

# ALL'S WELL *that* ENDS WELL

By WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

*Edited by* BARBARA A. MOWAT  
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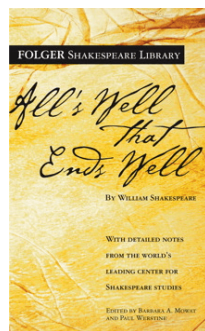
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## From the Director of the Folger Shakespeare Library

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

*Michael Witmore*  
Director, Folger Shakespeare Library

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## Textual Introduction

### By Barbara Mowat and Paul Werstine

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

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

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

*Hamlet*: “O farewell, honest (soldier.) Who hath relieved/you?”). At any point in the text, you can hover your cursor over a bracket for more information.

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

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## Synopsis

In *All's Well That Ends Well*, a woman is given in marriage to the man she longs for, but, because she is of lower rank, he refuses to accept the marriage. It becomes her challenge to win his acceptance.

Helen, the daughter of a dead physician, secretly loves Bertram, the Count of Rosillion's son. When the count dies, Bertram becomes a ward of the French king, who is dying of a fistula. Helen heals the ailing king, and he grants her wish to marry his ward. Bertram refuses to consummate the marriage and goes off to war, sending Helen a list of seemingly impossible conditions to be met before he will consider her his wife.

To meet his conditions, Helen substitutes herself for a woman whom Bertram desires, and sleeps with him. When false news comes that Helen is dead, Bertram faces the charge that he has killed her. Helen, now pregnant, reappears, saving Bertram and demonstrating that she has met his conditions. Bertram then acknowledges her.

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## Characters in the Play

HELEN, a gentlewoman of Rossillion

BERTRAM, Count of Rossillion

COUNTESS of Rossillion, Bertram's mother

STEWARD }  
FOOL } *in the Countess's household*  
PAGE }

PAROLLES, companion to Bertram

KING of France

LAFEW, a French lord

FIRST LORD } *later Captains in the*  
SECOND LORD } *army of the Duke of Florence*

Other LORDS in the court of the King of France

FIRST GENTLEMAN }  
SECOND GENTLEMAN } *from the court of*  
GENTLEMAN, a "gentle Astringer" } *the King of France*

FIRST SOLDIER, interpreter

The DUKE of Florence

A WIDOW of Florence

DIANA, the Widow's daughter

MARIANA, the Widow's neighbor

Attendants, Soldiers, Citizens of Florence, Servants

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## ACT 1

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### Scene 1

*Enter young Bertram Count of Rossillion, his mother  
[the Countess,] and Helen, Lord Lafew, all in black.*

FTLN 0001	COUNTESS	In delivering my son from me, I bury a second	
FTLN 0002		husband.	
FTLN 0003	BERTRAM	And I in going, madam, weep o'er my	
FTLN 0004		father's death anew; but I must attend his Majesty's	
FTLN 0005		command, to whom I am now in ward, evermore	5
FTLN 0006		in subjection.	
FTLN 0007	LAFEW	You shall find of the King a husband, madam;	
FTLN 0008		you, sir, a father. He that so generally is at all times	
FTLN 0009		good must of necessity hold his virtue to you,	
FTLN 0010		whose worthiness would stir it up where it wanted	10
FTLN 0011		rather than lack it where there is such abundance.	
FTLN 0012	COUNTESS	What hope is there of his Majesty's	
FTLN 0013		amendment?	
FTLN 0014	LAFEW	He hath abandoned his physicians, madam,	
FTLN 0015		under whose practices he hath persecuted time	15
FTLN 0016		with hope, and finds no other advantage in the	
FTLN 0017		process but only the losing of hope by time.	
FTLN 0018	COUNTESS	This young gentlewoman had a father—O,	
FTLN 0019		that “had,” how sad a passage 'tis!—whose skill	
FTLN 0020		was almost as great as his honesty; had it stretched	20
FTLN 0021		so far, would have made nature immortal, and	
FTLN 0022		death should have play for lack of work. Would for	



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FTLN 0023	the King's sake he were living! I think it would be	
FTLN 0024	the death of the King's disease.	
FTLN 0025	LAFEW How called you the man you speak of,	25
FTLN 0026	madam?	
FTLN 0027	COUNTESS He was famous, sir, in his profession, and it	
FTLN 0028	was his great right to be so: Gerard de Narbon.	
FTLN 0029	LAFEW He was excellent indeed, madam. The King	
FTLN 0030	very lately spoke of him admiringly, and mourningly.	30
FTLN 0031	He was skillful enough to have lived still, if	
FTLN 0032	knowledge could be set up against mortality.	
FTLN 0033	BERTRAM What is it, my good lord, the King languishes	
FTLN 0034	of?	
FTLN 0035	LAFEW A fistula, my lord.	35
FTLN 0036	BERTRAM I heard not of it before.	
FTLN 0037	LAFEW I would it were not notorious.—Was this gentlewoman	
FTLN 0038	the daughter of Gerard de Narbon?	
FTLN 0039	COUNTESS His sole child, my lord, and bequeathed to	
FTLN 0040	my overlooking. I have those hopes of her good	40
FTLN 0041	that her education promises. Her dispositions she	
FTLN 0042	inherits, which makes fair gifts fairer; for where an	
FTLN 0043	unclean mind carries virtuous qualities, there	
FTLN 0044	commendations go with pity—they are virtues and	
FTLN 0045	traitors too. In her they are the better for their simpleness.	45
FTLN 0046	She derives her honesty and achieves her	
FTLN 0047	goodness.	
FTLN 0048	LAFEW Your commendations, madam, get from her	
FTLN 0049	tears.	
FTLN 0050	COUNTESS 'Tis the best brine a maiden can season her	50
FTLN 0051	praise in. The remembrance of her father never	
FTLN 0052	approaches her heart but the tyranny of her sorrows	
FTLN 0053	takes all livelihood from her cheek.—No	
FTLN 0054	more of this, Helena. Go to. No more, lest it be	
FTLN 0055	rather thought you affect a sorrow than to have—	55
FTLN 0056	HELEN I do affect a sorrow indeed, but I have it too.	
FTLN 0057	LAFEW Moderate lamentation is the right of the dead,	
FTLN 0058	excessive grief the enemy to the living.	

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FTLN 0059	COUNTESS	If the living be enemy to the grief, the	
FTLN 0060		excess makes it soon mortal.	60
FTLN 0061	BERTRAM	Madam, I desire your holy wishes.	
FTLN 0062	LAFEW	How understand we that?	
	COUNTESS		
FTLN 0063		Be thou blessed, Bertram, and succeed thy father	
FTLN 0064		In manners as in shape. Thy blood and virtue	
FTLN 0065		Contend for empire in thee, and thy goodness	65
FTLN 0066		Share with thy birthright. Love all, trust a few,	
FTLN 0067		Do wrong to none. Be able for thine enemy	
FTLN 0068		Rather in power than use, and keep thy friend	
FTLN 0069		Under thy own life's key Be checked for silence,	
FTLN 0070		But never taxed for speech. What heaven more will,	70
FTLN 0071		That thee may furnish and my prayers pluck down,	
FTLN 0072		Fall on thy head. <i>「To Lafew.」</i> Farewell, my lord.	
FTLN 0073		'Tis an unseasoned courtier. Good my lord,	
FTLN 0074		Advise him.	
FTLN 0075	LAFEW	He cannot want the best that shall	75
FTLN 0076		Attend his love.	
FTLN 0077	COUNTESS	Heaven bless him.—Farewell, Bertram.	
FTLN 0078	BERTRAM	The best wishes that can be forged in your	
FTLN 0079		thoughts be servants to you. <i>「Countess exits.」</i>	
FTLN 0080		<i>「To Helen.」</i> Be comfortable to my mother, your	80
FTLN 0081		mistress, and make much of her.	
FTLN 0082	LAFEW	Farewell, pretty lady. You must hold the credit	
FTLN 0083		of your father. <i>「Bertram and Lafew exit.」</i>	
	HELEN		
FTLN 0084		O, were that all! I think not on my father,	
FTLN 0085		And these great tears grace his remembrance more	85
FTLN 0086		Than those I shed for him. What was he like?	
FTLN 0087		I have forgot him. My imagination	
FTLN 0088		Carries no favor in 't but Bertram's.	
FTLN 0089		I am undone. There is no living, none,	
FTLN 0090		If Bertram be away. 'Twere all one	90
FTLN 0091		That I should love a bright particular star	
FTLN 0092		And think to wed it, he is so above me.	

FTLN 0093 In his bright radiance and collateral light  
 FTLN 0094 Must I be comforted, not in his sphere.  
 FTLN 0095 Th' ambition in my love thus plagues itself: 95  
 FTLN 0096 The hind that would be mated by the lion  
 FTLN 0097 Must die for love. 'Twas pretty, though a plague,  
 FTLN 0098 To see him every hour, to sit and draw  
 FTLN 0099 His archèd brows, his hawking eye, his curls  
 FTLN 0100 In our heart's table—heart too capable 100  
 FTLN 0101 Of every line and trick of his sweet favor.  
 FTLN 0102 But now he's gone, and my idolatrous fancy  
 FTLN 0103 Must sanctify his relics. Who comes here?

*Enter Parolles.*

FTLN 0104 One that goes with him. I love him for his sake,  
 FTLN 0105 And yet I know him a notorious liar, 105  
 FTLN 0106 Think him a great way fool, solely a coward.  
 FTLN 0107 Yet these fixed evils sit so fit in him  
 FTLN 0108 That they take place when virtue's steely bones  
 FTLN 0109 Looks bleak i' th' cold wind. Withal, full oft we see  
 FTLN 0110 Cold wisdom waiting on superfluous folly. 110  
 FTLN 0111 PAROLLES Save you, fair queen.  
 FTLN 0112 HELEN And you, monarch.  
 FTLN 0113 PAROLLES No.  
 FTLN 0114 HELEN And no.  
 FTLN 0115 PAROLLES Are you meditating on virginity? 115  
 FTLN 0116 HELEN Ay. You have some stain of soldier in you; let  
 FTLN 0117 me ask you a question. Man is enemy to virginity.  
 FTLN 0118 How may we barricado it against him?  
 FTLN 0119 PAROLLES Keep him out.  
 FTLN 0120 HELEN But he assails, and our virginity, though 120  
 FTLN 0121 valiant in the defense, yet is weak. Unfold to us  
 FTLN 0122 some warlike resistance.  
 FTLN 0123 PAROLLES There is none. Man setting down before you  
 FTLN 0124 will undermine you and blow you up.  
 FTLN 0125 HELEN Bless our poor virginity from underminers and 125  
 FTLN 0126 blowers-up! Is there no military policy how virgins  
 FTLN 0127 might blow up men?

FTLN 0128	PAROLLES	Virginity being blown down, man will	
FTLN 0129		quicklier be blown up. Marry, in blowing him	
FTLN 0130		down again, with the breach yourselves made you	130
FTLN 0131		lose your city. It is not politic in the commonwealth	
FTLN 0132		of nature to preserve virginity. Loss of virginity	
FTLN 0133		is rational increase, and there was never	
FTLN 0134		virgin <sup>1</sup> got <sup>1</sup> till virginity was first lost. That you	
FTLN 0135		were made of is metal to make virgins. Virginity by	135
FTLN 0136		being once lost may be ten times found; by being	
FTLN 0137		ever kept, it is ever lost. 'Tis too cold a companion.	
FTLN 0138		Away with 't.	
FTLN 0139	HELEN	I will stand for 't a little, though therefore I	
FTLN 0140		die a virgin.	140
FTLN 0141	PAROLLES	There's little can be said in 't. 'Tis against the	
FTLN 0142		rule of nature. To speak on the part of virginity is	
FTLN 0143		to accuse your mothers, which is most infallible	
FTLN 0144		disobedience. He that hangs himself is a virgin;	
FTLN 0145		virginity murders itself and should be buried in	145
FTLN 0146		highways out of all sanctified limit as a desperate	
FTLN 0147		offendress against nature. Virginity breeds mites,	
FTLN 0148		much like a cheese, consumes itself to the very	
FTLN 0149		paring, and so dies with feeding his own stomach.	
FTLN 0150		Besides, virginity is peevish, proud, idle, made of	150
FTLN 0151		self-love, which is the most inhibited sin in the	
FTLN 0152		canon. Keep it not; you cannot choose but lose by	
FTLN 0153		't. Out with 't! Within ten year it will make itself	
FTLN 0154		two, which is a goodly increase, and the principal	
FTLN 0155		itself not much the worse. Away with 't!	155
FTLN 0156	HELEN	How might one do, sir, to lose it to her own	
FTLN 0157		liking?	
FTLN 0158	PAROLLES	Let me see. Marry, ill, to like him that ne'er	
FTLN 0159		it likes. 'Tis a commodity will lose the gloss with	
FTLN 0160		lying; the longer kept, the less worth. Off with 't	160
FTLN 0161		while 'tis vendible; answer the time of request. Virginity,	
FTLN 0162		like an old courtier, wears her cap out of	
FTLN 0163		fashion, richly suited but unsuitable, just like the	

FTLN 0164 brooch and the toothpick, which wear not now.  
 FTLN 0165 Your date is better in your pie and your porridge 165  
 FTLN 0166 than in your cheek. And your virginity, your old  
 FTLN 0167 virginity, is like one of our French withered pears:  
 FTLN 0168 it looks ill, it eats dryly; marry, 'tis a withered pear.  
 FTLN 0169 It was formerly better, marry, yet 'tis a withered  
 FTLN 0170 pear. Will you anything with it? 170  
 FTLN 0171 HELEN Not my virginity, yet—  
 FTLN 0172 There shall your master have a thousand loves,  
 FTLN 0173 A mother, and a mistress, and a friend,  
 FTLN 0174 A phoenix, captain, and an enemy,  
 FTLN 0175 A guide, a goddess, and a sovereign, 175  
 FTLN 0176 A counselor, a traitress, and a dear;  
 FTLN 0177 His humble ambition, proud humility,  
 FTLN 0178 His jarring concord, and his discord dulcet,  
 FTLN 0179 His faith, his sweet disaster, with a world  
 FTLN 0180 Of pretty, fond adoptious christendoms 180  
 FTLN 0181 That blinking Cupid gossips. Now shall he—  
 FTLN 0182 I know not what he shall. God send him well.  
 FTLN 0183 The court's a learning place, and he is one—  
 FTLN 0184 PAROLLES What one, i' faith?  
 FTLN 0185 HELEN That I wish well. 'Tis pity— 185  
 FTLN 0186 PAROLLES What's pity?  
 HELEN  
 FTLN 0187 That wishing well had not a body in 't  
 FTLN 0188 Which might be felt, that we, the poorer born,  
 FTLN 0189 Whose baser stars do shut us up in wishes,  
 FTLN 0190 Might with effects of them follow our friends 190  
 FTLN 0191 And show what we alone must think, which never  
 FTLN 0192 Returns us thanks.

*Enter Page.*

FTLN 0193 PAGE Monsieur Parolles, my lord calls for you.  
 FTLN 0194 PAROLLES Little Helen, farewell. If I can remember  
 FTLN 0195 thee, I will think of thee at court. 195  
 FTLN 0196 HELEN Monsieur Parolles, you were born under a  
 FTLN 0197 charitable star.

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FTLN 0198	PAROLLES	Under Mars, I.	
FTLN 0199	HELEN	I especially think under Mars.	
FTLN 0200	PAROLLES	Why under Mars?	200
FTLN 0201	HELEN	The wars hath so kept you under that you	
FTLN 0202		must needs be born under Mars.	
FTLN 0203	PAROLLES	When he was predominant.	
FTLN 0204	HELEN	When he was retrograde, I think rather.	
FTLN 0205	PAROLLES	Why think you so?	205
FTLN 0206	HELEN	You go so much backward when you fight.	
FTLN 0207	PAROLLES	That's for advantage.	
FTLN 0208	HELEN	So is running away, when fear proposes the	
FTLN 0209		safety. But the composition that your valor and	
FTLN 0210		fear makes in you is a virtue of a good wing, and I	210
FTLN 0211		like the wear well.	
FTLN 0212	PAROLLES	I am so full of businesses I cannot answer	
FTLN 0213		thee acutely. I will return perfect courtier, in the	
FTLN 0214		which my instruction shall serve to naturalize	
FTLN 0215		thee, so thou wilt be capable of a courtier's counsel	215
FTLN 0216		and understand what advice shall thrust upon	
FTLN 0217		thee, else thou diest in thine unthankfulness, and	
FTLN 0218		thine ignorance makes thee away. Farewell. When	
FTLN 0219		thou hast leisure, say thy prayers; when thou hast	
FTLN 0220		none, remember thy friends. Get thee a good husband,	220
FTLN 0221		and use him as he uses thee. So, farewell.	
		<i>¶ Parolles and Page exit. ¶</i>	
	HELEN		
FTLN 0222		Our remedies oft in ourselves do lie	
FTLN 0223		Which we ascribe to heaven. The fated sky	
FTLN 0224		Gives us free scope, only doth backward pull	
FTLN 0225		Our slow designs when we ourselves are dull.	225
FTLN 0226		What power is it which mounts my love so high,	
FTLN 0227		That makes me see, and cannot feed mine eye?	
FTLN 0228		The mightiest space in fortune nature brings	
FTLN 0229		To join like likes and kiss like native things.	
FTLN 0230		Impossible be strange attempts to those	230
FTLN 0231		That weigh their pains in sense and do suppose	

FTLN 0232           What hath been cannot be. Who ever strove  
 FTLN 0233           To show her merit that did miss her love?  
 FTLN 0234           The King's disease—my project may deceive me,  
 FTLN 0235           But my intents are fixed and will not leave me.           235

*She exits.*

[Scene 2]

*Flourish cornets. Enter the King of France with letters,  
 [two Lords,] and divers Attendants.*

KING

FTLN 0236           The Florentines and Senoys are by th' ears,  
 FTLN 0237           Have fought with equal fortune, and continue  
 FTLN 0238           A braving war.

FTLN 0239           FIRST LORD                   So 'tis reported, sir.

KING

FTLN 0240           Nay, 'tis most credible. We here receive it           5  
 FTLN 0241           A certainty vouched from our cousin Austria,  
 FTLN 0242           With caution that the Florentine will move us  
 FTLN 0243           For speedy aid, wherein our dearest friend  
 FTLN 0244           Prejudicates the business and would seem  
 FTLN 0245           To have us make denial.           10

FTLN 0246           FIRST LORD                   His love and wisdom,  
 FTLN 0247           Approved so to your Majesty, may plead  
 FTLN 0248           For amplest credence.

FTLN 0249           KING                           He hath armed our answer,  
 FTLN 0250           And Florence is denied before he comes.           15  
 FTLN 0251           Yet for our gentlemen that mean to see  
 FTLN 0252           The Tuscan service, freely have they leave  
 FTLN 0253           To stand on either part.

FTLN 0254           SECOND LORD                 It well may serve  
 FTLN 0255           A nursery to our gentry, who are sick           20  
 FTLN 0256           For breathing and exploit.

*Enter Bertram, Lafew, and Parolles.*

FTLN 0257           KING                           What's he comes here?

FIRST LORD

FTLN 0258 It is the Count Rossillion, my good lord,  
FTLN 0259 Young Bertram.

