pray, awhile;
We have some secrets to confer about.

Exit THURIO

Now, tell me, Proteus, what's your will with me?

PROTEUS

Know, worthy prince, Sir Valentine, my friend,
This night intends to steal away your daughter:
Myself am one made privy to the plot.
I know you have determined to bestow her
On Thurio, whom your gentle daughter hates;
And should she thus be stol'n away from you,
It would be much vexation to your age.
Thus, for my duty's sake, I rather chose
To cross my friend in his intended drift
Than heap on your head
A pack of sorrows which would press you down,
to your timeless grave.

DUKE

Proteus, I thank thee for thine honest care.

PROTEUS

Know, noble lord, they have devised a mean
How he her chamber-window will ascend
And with a corded ladder fetch her down;
For which the youthful lover now is gone
And this way comes he with it presently;
Where, if it please you, you may intercept him.
But, good my Lord, do it so cunningly
That my discovery be not aimed at.

DUKE

Upon mine honour, he shall never know
That I had any light from thee of this.

PROTEUS

Adieu, my Lord; Sir Valentine is coming.

Exit PROTEUS

Enter VALENTINE

DUKE

Sir Valentine, whither away so fast?

VALENTINE

What would your Grace?

DUKE

There is a lady in Verona here

Whom I affect;

But she is kept from resort of men,

That no man hath access by day to her.

VALENTINE

Why, then, I would resort to her by night.

DUKE

Ay, but the doors be lock'd.

VALENTINE

Enter at her window.

DUKE

Her chamber is aloft, far from the ground.

VALENTINE

Why then, a ladder quaintly made of cords,

Would serve to scale a tower.

DUKE

Advise me where I may have such a ladder.

VALENTINE

When would you use it? pray, sir, tell me that.

DUKE

This very night.

VALENTINE

By seven o'clock I'll get you such a ladder.

DUKE

How shall I best convey the ladder thither?

VALENTINE

Under a cloak that is of any length.

DUKE

A cloak as long as thine will serve the turn?

VALENTINE

Ay, my good lord.

DUKE

Then let me see thy cloak.

VALENTINE

Why, any cloak will serve, my lord.

DUKE

I pray thee, let me feel thy cloak upon me.

What's here? 'To Silvia'!

Reads

'Silvia, this night I will enfranchise thee.'
'Tis so; and here's the ladder for the purpose.
Go, base intruder! overweening slave!
VALENTINE runs and exits. Hides.
DUKE exits opposite.

VALENTINE emerges.

VALENTINE

What light is light, if Silvia be not seen?
What joy is joy, if Silvia be not by?
Tarry I here, I but attend on death:
But, fly I hence, I fly away from life.

Enter PROTEUS and LAUNCE

PROTEUS

Run, boy, run, run, and seek him out.

LAUNCE

Soho, soho!

PROTEUS

What seest thou?

LAUNCE

Him we go to find:

PROTEUS

Valentine?

VALENTINE

No.

PROTEUS

Who then? his spirit?

VALENTINE

Neither.

PROTEUS

What then?

VALENTINE

Nothing.

LAUNCE

Can nothing speak? Master, shall I strike?

PROTEUS

Sirrah, I say, forbear. Friend Valentine, a word.

VALENTINE

My ears are stopt and cannot hear good news.

PROTEUS

Then in dumb silence will I bury mine.

VALENTINE

Is Silvia dead?

PROTEUS

No, Valentine.

VALENTINE

Hath she forsworn me?

PROTEUS

No, Valentine.

LAUNCE

Sir, there is a proclamation that you are vanished.

VALENTINE

Doth Silvia know that I am banished?

PROTEUS

Ay, ay; and she hath offer'd to the doom--
A sea of melting pearl, which some call tears:

VALENTINE

No more; unless the next word that thou speak'st
Have some malignant power upon my life:

PROTEUS

Time is the nurse and breeder of all good.
Here if thou stay, thou canst not see thy love;
Thy letters may be here, though thou art hence;
Which, being writ to me, shall be deliver'd.
Come, I'll convey thee through the city-gate;

VALENTINE

I pray thee, Launce, an if thou seest my boy,
Bid him make haste and meet me at the North-gate.

PROTEUS

Go, sirrah, find him out. Come, Valentine.

VALENTINE

O my dear Silvia! Hapless Valentine!

Exeunt VALENTINE and PROTEUS

LAUNCE

I am but a fool, look you. He lives not now
that knows me to be in love; yet I am in love; but a
team of horse shall not pluck that from me; nor who
'tis I love; and yet 'tis a woman; but what woman, I
will not tell myself. She hath more qualities than a water-spaniel.

Pulling out a paper

Here is the cate-log of her condition.
'Item: She can fetch and carry.' Why, a horse
can do no more: nay, a horse cannot fetch, but only
carry.

Enter SPEED and DASH

SPEED

How now, Signior Launce! What news, then, in your paper?

LAUNCE

The blackest news that ever thou heardest.

DASH

Let us read them.

LAUNCE

Fie on thee, jolt-head! thou canst not read.

SPEED

Thou liest; we can.

LAUNCE

There; and St. Nicholas be thy speed!

DASH

[Reads] 'Item: She can milk.'

LAUNCE

Ay, that she can.

SPEED

'Item: She can wash and scour.'

LAUNCE

A special virtue: for then she need not be washed and scoured.

SPEED

'Item: She is not to be kissed fasting in respect of her breath.'

LAUNCE

Well, that fault may be mended with a breakfast. Read on.

DASH

'Item: She hath a sweet mouth.'

LAUNCE

That makes amends for her sour breath.

Well, I'll have her; and if it be a match, as nothing is impossible,--

SPEED

What then?

LAUNCE

Why, then will I tell thee--that thy master stays for thee at the North-gate.

DASH

For us?

LAUNCE

For thee!

SPEED

Why didst not tell us sooner?

SPEED and DASH

Pox of your love letters!

Exit

LAUNCE

Now will he be swung for reading my letter;
I'll after, to rejoice in the boy's correction.

Exit

SCENE 10. The saloon.

Enter DUKE and THURIO

DUKE

Sir Thurio, fear not but that she will love you,
Now Valentine is banish'd from her sight.

THURIO

Since his exile she hath despised me most,

DUKE

A little time will melt her frozen thoughts.

Enter PROTEUS

How now, Sir Proteus! Is your countryman gone?

PROTEUS

Gone, my good lord.

DUKE

My daughter takes his going grievously.

PROTEUS

A little time, my lord, will kill that grief.

DUKE

What might we do to make the girl forget
The love of Valentine and love Sir Thurio?

PROTEUS

The best way is to slander Valentine.

DUKE

Ay, but she'll know it is spoke in hate.

PROTEUS

Ay, if his enemy deliver it:

Therefore it must with circumstance be spoken
By one whom she esteemeth as his friend.

DUKE

Then you must undertake to slander him.

PROTEUS

You have prevail'd, my lord; if I can do it
She shall not long continue love to him.
But say this weed her love from Valentine,
It follows not that she will love Sir Thurio.

THURIO

Therefore, as you unwind her love from him,
You must provide to bottom it on me;
Which must be done by praising me as much
As you in worth dispraise Sir Valentine.

PROTEUS

As much as I can do, I will effect:
But you, Sir Thurio, must tangle her desires
Visit by night your lady's chamber-window
With some sweet concert.
This, or else nothing, will inherit her.

THURIO

And thy advice this night I'll put in practise.

DUKE

About it, gentlemen!
Exeunt

SCENE 11. The frontier.

Enter Outlaws

Caleb

Fellows, stand fast; I see a passenger.

Jake

If there be ten, shrink not, but down with 'em.

Enter VALENTINE, SPEED and DASH

Earl

Stand, sir, and throw us that you have about ye:

If not: we'll make you sit and rifle you.

SPEED

Sir, we are undone; these are the villains

That all the travellers do fear so much.

VALENTINE

My friends,--

Caleb

That's not so, sir: we are your enemies.

Doc

Peace! we'll hear him.

Earl

Ay, we will!

VALENTINE

Then know that I have little wealth to lose:

Jake

Whither travel you?

VALENTINE

To Verona.

Doc

Whence came you?

VALENTINE

From Milan.

Caleb

Have you long sojourned there?

VALENTINE

Some sixteen months, and longer might have stay'd,

If crooked fortune had not thwarted me.

Earl

What, were you banish'd thence?

VALENTINE

I was.

Jake

For what offence?

VALENTINE (lying)

For that which now torments me to rehearse:
I kill'd a man, whose death I much repent;
But yet I slew him manfully in fight.

Jake

But were you banish'd for so small a fault?