FTLN 0260 KING Youth, thou bear'st thy father's face. 25  
FTLN 0261 Frank nature, rather curious than in haste,  
FTLN 0262 Hath well composed thee. Thy father's moral parts  
FTLN 0263 Mayst thou inherit too. Welcome to Paris.

BERTRAM

FTLN 0264 My thanks and duty are your Majesty's.

KING

FTLN 0265 I would I had that corporal soundness now 30  
FTLN 0266 As when thy father and myself in friendship  
FTLN 0267 First tried our soldiership. He did look far  
FTLN 0268 Into the service of the time and was  
FTLN 0269 Discipled of the bravest. He lasted long,  
FTLN 0270 But on us both did haggish age steal on 35  
FTLN 0271 And wore us out of act. It much repairs me  
FTLN 0272 To talk of your good father. In his youth  
FTLN 0273 He had the wit which I can well observe  
FTLN 0274 Today in our young lords; but they may jest  
FTLN 0275 Till their own scorn return to them unnoted 40  
FTLN 0276 Ere they can hide their levity in honor.  
FTLN 0277 So like a courtier, contempt nor bitterness  
FTLN 0278 Were in his pride or sharpness; if they were,  
FTLN 0279 His equal had awaked them, and his honor,  
FTLN 0280 Clock to itself, knew the true minute when 45  
FTLN 0281 Exception bid him speak, and at this time  
FTLN 0282 His tongue obeyed his hand. Who were below him  
FTLN 0283 He used as creatures of another place  
FTLN 0284 And bowed his eminent top to their low ranks,  
FTLN 0285 Making them proud of his humility, 50  
FTLN 0286 In their poor praise he humbled. Such a man  
FTLN 0287 Might be a copy to these younger times,  
FTLN 0288 Which, followed well, would demonstrate them now  
FTLN 0289 But goes backward.

FTLN 0290 BERTRAM His good remembrance, sir, 55



FTLN 0291	Lies richer in your thoughts than on his tomb.	
FTLN 0292	So in approof lives not his epitaph	
FTLN 0293	As in your royal speech.	
	KING	
FTLN 0294	Would I were with him! He would always say—	
FTLN 0295	Methinks I hear him now; his plausive words	60
FTLN 0296	He scattered not in ears, but grafted them	
FTLN 0297	To grow there and to bear. "Let me not live"—	
FTLN 0298	This his good melancholy oft began	
FTLN 0299	On the catastrophe and heel of pastime,	
FTLN 0300	When it was out—"Let me not live," quoth he,	65
FTLN 0301	"After my flame lacks oil, to be the snuff	
FTLN 0302	Of younger spirits, whose apprehensive senses	
FTLN 0303	All but new things disdain, whose judgments are	
FTLN 0304	Mere fathers of their garments, whose constancies	
FTLN 0305	Expire before their fashions." This he wished.	70
FTLN 0306	I, after him, do after him wish too,	
FTLN 0307	Since I nor wax nor honey can bring home,	
FTLN 0308	I quickly were dissolved from my hive	
FTLN 0309	To give some laborers room.	
FTLN 0310	SECOND LORD You're lovèd, sir.	75
FTLN 0311	They that least lend it you shall lack you first.	
	KING	
FTLN 0312	I fill a place, I know 't.—How long is 't, count,	
FTLN 0313	Since the physician at your father's died?	
FTLN 0314	He was much famed.	
FTLN 0315	BERTRAM Some six months since, my lord.	80
	KING	
FTLN 0316	If he were living, I would try him yet.—	
FTLN 0317	Lend me an arm.—The rest have worn me out	
FTLN 0318	With several applications. Nature and sickness	
FTLN 0319	Debate it at their leisure. Welcome, count.	
FTLN 0320	My son's no dearer.	85
FTLN 0321	BERTRAM Thank your Majesty.	
	<i>They exit. Flourish.</i>	

## [Scene 3]

*Enter Countess, Steward, and [Fool.]*

FTLN 0322 COUNTESS I will now hear. What say you of this  
 FTLN 0323 gentlewoman?

FTLN 0324 STEWARD Madam, the care I have had to even your  
 FTLN 0325 content I wish might be found in the calendar of  
 FTLN 0326 my past endeavors, for then we wound our modesty 5  
 FTLN 0327 and make foul the clearness of our deservings  
 FTLN 0328 when of ourselves we publish them.

FTLN 0329 COUNTESS What does this knave here? [To Fool.] Get  
 FTLN 0330 you gone, sirrah. The complaints I have heard of  
 FTLN 0331 you I do not all believe. 'Tis my slowness that I do 10  
 FTLN 0332 not, for I know you lack not folly to commit them  
 FTLN 0333 and have ability enough to make such knaveries  
 FTLN 0334 yours.

FTLN 0335 FOOL 'Tis not unknown to you, madam, I am a poor  
 FTLN 0336 fellow. 15

FTLN 0337 COUNTESS Well, sir.

FTLN 0338 FOOL No, madam, 'tis not so well that I am poor,  
 FTLN 0339 though many of the rich are damned. But if I may  
 FTLN 0340 have your Ladyship's good will to go to the world,  
 FTLN 0341 Isbel the woman and I will do as we may. 20

FTLN 0342 COUNTESS Wilt thou needs be a beggar?

FTLN 0343 FOOL I do beg your good will in this case.

FTLN 0344 COUNTESS In what case?

FTLN 0345 FOOL In Isbel's case and mine own. Service is no heritage,  
 FTLN 0346 and I think I shall never have the blessing of 25  
 FTLN 0347 God till I have issue o' my body, for they say bairns  
 FTLN 0348 are blessings.

FTLN 0349 COUNTESS Tell me thy reason why thou wilt marry.

FTLN 0350 FOOL My poor body, madam, requires it. I am driven  
 FTLN 0351 on by the flesh, and he must needs go that the devil 30  
 FTLN 0352 drives.

FTLN 0353 COUNTESS Is this all your Worship's reason?

FTLN 0354 FOOL Faith, madam, I have other holy reasons, such  
 FTLN 0355 as they are.

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FTLN 0356	COUNTESS	May the world know them?	35
FTLN 0357	FOOL	I have been, madam, a wicked creature, as you	
FTLN 0358		and all flesh and blood are, and indeed I do marry	
FTLN 0359		that I may repent.	
FTLN 0360	COUNTESS	Thy marriage sooner than thy wickedness.	
FTLN 0361	FOOL	I am out o' friends, madam, and I hope to have	40
FTLN 0362		friends for my wife's sake.	
FTLN 0363	COUNTESS	Such friends are thine enemies, knave.	
FTLN 0364	FOOL	You're shallow, madam, in great friends, for the	
FTLN 0365		knaves come to do that for me which I am weary	
FTLN 0366		of. He that ears my land spares my team and gives	45
FTLN 0367		me leave to in the crop; if I be his cuckold, he's my	
FTLN 0368		drudge. He that comforts my wife is the cherisher	
FTLN 0369		of my flesh and blood; he that cherishes my flesh	
FTLN 0370		and blood loves my flesh and blood; he that loves	
FTLN 0371		my flesh and blood is my friend. <i>Ergo</i> , he that	50
FTLN 0372		kisses my wife is my friend. If men could be contented	
FTLN 0373		to be what they are, there were no fear in	
FTLN 0374		marriage, for young Charbon the Puritan and old	
FTLN 0375		Poysam the Papist, howsome'er their hearts are	
FTLN 0376		severed in religion, their heads are both one; they	55
FTLN 0377		may jowl horns together like any deer i' th' herd.	
FTLN 0378	COUNTESS	Wilt thou ever be a foul-mouthed and	
FTLN 0379		calumnious knave?	
FTLN 0380	FOOL	A prophet I, madam, and I speak the truth the	
FTLN 0381		next way:	60
FTLN 0382		「 <i>Sings.</i> 」 For I the ballad will repeat	
FTLN 0383		Which men full true shall find:	
FTLN 0384		Your marriage comes by destiny;	
FTLN 0385		Your cuckoo sings by kind.	
FTLN 0386	COUNTESS	Get you gone, sir. I'll talk with you more	65
FTLN 0387		anon.	
FTLN 0388	STEWARD	May it please you, madam, that he bid Helen	
FTLN 0389		come to you. Of her I am to speak.	
FTLN 0390	COUNTESS	Sirrah, tell my gentlewoman I would speak	
FTLN 0391		with her—Helen, I mean.	70

FOOL [*sings*]

FTLN 0392	“Was this fair face the cause,” quoth she,	
FTLN 0393	“Why the Grecians sackèd Troy?	
FTLN 0394	Fond done, done fond.	
FTLN 0395	Was this King Priam’s joy?”	
FTLN 0396	With that she sighèd as she stood,	75
FTLN 0397	With that she sighèd as she stood,	
FTLN 0398	And gave this sentence then:	
FTLN 0399	“Among nine bad if one be good,	
FTLN 0400	Among nine bad if one be good,	
FTLN 0401	There’s yet one good in ten.”	80
FTLN 0402	COUNTESS What, one good in ten? You corrupt the	
FTLN 0403	song, sirrah.	
FTLN 0404	FOOL One good woman in ten, madam, which is a	
FTLN 0405	purifying o’ th’ song. Would God would serve the	
FTLN 0406	world so all the year! We’d find no fault with the	85
FTLN 0407	tithe-woman if I were the parson. One in ten,	
FTLN 0408	quoth he? An we might have a good woman born	
FTLN 0409	but [ <i>or</i> ] every blazing star or at an earthquake,	
FTLN 0410	’twould mend the lottery well. A man may draw his	
FTLN 0411	heart out ere he pluck one.	90
FTLN 0412	COUNTESS You’ll be gone, sir knave, and do as I command	
FTLN 0413	you!	
FTLN 0414	FOOL That man should be at woman’s command, and	
FTLN 0415	yet no hurt done! Though honesty be no Puritan,	
FTLN 0416	yet it will do no hurt; it will wear the surplice of	95
FTLN 0417	humility over the black gown of a big heart. I am	
FTLN 0418	going, forsooth. The business is for Helen to come	
FTLN 0419	hither. <i>He exits.</i>	
FTLN 0420	COUNTESS Well, now.	
FTLN 0421	STEWARD I know, madam, you love your gentlewoman	100
FTLN 0422	entirely.	
FTLN 0423	COUNTESS Faith, I do. Her father bequeathed her to	
FTLN 0424	me, and she herself, without other advantage, may	
FTLN 0425	lawfully make title to as much love as she finds.	
FTLN 0426	There is more owing her than is paid, and more	105
FTLN 0427	shall be paid her than she’ll demand.	

FTLN 0428 STEWARD Madam, I was very late more near her than I  
 FTLN 0429 think she wished me. Alone she was and did communicate  
 FTLN 0430 to herself her own words to her own  
 FTLN 0431 ears; she thought, I dare vow for her, they touched 110  
 FTLN 0432 not any stranger sense. Her matter was she loved  
 FTLN 0433 your son. Fortune, she said, was no goddess, that  
 FTLN 0434 had put such difference betwixt their two estates;  
 FTLN 0435 Love no god, that would not extend his might only  
 FTLN 0436 where qualities were level; 「Dian no」 queen of virgins, 115  
 FTLN 0437 that would suffer her poor knight surprised  
 FTLN 0438 without rescue in the first assault or ransom afterward.  
 FTLN 0439 This she delivered in the most bitter touch  
 FTLN 0440 of sorrow that e'er I heard virgin exclaim in, which  
 FTLN 0441 I held my duty speedily to acquaint you withal, 120  
 FTLN 0442 sithence in the loss that may happen it concerns  
 FTLN 0443 you something to know it.  
 FTLN 0444 COUNTESS You have discharged this honestly. Keep it  
 FTLN 0445 to yourself. Many likelihoods informed me of this  
 FTLN 0446 before, which hung so tott'ring in the balance that 125  
 FTLN 0447 I could neither believe nor misdoubt. Pray you  
 FTLN 0448 leave me. Stall this in your bosom, and I thank you  
 FTLN 0449 for your honest care. I will speak with you further  
 FTLN 0450 anon. *Steward exits.*

*Enter Helen.*

「*Aside.*」  
 FTLN 0451 Even so it was with me when I was young. 130  
 FTLN 0452 If ever we are nature's, these are ours. This thorn  
 FTLN 0453 Doth to our rose of youth rightly belong.  
 FTLN 0454 Our blood to us, this to our blood is born.  
 FTLN 0455 It is the show and seal of nature's truth,  
 FTLN 0456 Where love's strong passion is impressed in youth. 135  
 FTLN 0457 By our remembrances of days foregone,  
 FTLN 0458 Such were our faults, or then we thought them none.  
 FTLN 0459 Her eye is sick on 't, I observe her now.  
 FTLN 0460 HELEN What is your pleasure, madam?

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	COUNTESS	
FTLN 0461	You know, Helen, I am a mother to you.	140
	HELEN	
FTLN 0462	Mine honorable mistress.	
FTLN 0463	COUNTESS	Nay, a mother.
FTLN 0464	Why not a mother? When I said “a mother,”	
FTLN 0465	Methought you saw a serpent. What’s in “mother”	
FTLN 0466	That you start at it? I say I am your mother	145
FTLN 0467	And put you in the catalogue of those	
FTLN 0468	That were enwombèd mine. ’Tis often seen	
FTLN 0469	Adoption strives with nature, and choice breeds	
FTLN 0470	A native slip to us from foreign seeds.	
FTLN 0471	You ne’er oppressed me with a mother’s groan,	150
FTLN 0472	Yet I express to you a mother’s care.	
FTLN 0473	God’s mercy, maiden, does it curd thy blood	
FTLN 0474	To say I am thy mother? What’s the matter,	
FTLN 0475	That this distempered messenger of wet,	
FTLN 0476	The many-colored Iris, rounds thine eye?	155
FTLN 0477	Why? That you are my daughter?	
FTLN 0478	HELEN	That I am not.
	COUNTESS	
FTLN 0479	I say I am your mother.	
FTLN 0480	HELEN	Pardon, madam.
FTLN 0481	The Count Rossillion cannot be my brother.	160
FTLN 0482	I am from humble, he from honored name;	
FTLN 0483	No note upon my parents, his all noble.	
FTLN 0484	My master, my dear lord he is, and I	
FTLN 0485	His servant live and will his vassal die.	
FTLN 0486	He must not be my brother.	165
FTLN 0487	COUNTESS	Nor I your mother?
	HELEN	
FTLN 0488	You are my mother, madam. Would you were—	
FTLN 0489	So that my lord your son were not my brother—	
FTLN 0490	Indeed my mother! Or were you both our mothers,	
FTLN 0491	I care no more for than I do for heaven,	170
FTLN 0492	So I were not his sister. Can ’t no other	

FTLN 0493	But, I your daughter, he must be my brother?	
	COUNTESS	
FTLN 0494	Yes, Helen, you might be my daughter-in-law.	
FTLN 0495	God shield you mean it not! "Daughter" and "mother"	
FTLN 0496	So strive upon your pulse. What, pale again?	175
FTLN 0497	My fear hath caught your fondness! Now I see	
FTLN 0498	The mystery of your <sup>1</sup> loneliness and find	
FTLN 0499	Your salt tears' head. Now to all sense 'tis gross:	
FTLN 0500	You love my son. Invention is ashamed	
FTLN 0501	Against the proclamation of thy passion	180
FTLN 0502	To say thou dost not. Therefore tell me true,	
FTLN 0503	But tell me then 'tis so, for, look, thy cheeks	
FTLN 0504	Confess it th' one to th' other, and thine eyes	
FTLN 0505	See it so grossly shown in thy behaviors	
FTLN 0506	That in their kind they speak it. Only sin	185
FTLN 0507	And hellish obstinacy tie thy tongue	
FTLN 0508	That truth should be suspected. Speak. Is 't so?	
FTLN 0509	If it be so, you have wound a goodly clew;	
FTLN 0510	If it be not, forswear 't; howe'er, I charge thee,	
FTLN 0511	As heaven shall work in me for thine avail,	190
FTLN 0512	To tell me truly.	
FTLN 0513	HELEN                      Good madam, pardon me.	
	COUNTESS	
FTLN 0514	Do you love my son?	
FTLN 0515	HELEN                      Your pardon, noble mistress.	
	COUNTESS	
FTLN 0516	Love you my son?	195
FTLN 0517	HELEN                      Do not you love him, madam?	
	COUNTESS	
FTLN 0518	Go not about. My love hath in 't a bond	
FTLN 0519	Whereof the world takes note. Come, come, disclose	
FTLN 0520	The state of your affection, for your passions	
FTLN 0521	Have to the full appeached.	200
FTLN 0522	HELEN, <sup>1</sup> kneeling                      Then I confess	
FTLN 0523	Here on my knee before high heaven and you	
FTLN 0524	That before you and next unto high heaven	

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FTLN 0525	I love your son.	
FTLN 0526	My friends were poor but honest; so 's my love.	205
FTLN 0527	Be not offended, for it hurts not him	
FTLN 0528	That he is loved of me. I follow him not	
FTLN 0529	By any token of presumptuous suit,	
FTLN 0530	Nor would I have him till I do deserve him,	
FTLN 0531	Yet never know how that desert should be.	210
FTLN 0532	I know I love in vain, strive against hope,	
FTLN 0533	Yet in this captious and intenable sieve	
FTLN 0534	I still pour in the waters of my love	
FTLN 0535	And lack not to lose still. Thus, Indian-like,	
FTLN 0536	Religious in mine error, I adore	215
FTLN 0537	The sun that looks upon his worshipper	
FTLN 0538	But knows of him no more. My dearest madam,	
FTLN 0539	Let not your hate encounter with my love	
FTLN 0540	For loving where you do; but if yourself,	
FTLN 0541	Whose aged honor cites a virtuous youth,	220
FTLN 0542	Did ever in so true a flame of liking	
FTLN 0543	Wish chastely and love dearly, that your Dian	
FTLN 0544	Was both herself and Love, O then give pity	
FTLN 0545	To her whose state is such that cannot choose	
FTLN 0546	But lend and give where she is sure to lose;	225
FTLN 0547	That seeks not to find that her search implies,	
FTLN 0548	But riddle-like lives sweetly where she dies.	
	COUNTESS	
FTLN 0549	Had you not lately an intent—speak truly—	
FTLN 0550	To go to Paris?	
FTLN 0551	HELEN                    Madam, I had.	230
FTLN 0552	COUNTESS                                    Wherefore?	
FTLN 0553	Tell true.	
	HELEN, <i>standing</i>	
FTLN 0554	I will tell truth, by grace itself I swear.	
FTLN 0555	You know my father left me some prescriptions	
FTLN 0556	Of rare and proved effects, such as his reading	235
FTLN 0557	And manifest experience had collected	
FTLN 0558	For general sovereignty; and that he willed me	



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FTLN 0559	In heedfull'st reservation to bestow them	
FTLN 0560	As notes whose faculties inclusive were	
FTLN 0561	More than they were in note. Amongst the rest	240
FTLN 0562	There is a remedy, approved, set down,	
FTLN 0563	To cure the desperate languishings whereof	
FTLN 0564	The King is rendered lost.	
	COUNTESS	
FTLN 0565	This was your motive for Paris, was it? Speak.	
	HELEN	
FTLN 0566	My lord your son made me to think of this;	245
FTLN 0567	Else Paris, and the medicine, and the King	
FTLN 0568	Had from the conversation of my thoughts	
FTLN 0569	Haply been absent then.	
FTLN 0570	COUNTESS	But think you, Helen,
FTLN 0571	If you should tender your supposed aid,	250
FTLN 0572	He would receive it? He and his physicians	
FTLN 0573	Are of a mind: he that they cannot help him,	
FTLN 0574	They that they cannot help. How shall they credit	
FTLN 0575	A poor unlearnèd virgin, when the schools	
FTLN 0576	Emboweled of their doctrine have left off	255
FTLN 0577	The danger to itself?	
FTLN 0578	HELEN	There's something in 't
FTLN 0579	More than my father's skill, which was the great'st	
FTLN 0580	Of his profession, that his good receipt	
FTLN 0581	Shall for my legacy be sanctified	260
FTLN 0582	By th' luckiest stars in heaven; and would your	
FTLN 0583	Honor	
FTLN 0584	But give me leave to try success, I'd venture	
FTLN 0585	The well-lost life of mine on his Grace's cure	
FTLN 0586	By such a day, an hour.	265
FTLN 0587	COUNTESS	Dost thou believe 't?
FTLN 0588	HELEN	Ay, madam, knowingly.
	COUNTESS	
FTLN 0589	Why, Helen, thou shalt have my leave and love,	
FTLN 0590	Means and attendants, and my loving greetings	
FTLN 0591	To those of mine in court. I'll stay at home	270

FTLN 0592

And pray God's blessing into thy attempt.