VALENTINE

I was.

Caleb

By the bare scalp of Robin Hood's fat friar,
This fellow were a king for our wild faction!

Earl

We'll have him. Sirs, a word.

SPEED

Master, be one of them; it's an honourable kind of thievery.

VALENTINE

Peace, villain!

Doc

Tell us this: have you any thing to take to?

VALENTINE

Nothing but my fortune.

Caleb

Know, then, that some of us are gentlemen,
Myself was from Verona banished
For practising to steal away a lady.

Jake

And I from Mantua, for a gentleman
I stabb'd unto the heart.

Caleb

And I for such like petty crimes as these,
But to the purpose--
Are you content to be our general?
And live, as we do, in this wilderness?

Second, Third & Fourth Outlaw

What say'st thou?

Caleb

We'll do thee homage and be ruled by thee,
Love thee as our commander and our king.
But if thou scorn our courtesy,

All Outlaws

Thou diest.

VALENTINE

I take your offer and will live with you,
Provided that you do no outrages
On silly women or poor passengers.

Caleb

No, we detest such vile base practises.
Come, go with us, we'll bring thee to our crews,
And show thee all the treasure we have got,
Which, with ourselves, all rest at thy dispose.

[Outlaws sing]

Oh, give me land, lots of land under starry skies above
Don't fence me in
Let me ride through the wide open country that I love
Don't fence me in
Let me be by myself in the evenin' breeze
And listen to the murmur of the cottonwood trees
Send me off forever but I ask you please
Don't fence me in
[Outlaw dance]

Exeunt

SCENE 12. The saloon.

Enter PROTEUS

PROTEUS

Already have I been false to Valentine
And now I must be as unjust to Thurio.
Under the colour of commending him,
I have access my own love to prefer:
But Silvia is too fair, too true, too holy,
To be corrupted with my worthless gifts.
Yet, spaniel-like, the more she spurns my love,
The more it grows and fawneth on her still.
But here comes Thurio: now must we to her window,
And give some evening music to her ear.

Enter THURIO and Musicians

THURIO

Now, gentlemen,
Let's tune, and to it lustily awhile.

Enter, at a distance SADIE, MAZIE, and JULIA in boy's clothes

Mazie

Now, my young guest, methinks you're melancholy:
I pray you, why is it?

JULIA

Marry, mine Mazie, because I cannot be merry.

Mazie

Come, we'll have you merry: I'll bring you where
you shall hear music and see the gentleman that you asked for.

JULIA

But shall I hear him speak?

Sadie

Ay, that you shall.

JULIA

That will be music.

Sadie

Hark, hark!

JULIA

Is he among these?

Mazie

Ay: but, peace! let's hear 'em.

[Thurio and musicians sing]

The other night dear, as I lay sleeping
I dreamed I held you in my arms
But when I awoke, dear, I was mistaken
So I hung my head and I cried.

[Mazie and Sadie join in]

You are my sunshine, my only sunshine
You make me happy when skies are gray
You'll never know dear, how much I love you
Please don't take my sunshine away

Mazie

How now! are you sadder than you were before?

Sadie

Why?

JULIA

He plays false.

Mazie

I perceive you delight not in music.

JULIA

But, host, doth this Sir Proteus that we talk on
Often resort unto this gentlewoman?

Mazie

I tell you what Launce, his man, told me: he loved
her out of all nick.

JULIA

Where is Launce?

Mazie

Gone to seek his dog; which tomorrow, by his master's command, he must carry for a present to his lady.

JULIA

Peace! stand aside: the company parts.

PROTEUS

Sir Thurio, fear not you: I will so plead
That you shall say my cunning drift excels.

THURIO

Farewell.

Exeunt THURIO and musicians

Enter SILVIA above [right loge]

PROTEUS

Madam, good even to your ladyship.

SILVIA

I thank you for your music, gentlemen.
Who is that that spake?

PROTEUS

One, lady, if you knew his pure heart's truth,
You would quickly learn to know him by his voice.

SILVIA

Sir Proteus, as I take it.

PROTEUS

Sir Proteus, gentle lady, and your servant.

SILVIA

What's your will?

PROTEUS

That I may compass yours.

SILVIA

You have your wish; my will is even this:
That presently you hie you home to bed.
Thou subtle, perjured, false, disloyal man!

PROTEUS

I grant, sweet love, that I did love a lady;
But she is dead.

JULIA

[Aside] 'Twere false, if I should speak it;
For I am sure she is not buried.

SILVIA

Say that she be; yet Valentine thy friend
Survives; to whom, thyself art witness,
I am betroth'd:

PROTEUS

I likewise hear that Valentine is dead.

SILVIA

And so suppose am I; for in his grave
Assure thyself my love is buried.

PROTEUS

Madam, if your heart be so obdurate,
Vouchsafe me yet your picture for my love.
To that I'll speak, to that I'll sigh and weep:

SILVIA

Send to me in the morning and I'll send it:
And so, good rest.

Exeunt PROTEUS and SILVIA separately

JULIA

Mazie, will you go?

Mazie

By my halidom, I was fast asleep.

JULIA

Pray you, where lies Sir Proteus?

Mazie

Marry, at my house. Trust me, I think 'tis almost
day.

JULIA

Not so; but it hath been the longest night
That e'er I watch'd and the most heaviest.

Exeunt

SCENE 13. The frontier.

Enter EGLAMOUR

EGLAMOUR

This is the hour that Madam Silvia
Entreated me to call and know her mind:
Madam, madam!

Enter SILVIA above [right loge]

SILVIA

Who calls?

EGLAMOUR

One that attends your ladyship's command.

SILVIA

Eglamour, a thousand times good morrow.

EGLAMOUR

I am thus early come to know what service
It is your pleasure to command me in.

SILVIA

Eglamour, I would to Valentine,
To Mantua, where I hear he makes abode;
And, for the ways are dangerous to pass,
I do desire thy worthy company,
Upon whose faith and honour I repose.

EGLAMOUR

Madam, I pity much your grievances;
Which since I know they virtuously are placed,
I give consent to go along with you.
When will you go?

SILVIA

This evening coming.

EGLAMOUR

I will not fail your ladyship. Good morrow, gentle lady.

SILVIA

Good morrow, kind Eglamour.

Exeunt severally

SCENE 14. The saloon. ?

Enter LAUNCE, with his Dog

LAUNCE

When a man's servant shall play the cur with him,
look you, it goes hard: one that I brought up of a
puppy; one that I saved from drowning, when three or
four of his blind brothers and sisters went to it.
I was sent to deliver him as a present to Mistress Silvia from my master;
and I came no sooner into the dining-chamber but he steals her capon's leg:
If I had not had more wit than he, to take a fault upon me that he did,
I think verily he had been hanged for't. He thrusts me himself into the company of
three or four gentlemanlike dogs under the duke's table: he had not been there--
bless the mark!--a pissing while, but all the chamber smelt him. I, having been
acquainted with the smell before, knew it was Crab, and goes me to the fellow that
whips the dogs: 'Friend,' quoth I, "'twas I did the thing you wot of.' He makes me no
more ado, but whips me out of the chamber. How many masters would do this for
his servant? Nay, I'll be sworn, I have stood on the pillory for geese
he hath killed, otherwise he had suffered for't. I remember the
trick you served me when I took my leave of Madam Silvia: did not I bid thee still

mark me and do as I do? when didst thou see me heave up my leg and make water against a gentlewoman's farthingale? Didst thou ever see me do such a trick?

Enter PROTEUS and JULIA

PROTEUS

Sebastian is thy name? I like thee well
And will employ thee in some service presently.

JULIA

In what you please: I'll do what I can.

PROTEUS

I hope thou wilt.

To LAUNCE

How now, you whoreson peasant!
Where have you been these two days loitering?

LAUNCE

Marry, sir, I carried Mistress Silvia the dog you bade me.

PROTEUS

And what says she to my little jewel?

LAUNCE

Marry, she says your dog was a cur.

PROTEUS

But she received my dog?

LAUNCE

No, indeed, did she not: here have I brought him back again.

PROTEUS

Go get thee hence, and find my dog again,
Or ne'er return again into my sight.

Exit LAUNCE

[to JULIA, disguised] Go presently and take this ring with thee,
Deliver it to Madam Silvia:
She loved me well deliver'd it to me.

JULIA

It seems you loved not her, to leave her token.
She is dead, belike?

PROTEUS

Not so; I think she lives.

JULIA

Alas!

PROTEUS

Why dost thou cry 'alas'?

JULIA

I cannot choose
But pity her.

PROTEUS

Wherefore shouldst thou pity her?