FTLN 0593

Be gone tomorrow, and be sure of this:

FTLN 0594

What I can help thee to thou shalt not miss.

*They exit.*

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## ACT 2

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「Scene 1」

*Flourish cornets. Enter the King, 「attended,」 with divers young Lords, taking leave for the Florentine war; 「Bertram」 Count Rossillion, and Parolles.*

KING

FTLN 0595 Farewell, young lords. These warlike principles  
FTLN 0596 Do not throw from you.—And you, my lords,  
FTLN 0597 farewell.  
FTLN 0598 Share the advice betwixt you. If both gain all,  
FTLN 0599 The gift doth stretch itself as 'tis received  
FTLN 0600 And is enough for both.

5

FIRST LORD 'Tis our hope, sir,  
After well-entered soldiers, to return  
And find your Grace in health.

KING

FTLN 0604 No, no, it cannot be. And yet my heart  
FTLN 0605 Will not confess he owes the malady  
FTLN 0606 That doth my life besiege. Farewell, young lords.  
FTLN 0607 Whether I live or die, be you the sons  
FTLN 0608 Of worthy Frenchmen. Let higher Italy—  
FTLN 0609 Those bated that inherit but the fall  
FTLN 0610 Of the last monarchy—see that you come  
FTLN 0611 Not to woo honor but to wed it. When  
FTLN 0612 The bravest questant shrinks, find what you seek,  
FTLN 0613 That fame may cry you loud. I say farewell.

10

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	FIRST LORD	
FTLN 0614	Health at your bidding serve your Majesty!	20
	KING	
FTLN 0615	Those girls of Italy, take heed of them.	
FTLN 0616	They say our French lack language to deny	
FTLN 0617	If they demand. Beware of being captives	
FTLN 0618	Before you serve.	
FTLN 0619	LORDS Our hearts receive your warnings.	25
FTLN 0620	KING Farewell.—Come hither to me.	
	<i>['The King speaks to Attendants, while Bertram, Parolles, and other Lords come forward.]</i>	
	FIRST LORD, <i>['to Bertram']</i>	
FTLN 0621	O my sweet lord, that you will stay behind us!	
	PAROLLES	
FTLN 0622	'Tis not his fault, the spark.	
FTLN 0623	SECOND LORD O, 'tis brave wars.	
	PAROLLES	
FTLN 0624	Most admirable. I have seen those wars.	30
	BERTRAM	
FTLN 0625	I am commanded here and kept a coil	
FTLN 0626	With "Too young," and "The next year," and "'Tis	
FTLN 0627	too early."	
	PAROLLES	
FTLN 0628	An thy mind stand to 't, boy, steal away bravely.	
	BERTRAM	
FTLN 0629	I shall stay here the forehorse to a smock,	35
FTLN 0630	Creaking my shoes on the plain masonry	
FTLN 0631	Till honor be bought up, and no sword worn	
FTLN 0632	But one to dance with. By heaven, I'll steal away!	
	FIRST LORD	
FTLN 0633	There's honor in the theft.	
FTLN 0634	PAROLLES Commit it, count.	40
	SECOND LORD	
FTLN 0635	I am your accessory. And so, farewell.	
FTLN 0636	BERTRAM I grow to you, and our parting is a tortured	
FTLN 0637	body.	

FTLN 0638	FIRST LORD	Farewell, captain.	
FTLN 0639	SECOND LORD	Sweet Monsieur Parolles.	45
FTLN 0640	PAROLLES	Noble heroes, my sword and yours are kin.	
FTLN 0641		Good sparks and lustrous, a word, good metals.	
FTLN 0642		You shall find in the regiment of the Spinii one	
FTLN 0643		Captain Spurio <i>「with」</i> his cicatrice, an emblem of	
FTLN 0644		war, here on his sinister cheek. It was this very	50
FTLN 0645		sword entrenched it. Say to him I live, and observe	
FTLN 0646		his reports for me.	
FTLN 0647	FIRST LORD	We shall, noble captain.	
FTLN 0648	PAROLLES	Mars dote on you for his novices.	
		<i>「Lords exit.」</i>	
FTLN 0649		<i>「To Bertram.」</i> What will you do?	55
FTLN 0650	BERTRAM	Stay the King.	
FTLN 0651	PAROLLES	Use a more spacious ceremony to the noble	
FTLN 0652		lords. You have restrained yourself within the list	
FTLN 0653		of too cold an adieu. Be more expressive to them,	
FTLN 0654		for they wear themselves in the cap of the time;	60
FTLN 0655		there do muster true gait; eat, speak, and move	
FTLN 0656		under the influence of the most received star, and,	
FTLN 0657		though the devil lead the measure, such are to be	
FTLN 0658		followed. After them, and take a more dilated	
FTLN 0659		farewell.	65
FTLN 0660	BERTRAM	And I will do so.	
FTLN 0661	PAROLLES	Worthy fellows, and like to prove most	
FTLN 0662		sinewy swordmen. <i>「Bertram and Parolles」 exit.</i>	
		<i>Enter Lafew, 「to the King.」</i>	
	LAFEW, <i>「kneeling」</i>		
FTLN 0663		Pardon, my lord, for me and for my tidings.	
FTLN 0664	KING	I'll <i>「fee」</i> thee to stand up.	70
	LAFEW, <i>「standing」</i>		
FTLN 0665		Then here's a man stands that has brought his	
FTLN 0666		pardon.	
FTLN 0667		I would you had kneeled, my lord, to ask me mercy,	
FTLN 0668		And that at my bidding you could so stand up.	

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	KING		
FTLN 0669	I would I had, so I had broke thy pate		75
FTLN 0670	And asked thee mercy for 't.		
FTLN 0671	LAFEW	Good faith, across.	
FTLN 0672	But, my good lord, 'tis thus: will you be cured		
FTLN 0673	Of your infirmity?		
FTLN 0674	KING	No.	80
FTLN 0675	LAFEW	O, will you eat	
FTLN 0676	No grapes, my royal fox? Yes, but you will		
FTLN 0677	My noble grapes, an if my royal fox		
FTLN 0678	Could reach them. I have seen a medicine		
FTLN 0679	That's able to breathe life into a stone,		85
FTLN 0680	Quicken a rock, and make you dance canary		
FTLN 0681	With sprightly fire and motion, whose simple touch		
FTLN 0682	Is powerful to araise King Pippen, nay,		
FTLN 0683	To give great Charlemagne a pen in 's hand		
FTLN 0684	And write to her a love line.		90
FTLN 0685	KING	What "her" is this?	
	LAFEW		
FTLN 0686	Why, Doctor She. My lord, there's one arrived,		
FTLN 0687	If you will see her. Now, by my faith and honor,		
FTLN 0688	If seriously I may convey my thoughts		
FTLN 0689	In this my light deliverance, I have spoke		95
FTLN 0690	With one that in her sex, her years, profession,		
FTLN 0691	Wisdom, and constancy hath amazed me more		
FTLN 0692	Than I dare blame my weakness. Will you see her—		
FTLN 0693	For that is her demand—and know her business?		
FTLN 0694	That done, laugh well at me.		100
FTLN 0695	KING	Now, good Lafew,	
FTLN 0696	Bring in the admiration, that we with thee		
FTLN 0697	May spend our wonder too, or take off thine		
FTLN 0698	By wond'ring how thou took'st it.		
FTLN 0699	LAFEW	Nay, I'll fit you,	105
FTLN 0700	And not be all day neither.		
		<i>〔He goes to bring in Helen.〕</i>	
	KING		
FTLN 0701	Thus he his special nothing ever prologues.		

*Enter Helen.*

FTLN 0702	LAFEW, [to Helen]	Nay, come your ways.	
FTLN 0703	KING	This haste hath wings indeed.	
FTLN 0704	LAFEW	Nay, come your ways.	110
FTLN 0705		This is his Majesty. Say your mind to him.	
FTLN 0706		A traitor you do look like, but such traitors	
FTLN 0707		His Majesty seldom fears. I am Cressid's uncle	
FTLN 0708		That dare leave two together. Fare you well.	
		<i>He exits.</i>	
	KING		
FTLN 0709		Now, fair one, does your business follow us?	115
FTLN 0710	HELEN	Ay, my good lord,	
FTLN 0711		Gerard de Narbon was my father,	
FTLN 0712		In what he did profess well found.	
FTLN 0713	KING	I knew him.	
	HELEN		
FTLN 0714		The rather will I spare my praises towards him.	120
FTLN 0715		Knowing him is enough. On 's bed of death	
FTLN 0716		Many receipts he gave me, chiefly one	
FTLN 0717		Which, as the dearest issue of his practice,	
FTLN 0718		And of his old experience th' only darling,	
FTLN 0719		He bade me store up as a triple eye,	125
FTLN 0720		Safer than mine own two, more dear. I have so,	
FTLN 0721		And hearing your high Majesty is touched	
FTLN 0722		With that malignant cause wherein the honor	
FTLN 0723		Of my dear father's gift stands chief in power,	
FTLN 0724		I come to tender it and my appliance	130
FTLN 0725		With all bound humbleness.	
FTLN 0726	KING	We thank you, maiden,	
FTLN 0727		But may not be so credulous of cure,	
FTLN 0728		When our most learnèd doctors leave us and	
FTLN 0729		The congregated college have concluded	135
FTLN 0730		That laboring art can never ransom nature	
FTLN 0731		From her inaidible estate. I say we must not	
FTLN 0732		So stain our judgment or corrupt our hope	

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FTLN 0733	To prostitute our past-cure malady	
FTLN 0734	To empirics, or to dissever so	140
FTLN 0735	Our great self and our credit to esteem	
FTLN 0736	A senseless help when help past sense we deem.	
	HELEN	
FTLN 0737	My duty, then, shall pay me for my pains.	
FTLN 0738	I will no more enforce mine office on you,	
FTLN 0739	Humbly entreating from your royal thoughts	145
FTLN 0740	A modest one to bear me back again.	
	KING	
FTLN 0741	I cannot give thee less, to be called grateful.	
FTLN 0742	Thou thought'st to help me, and such thanks I give	
FTLN 0743	As one near death to those that wish him live.	
FTLN 0744	But what at full I know, thou know'st no part,	150
FTLN 0745	I knowing all my peril, thou no art.	
	HELEN	
FTLN 0746	What I can do can do no hurt to try	
FTLN 0747	Since you set up your rest 'gainst remedy.	
FTLN 0748	He that of greatest works is finisher	
FTLN 0749	Oft does them by the weakest minister.	155
FTLN 0750	So holy writ in babes hath judgment shown	
FTLN 0751	When judges have been babes. Great floods have flown	
FTLN 0752	From simple sources, and great seas have dried	
FTLN 0753	When miracles have by the great'st been denied.	
FTLN 0754	Oft expectation fails, and most oft there	160
FTLN 0755	Where most it promises, and oft it hits	
FTLN 0756	Where hope is coldest and despair most shifts.	
	KING	
FTLN 0757	I must not hear thee. Fare thee well, kind maid.	
FTLN 0758	Thy pains, not used, must by thyself be paid.	
FTLN 0759	Proffers not took reap thanks for their reward.	165
	HELEN	
FTLN 0760	Inspirèd merit so by breath is barred.	
FTLN 0761	It is not so with Him that all things knows	
FTLN 0762	As 'tis with us that square our guess by shows;	
FTLN 0763	But most it is presumption in us when	



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FTLN 0764	The help of heaven we count the act of men.	170
FTLN 0765	Dear sir, to my endeavors give consent.	
FTLN 0766	Of heaven, not me, make an experiment.	
FTLN 0767	I am not an impostor that proclaim	
FTLN 0768	Myself against the level of mine aim,	
FTLN 0769	But know I think and think I know most sure	175
FTLN 0770	My art is not past power nor you past cure.	
	KING	
FTLN 0771	Art thou so confident? Within what space	
FTLN 0772	Hop'st thou my cure?	
FTLN 0773	HELEN                               The greatest grace lending grace,	
FTLN 0774	Ere twice the horses of the sun shall bring	180
FTLN 0775	Their fiery torcher his diurnal ring;	
FTLN 0776	Ere twice in murk and occidental damp	
FTLN 0777	Moist Hesperus hath quenched her sleepy lamp;	
FTLN 0778	Or four and twenty times the pilot's glass	
FTLN 0779	Hath told the thievish minutes, how they pass,	185
FTLN 0780	What is infirm from your sound parts shall fly,	
FTLN 0781	Health shall live free, and sickness freely die.	
	KING	
FTLN 0782	Upon thy certainty and confidence	
FTLN 0783	What dar'st thou venture?	
FTLN 0784	HELEN                               Tax of impudence,	190
FTLN 0785	A strumpet's boldness, a divulgèd shame;	
FTLN 0786	Traduced by odious ballads, my maiden's name	
FTLN 0787	Seared otherwise; nay, worse of worst, extended	
FTLN 0788	With vilest torture let my life be ended.	
	KING	
FTLN 0789	Methinks in thee some blessèd spirit doth speak	195
FTLN 0790	His powerful sound within an organ weak,	
FTLN 0791	And what impossibility would slay	
FTLN 0792	In common sense, sense saves another way.	
FTLN 0793	Thy life is dear, for all that life can rate	
FTLN 0794	Worth name of life in thee hath estimate:	200
FTLN 0795	Youth, beauty, wisdom, courage, all	
FTLN 0796	That happiness and prime can happy call.	

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FTLN 0797	Thou this to hazard needs must intimate	
FTLN 0798	Skill infinite or monstrous desperate.	
FTLN 0799	Sweet practicer, thy physic I will try,	205
FTLN 0800	That ministers thine own death if I die.	
	HELEN	
FTLN 0801	If I break time or flinch in property	
FTLN 0802	Of what I spoke, unpitied let me die,	
FTLN 0803	And well deserved. Not helping, death's my fee.	
FTLN 0804	But if I help, what do you promise me?	210
	KING	
FTLN 0805	Make thy demand.	
FTLN 0806	HELEN But will you make it even?	
	KING	
FTLN 0807	Ay, by my scepter and my hopes of heaven.	
	HELEN	
FTLN 0808	Then shalt thou give me with thy kingly hand	
FTLN 0809	What husband in thy power I will command.	215
FTLN 0810	Exempted be from me the arrogance	
FTLN 0811	To choose from forth the royal blood of France,	
FTLN 0812	My low and humble name to propagate	
FTLN 0813	With any branch or image of thy state;	
FTLN 0814	But such a one, thy vassal, whom I know	220
FTLN 0815	Is free for me to ask, thee to bestow.	
	KING	
FTLN 0816	Here is my hand. The premises observed,	
FTLN 0817	Thy will by my performance shall be served.	
FTLN 0818	So make the choice of thy own time, for I,	
FTLN 0819	Thy resolved patient, on thee still rely.	225
FTLN 0820	More should I question thee, and more I must,	
FTLN 0821	Though more to know could not be more to trust:	
FTLN 0822	From whence thou cam'st, how tended on; but rest	
FTLN 0823	Unquestioned welcome and undoubted blessed.—	
FTLN 0824	Give me some help here, ho!—If thou proceed	230
FTLN 0825	As high as word, my deed shall match thy deed.	
	<i>Flourish. They exit, the King assisted.</i>	

## [Scene 2]

*Enter Countess and [Fool.]*

FTLN 0826	COUNTESS	Come on, sir. I shall now put you to the	
FTLN 0827		height of your breeding.	
FTLN 0828	FOOL	I will show myself highly fed and lowly taught. I	
FTLN 0829		know my business is but to the court.	
FTLN 0830	COUNTESS	“To the court”? Why, what place make you	5
FTLN 0831		special when you put off that with such contempt?	
FTLN 0832		“But to the court”?	
FTLN 0833	FOOL	Truly, madam, if God have lent a man any manners,	
FTLN 0834		he may easily put it off at court. He that cannot	
FTLN 0835		make a leg, put off ’s cap, kiss his hand, and	10
FTLN 0836		say nothing, has neither leg, hands, lip, nor cap;	
FTLN 0837		and indeed such a fellow, to say precisely, were	
FTLN 0838		not for the court. But, for me, I have an answer	
FTLN 0839		will serve all men.	
FTLN 0840	COUNTESS	Marry, that’s a bountiful answer that fits all	15
FTLN 0841		questions.	
FTLN 0842	FOOL	It is like a barber’s chair that fits all buttocks:	
FTLN 0843		the pin-buttock, the quatch-buttock, the brawn-buttock,	
FTLN 0844		or any buttock.	
FTLN 0845	COUNTESS	Will your answer serve fit to all questions?	20
FTLN 0846	FOOL	As fit as ten groats is for the hand of an attorney,	
FTLN 0847		as your French crown for your taffety punk, as	
FTLN 0848		Tib’s rush for Tom’s forefinger, as a pancake for	
FTLN 0849		Shrove Tuesday, a morris for May Day, as the nail	
FTLN 0850		to his hole, the cuckold to his horn, as a scolding	25
FTLN 0851		quean to a wrangling knave, as the nun’s lip to the	
FTLN 0852		friar’s mouth, nay, as the pudding to his skin.	
FTLN 0853	COUNTESS	Have you, I say, an answer of such fitness	
FTLN 0854		for all questions?	
FTLN 0855	FOOL	From below your duke to beneath your constable,	30
FTLN 0856		it will fit any question.	
FTLN 0857	COUNTESS	It must be an answer of most monstrous	
FTLN 0858		size that must fit all demands.	