JULIA

Because methinks that she loved you as well
As you do love your lady Silvia:

PROTEUS

Well, give her that ring and therewithal
This letter. That's her chamber. Tell my lady
I claim the promise for her heavenly picture.
Your message done, hie home unto my chamber,
Where thou shalt find me, sad and solitary.

Exit

JULIA

How many women would do such a message?
Alas, poor fool! why do I pity him
Because I love him I must pity him.
This ring I gave him when he parted from me,
To bind him to remember my good will;
And now am I, unhappy messenger,
To plead for that which I would not obtain.
I am my master's true-confirmed love;
But cannot be true servant to my master,
Unless I prove false traitor to myself.
Yet will I woo for him, but yet so coldly
As, heaven it knows, I would not have him speed.

Enter SILVIA, attended

Gentlewoman, good day! I pray you,
bring me to speak with Madam Silvia.

SILVIA

What would you with her, if that I be she?

JULIA

If you be she, I do entreat your patience
To hear me speak the message I am sent on.

SILVIA

From whom?

JULIA

From my master, Sir Proteus, madam.

SILVIA

O, he sends you for a picture.

JULIA

Ay, madam.

SILVIA

Go give your master this: tell him from me,
One Julia, that his changing thoughts forget,
Would better fit his chamber than this shadow.

JULIA

Madam, please you peruse this letter.--
Pardon me, madam; I have unadvised
Deliver'd you a paper that I should not:
This is the letter to your ladyship.

SILVIA

I pray thee, let me look on that again.

JULIA

It may not be; good madam, pardon me.

SILVIA

There, hold!
I will not look upon your master's lines:
I know they are stuff'd with protestations
And full of new-found oaths; which he will break
As easily as I do tear his paper.

JULIA

Madam, he sends your ladyship this ring.

SILVIA

The more shame for him that he sends it me;
For I have heard him say a thousand times
His Julia gave it him at his departure.

JULIA

She thanks you.

SILVIA

What say'st thou?

JULIA

I thank you, madam, that you tender her.

SILVIA

Dost thou know her?

JULIA

Almost as well as I do know myself:

SILVIA

Is she not passing fair?

JULIA

She hath been fairer, madam, than she is:

SILVIA

How tall was she?

JULIA

About my stature.

SILVIA

Alas, poor lady, desolate and left!
Here, youth, there is my purse; I give thee this

For thy sweet mistress' sake, because thou lovest her.
Farewell.

Exit SILVIA [DR]

JULIA

And she shall thank you for't, if e'er you know her.
What should it be that he respects in her
But I can make respective in myself?
I'll use thee kindly for thy mistress' sake,
That used me so; or else, by Jove I vow,
I should have scratch'd out your unseeing eyes
To make my master out of love with thee!

Exit

SCENE 15. The frontier.

Enter EGLAMOUR {Left loge to down aisle}

EGLAMOUR

The sun begins to gild the western sky;
And now it is about the very hour
That Silvia should meet me.
She will not fail, for lovers break not hours,
Unless it be to come before their time;
See where she comes.

Enter SILVIA [left loge]

Lady, a happy evening!

SILVIA

Go on, good Eglamour,
I fear I am attended by some spies.

EGLAMOUR

Fear not: the forest is not three leagues off;
If we recover that, we are sure enough.

Exeunt DR

SCENE 16. The saloon.

Enter THURIO, PROTEUS, and JULIA

THURIO

Sir Proteus, what says Silvia to my suit?

PROTEUS

O, sir, I find her milder than she was.

THURIO

What says she to my face?

PROTEUS

She says it is a fair one.

THURIO

How likes she my discourse?

PROTEUS

Ill, when you talk of war.

THURIO

But well, when I discourse of love and peace?

Here comes the duke.

Enter DUKE

DUKE

How now, Sir Proteus! how now, Thurio!

Saw you my daughter?

THURIO

Not I.

PROTEUS

Nor I.

DUKE

Why then,

She's fled unto that peasant Valentine;

And Eglamour is in her company.

Dispatch, sweet gentlemen, and follow me.

Exit

THURIO

Why, this it is to be a peevish girl,

That flies her fortune when it follows her.

I'll after. *Exit*

PROTEUS

And I will follow. *Exit*

JULIA

And I will follow.

Exit

SCENE 17. The frontier. [from mezzanine, down right aisle]

Enter Outlaws with SILVIA

Caleb

Come, come,
Be patient; we must bring you to our captain.