FTLN 0859	FOOL	But a trifle neither, in good faith, if the learned	
FTLN 0860		should speak truth of it. Here it is, and all that	35
FTLN 0861		belongs to 't. Ask me if I am a courtier; it shall do	
FTLN 0862		you no harm to learn.	
FTLN 0863	COUNTESS	To be young again, if we could! I will be a	
FTLN 0864		fool in question, hoping to be the wiser by your	
FTLN 0865		answer. I pray you, sir, are you a courtier?	40
FTLN 0866	FOOL	O Lord, sir!—There's a simple putting off. More,	
FTLN 0867		more, a hundred of them.	
FTLN 0868	COUNTESS	Sir, I am a poor friend of yours that loves	
FTLN 0869		you.	
FTLN 0870	FOOL	O Lord, sir!—Thick, thick. Spare not me.	45
FTLN 0871	COUNTESS	I think, sir, you can eat none of this homely	
FTLN 0872		meat.	
FTLN 0873	FOOL	O Lord, sir!—Nay, put me to 't, I warrant you.	
FTLN 0874	COUNTESS	You were lately whipped, sir, as I think.	
FTLN 0875	FOOL	O Lord, sir!—Spare not me.	50
FTLN 0876	COUNTESS	Do you cry "O Lord, sir!" at your whipping,	
FTLN 0877		and "spare not me"? Indeed your "O Lord, sir!" is	
FTLN 0878		very sequent to your whipping. You would answer	
FTLN 0879		very well to a whipping if you were but bound to 't.	
FTLN 0880	FOOL	I ne'er had worse luck in my life in my "O Lord,	55
FTLN 0881		sir!" I see things may serve long but not serve ever.	
FTLN 0882	COUNTESS	I play the noble huswife with the time to	
FTLN 0883		entertain it so merrily with a fool.	
FTLN 0884	FOOL	O Lord, sir!—Why, there 't serves well again.	
	COUNTESS,	<i>「giving him a paper」</i>	
FTLN 0885		<i>「An」</i> end, sir. To your business. Give Helen this,	60
FTLN 0886		And urge her to a present answer back.	
FTLN 0887		Commend me to my kinsmen and my son.	
FTLN 0888		This is not much.	
FTLN 0889	FOOL	Not much commendation to them?	
	COUNTESS		
FTLN 0890		Not much employment for you. You understand me.	65
FTLN 0891	FOOL	Most fruitfully. I am there before my legs.	
FTLN 0892	COUNTESS	Haste you again.	

*They exit.*

## [Scene 3]

*Enter Count [Bertram,] Lafew, and Parolles.*

FTLN 0893	LAFEW	They say miracles are past, and we have our	
FTLN 0894		philosophical persons to make modern and familiar	
FTLN 0895		things supernatural and causeless. Hence is it	
FTLN 0896		that we make trifles of terrors, ensconcing ourselves	
FTLN 0897		into seeming knowledge when we should	5
FTLN 0898		submit ourselves to an unknown fear.	
FTLN 0899	PAROLLES	Why, 'tis the rarest argument of wonder that	
FTLN 0900		hath shot out in our latter times.	
FTLN 0901	BERTRAM	And so 'tis.	
FTLN 0902	LAFEW	To be relinquished of the artists—	10
FTLN 0903	PAROLLES	So I say, both of Galen and Paracelsus.	
FTLN 0904	LAFEW	Of all the learned and authentic fellows—	
FTLN 0905	PAROLLES	Right, so I say.	
FTLN 0906	LAFEW	That gave him out incurable—	
FTLN 0907	PAROLLES	Why, there 'tis. So say I too.	15
FTLN 0908	LAFEW	Not to be helped.	
FTLN 0909	PAROLLES	Right, as 'twere a man assured of a—	
FTLN 0910	LAFEW	Uncertain life and sure death.	
FTLN 0911	PAROLLES	Just. You say well. So would I have said.	
FTLN 0912	LAFEW	I may truly say it is a novelty to the world.	20
FTLN 0913	PAROLLES	It is indeed. If you will have it in showing,	
FTLN 0914		you shall read it in what-do-you-call there.	
		<i>[He points to a paper in Lafew's hand.]</i>	
FTLN 0915	LAFEW [reads]	<i>A showing of a heavenly effect in an earthly</i>	
FTLN 0916		<i>actor.</i>	
FTLN 0917	PAROLLES	That's it. I would have said the very same.	25
FTLN 0918	LAFEW	Why, your dolphin is not lustier. 'Fore me, I	
FTLN 0919		speak in respect—	
FTLN 0920	PAROLLES	Nay, 'tis strange, 'tis very strange; that is the	
FTLN 0921		brief and the tedious of it; and he's of a most facinorous	
FTLN 0922		spirit that will not acknowledge it to be	30
FTLN 0923		the—	
FTLN 0924	LAFEW	Very hand of heaven.	

FTLN 0925 PAROLLES Ay, so I say.  
 FTLN 0926 LAFEW In a most weak—  
 FTLN 0927 PAROLLES And debile minister. Great power, great 35  
 FTLN 0928 transcendence, which should indeed give us a further  
 FTLN 0929 use to be made than alone the recov'ry of the  
 FTLN 0930 King, as to be—  
 FTLN 0931 LAFEW Generally thankful.

*Enter King, Helen, and Attendants.*

FTLN 0932 PAROLLES I would have said it. You say well. Here 40  
 FTLN 0933 comes the King.  
 FTLN 0934 LAFEW *Lustig*, as the Dutchman says. I'll like a maid  
 FTLN 0935 the better whilst I have a tooth in my head. Why,  
 FTLN 0936 he's able to lead her a *coranto*.  
 FTLN 0937 PAROLLES *Mort du vinaigre!* Is not this Helen? 45  
 FTLN 0938 LAFEW 'Fore God, I think so.

KING

FTLN 0939 Go, call before me all the lords in court.  
*「An Attendant exits.」*  
 FTLN 0940 Sit, my preserver, by thy patient's side,  
 FTLN 0941 And with this healthful hand, whose banished sense  
 FTLN 0942 Thou hast repealed, a second time receive 50  
 FTLN 0943 The confirmation of my promised gift,  
 FTLN 0944 Which but attends thy naming.

*Enter three or four 「Court」 Lords.*

FTLN 0945 Fair maid, send forth thine eye. This youthful parcel  
 FTLN 0946 Of noble bachelors stand at my bestowing,  
 FTLN 0947 O'er whom both sovereign power and father's voice 55  
 FTLN 0948 I have to use. Thy frank election make.  
 FTLN 0949 Thou hast power to choose, and they none to forsake.  
 HELEN  
 FTLN 0950 To each of you one fair and virtuous mistress  
 FTLN 0951 Fall when Love please! Marry, to each but one.  
 LAFEW, *「aside」*  
 FTLN 0952 I'd give bay Curtal and his furniture 60

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FTLN 0953	My mouth no more were broken than these boys'	
FTLN 0954	And writ as little beard.	
FTLN 0955	KING Peruse them well.	
FTLN 0956	Not one of those but had a noble father.	
FTLN 0957	HELEN Gentlemen,	65
FTLN 0958	Heaven hath through me restored the King to health.	
	ALL	
FTLN 0959	We understand it and thank heaven for you.	
	HELEN	
FTLN 0960	I am a simple maid, and therein wealthiest	
FTLN 0961	That I protest I simply am a maid.—	
FTLN 0962	Please it your Majesty, I have done already.	70
FTLN 0963	The blushes in my cheeks thus whisper me:	
FTLN 0964	“We blush that thou shouldst choose; but, be	
FTLN 0965	refused,	
FTLN 0966	Let the white death sit on thy cheek forever;	
FTLN 0967	We'll ne'er come there again.”	75
FTLN 0968	KING Make choice and see.	
FTLN 0969	Who shuns thy love shuns all his love in me.	
	HELEN	
FTLN 0970	Now, Dian, from thy altar do I fly,	
FTLN 0971	And to imperial Love, that god most high,	
FTLN 0972	Do my sighs stream. <i>She addresses her to a Lord.</i>	80
FTLN 0973	Sir, will you hear my suit?	
	FIRST [COURT] LORD	
FTLN 0974	And grant it.	
FTLN 0975	HELEN Thanks, sir. All the	
FTLN 0976	rest is mute.	
FTLN 0977	LAFEW, [aside] I had rather be in this choice than	85
FTLN 0978	throw ambs-ace for my life.	
	HELEN, [to another Lord]	
FTLN 0979	The honor, sir, that flames in your fair eyes	
FTLN 0980	Before I speak too threat'ningly replies.	
FTLN 0981	Love make your fortunes twenty times above	
FTLN 0982	Her that so wishes, and her humble love.	90
	SECOND [COURT] LORD	
FTLN 0983	No better, if you please.	
FTLN 0984	HELEN My wish receive,	

FTLN 0985	Which great Love grant, and so I take my leave.	
FTLN 0986	LAFEW, <i>「aside」</i> Do all they deny her? An they were sons	
FTLN 0987	of mine, I'd have them whipped, or I would send	95
FTLN 0988	them to th' Turk to make eunuchs of.	
	HELEN, <i>「to another Lord」</i>	
FTLN 0989	Be not afraid that I your hand should take.	
FTLN 0990	I'll never do you wrong, for your own sake.	
FTLN 0991	Blessing upon your vows, and in your bed	
FTLN 0992	Find fairer fortune if you ever wed.	100
FTLN 0993	LAFEW, <i>「aside」</i> These boys are boys of ice; they'll none	
FTLN 0994	have <i>「her」</i> Sure they are bastards to the English;	
FTLN 0995	the French ne'er got 'em.	
	HELEN, <i>「to another Lord」</i>	
FTLN 0996	You are too young, too happy, and too good	
FTLN 0997	To make yourself a son out of my blood.	105
FTLN 0998	FOURTH <i>「COURT」</i> LORD Fair one, I think not so.	
FTLN 0999	LAFEW, <i>「aside」</i> There's one grape yet. I am sure thy	
FTLN 1000	father drunk wine. But if thou be'st not an ass, I	
FTLN 1001	am a youth of fourteen; I have known thee already.	
	HELEN, <i>「to Bertram」</i>	
FTLN 1002	I dare not say I take you, but I give	110
FTLN 1003	Me and my service ever whilst I live	
FTLN 1004	Into your guiding power.—This is the man.	
	KING	
FTLN 1005	Why then, young Bertram, take her. She's thy wife.	
	BERTRAM	
FTLN 1006	My wife, my liege? I shall beseech your Highness	
FTLN 1007	In such a business give me leave to use	115
FTLN 1008	The help of mine own eyes.	
FTLN 1009	KING	
FTLN 1010	Know'st thou not,	
FTLN 1011	Bertram,	
FTLN 1012	What she has done for me?	
FTLN 1013	BERTRAM	120
FTLN 1014	Yes, my good lord,	
FTLN 1015	But never hope to know why I should marry her.	
	KING	
FTLN 1016	Thou know'st she has raised me from my sickly bed.	



BERTRAM

FTLN 1015 But follows it, my lord, to bring me down  
 FTLN 1016 Must answer for your raising? I know her well;  
 FTLN 1017 She had her breeding at my father's charge. 125  
 FTLN 1018 A poor physician's daughter my wife? Disdain  
 FTLN 1019 Rather corrupt me ever!

KING

FTLN 1020 'Tis only title thou disdain'st in her, the which  
 FTLN 1021 I can build up. Strange is it that our bloods,  
 FTLN 1022 Of color, weight, and heat, poured all together, 130  
 FTLN 1023 Would quite confound distinction, yet stands off  
 FTLN 1024 In differences so mighty. If she be  
 FTLN 1025 All that is virtuous, save what thou dislik'st—  
 FTLN 1026 "A poor physician's daughter"—thou dislik'st  
 FTLN 1027 Of virtue for the name. But do not so. 135  
 FTLN 1028 From lowest place whence virtuous things proceed,  
 FTLN 1029 The place is dignified by th' doer's deed.  
 FTLN 1030 Where great additions swell 's, and virtue none,  
 FTLN 1031 It is a dropsied honor. Good alone  
 FTLN 1032 Is good, without a name; vileness is so; 140  
 FTLN 1033 The property by what 'it' is should go,  
 FTLN 1034 Not by the title. She is young, wise, fair;  
 FTLN 1035 In these to nature she's immediate heir,  
 FTLN 1036 And these breed honor. That is honor's scorn  
 FTLN 1037 Which challenges itself as honor's born 145  
 FTLN 1038 And is not like the sire. Honors thrive  
 FTLN 1039 When rather from our acts we them derive  
 FTLN 1040 Than our foregoers. The mere word's a slave  
 FTLN 1041 Debauched on every tomb, on every grave  
 FTLN 1042 A lying trophy, and as oft is dumb 150  
 FTLN 1043 Where dust and damned oblivion is the tomb  
 FTLN 1044 Of honored bones indeed. What should be said?  
 FTLN 1045 If thou canst like this creature as a maid,  
 FTLN 1046 I can create the rest. Virtue and she  
 FTLN 1047 Is her own dower, honor and wealth from me. 155

BERTRAM

FTLN 1048 I cannot love her, nor will strive to do 't.

KING

FTLN 1049 Thou wrong'st thyself if thou shouldst strive to  
FTLN 1050 choose.

HELEN

FTLN 1051 That you are well restored, my lord, I'm glad.

FTLN 1052 Let the rest go. 160

KING

FTLN 1053 My honor's at the stake, which to defeat  
FTLN 1054 I must produce my power.—Here, take her hand,  
FTLN 1055 Proud, scornful boy, unworthy this good gift,  
FTLN 1056 That dost in vile misprision shackle up  
FTLN 1057 My love and her desert; that canst not dream 165

FTLN 1058 We, poisoning us in her defective scale,  
FTLN 1059 Shall weigh thee to the beam; that wilt not know

FTLN 1060 It is in us to plant thine honor where  
FTLN 1061 We please to have it grow. Check thy contempt;

FTLN 1062 Obey our will, which travails in thy good. 170

FTLN 1063 Believe not thy disdain, but presently  
FTLN 1064 Do thine own fortunes that obedient right  
FTLN 1065 Which both thy duty owes and our power claims,

FTLN 1066 Or I will throw thee from my care forever  
FTLN 1067 Into the staggers and the careless lapse 175

FTLN 1068 Of youth and ignorance, both my revenge and hate  
FTLN 1069 Loosing upon thee in the name of justice

FTLN 1070 Without all terms of pity. Speak. Thine answer.

BERTRAM

FTLN 1071 Pardon, my gracious lord, for I submit  
FTLN 1072 My fancy to your eyes. When I consider 180

FTLN 1073 What great creation and what dole of honor  
FTLN 1074 Flies where you bid it, I find that she which late

FTLN 1075 Was in my nobler thoughts most base is now  
FTLN 1076 The praised of the King, who, so ennobled,

FTLN 1077 Is as 'twere born so. 185

FTLN 1078 KING Take her by the hand,

FTLN 1079	And tell her she is thine, to whom I promise	
FTLN 1080	A counterpoise, if not to thy estate,	
FTLN 1081	A balance more replete.	
FTLN 1082	BERTRAM	I take her hand. 190
	KING	
FTLN 1083	Good fortune and the favor of the King	
FTLN 1084	Smile upon this contract, whose ceremony	
FTLN 1085	Shall seem expedient on the now-born brief	
FTLN 1086	And be performed tonight. The solemn feast	
FTLN 1087	Shall more attend upon the coming space,	195
FTLN 1088	Expecting absent friends. As thou lov'st her	
FTLN 1089	Thy love's to me religious; else, does err.	
	<i>They exit. Parolles and Lafew stay behind, commenting of this wedding.</i>	
FTLN 1090	LAFEW	Do you hear, monsieur? A word with you.
FTLN 1091	PAROLLES	Your pleasure, sir.
FTLN 1092	LAFEW	Your lord and master did well to make his 200
FTLN 1093		recantation.
FTLN 1094	PAROLLES	"Recantation"? My "lord"? My "master"?
FTLN 1095	LAFEW	Ay. Is it not a language I speak?
FTLN 1096	PAROLLES	A most harsh one, and not to be understood
FTLN 1097		without bloody succeeding. My "master"? 205
FTLN 1098	LAFEW	Are you companion to the Count Rossillion?
FTLN 1099	PAROLLES	To any count, to all counts, to what is man.
FTLN 1100	LAFEW	To what is count's man. Count's master is of
FTLN 1101		another style.
FTLN 1102	PAROLLES	You are too old, sir; let it satisfy you, you are 210
FTLN 1103		too old.
FTLN 1104	LAFEW	I must tell thee, sirrah, I write man, to which
FTLN 1105		title age cannot bring thee.
FTLN 1106	PAROLLES	What I dare too well do, I dare not do.
FTLN 1107	LAFEW	I did think thee, for two ordinaries, to be a 215
FTLN 1108		pretty wise fellow; thou didst make tolerable vent
FTLN 1109		of thy travel; it might pass. Yet the scarves and the
FTLN 1110		bannerets about thee did manifoldly dissuade me
FTLN 1111		from believing thee a vessel of too great a burden.

FTLN 1112	I have now found thee. When I lose thee again, I	220
FTLN 1113	care not. Yet art thou good for nothing but taking	
FTLN 1114	up, and that thou 'rt scarce worth.	
FTLN 1115	PAROLLES Hadst thou not the privilege of antiquity	
FTLN 1116	upon thee—	
FTLN 1117	LAFEW Do not plunge thyself too far in anger lest thou	225
FTLN 1118	hasten thy trial, which if—Lord have mercy on	
FTLN 1119	thee for a hen! So, my good window of lattice, fare	
FTLN 1120	thee well; thy casement I need not open, for I look	
FTLN 1121	through thee. Give me thy hand.	
FTLN 1122	PAROLLES My lord, you give me most egregious	230
FTLN 1123	indignity.	
FTLN 1124	LAFEW Ay, with all my heart, and thou art worthy of it.	
FTLN 1125	PAROLLES I have not, my lord, deserved it.	
FTLN 1126	LAFEW Yes, good faith, ev'ry dram of it, and I will not	
FTLN 1127	bate thee a scruple.	235
FTLN 1128	PAROLLES Well, I shall be wiser.	
FTLN 1129	LAFEW Ev'n as soon as thou canst, for thou hast to	
FTLN 1130	pull at a smack o' th' contrary. If ever thou be'st	
FTLN 1131	bound in thy scarf and beaten, thou 'shalt' find	
FTLN 1132	what it is to be proud of thy bondage. I have a	240
FTLN 1133	desire to hold my acquaintance with thee, or	
FTLN 1134	rather my knowledge, that I may say in the default	
FTLN 1135	"He is a man I know."	
FTLN 1136	PAROLLES My lord, you do me most insupportable	
FTLN 1137	vexation.	245
FTLN 1138	LAFEW I would it were hell pains for thy sake, and my	
FTLN 1139	poor doing eternal; for doing I am past, as I will by	
FTLN 1140	thee in what motion age will give me leave.	
	<i>He exits.</i>	
FTLN 1141	PAROLLES Well, thou hast a son shall take this disgrace	
FTLN 1142	off me. Scurvy, old, filthy, scurvy lord! Well, I must	250
FTLN 1143	be patient; there is no fettering of authority. I'll	
FTLN 1144	beat him, by my life, if I can meet him with any	
FTLN 1145	convenience, an he were double and double a lord.	
FTLN 1146	I'll have no more pity of his age than I would have	
FTLN 1147	of—I'll beat him, an if I could but meet him again.	255

*Enter Lafew.*

FTLN 1148 LAFEW Sirrah, your lord and master's married. There's  
 FTLN 1149 news for you: you have a new mistress.  
 FTLN 1150 PAROLLES I most unfeignedly beseech your Lordship  
 FTLN 1151 to make some reservation of your wrongs. He is  
 FTLN 1152 my good lord; whom I serve above is my master. 260  
 FTLN 1153 LAFEW Who? God?  
 FTLN 1154 PAROLLES Ay, sir.  
 FTLN 1155 LAFEW The devil it is that's thy master. Why dost thou  
 FTLN 1156 garter up thy arms o' this fashion? Dost make hose  
 FTLN 1157 of thy sleeves? Do other servants so? Thou wert 265  
 FTLN 1158 best set thy lower part where thy nose stands. By  
 FTLN 1159 mine honor, if I were but two hours younger, I'd  
 FTLN 1160 beat thee. Methink'st thou art a general offense,  
 FTLN 1161 and every man should beat thee. I think thou wast  
 FTLN 1162 created for men to breathe themselves upon thee. 270  
 FTLN 1163 PAROLLES This is hard and undeserved measure, my  
 FTLN 1164 lord.  
 FTLN 1165 LAFEW Go to, sir. You were beaten in Italy for picking a  
 FTLN 1166 kernel out of a pomegranate. You are a vagabond,  
 FTLN 1167 and no true traveler. You are more saucy with 275  
 FTLN 1168 lords and honorable personages than the commission  
 FTLN 1169 of your birth and virtue gives you heraldry.  
 FTLN 1170 You are not worth another word; else I'd call you  
 FTLN 1171 knave. I leave you. *He exits.*  
 FTLN 1172 PAROLLES Good, very good! It is so, then. Good, very 280  
 FTLN 1173 good. Let it be concealed awhile.

*Enter [Bertram] Count Rossillion.*

BERTRAM  
 FTLN 1174 Undone, and forfeited to cares forever!  
 FTLN 1175 PAROLLES What's the matter, sweetheart?  
 BERTRAM  
 FTLN 1176 Although before the solemn priest I have sworn,  
 FTLN 1177 I will not bed her. 285

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FTLN 1178	PAROLLES	What, what, sweetheart?	
	BERTRAM		
FTLN 1179		O my Parolles, they have married me!	
FTLN 1180		I'll to the Tuscan wars and never bed her.	
FTLN 1181	PAROLLES	France is a dog-hole, and it no more merits	
FTLN 1182		the tread of a man's foot. To th' wars!	290
FTLN 1183	BERTRAM	There's letters from my mother. What th'	
FTLN 1184		import is I know not yet.	
FTLN 1185	PAROLLES	Ay, that would be known. To th' wars, my	
FTLN 1186		boy, to th' wars!	
FTLN 1187		He wears his honor in a box unseen	295
FTLN 1188		That hugs his kinky-wicky here at home,	
FTLN 1189		Spending his manly marrow in her arms	
FTLN 1190		Which should sustain the bound and high curvet	
FTLN 1191		Of Mars's fiery steed. To other regions!	
FTLN 1192		France is a stable, we that dwell in 't jades.	300
FTLN 1193		Therefore, to th' war!	
	BERTRAM		
FTLN 1194		It shall be so. I'll send her to my house,	
FTLN 1195		Acquaint my mother with my hate to her	
FTLN 1196		And wherefore I am fled, write to the King	
FTLN 1197		That which I durst not speak. His present gift	305
FTLN 1198		Shall furnish me to those Italian fields	
FTLN 1199		Where noble fellows strike. Wars is no strife	
FTLN 1200		To the dark house and the 'detested' wife.	
	PAROLLES		
FTLN 1201		Will this <i>capriccio</i> hold in thee? Art sure?	
	BERTRAM		
FTLN 1202		Go with me to my chamber, and advise me.	310
FTLN 1203		I'll send her straight away. Tomorrow	
FTLN 1204		I'll to the wars, she to her single sorrow.	
	PAROLLES		
FTLN 1205		Why, these balls bound; there's noise in it. 'Tis hard.	
FTLN 1206		A young man married is a man that's marred.	
FTLN 1207		Therefore away, and leave her bravely. Go.	315
FTLN 1208		The King has done you wrong, but hush, 'tis so.	
		<i>'They' exit.</i>	

## [Scene 4]

*Enter Helen [with a paper,] and [Fool.]*

FTLN 1209 HELEN My mother greets me kindly. Is she well?  
 FTLN 1210 FOOL She is not well, but yet she has her health. She's  
 FTLN 1211 very merry, but yet she is not well. But, thanks be  
 FTLN 1212 given, she's very well and wants nothing i' th' world,  
 FTLN 1213 but yet she is not well. 5  
 FTLN 1214 HELEN If she be very well, what does she ail that she's  
 FTLN 1215 not very well?  
 FTLN 1216 FOOL Truly, she's very well indeed, but for two things.  
 FTLN 1217 HELEN What two things?  
 FTLN 1218 FOOL One, that she's not in heaven, whither God send 10  
 FTLN 1219 her quickly; the other, that she's in Earth, from  
 FTLN 1220 whence God send her quickly.

*Enter Parolles.*

FTLN 1221 PAROLLES Bless you, my fortunate lady.  
 FTLN 1222 HELEN I hope, sir, I have your good will to have mine  
 FTLN 1223 own good [fortunes.] 15  
 FTLN 1224 PAROLLES You had my prayers to lead them on, and to  
 FTLN 1225 keep them on have them still.—O my knave, how  
 FTLN 1226 does my old lady?  
 FTLN 1227 FOOL So that you had her wrinkles and I her money, I  
 FTLN 1228 would she did as you say. 20  
 FTLN 1229 PAROLLES Why, I say nothing.  
 FTLN 1230 FOOL Marry, you are the wiser man, for many a man's  
 FTLN 1231 tongue shakes out his master's undoing. To say  
 FTLN 1232 nothing, to do nothing, to know nothing, and to  
 FTLN 1233 have nothing is to be a great part of your title, 25  
 FTLN 1234 which is within a very little of nothing.  
 FTLN 1235 PAROLLES Away. Thou 'rt a knave.  
 FTLN 1236 FOOL You should have said, sir, "Before a knave,  
 FTLN 1237 thou 'rt a knave"; that's "Before me, thou 'rt a  
 FTLN 1238 knave." This had been truth, sir. 30  
 FTLN 1239 PAROLLES Go to. Thou art a witty fool. I have found  
 FTLN 1240 thee.

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FTLN 1241	FOOL	Did you find me in yourself, sir, or were you	
FTLN 1242		taught to find me?	
FTLN 1243	「PAROLLES	...」	
FTLN 1244	FOOL	The search, sir, was profitable, and much fool	35
FTLN 1245		may you find in you, even to the world's pleasure	
FTLN 1246		and the increase of laughter.	
FTLN 1247	PAROLLES	A good knave, i' faith, and well fed.	
FTLN 1248		Madam, my lord will go away tonight;	
FTLN 1249		A very serious business calls on him.	40
FTLN 1250		The great prerogative and rite of love,	
FTLN 1251		Which as your due time claims, he does acknowledge	
FTLN 1252		But puts it off to a compelled restraint,	
FTLN 1253		Whose want and whose delay is strewed with sweets,	
FTLN 1254		Which they distill now in the curbèd time	45
FTLN 1255		To make the coming hour o'erflow with joy	
FTLN 1256		And pleasure drown the brim.	
FTLN 1257	HELEN	What's his will else?	
	PAROLLES		
FTLN 1258		That you will take your instant leave o' th' King	
FTLN 1259		And make this haste as your own good proceeding,	50
FTLN 1260		Strengthened with what apology you think	
FTLN 1261		May make it probable need.	
FTLN 1262	HELEN	What more commands he?	
	PAROLLES		
FTLN 1263		That, having this obtained, you presently	
FTLN 1264		Attend his further pleasure.	55
	HELEN		
FTLN 1265		In everything I wait upon his will.	
FTLN 1266	PAROLLES	I shall report it so.	<i>Parolles exits.</i>
FTLN 1267	HELEN, 「to Fool」	I pray you, come, sirrah.	「They」 <i>exit.</i>



## [Scene 5]

*Enter Lafew and Bertram.*

FTLN 1268 LAFEW But I hope your Lordship thinks not him a  
 FTLN 1269 soldier.  
 FTLN 1270 BERTRAM Yes, my lord, and of very valiant approof.  
 FTLN 1271 LAFEW You have it from his own deliverance.  
 FTLN 1272 BERTRAM And by other warranted testimony. 5  
 FTLN 1273 LAFEW Then my dial goes not true. I took this lark for  
 FTLN 1274 a bunting.  
 FTLN 1275 BERTRAM I do assure you, my lord, he is very great in  
 FTLN 1276 knowledge and accordingly valiant.  
 FTLN 1277 LAFEW I have then sinned against his experience and 10  
 FTLN 1278 transgressed against his valor, and my state that  
 FTLN 1279 way is dangerous since I cannot yet find in my  
 FTLN 1280 heart to repent. Here he comes. I pray you make us  
 FTLN 1281 friends. I will pursue the amity.

*Enter Parolles.*

FTLN 1282 PAROLLES, [to Bertram] These things shall be done, sir. 15  
 FTLN 1283 LAFEW, [to Bertram] Pray you, sir, who's his tailor?  
 FTLN 1284 PAROLLES Sir?  
 FTLN 1285 LAFEW O, I know him well. Ay, sir, he, sir, 's a good  
 FTLN 1286 workman, a very good tailor.  
 FTLN 1287 BERTRAM, [aside to Parolles] Is she gone to the King? 20  
 FTLN 1288 PAROLLES She is.  
 FTLN 1289 BERTRAM Will she away tonight?  
 FTLN 1290 PAROLLES As you'll have her.  
 BERTRAM  
 FTLN 1291 I have writ my letters, casketed my treasure,  
 FTLN 1292 Given order for our horses, and tonight, 25  
 FTLN 1293 When I should take possession of the bride,  
 FTLN 1294 [End] ere I do begin.  
 FTLN 1295 LAFEW, [aside] A good traveler is something at the latter  
 FTLN 1296 end of a dinner, but one that lies three thirds,  
 FTLN 1297 and uses a known truth to pass a thousand nothings 30

FTLN 1298 with, should be once heard and thrice beaten.—  
 FTLN 1299 God save you, captain.  
 FTLN 1300 BERTRAM, 「to Parolles」 Is there any unkindness  
 FTLN 1301 between my lord and you, monsieur?  
 FTLN 1302 PAROLLES I know not how I have deserved to run into 35  
 FTLN 1303 my lord's displeasure.  
 FTLN 1304 LAFEW You have made shift to run into 't, boots and  
 FTLN 1305 spurs and all, like him that leapt into the custard;  
 FTLN 1306 and out of it you'll run again rather than suffer  
 FTLN 1307 question for your residence. 40  
 FTLN 1308 BERTRAM It may be you have mistaken him, my lord.  
 FTLN 1309 LAFEW And shall do so ever, though I took him at 's  
 FTLN 1310 prayers. Fare you well, my lord, and believe this of  
 FTLN 1311 me: there can be no kernel in this light nut. The  
 FTLN 1312 soul of this man is his clothes. Trust him not in 45  
 FTLN 1313 matter of heavy consequence. I have kept of them  
 FTLN 1314 tame and know their natures.—Farewell, monsieur.  
 FTLN 1315 I have spoken better of you than you have or  
 FTLN 1316 will to deserve at my hand, but we must do good  
 FTLN 1317 against evil. 「He exits.」 50  
 FTLN 1318 PAROLLES An idle lord, I swear.  
 FTLN 1319 BERTRAM I think 「not」 so.  
 FTLN 1320 PAROLLES Why, do you not know him?  
 BERTRAM  
 FTLN 1321 Yes, I do know him well, and common speech  
 FTLN 1322 Gives him a worthy pass. 55

*Enter Helen.*

FTLN 1323 Here comes my clog.  
 HELEN  
 FTLN 1324 I have, sir, as I was commanded from you,  
 FTLN 1325 Spoke with the King and have procured his leave  
 FTLN 1326 For present parting. Only he desires  
 FTLN 1327 Some private speech with you. 60  
 FTLN 1328 BERTRAM I shall obey his will.  
 FTLN 1329 You must not marvel, Helen, at my course,

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FTLN 1330 Which holds not color with the time, nor does  
 FTLN 1331 The ministration and required office  
 FTLN 1332 On my particular. Prepared I was not 65  
 FTLN 1333 For such a business; therefore am I found  
 FTLN 1334 So much unsettled. This drives me to entreat you  
 FTLN 1335 That presently you take your way for home,  
 FTLN 1336 And rather muse than ask why I entreat you;  
 FTLN 1337 For my respects are better than they seem, 70  
 FTLN 1338 And my appointments have in them a need  
 FTLN 1339 Greater than shows itself at the first view  
 FTLN 1340 To you that know them not. *「Giving her a paper.」*  
 FTLN 1341 This to my mother.  
 FTLN 1342 'Twill be two days ere I shall see you, so 75  
 FTLN 1343 I leave you to your wisdom.  
 FTLN 1344 HELEN Sir, I can nothing say  
 FTLN 1345 But that I am your most obedient servant—  
 BERTRAM  
 FTLN 1346 Come, come, no more of that.  
 FTLN 1347 HELEN And ever shall 80  
 FTLN 1348 With true observance seek to eke out that  
 FTLN 1349 Wherein toward me my homely stars have failed  
 FTLN 1350 To equal my great fortune.  
 FTLN 1351 BERTRAM Let that go.  
 FTLN 1352 My haste is very great. Farewell. Hie home. 85  
 HELEN  
 FTLN 1353 Pray, sir, your pardon.  
 FTLN 1354 BERTRAM Well, what would you say?  
 HELEN  
 FTLN 1355 I am not worthy of the wealth I owe,  
 FTLN 1356 Nor dare I say 'tis mine—and yet it is—  
 FTLN 1357 But, like a timorous thief, most fain would steal 90  
 FTLN 1358 What law does vouch mine own.  
 FTLN 1359 BERTRAM What would you have?  
 HELEN  
 FTLN 1360 Something, and scarce so much; nothing, indeed.

FTLN 1361 I would not tell you what I would, my lord. Faith,  
FTLN 1362 yes: 95  
FTLN 1363 Strangers and foes do sunder and not kiss.  
BERTRAM  
FTLN 1364 I pray you stay not, but in haste to horse.  
HELEN  
FTLN 1365 I shall not break your bidding, good my lord.—  
FTLN 1366 Where are my other men?—Monsieur, farewell.  
*She exits.*  
BERTRAM  
FTLN 1367 Go thou toward home, where I will never come 100  
FTLN 1368 Whilst I can shake my sword or hear the drum.—  
FTLN 1369 Away, and for our flight.  
FTLN 1370 PAROLLES Bravely, *coraggio!*  
*They exit.*

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## ACT 3

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「Scene 1」

*Flourish. Enter the Duke of Florence, the two French  
「Lords,」 with a troop of Soldiers.*

DUKE

FTLN 1371 So that from point to point now have you heard  
FTLN 1372 The fundamental reasons of this war,  
FTLN 1373 Whose great decision hath much blood let forth  
FTLN 1374 And more thirsts after.

FTLN 1375 FIRST LORD Holy seems the quarrel 5  
FTLN 1376 Upon your Grace's part, black and fearful  
FTLN 1377 On the opposer.

DUKE

FTLN 1378 Therefore we marvel much our cousin France  
FTLN 1379 Would in so just a business shut his bosom  
FTLN 1380 Against our borrowing prayers. 10

FTLN 1381 SECOND LORD Good my lord,  
FTLN 1382 The reasons of our state I cannot yield  
FTLN 1383 But like a common and an outward man  
FTLN 1384 That the great figure of a council frames  
FTLN 1385 By self-unable motion; therefore dare not 15  
FTLN 1386 Say what I think of it, since I have found  
FTLN 1387 Myself in my incertain grounds to fail  
FTLN 1388 As often as I guessed.

FTLN 1389 DUKE Be it his pleasure.

FIRST LORD

FTLN 1390 But I am sure the younger of our *['nation,']* 20  
 FTLN 1391 That surfeit on their ease, will day by day  
 FTLN 1392 Come here for physic.

FTLN 1393 DUKE Welcome shall they be,  
 FTLN 1394 And all the honors that can fly from us  
 FTLN 1395 Shall on them settle. You know your places well. 25  
 FTLN 1396 When better fall, for your avails they fell.  
 FTLN 1397 Tomorrow to th' field.

*Flourish. ['They exit.']*

*['Scene 2']*

*Enter Countess, ['with a paper,'] and ['Fool.']*

FTLN 1398 COUNTESS It hath happened all as I would have had it,  
 FTLN 1399 save that he comes not along with her.  
 FTLN 1400 FOOL By my troth, I take my young lord to be a very  
 FTLN 1401 melancholy man.  
 FTLN 1402 COUNTESS By what observance, I pray you? 5  
 FTLN 1403 FOOL Why, he will look upon his boot and sing, mend  
 FTLN 1404 the ruff and sing, ask questions and sing, pick his  
 FTLN 1405 teeth and sing. I know a man that had this trick of  
 FTLN 1406 melancholy *['sold']* a goodly manor for a song.  
 FTLN 1407 COUNTESS Let me see what he writes and when he 10  
 FTLN 1408 means to come. *['She opens the letter.']*  
 FTLN 1409 FOOL I have no mind to Isbel since I was at court. Our  
 FTLN 1410 old lings and our Isbels o' th' country are nothing  
 FTLN 1411 like your old ling and your Isbels o' th' court. The  
 FTLN 1412 brains of my Cupid's knocked out, and I begin to 15  
 FTLN 1413 love as an old man loves money, with no stomach.  
 FTLN 1414 COUNTESS What have we here?  
 FTLN 1415 FOOL E'en that you have there. *He exits.*  
 FTLN 1416 *['COUNTESS reads.'] I have sent you a daughter-in-law.*  
 FTLN 1417 *She hath recovered the King and undone me. I have 20*  
 FTLN 1418 *wedded her, not bedded her, and sworn to make the*

FTLN 1419	<i>“not” eternal. You shall hear I am run away. Know it</i>	
FTLN 1420	<i>before the report come. If there be breadth enough in</i>	
FTLN 1421	<i>the world, I will hold a long distance. My duty to</i>	
FTLN 1422	<i>you.</i>	25
FTLN 1423	<i>Your unfortunate son,</i>	
FTLN 1424	<i>Bertram.</i>	
FTLN 1425	This is not well, rash and unbridled boy:	
FTLN 1426	To fly the favors of so good a king,	
FTLN 1427	To pluck his indignation on thy head	30
FTLN 1428	By the misprizing of a maid too virtuous	
FTLN 1429	For the contempt of empire.	
	<i>Enter [Fool.]</i>	
FTLN 1430	FOOL O madam, yonder is heavy news within, between	
FTLN 1431	two soldiers and my young lady.	
FTLN 1432	COUNTESS What is the matter?	35
FTLN 1433	FOOL Nay, there is some comfort in the news, some	
FTLN 1434	comfort. Your son will not be killed so soon as I	
FTLN 1435	thought he would.	
FTLN 1436	COUNTESS Why should he be killed?	
FTLN 1437	FOOL So say I, madam, if he run away, as I hear he	40
FTLN 1438	does. The danger is in standing to 't; that's the loss	
FTLN 1439	of men, though it be the getting of children. Here	
FTLN 1440	they come will tell you more. For my part, I only	
FTLN 1441	hear your son was run away. <i>[He exits.]</i>	
	<i>Enter Helen, [with a paper,] and two Gentlemen.</i>	
FTLN 1442	FIRST GENTLEMAN, <i>[to Countess]</i> Save you, good	45
FTLN 1443	madam.	
	HELEN	
FTLN 1444	Madam, my lord is gone, forever gone.	
FTLN 1445	SECOND GENTLEMAN Do not say so.	
	COUNTESS	
FTLN 1446	Think upon patience, pray you.—Gentlemen,	
FTLN 1447	I have felt so many quirks of joy and grief	50
FTLN 1448	That the first face of neither on the start	
FTLN 1449	Can woman me unto 't. Where is my son, I pray you?	