Doc

Come, bring her away.

Caleb

Where is the girl that was with her?

Earl

Being nimble-footed, she hath outrun us.

Caleb

Go thou with her to the west end of the wood;
The thicket is beset; he cannot 'scape.

Jake

Come, I must bring you to our captain's cave:

SILVIA

O Valentine, this I endure for thee!

Exeunt DL

SCENE 18. The saloon.

Enter VALENTINE UR

VALENTINE

Here can I sit alone, and
Tune my distresses and record my woes.
Withdraw thee, Valentine: who's this comes here?

Enter PROTEUS, SILVIA, and JULIA DL

PROTEUS

Madam, this service I have done for you,
To hazard life and rescue you from him
That would have forced your honour and your love;

VALENTINE

[Aside] How like a dream is this I see and hear!

SILVIA

O miserable, unhappy that I am!

PROTEUS

Unhappy were you, madam, ere I came;
But by my coming I have made you happy.

SILVIA

By thy approach thou makest me most unhappy.

JULIA

[Aside] And me.

SILVIA

Had I been seized by a hungry lion,
I would have been a breakfast to the beast,
Rather than have false Proteus rescue me.
I do detest false perjured Proteus.
Therefore be gone; solicit me no more.

PROTEUS

O, 'tis the curse in love, and still approved,
When women cannot love where they're beloved!

SILVIA

When Proteus cannot love where he's beloved.
Thou counterfeit to thy true friend!

PROTEUS

Nay, if the gentle spirit of moving words
Can no way change you to a milder form,
I'll woo you like a soldier.

SILVIA

O heaven!

VALENTINE

Ruffian, let go!

PROTEUS

Valentine!

VALENTINE

Thou common friend: O time most accurst,
'Mongst all foes that a friend should be the worst!

PROTEUS

My shame and guilt confounds me.

VALENTINE

Then I am paid;

JULIA

O me unhappy!

Swoons

PROTEUS

Look to the boy.

VALENTINE

How now! what's the matter?

JULIA

O good sir, my master charged me to deliver a ring
to Madam Silvia, which, out of my neglect, was never done.

PROTEUS

Where is that ring, boy?

JULIA

Here 'tis; this is it.

PROTEUS

How! let me see:

Why, this is the ring I gave to Julia.

JULIA

O, cry you mercy, sir, I have mistook:

This is the ring you sent to Silvia.

PROTEUS

But how camest thou by this ring? At my depart

I gave this unto Julia.

JULIA

And Julia herself did give it me;

PROTEUS

How! Julia!

JULIA

Behold her that gave aim to all thy oaths!

PROTEUS

O heaven!

VALENTINE

Come, come, a hand from either:

'Twere pity two such friends should be long foes.

PROTEUS

Bear witness, Heaven, I have my wish forever.

JULIA

And I mine.

Enter Outlaws, with DUKE and THURIO

Outlaws

A prize, a prize, a prize!

VALENTINE

I say! it is my lord the duke.

DUKE

Sir Valentine!

THURIO

Yonder is Silvia; and Silvia's mine.

VALENTINE

Thurio, give back, or else embrace thy death.

I dare thee but to breathe upon my love.

THURIO

Sir Valentine, I care not for her.

I hold him but a fool that will endanger

His body for a girl that loves him not:

I claim her not, and therefore she is thine.

DUKE

Now, by the honour of my ancestry,
I do applaud thy spirit, Valentine.
Take thou thy Silvia, for thou hast deserved her.

VALENTINE

I thank your grace; the gift hath made me happy.
I now beseech you, for your daughter's sake,
To grant one boon that I shall ask of you.

DUKE

I grant it, for thine own, whate'er it be.

VALENTINE

These banish'd men that I have kept withal
Are men endued with worthy qualities:
Forgive them what they have committed here.
They are reformed,
And fit for great employment, worthy lord.

DUKE

I pardon them and thee:

VALENTINE

What think you of this page, my lord?

DUKE

I think the boy hath grace in him; he blushes.

VALENTINE

I warrant you, my lord, more grace than boy.

DUKE

What mean you by that saying?

VALENTINE

Please you, I'll tell you as we pass along.
Come, Proteus; 'tis your penance but to hear
The story of your loves discovered:
That done, our day of marriage shall be yours;
One feast, one house, one mutual happiness.

Square Dance!

Exeunt