SECOND GENTLEMAN

FTLN 1450 Madam, he's gone to serve the Duke of Florence.  
 FTLN 1451 We met him thitherward, for thence we came,  
 FTLN 1452 And, after some dispatch in hand at court, 55  
 FTLN 1453 Thither we bend again.

HELEN

FTLN 1454 Look on his letter, madam; here's my passport.  
 FTLN 1455 *['She reads.] When thou canst get the ring upon*  
 FTLN 1456 *my finger, which never shall come off, and show me*  
 FTLN 1457 *a child begotten of thy body that I am father to, then* 60  
 FTLN 1458 *call me husband. But in such a "then" I write a*  
 FTLN 1459 *"never."*  
 FTLN 1460 This is a dreadful sentence.

COUNTESS

FTLN 1461 Brought you this letter, gentlemen?  
 FTLN 1462 SECOND GENTLEMAN Ay, madam, 65  
 FTLN 1463 And for the contents' sake are sorry for our pains.

COUNTESS

FTLN 1464 I prithee, lady, have a better cheer.  
 FTLN 1465 If thou engrossest all the griefs are thine,  
 FTLN 1466 Thou robb'st me of a moiety. He was my son,  
 FTLN 1467 But I do wash his name out of my blood, 70  
 FTLN 1468 And thou art all my child.—Towards Florence is he?

FTLN 1469 SECOND GENTLEMAN Ay, madam.

FTLN 1470 COUNTESS And to be a soldier?

SECOND GENTLEMAN

FTLN 1471 Such is his noble purpose, and, believe 't,  
 FTLN 1472 The Duke will lay upon him all the honor 75  
 FTLN 1473 That good convenience claims.

FTLN 1474 COUNTESS Return you thither?

FIRST GENTLEMAN

FTLN 1475 Ay, madam, with the swiftest wing of speed.

HELEN *['reads']*

FTLN 1476 *Till I have no wife I have nothing in France.*  
 FTLN 1477 'Tis bitter. 80



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FTLN 1478	COUNTESS	Find you that there?	
FTLN 1479	HELEN	Ay, madam.	
	FIRST GENTLEMAN		
FTLN 1480		'Tis but the boldness of his hand, haply,	
FTLN 1481		Which his heart was not consenting to.	
	COUNTESS		
FTLN 1482		Nothing in France until he have no wife!	85
FTLN 1483		There's nothing here that is too good for him	
FTLN 1484		But only she, and she deserves a lord	
FTLN 1485		That twenty such rude boys might tend upon	
FTLN 1486		And call her hourly mistress. Who was with him?	
	FIRST GENTLEMAN		
FTLN 1487		A servant only, and a gentleman	90
FTLN 1488		Which I have sometime known.	
FTLN 1489	COUNTESS	Parolles was it not?	
FTLN 1490	FIRST GENTLEMAN	Ay, my good lady, he.	
	COUNTESS		
FTLN 1491		A very tainted fellow, and full of wickedness.	
FTLN 1492		My son corrupts a well-derived nature	95
FTLN 1493		With his inducement.	
FTLN 1494	FIRST GENTLEMAN	Indeed, good lady,	
FTLN 1495		The fellow has a deal of that too much	
FTLN 1496		Which holds him much to have.	
FTLN 1497	COUNTESS	You're welcome,	100
FTLN 1498		gentlemen.	
FTLN 1499		I will entreat you when you see my son	
FTLN 1500		To tell him that his sword can never win	
FTLN 1501		The honor that he loses. More I'll entreat you	
FTLN 1502		Written to bear along.	105
FTLN 1503	SECOND GENTLEMAN	We serve you, madam,	
FTLN 1504		In that and all your worthiest affairs.	
	COUNTESS		
FTLN 1505		Not so, but as we change our courtesies.	
FTLN 1506		Will you draw near?	
		<i>She exits</i> [with the Gentlemen.]	

HELEN

FTLN 1507 "Till I have no wife I have nothing in France." 110  
 FTLN 1508 Nothing in France until he has no wife.  
 FTLN 1509 Thou shalt have none, Rossillion, none in France.  
 FTLN 1510 Then hast thou all again. Poor lord, is 't I  
 FTLN 1511 That chase thee from thy country and expose  
 FTLN 1512 Those tender limbs of thine to the event 115  
 FTLN 1513 Of the none-sparing war? And is it I  
 FTLN 1514 That drive thee from the sportive court, where thou  
 FTLN 1515 Wast shot at with fair eyes, to be the mark  
 FTLN 1516 Of smoky muskets? O you leaden messengers  
 FTLN 1517 That ride upon the violent speed of fire, 120  
 FTLN 1518 Fly with false aim; move the still-'pearing air  
 FTLN 1519 That sings with piercing; do not touch my lord.  
 FTLN 1520 Whoever shoots at him, I set him there;  
 FTLN 1521 Whoever charges on his forward breast,  
 FTLN 1522 I am the caitiff that do hold him to 't; 125  
 FTLN 1523 And though I kill him not, I am the cause  
 FTLN 1524 His death was so effected. Better 'twere  
 FTLN 1525 I met the ravin lion when he roared  
 FTLN 1526 With sharp constraint of hunger; better 'twere  
 FTLN 1527 That all the miseries which nature owes 130  
 FTLN 1528 Were mine at once. No, come thou home, Rossillion,  
 FTLN 1529 Whence honor but of danger wins a scar,  
 FTLN 1530 As oft it loses all. I will be gone.  
 FTLN 1531 My being here it is that holds thee hence.  
 FTLN 1532 Shall I stay here to do 't? No, no, although 135  
 FTLN 1533 The air of paradise did fan the house  
 FTLN 1534 And angels officed all. I will be gone,  
 FTLN 1535 That pitiful rumor may report my flight  
 FTLN 1536 To console thine ear. Come, night; end, day;  
 FTLN 1537 For with the dark, poor thief, I'll steal away. 140

*She exits.*

## [Scene 3]

*Flourish. Enter the Duke of Florence, [Bertram Count]  
Rossillion, Drum and Trumpets, Soldiers, Parolles.*

DUKE, [to Bertram]

FTLN 1538 The general of our horse thou art, and we,  
FTLN 1539 Great in our hope, lay our best love and credence  
FTLN 1540 Upon thy promising fortune.

FTLN 1541 BERTRAM Sir, it is  
FTLN 1542 A charge too heavy for my strength, but yet  
FTLN 1543 We'll strive to bear it for your worthy sake  
FTLN 1544 To th' extreme edge of hazard.

5

FTLN 1545 DUKE Then go thou forth,  
FTLN 1546 And Fortune play upon thy prosperous helm  
FTLN 1547 As thy auspicious mistress.

10

FTLN 1548 BERTRAM This very day,  
FTLN 1549 Great Mars, I put myself into thy file.  
FTLN 1550 Make me but like my thoughts, and I shall prove  
FTLN 1551 A lover of thy drum, hater of love.

*All exit.*

## [Scene 4]

*Enter Countess and Steward, [with a paper.]*

COUNTESS

FTLN 1552 Alas! And would you take the letter of her?  
FTLN 1553 Might you not know she would do as she has done  
FTLN 1554 By sending me a letter? Read it again.

[STEWARD reads the] letter

FTLN 1555 *I am Saint Jaques' pilgrim, thither gone.*  
FTLN 1556 *Ambitious love hath so in me offended*  
FTLN 1557 *That barefoot plod I the cold ground upon,*  
FTLN 1558 *With sainted vow my faults to have amended.*  
FTLN 1559 *Write, write, that from the bloody course of war*  
FTLN 1560 *My dearest master, your dear son, may hie.*

5

---

FTLN 1561	<i>Bless him at home in peace, whilst I from far</i>	10
FTLN 1562	<i>His name with zealous fervor sanctify.</i>	
FTLN 1563	<i>His taken labors bid him me forgive;</i>	
FTLN 1564	<i>I, his despiteful Juno, sent him forth</i>	
FTLN 1565	<i>From courtly friends, with camping foes to live</i>	
FTLN 1566	<i>Where death and danger dogs the heels of worth.</i>	15
FTLN 1567	<i>He is too good and fair for death and me,</i>	
FTLN 1568	<i>Whom I myself embrace to set him free.</i>	
	「COUNTESS」	
FTLN 1569	Ah, what sharp stings are in her mildest words!	
FTLN 1570	Rinaldo, you did never lack advice so much	
FTLN 1571	As letting her pass so. Had I spoke with her,	20
FTLN 1572	I could have well diverted her intents,	
FTLN 1573	Which thus she hath prevented.	
FTLN 1574	STEWARD    Pardon me, madam.	
FTLN 1575	If I had given you this at overnight,	
FTLN 1576	She might have been o'erta'en. And yet she writes	25
FTLN 1577	Pursuit would be but vain.	
FTLN 1578	COUNTESS    What angel shall	
FTLN 1579	Bless this unworthy husband? He cannot thrive	
FTLN 1580	Unless her prayers, whom heaven delights to hear	
FTLN 1581	And loves to grant, reprieve him from the wrath	30
FTLN 1582	Of greatest justice. Write, write, Rinaldo,	
FTLN 1583	To this unworthy husband of his wife.	
FTLN 1584	Let every word weigh heavy of her worth	
FTLN 1585	That he does weigh too light. My greatest grief,	
FTLN 1586	Though little he do feel it, set down sharply.	35
FTLN 1587	Dispatch the most convenient messenger.	
FTLN 1588	When haply he shall hear that she is gone,	
FTLN 1589	He will return; and hope I may that she,	
FTLN 1590	Hearing so much, will speed her foot again,	
FTLN 1591	Led hither by pure love. Which of them both	40
FTLN 1592	Is dearest to me, I have no skill in sense	
FTLN 1593	To make distinction. Provide this messenger.	
FTLN 1594	My heart is heavy, and mine age is weak.	
FTLN 1595	Grief would have tears, and sorrow bids me speak.	

*They exit.*

## [Scene 5]

*A tucket afar off. Enter old Widow of Florence, her daughter [Diana,] and Mariana, with other Citizens.*

FTLN 1596	WIDOW	Nay, come, for if they do approach the city, we shall lose all the sight.	
FTLN 1597			
FTLN 1598	DIANA	They say the French count has done most honorable service.	
FTLN 1599			
FTLN 1600	WIDOW	It is reported that he has taken their great'st commander, and that with his own hand he slew the Duke's brother. [A trumpet sounds.] We have lost our labor. They are gone a contrary way. Hark, you may know by their trumpets.	5
FTLN 1601			
FTLN 1602			
FTLN 1603			
FTLN 1604			
FTLN 1605	MARIANA	Come, let's return again and suffice ourselves with the report of it.—Well, Diana, take heed of this French earl. The honor of a maid is her name, and no legacy is so rich as honesty.	10
FTLN 1606			
FTLN 1607			
FTLN 1608			
FTLN 1609	WIDOW, [to Diana]	I have told my neighbor how you have been solicited by a gentleman, his companion.	15
FTLN 1610			
FTLN 1611			
FTLN 1612	MARIANA	I know that knave, hang him! One Parolles, a filthy officer he is in those suggestions for the young earl.—Beware of them, Diana. Their promises, enticements, oaths, tokens, and all these engines of lust are not the things they go under. Many a maid hath been seduced by them; and the misery is example that so terrible shows in the wrack of maidenhood cannot for all that dissuade succession, but that they are limed with the twigs that threatens them. I hope I need not to advise you further, but I hope your own grace will keep you where you are, though there were no further danger known but the modesty which is so lost.	20
FTLN 1613			
FTLN 1614			
FTLN 1615			
FTLN 1616			
FTLN 1617			
FTLN 1618			
FTLN 1619			
FTLN 1620			25
FTLN 1621			
FTLN 1622			
FTLN 1623			
FTLN 1624			
FTLN 1625	DIANA	You shall not need to fear me.	30
FTLN 1626	WIDOW	I hope so.	

*Enter Helen* 「*as a pilgrim*.」

FTLN 1627           Look, here comes a pilgrim. I know she will lie at  
FTLN 1628           my house; thither they send one another. I'll question  
FTLN 1629           her.—God save you, pilgrim. Whither are  
FTLN 1630           bound? 35

FTLN 1631       HELEN, 「*as pilgrim*」   To Saint Jaques le Grand.  
FTLN 1632           Where do the palmers lodge, I do beseech you?

WIDOW  
FTLN 1633           At the Saint Francis here beside the port.

FTLN 1634       HELEN, 「*as pilgrim*」   Is this the way?           *A march afar.*

WIDOW  
FTLN 1635           Ay, marry, is 't.—Hark you, they come this way.— 40  
FTLN 1636           If you will tarry, holy pilgrim,  
FTLN 1637           But till the troops come by,  
FTLN 1638           I will conduct you where you shall be lodged,  
FTLN 1639           The rather for I think I know your hostess  
FTLN 1640           As ample as myself. 45

FTLN 1641       HELEN, 「*as pilgrim*」   Is it yourself?  
FTLN 1642       WIDOW   If you shall please so, pilgrim.

FTLN 1643       HELEN, 「*as pilgrim*」  
          I thank you, and will stay upon your leisure.

WIDOW  
FTLN 1644           You came I think from France?  
FTLN 1645       HELEN, 「*as pilgrim*」                   I did so. 50

WIDOW  
FTLN 1646           Here you shall see a countryman of yours  
FTLN 1647           That has done worthy service.

FTLN 1648       HELEN, 「*as pilgrim*」                   His name, I pray you?

DIANA  
FTLN 1649           The Count Rossillion. Know you such a one?

FTLN 1650       HELEN, 「*as pilgrim*」  
          But by the ear, that hears most nobly of him. 55  
FTLN 1651           His face I know not.

FTLN 1652       DIANA                   Whatsome'er he is,  
FTLN 1653           He's bravely taken here. He stole from France,

---

FTLN 1654	As 'tis reported, for the King had married him	
FTLN 1655	Against his liking. Think you it is so?	60
	HELEN, <i>['as pilgrim']</i>	
FTLN 1656	Ay, surely, mere the truth. I know his lady.	
	DIANA	
FTLN 1657	There is a gentleman that serves the Count	
FTLN 1658	Reports but coarsely of her.	
FTLN 1659	HELEN, <i>['as pilgrim']</i> What's his name?	
	DIANA	
FTLN 1660	Monsieur Parolles.	65
FTLN 1661	HELEN, <i>['as pilgrim']</i> O, I believe with him.	
FTLN 1662	In argument of praise, or to the worth	
FTLN 1663	Of the great count himself, she is too mean	
FTLN 1664	To have her name repeated. All her deserving	
FTLN 1665	Is a reservèd honesty, and that	70
FTLN 1666	I have not heard examined.	
FTLN 1667	DIANA                                      Alas, poor lady,	
FTLN 1668	'Tis a hard bondage to become the wife	
FTLN 1669	Of a detesting lord.	
	WIDOW	
FTLN 1670	I <i>['warrant,']</i> good creature, wheresoe'er she is,	75
FTLN 1671	Her heart weighs sadly. This young maid might do	
FTLN 1672	her	
FTLN 1673	A shrewd turn if she pleased.	
FTLN 1674	HELEN, <i>['as pilgrim']</i> How do you mean?	
FTLN 1675	Maybe the amorous count solicits her	80
FTLN 1676	In the unlawful purpose?	
FTLN 1677	WIDOW                                      He does indeed,	
FTLN 1678	And brokes with all that can in such a suit	
FTLN 1679	Corrupt the tender honor of a maid,	
FTLN 1680	But she is armed for him and keeps her guard	85
FTLN 1681	In honestest defense.	
	MARIANA	
FTLN 1682	The gods forbid else!	

*Drum and Colors. Enter [Bertram] Count Rossillion,  
Parolles, and the whole Army.*

FTLN 1683	WIDOW	So, now they come.	
FTLN 1684		That is Antonio, the Duke's eldest son;	
FTLN 1685		That, Escalus.	90
FTLN 1686	HELEN, [as pilgrim]	Which is the Frenchman?	
FTLN 1687	DIANA	He,	
FTLN 1688		That with the plume. 'Tis a most gallant fellow.	
FTLN 1689		I would he loved his wife. If he were honest,	
FTLN 1690		He were much goodlier. Is 't not a handsome	95
FTLN 1691		gentleman?	
FTLN 1692	HELEN, [as pilgrim]	I like him well.	
	DIANA		
FTLN 1693		'Tis pity he is not honest. Yond's that same knave	
FTLN 1694		That leads him to these places. Were I his lady,	
FTLN 1695		I would poison that vile rascal.	100
FTLN 1696	HELEN, [as pilgrim]	Which is he?	
	DIANA		
FTLN 1697		That jackanapes with scarves. Why is he melancholy?	
FTLN 1698	HELEN, [as pilgrim]	Perchance he's hurt i' th' battle.	
FTLN 1699	PAROLLES	Lose our drum? Well.	
FTLN 1700	MARIANA	He's shrewdly vexed at something. Look, he	105
FTLN 1701		has spied us.	
FTLN 1702	WIDOW, [to Parolles]	Marry, hang you.	
FTLN 1703	MARIANA, [to Parolles]	And your courtesy, for a	
FTLN 1704		ring-carrier.	
		<i>[Bertram, Parolles, and the army] exit.</i>	
	WIDOW		
FTLN 1705		The troop is passed. Come, pilgrim, I will bring you	110
FTLN 1706		Where you shall host. Of enjoined penitents	
FTLN 1707		There's four or five, to Great Saint Jaques bound,	
FTLN 1708		Already at my house.	
FTLN 1709	HELEN, [as pilgrim]	I humbly thank you.	
FTLN 1710		Please it this matron and this gentle maid	115
FTLN 1711		To eat with us tonight, the charge and thanking	



FTLN 1712  
 FTLN 1713  
 FTLN 1714  
 FTLN 1715

Shall be for me. And to requite you further,  
 I will bestow some precepts of this virgin  
 Worthy the note.

BOTH

We'll take your offer kindly.

120

*They exit.*

〔Scene 6〕

*Enter* 〔Bertram〕 *Count Rossillion and the French*

〔Lords,〕 *as at first.*

FTLN 1716  
 FTLN 1717  
 FTLN 1718  
 FTLN 1719  
 FTLN 1720  
 FTLN 1721  
 FTLN 1722  
 FTLN 1723  
 FTLN 1724  
 FTLN 1725  
 FTLN 1726  
 FTLN 1727  
 FTLN 1728  
 FTLN 1729  
 FTLN 1730  
 FTLN 1731  
 FTLN 1732  
 FTLN 1733  
 FTLN 1734  
 FTLN 1735  
 FTLN 1736  
 FTLN 1737  
 FTLN 1738  
 FTLN 1739  
 FTLN 1740

FIRST LORD Nay, good my lord, put him to 't. Let him  
 have his way.

SECOND LORD If your Lordship find him not a hilding,  
 hold me no more in your respect.

FIRST LORD On my life, my lord, a bubble.

5

BERTRAM Do you think I am so far deceived in him?

FIRST LORD Believe it, my lord. In mine own direct  
 knowledge, without any malice, but to speak of  
 him as my kinsman, he's a most notable coward,  
 an infinite and endless liar, an hourly promise-breaker,  
 the owner of no one good quality worthy  
 your Lordship's entertainment.

10

SECOND LORD It were fit you knew him, lest, reposing  
 too far in his virtue, which he hath not, he might  
 at some great and trusty business in a main danger  
 fail you.

15

BERTRAM I would I knew in what particular action to  
 try him.

SECOND LORD None better than to let him fetch off his  
 drum, which you hear him so confidently undertake  
 to do.

20

FIRST LORD I, with a troop of Florentines, will suddenly  
 surprise him. Such I will have whom I am sure  
 he knows not from the enemy. We will bind and  
 hoodwink him so, that he shall suppose no other

25

FTLN 1741 but that he is carried into the leaguer of the adversary's  
 FTLN 1742 when we bring him to our own tents. Be but  
 FTLN 1743 your Lordship present at his examination. If he do  
 FTLN 1744 not for the promise of his life, and in the highest  
 FTLN 1745 compulsion of base fear, offer to betray you and 30  
 FTLN 1746 deliver all the intelligence in his power against  
 FTLN 1747 you, and that with the divine forfeit of his soul  
 FTLN 1748 upon oath, never trust my judgment in anything.  
 FTLN 1749 SECOND LORD O, for the love of laughter, let him fetch  
 FTLN 1750 his drum. He says he has a stratagem for 't. When 35  
 FTLN 1751 your Lordship sees the bottom of 'his' success in  
 FTLN 1752 't, and to what metal this counterfeit lump of 'ore'  
 FTLN 1753 will be melted, if you give him not John Drum's  
 FTLN 1754 entertainment, your inclining cannot be removed.  
 FTLN 1755 Here he comes. 40

*Enter Parolles.*

FTLN 1756 FIRST LORD, 'aside to Bertram' O, for the love of laughter,  
 FTLN 1757 hinder not the honor of his design. Let him  
 FTLN 1758 fetch off his drum in any hand.  
 FTLN 1759 BERTRAM, 'to Parolles' How now, monsieur? This  
 FTLN 1760 drum sticks sorely in your disposition. 45  
 FTLN 1761 SECOND LORD A pox on 't! Let it go. 'Tis but a drum.  
 FTLN 1762 PAROLLES But a drum! Is 't but a drum? A drum so  
 FTLN 1763 lost! There was excellent command, to charge in  
 FTLN 1764 with our horse upon our own wings and to rend  
 FTLN 1765 our own soldiers! 50  
 FTLN 1766 SECOND LORD That was not to be blamed in the command  
 FTLN 1767 of the service. It was a disaster of war that  
 FTLN 1768 Caesar himself could not have prevented if he had  
 FTLN 1769 been there to command.  
 FTLN 1770 BERTRAM Well, we cannot greatly condemn our success. 55  
 FTLN 1771 Some dishonor we had in the loss of that  
 FTLN 1772 drum, but it is not to be recovered.  
 FTLN 1773 PAROLLES It might have been recovered.  
 FTLN 1774 BERTRAM It might, but it is not now.

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FTLN 1775	PAROLLES	It is to be recovered. But that the merit of	60
FTLN 1776		service is seldom attributed to the true and exact	
FTLN 1777		performer, I would have that drum or another, or	
FTLN 1778		<i>hic jacet.</i>	
FTLN 1779	BERTRAM	Why, if you have a stomach, to 't, monsieur!	
FTLN 1780		If you think your mystery in stratagem can bring	65
FTLN 1781		this instrument of honor again into his native	
FTLN 1782		quarter, be magnanimous in the enterprise and go	
FTLN 1783		on. I will grace the attempt for a worthy exploit. If	
FTLN 1784		you speed well in it, the Duke shall both speak of it	
FTLN 1785		and extend to you what further becomes his greatness,	70
FTLN 1786		even to the utmost syllable of your	
FTLN 1787		worthiness.	
FTLN 1788	PAROLLES	By the hand of a soldier, I will undertake it.	
FTLN 1789	BERTRAM	But you must not now slumber in it.	
FTLN 1790	PAROLLES	I'll about it this evening, and I will presently	75
FTLN 1791		pen down my dilemmas, encourage myself in my	
FTLN 1792		certainty, put myself into my mortal preparation;	
FTLN 1793		and by midnight look to hear further from me.	
FTLN 1794	BERTRAM	May I be bold to acquaint his Grace you are	
FTLN 1795		gone about it?	80
FTLN 1796	PAROLLES	I know not what the success will be, my	
FTLN 1797		lord, but the attempt I vow.	
FTLN 1798	BERTRAM	I know thou 'rt valiant, and to the possibility	
FTLN 1799		of thy soldiership will subscribe for thee. Farewell.	
FTLN 1800	PAROLLES	I love not many words. <i>He exits.</i>	85
FTLN 1801	FIRST LORD	No more than a fish loves water. Is not this	
FTLN 1802		a strange fellow, my lord, that so confidently seems	
FTLN 1803		to undertake this business which he knows is not	
FTLN 1804		to be done, damns himself to do, and dares better	
FTLN 1805		be damned than to do 't?	90
FTLN 1806	SECOND LORD	You do not know him, my lord, as we do.	
FTLN 1807		Certain it is that he will steal himself into a man's	
FTLN 1808		favor and for a week escape a great deal of discoveries,	
FTLN 1809		but when you find him out, you have him	
FTLN 1810		ever after.	95

---

FTLN 1811	BERTRAM	Why, do you think he will make no deed at	
FTLN 1812		all of this that so seriously he does address himself	
FTLN 1813		unto?	
FTLN 1814	FIRST LORD	None in the world, but return with an	
FTLN 1815		invention and clap upon you two or three probable	100
FTLN 1816		lies. But we have almost embossed him. You shall	
FTLN 1817		see his fall tonight; for indeed he is not for your	
FTLN 1818		Lordship's respect.	
FTLN 1819	SECOND LORD	We'll make you some sport with the fox	
FTLN 1820		ere we case him. He was first smoked by the old	105
FTLN 1821		Lord Lafew. When his disguise and he is parted,	
FTLN 1822		tell me what a sprat you shall find him, which you	
FTLN 1823		shall see this very night.	
FTLN 1824	FIRST LORD	I must go look my twigs. He shall be	
FTLN 1825		caught.	110
FTLN 1826	BERTRAM	Your brother he shall go along with me.	
FTLN 1827	「FIRST」 LORD	As 't please your Lordship. I'll leave you.	
		<i>「He exits.」</i>	
	BERTRAM		
FTLN 1828		Now will I lead you to the house and show you	
FTLN 1829		The lass I spoke of.	
FTLN 1830	「SECOND」 LORD	But you say she's honest.	115
	BERTRAM		
FTLN 1831		That's all the fault. I spoke with her but once	
FTLN 1832		And found her wondrous cold. But I sent to her,	
FTLN 1833		By this same coxcomb that we have i' th' wind,	
FTLN 1834		Tokens and letters, which she did re-send.	
FTLN 1835		And this is all I have done. She's a fair creature.	120
FTLN 1836		Will you go see her?	
FTLN 1837	「SECOND」 LORD	With all my heart, my lord.	
		<i>They exit.</i>	

## [Scene 7]

*Enter Helen and Widow.*

HELEN

FTLN 1838 If you misdoubt me that I am not she,  
 FTLN 1839 I know not how I shall assure you further  
 FTLN 1840 But I shall lose the grounds I work upon.

WIDOW

FTLN 1841 Though my estate be fall'n, I was well born,  
 FTLN 1842 Nothing acquainted with these businesses, 5  
 FTLN 1843 And would not put my reputation now  
 FTLN 1844 In any staining act.

HELEN

Nor would I wish you.

FTLN 1846 First give me trust the Count he is my husband,  
 FTLN 1847 And what to your sworn counsel I have spoken 10  
 FTLN 1848 Is so from word to word; and then you cannot,  
 FTLN 1849 By the good aid that I of you shall borrow,  
 FTLN 1850 Err in bestowing it.

WIDOW

I should believe you,

FTLN 1852 For you have showed me that which well approves 15  
 FTLN 1853 You're great in fortune.

HELEN

Take this purse of gold,

FTLN 1855 And let me buy your friendly help thus far,  
 FTLN 1856 Which I will overpay and pay again  
 FTLN 1857 When I have found it. The Count he woos your 20  
 FTLN 1858 daughter,

FTLN 1859 Lays down his wanton siege before her beauty,  
 FTLN 1860 [Resolved] to carry her. Let her in fine consent  
 FTLN 1861 As we'll direct her how 'tis best to bear it.  
 FTLN 1862 Now his important blood will naught deny 25

FTLN 1863 That she'll demand. A ring the County wears  
 FTLN 1864 That downward hath succeeded in his house  
 FTLN 1865 From son to son some four or five descents  
 FTLN 1866 Since the first father wore it. This ring he holds

FTLN 1867 In most rich choice. Yet, in his idle fire, 30  
 FTLN 1868 To buy his will it would not seem too dear,  
 FTLN 1869 Howe'er repented after.

---

WIDOW

FTLN 1870      Now I see the bottom of your purpose.

HELEN

FTLN 1871      You see it lawful, then. It is no more  
 FTLN 1872      But that your daughter, ere she seems as won,             35  
 FTLN 1873      Desires this ring, appoints him an encounter,  
 FTLN 1874      In fine, delivers me to fill the time,  
 FTLN 1875      Herself most chastely absent. After,  
 FTLN 1876      To marry her, I'll add three thousand crowns  
 FTLN 1877      To what is passed already.                                     40

WIDOW                                     I have yielded.

FTLN 1879      Instruct my daughter how she shall persever  
 FTLN 1880      That time and place with this deceit so lawful  
 FTLN 1881      May prove coherent. Every night he comes  
 FTLN 1882      With musics of all sorts and songs composed             45  
 FTLN 1883      To her unworthiness. It nothing steads us  
 FTLN 1884      To chide him from our eaves, for he persists  
 FTLN 1885      As if his life lay on 't.

HELEN                                     Why then tonight

FTLN 1887      Let us assay our plot, which, if it speed,             50  
 FTLN 1888      Is wicked meaning in a lawful deed,  
 FTLN 1889      And lawful meaning in a lawful act,  
 FTLN 1890      Where both not sin, and yet a sinful fact.  
 FTLN 1891      But let's about it.

*¶ They exit. ¶*

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## ACT 4

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「Scene 1」

*Enter one of the French 「Lords,」 with five or six other  
Soldiers in ambush.*

FTLN 1892 LORD He can come no other way but by this hedge  
FTLN 1893 corner. When you sally upon him, speak what terrible  
FTLN 1894 language you will. Though you understand it  
FTLN 1895 not yourselves, no matter. For we must not seem to  
FTLN 1896 understand him, unless some one among us whom 5  
FTLN 1897 we must produce for an interpreter.  
FTLN 1898 FIRST SOLDIER Good captain, let me be th' interpreter.  
FTLN 1899 LORD Art not acquainted with him? Knows he not thy  
FTLN 1900 voice?  
FTLN 1901 FIRST SOLDIER No, sir, I warrant you. 10  
FTLN 1902 LORD But what linsey-woolsey hast thou to speak to  
FTLN 1903 us again?  
FTLN 1904 FIRST SOLDIER E'en such as you speak to me.  
FTLN 1905 LORD He must think us some band of strangers i' th'  
FTLN 1906 adversary's entertainment. Now, he hath a smack 15  
FTLN 1907 of all neighboring languages. Therefore we must  
FTLN 1908 every one be a man of his own fancy, not to know  
FTLN 1909 what we speak one to another. So we seem to know  
FTLN 1910 is to know straight our purpose: choughs' language,  
FTLN 1911 gabble enough and good enough. As for 20  
FTLN 1912 you, interpreter, you must seem very politic. But  
FTLN 1913 couch, ho! Here he comes to beguile two hours in

FTLN 1914 a sleep and then to return and swear the lies he  
 FTLN 1915 forges. 「*They move aside.*」

*Enter Parolles.*

FTLN 1916	PAROLLES Ten o'clock. Within these three hours 'twill	25
FTLN 1917	be time enough to go home. What shall I say I have	
FTLN 1918	done? It must be a very plausible invention that	
FTLN 1919	carries it. They begin to smoke me, and disgraces	
FTLN 1920	have of late knocked too often at my door. I find	
FTLN 1921	my tongue is too foolhardy, but my heart hath the	30
FTLN 1922	fear of Mars before it, and of his creatures, not	
FTLN 1923	daring the reports of my tongue.	
FTLN 1924	LORD, 「 <i>aside</i> 」 This is the first truth that e'er thine own	
FTLN 1925	tongue was guilty of.	
FTLN 1926	PAROLLES What the devil should move me to undertake	35
FTLN 1927	the recovery of this drum, being not ignorant	
FTLN 1928	of the impossibility and knowing I had no such	
FTLN 1929	purpose? I must give myself some hurts and say I	
FTLN 1930	got them in exploit. Yet slight ones will not carry it.	
FTLN 1931	They will say "Came you off with so little?" And	40
FTLN 1932	great ones I dare not give. Wherefore? What's the	
FTLN 1933	instance? Tongue, I must put you into a butter-woman's	
FTLN 1934	mouth and buy myself another of	
FTLN 1935	Bajazeth's mule if you prattle me into these perils.	
FTLN 1936	LORD, 「 <i>aside</i> 」 Is it possible he should know what he is,	45
FTLN 1937	and be that he is?	
FTLN 1938	PAROLLES I would the cutting of my garments would	
FTLN 1939	serve the turn, or the breaking of my Spanish	
FTLN 1940	sword.	
FTLN 1941	LORD, 「 <i>aside</i> 」 We cannot afford you so.	50
FTLN 1942	PAROLLES Or the baring of my beard, and to say it was	
FTLN 1943	in stratagem.	
FTLN 1944	LORD, 「 <i>aside</i> 」 'Twould not do.	
FTLN 1945	PAROLLES Or to drown my clothes and say I was	
FTLN 1946	stripped.	55
FTLN 1947	LORD, 「 <i>aside</i> 」 Hardly serve.	



FTLN 1948	PAROLLES	Though I swore I leapt from the window of	
FTLN 1949		the citadel—	
FTLN 1950	LORD, 「 <i>aside</i> 」	How deep?	
FTLN 1951	PAROLLES	Thirty fathom.	60
FTLN 1952	LORD, 「 <i>aside</i> 」	Three great oaths would scarce make	
FTLN 1953		that be believed.	
FTLN 1954	PAROLLES	I would I had any drum of the enemy's. I	
FTLN 1955		would swear I recovered it.	
FTLN 1956	LORD, 「 <i>aside</i> 」	You shall hear one anon.	65
FTLN 1957	PAROLLES	A drum, now, of the enemy's—	
		<i>Alarum within.</i>	
FTLN 1958	LORD, 「 <i>advancing</i> 」	<i>Throca movousus, cargo, cargo,</i>	
FTLN 1959		<i>cargo.</i>	
FTLN 1960	ALL	<i>Cargo, cargo, cargo, villianda par corbo, cargo.</i>	
		「 <i>They seize him.</i> 」	
FTLN 1961	PAROLLES	O ransom, ransom! Do not hide mine eyes.	70
		「 <i>They blindfold him.</i> 」	
FTLN 1962	FIRST SOLDIER	<i>Boskos thromuldo boskos.</i>	
	PAROLLES		
FTLN 1963		I know you are the Muskos' regiment,	
FTLN 1964		And I shall lose my life for want of language.	
FTLN 1965		If there be here German or Dane, Low Dutch,	
FTLN 1966		Italian, or French, let him speak to me.	75
FTLN 1967		I'll discover that which shall undo the Florentine.	
FTLN 1968	FIRST SOLDIER	<i>Boskos vauvado</i> , I understand thee and	
FTLN 1969		can speak thy tongue. <i>Kerelybonto</i> , sir, betake thee	
FTLN 1970		to thy faith, for seventeen poniards are at thy	
FTLN 1971		bosom.	80
FTLN 1972	PAROLLES	O!	
FTLN 1973	FIRST SOLDIER	O, pray, pray, pray! <i>Manka reuania</i>	
FTLN 1974		<i>dulche.</i>	
FTLN 1975	LORD	<i>Oscorbidulchos voliuorco.</i>	
	FIRST SOLDIER		
FTLN 1976		The General is content to spare thee yet	85
FTLN 1977		And, hoodwinked as thou art, will lead thee on	
FTLN 1978		To gather from thee. Haply thou mayst inform	
FTLN 1979		Something to save thy life.	

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FTLN 1980	PAROLLES	O, let me live,	
FTLN 1981		And all the secrets of our camp I'll show,	90
FTLN 1982		Their force, their purposes. Nay, I'll speak that	
FTLN 1983		Which you will wonder at.	
FTLN 1984	FIRST SOLDIER	But wilt thou faithfully?	
FTLN 1985	PAROLLES	If I do not, damn me.	
FTLN 1986	FIRST SOLDIER	<i>Acordo linta.</i> Come on, thou 'art'	95
FTLN 1987		granted space.	
		<i>He exits 'with Parolles under guard.'</i>	
		<i>A short alarum within.</i>	
	LORD		
FTLN 1988		Go tell the Count Rossillion and my brother	
FTLN 1989		We have caught the woodcock and will keep him	
FTLN 1990		muffled	
FTLN 1991		Till we do hear from them.	100
FTLN 1992	'SECOND' SOLDIER	Captain, I will.	
	LORD		
FTLN 1993		He will betray us all unto ourselves.	
FTLN 1994		Inform on that.	
FTLN 1995	'SECOND' SOLDIER	So I will, sir.	
	LORD		
FTLN 1996		Till then I'll keep him dark and safely locked.	105
		<i>'They' exit.</i>	

'Scene 2'

*Enter Bertram and the maid called Diana.*

	BERTRAM		
FTLN 1997		They told me that your name was Fontibell.	
	DIANA		
FTLN 1998		No, my good lord, Diana.	
FTLN 1999	BERTRAM	Titled goddess,	
FTLN 2000		And worth it, with addition. But, fair soul,	
FTLN 2001		In your fine frame hath love no quality?	5
FTLN 2002		If the quick fire of youth light not your mind,	

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FTLN 2003	You are no maiden but a monument.	
FTLN 2004	When you are dead, you should be such a one	
FTLN 2005	As you are now, for you are cold and stern,	
FTLN 2006	And now you should be as your mother was	10
FTLN 2007	When your sweet self was got.	
	DIANA	
FTLN 2008	She then was honest.	
FTLN 2009	BERTRAM	So should you be.
FTLN 2010	DIANA	No.
FTLN 2011	My mother did but duty—such, my lord,	15
FTLN 2012	As you owe to your wife.	
FTLN 2013	BERTRAM	No more o' that.
FTLN 2014	I prithee do not strive against my vows.	
FTLN 2015	I was compelled to her, but I love thee	
FTLN 2016	By love's own sweet constraint, and will forever	20
FTLN 2017	Do thee all rights of service.	
FTLN 2018	DIANA	Ay, so you serve us
FTLN 2019	Till we serve you. But when you have our roses,	
FTLN 2020	You barely leave our thorns to prick ourselves	
FTLN 2021	And mock us with our bareness.	25
FTLN 2022	BERTRAM	How have I sworn!
	DIANA	
FTLN 2023	'Tis not the many oaths that makes the truth,	
FTLN 2024	But the plain single vow that is vowed true.	
FTLN 2025	What is not holy, that we swear not by,	
FTLN 2026	But take the high'st to witness. Then pray you, tell	30
FTLN 2027	me,	
FTLN 2028	If I should swear by Jove's great attributes	
FTLN 2029	I loved you dearly, would you believe my oaths	
FTLN 2030	When I did love you ill? This has no holding	
FTLN 2031	To swear by him whom I protest to love	35
FTLN 2032	That I will work against him. Therefore your oaths	
FTLN 2033	Are words, and poor conditions but unsealed,	
FTLN 2034	At least in my opinion.	
FTLN 2035	BERTRAM	Change it, change it.
FTLN 2036	Be not so holy-cruel. Love is holy,	40

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FTLN 2037	And my integrity ne'er knew the crafts	
FTLN 2038	That you do charge men with. Stand no more off,	
FTLN 2039	But give thyself unto my sick desires,	
FTLN 2040	Who then recovers. Say thou art mine, and ever	
FTLN 2041	My love as it begins shall so persever.	45
	DIANA	
FTLN 2042	I see that men 'may' rope 's in such a 'snare'	
FTLN 2043	That we'll forsake ourselves. Give me that ring.	
	BERTRAM	
FTLN 2044	I'll lend it thee, my dear, but have no power	
FTLN 2045	To give it from me.	
FTLN 2046	DIANA Will you not, my lord?	50
	BERTRAM	
FTLN 2047	It is an honor 'longing to our house,	
FTLN 2048	Bequeathèd down from many ancestors,	
FTLN 2049	Which were the greatest obloquy i' th' world	
FTLN 2050	In me to lose.	
FTLN 2051	DIANA Mine honor's such a ring.	55
FTLN 2052	My chastity's the jewel of our house,	
FTLN 2053	Bequeathèd down from many ancestors,	
FTLN 2054	Which were the greatest obloquy i' th' world	
FTLN 2055	In me to lose. Thus your own proper wisdom	
FTLN 2056	Brings in the champion Honor on my part	60
FTLN 2057	Against your vain assault.	
FTLN 2058	BERTRAM Here, take my ring.	
FTLN 2059	My house, mine honor, yea, my life be thine,	
FTLN 2060	And I'll be bid by thee.	
	DIANA	
FTLN 2061	When midnight comes, knock at my chamber	65
FTLN 2062	window.	
FTLN 2063	I'll order take my mother shall not hear.	
FTLN 2064	Now will I charge you in the band of truth,	
FTLN 2065	When you have conquered my yet maiden bed,	
FTLN 2066	Remain there but an hour, nor speak to me.	70
FTLN 2067	My reasons are most strong, and you shall know them	
FTLN 2068	When back again this ring shall be delivered.	

FTLN 2069	And on your finger in the night I'll put	
FTLN 2070	Another ring, that what in time proceeds	
FTLN 2071	May token to the future our past deeds.	75
FTLN 2072	Adieu till then; then, fail not. You have won	
FTLN 2073	A wife of me, though there my hope be done.	
	BERTRAM	
FTLN 2074	A heaven on Earth I have won by wooing thee.	
	DIANA	
FTLN 2075	For which live long to thank both heaven and me!	
FTLN 2076	You may so in the end. <i>「He exits.」</i>	80
FTLN 2077	My mother told me just how he would woo	
FTLN 2078	As if she sat in 's heart. She says all men	
FTLN 2079	Have the like oaths. He had sworn to marry me	
FTLN 2080	When his wife's dead. Therefore I'll lie with him	
FTLN 2081	When I am buried. Since Frenchmen are so braid,	85
FTLN 2082	Marry that will, I live and die a maid.	
FTLN 2083	Only, in this disguise I think 't no sin	
FTLN 2084	To cozen him that would unjustly win.	
	<i>She exits.</i>	

「Scene 3」

*Enter the two French 「Lords」 and some two  
or three Soldiers.*

FTLN 2085	FIRST LORD	You have not given him his mother's	
FTLN 2086		letter?	
FTLN 2087	SECOND LORD	I have delivered it an hour since. There	
FTLN 2088		is something in 't that stings his nature, for on the	
FTLN 2089		reading it he changed almost into another man.	5
FTLN 2090	FIRST LORD	He has much worthy blame laid upon him	
FTLN 2091		for shaking off so good a wife and so sweet a lady.	
FTLN 2092	SECOND LORD	Especially he hath incurred the everlasting	
FTLN 2093		displeasure of the King, who had even tuned	
FTLN 2094		his bounty to sing happiness to him. I will tell you	10
FTLN 2095		a thing, but you shall let it dwell darkly with you.	

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FTLN 2096	FIRST LORD	When you have spoken it, 'tis dead, and I	
FTLN 2097		am the grave of it.	
FTLN 2098	SECOND LORD	He hath perverted a young gentlewoman	
FTLN 2099		here in Florence of a most chaste renown,	15
FTLN 2100		and this night he fleshes his will in the spoil of her	
FTLN 2101		honor. He hath given her his monumental ring and	
FTLN 2102		thinks himself made in the unchaste composition.	
FTLN 2103	FIRST LORD	Now God delay our rebellion! As we are	
FTLN 2104		ourselves, what things are we!	20
FTLN 2105	SECOND LORD	Merely our own traitors. And, as in the	
FTLN 2106		common course of all treasons we still see them	
FTLN 2107		reveal themselves till they attain to their abhorred	
FTLN 2108		ends, so he that in this action contrives against his	
FTLN 2109		own nobility, in his proper stream o'erflows	25
FTLN 2110		himself.	
FTLN 2111	FIRST LORD	Is it not meant damnable in us to be trumpeters	
FTLN 2112		of our unlawful intents? We shall not, then,	
FTLN 2113		have his company tonight?	
FTLN 2114	SECOND LORD	Not till after midnight, for he is dieted to	30
FTLN 2115		his hour.	
FTLN 2116	FIRST LORD	That approaches apace. I would gladly	
FTLN 2117		have him see his company anatomized, that he	
FTLN 2118		might take a measure of his own judgments	
FTLN 2119		wherein so curiously he had set this counterfeit.	35
FTLN 2120	SECOND LORD	We will not meddle with him till he	
FTLN 2121		come, for his presence must be the whip of the	
FTLN 2122		other.	
FTLN 2123	FIRST LORD	In the meantime, what hear you of these	
FTLN 2124		wars?	40
FTLN 2125	SECOND LORD	I hear there is an overture of peace.	
FTLN 2126	FIRST LORD	Nay, I assure you, a peace concluded.	
FTLN 2127	SECOND LORD	What will Count Rossillion do then?	
FTLN 2128		Will he travel higher or return again into France?	
FTLN 2129	FIRST LORD	I perceive by this demand you are not altogether	45
FTLN 2130		of his counsel.	
FTLN 2131	SECOND LORD	Let it be forbid, sir! So should I be a	
FTLN 2132		great deal of his act.	

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FTLN 2133 FIRST LORD Sir, his wife some two months since fled  
 FTLN 2134 from his house. Her pretense is a pilgrimage to 50  
 FTLN 2135 Saint Jaques le Grand, which holy undertaking  
 FTLN 2136 with most austere sanctimony she accomplished.  
 FTLN 2137 And, there residing, the tenderness of her nature  
 FTLN 2138 became as a prey to her grief; in fine, made a groan  
 FTLN 2139 of her last breath, and now she sings in heaven. 55  
 FTLN 2140 SECOND LORD How is this justified?  
 FTLN 2141 FIRST LORD The stronger part of it by her own letters,  
 FTLN 2142 which makes her story true even to the point of her  
 FTLN 2143 death. Her death itself, which could not be her  
 FTLN 2144 office to say is come, was faithfully confirmed by 60  
 FTLN 2145 the rector of the place.  
 FTLN 2146 SECOND LORD Hath the Count all this intelligence?  
 FTLN 2147 FIRST LORD Ay, and the particular confirmations, point  
 FTLN 2148 from point, to the full arming of the verity.  
 FTLN 2149 SECOND LORD I am heartily sorry that he'll be glad of 65  
 FTLN 2150 this.  
 FTLN 2151 FIRST LORD How mightily sometimes we make us  
 FTLN 2152 comforts of our losses.  
 FTLN 2153 SECOND LORD And how mightily some other times we  
 FTLN 2154 drown our gain in tears. The great dignity that his 70  
 FTLN 2155 valor hath here acquired for him shall at home be  
 FTLN 2156 encountered with a shame as ample.  
 FTLN 2157 FIRST LORD The web of our life is of a mingled yarn,  
 FTLN 2158 good and ill together. Our virtues would be proud  
 FTLN 2159 if our faults whipped them not, and our crimes 75  
 FTLN 2160 would despair if they were not cherished by our  
 FTLN 2161 virtues.

*Enter a [Servant.]*

FTLN 2162 How now? Where's your master?  
 FTLN 2163 SERVANT He met the Duke in the street, sir, of whom  
 FTLN 2164 he hath taken a solemn leave. His Lordship will 80  
 FTLN 2165 next morning for France. The Duke hath offered  
 FTLN 2166 him letters of commendations to the King.

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FTLN 2167 FTLN 2168 FTLN 2169	SECOND LORD They shall be no more than needful there, if they were more than they can commend. They cannot be too sweet for the King's tartness.	85
<i>Enter [Bertram] Count Rossillion.</i>		
FTLN 2170 FTLN 2171	Here's his Lordship now.—How now, my lord? Is 't not after midnight?	
FTLN 2172 FTLN 2173 FTLN 2174 FTLN 2175 FTLN 2176 FTLN 2177 FTLN 2178 FTLN 2179	BERTRAM I have tonight dispatched sixteen businesses, a month's length apiece. By an abstract of success: I have congeed with the Duke, done my adieu with his nearest, buried a wife, mourned for her, writ to my lady mother I am returning, entertained my convoy, and between these main parcels of dispatch effected many nicer needs. The last was the greatest, but that I have not ended yet.	90       95
FTLN 2180 FTLN 2181 FTLN 2182	SECOND LORD If the business be of any difficulty, and this morning your departure hence, it requires haste of your Lordship.	
FTLN 2183 FTLN 2184 FTLN 2185 FTLN 2186 FTLN 2187	BERTRAM I mean the business is not ended as fearing to hear of it hereafter. But shall we have this dialogue between the Fool and the Soldier? Come, bring forth this counterfeit module; has deceived me like a double-meaning prophesier.	100
FTLN 2188 FTLN 2189	SECOND LORD Bring him forth. Has sat i' th' stocks all night, poor gallant knave. <i>[Soldiers exit.]</i>	105
FTLN 2190 FTLN 2191 FTLN 2192	BERTRAM No matter. His heels have deserved it in usurping his spurs so long. How does he carry himself?	
FTLN 2193 FTLN 2194 FTLN 2195 FTLN 2196 FTLN 2197 FTLN 2198 FTLN 2199 FTLN 2200	SECOND LORD I have told your Lordship already: the stocks carry him. But to answer you as you would be understood: he weeps like a wench that had shed her milk. He hath confessed himself to Morgan, whom he supposes to be a friar, from the time of his remembrance to this very instant disaster of his setting i' th' stocks. And what think you he hath confessed?	110       115



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FTLN 2201	BERTRAM	Nothing of me, has he?	
FTLN 2202	SECOND LORD	His confession is taken, and it shall be	
FTLN 2203		read to his face. If your Lordship be in 't, as I	
FTLN 2204		believe you are, you must have the patience to	120
FTLN 2205		hear it.	
		<i>Enter Parolles, [blindfolded,] with his Interpreter, [the First Soldier.]</i>	
FTLN 2206	BERTRAM	A plague upon him! Muffled! He can say	
FTLN 2207		nothing of me.	
FTLN 2208	FIRST LORD, [aside to Bertram]	Hush, hush. Hoodman	
FTLN 2209		comes.— <i>Portotartarossa.</i>	125
FTLN 2210	FIRST SOLDIER, [to Parolles]	He calls for the tortures.	
FTLN 2211		What will you say without 'em?	
FTLN 2212	PAROLLES	I will confess what I know without constraint.	
FTLN 2213		If you pinch me like a pasty, I can say no	
FTLN 2214		more.	130
FTLN 2215	FIRST SOLDIER	<i>Bosko Chimurcho.</i>	
FTLN 2216	[FIRST] LORD	<i>Boblibindo chicurmurco.</i>	
FTLN 2217	FIRST SOLDIER	You are a merciful general.—Our general	
FTLN 2218		bids you answer to what I shall ask you out of a	
FTLN 2219		note.	135
FTLN 2220	PAROLLES	And truly, as I hope to live.	
FTLN 2221	FIRST SOLDIER, [as if reading a note]	<i>First, demand of</i>	
FTLN 2222		<i>him how many horse the Duke is strong.</i> —What say	
FTLN 2223		you to that?	
FTLN 2224	PAROLLES	Five or six thousand, but very weak and	140
FTLN 2225		unserviceable. The troops are all scattered, and the	
FTLN 2226		commanders very poor rogues, upon my reputation	
FTLN 2227		and credit, and as I hope to live.	
FTLN 2228	FIRST SOLDIER	Shall I set down your answer so?	
FTLN 2229	PAROLLES	Do. I'll take the Sacrament on 't, how and	145
FTLN 2230		which way you will.	
FTLN 2231	BERTRAM, [aside]	All's one to him. What a past-saving	
FTLN 2232		slave is this!	
FTLN 2233	FIRST LORD, [aside to Bertram]	You're deceived, my	

FTLN 2234	lord. This is Monsieur Parolles, the gallant	150
FTLN 2235	militarist—that was his own phrase—that had the	
FTLN 2236	whole theoretic of war in the knot of his scarf, and	
FTLN 2237	the practice in the chape of his dagger.	
FTLN 2238	SECOND LORD, <i>aside</i> I will never trust a man again for	
FTLN 2239	keeping his sword clean, nor believe he can have	155
FTLN 2240	everything in him by wearing his apparel neatly.	
FTLN 2241	FIRST SOLDIER, <i>to Parolles</i> Well, that's set down.	
FTLN 2242	PAROLLES "Five or six thousand horse," I said—I will	
FTLN 2243	say true—"or thereabouts" set down, for I'll speak	
FTLN 2244	truth.	160
FTLN 2245	FIRST LORD, <i>aside</i> He's very near the truth in this.	
FTLN 2246	BERTRAM, <i>aside</i> But I con him no thanks for 't, in the	
FTLN 2247	nature he delivers it.	
FTLN 2248	PAROLLES "Poor rogues," I pray you say.	
FTLN 2249	FIRST SOLDIER Well, that's set down.	165
FTLN 2250	PAROLLES I humbly thank you, sir. A truth's a truth.	
FTLN 2251	The rogues are marvelous poor.	
FTLN 2252	FIRST SOLDIER, <i>as if reading a note</i> Demand of him of	
FTLN 2253	what strength they are o' foot.—What say you to	
FTLN 2254	that?	170
FTLN 2255	PAROLLES By my troth, sir, if I were to live <i>but</i> this	
FTLN 2256	present hour, I will tell true. Let me see: Spurio a	
FTLN 2257	hundred and fifty, Sebastian so many, Corambus	
FTLN 2258	so many, Jaques so many; Guiltian, Cosmo,	
FTLN 2259	Lodowick and Gratii, two hundred fifty each; mine	175
FTLN 2260	own company, Chitopher, Vaumond, Bentii, two	
FTLN 2261	hundred fifty each; so that the muster-file, rotten	
FTLN 2262	and sound, upon my life amounts not to fifteen	
FTLN 2263	thousand poll, half of the which dare not shake the	
FTLN 2264	snow from off their cassocks lest they shake themselves	180
FTLN 2265	to pieces.	
FTLN 2266	BERTRAM, <i>aside</i> What shall be done to him?	
FTLN 2267	FIRST LORD, <i>aside</i> Nothing but let him have thanks.	
FTLN 2268	( <i>Aside to First Soldier.</i> ) Demand of him my condition	
FTLN 2269	and what credit I have with the Duke.	185

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FTLN 2270	FIRST SOLDIER, <i>['to Parolles']</i> Well, that's set down. <i>['Pretending</i>	
FTLN 2271	<i>to read:']</i> You shall demand of him whether	
FTLN 2272	one Captain Dumaine be i' th' camp, a Frenchman;	
FTLN 2273	what his reputation is with the Duke, what his valor;	
FTLN 2274	honesty, and expertness in wars; or whether he	190
FTLN 2275	thinks it were not possible with well-weighing sums	
FTLN 2276	of gold to corrupt him to a revolt.—What say you to	
FTLN 2277	this? What do you know of it?	
FTLN 2278	PAROLLES I beseech you let me answer to the particular	
FTLN 2279	of the inter'gatories. Demand them singly.	195
FTLN 2280	FIRST SOLDIER Do you know this Captain Dumaine?	
FTLN 2281	PAROLLES I know him. He was a botcher's prentice in	
FTLN 2282	Paris, from whence he was whipped for getting the	
FTLN 2283	shrieve's fool with child, a dumb innocent that	
FTLN 2284	could not say him nay.	200
FTLN 2285	BERTRAM, <i>['aside to First Lord']</i> Nay, by your leave, hold	
FTLN 2286	your hands, though I know his brains are forfeit to	
FTLN 2287	the next tile that falls.	
FTLN 2288	FIRST SOLDIER Well, is this captain in the Duke of	
FTLN 2289	Florence's camp?	205
FTLN 2290	PAROLLES Upon my knowledge he is, and lousy.	
FTLN 2291	FIRST LORD, <i>['aside to Bertram']</i> Nay, look not so upon	
FTLN 2292	me. We shall hear of your <i>['Lordship']</i> anon.	
FTLN 2293	FIRST SOLDIER What is his reputation with the Duke?	
FTLN 2294	PAROLLES The Duke knows him for no other but a	210
FTLN 2295	poor officer of mine, and writ to me this other day	
FTLN 2296	to turn him out o' th' band. I think I have his letter	
FTLN 2297	in my pocket.	
FTLN 2298	FIRST SOLDIER Marry, we'll search.	
	<i>['They search Parolles' pockets.']</i>	
FTLN 2299	PAROLLES In good sadness, I do not know. Either it is	215
FTLN 2300	there, or it is upon a file with the Duke's other letters	
FTLN 2301	in my tent.	
FTLN 2302	FIRST SOLDIER Here 'tis; here's a paper. Shall I read it to	
FTLN 2303	you?	
FTLN 2304	PAROLLES I do not know if it be it or no.	220

FTLN 2305	BERTRAM, 「 <i>aside</i> 」	Our interpreter does it well.	
FTLN 2306	FIRST LORD, 「 <i>aside</i> 」	Excellently.	
FTLN 2307	FIRST SOLDIER 「 <i>reads</i> 」	<i>Dian, the Count's a fool and full</i>	
FTLN 2308		<i>of gold—</i>	
FTLN 2309	PAROLLES	That is not the Duke's letter, sir. That is an	225
FTLN 2310		advertisement to a proper maid in Florence, one	
FTLN 2311		Diana, to take heed of the allurements of one Count	
FTLN 2312		Rossillion, a foolish idle boy, but for all that very	
FTLN 2313		ruttish. I pray you, sir, put it up again.	
FTLN 2314	FIRST SOLDIER	Nay, I'll read it first, by your favor.	230
FTLN 2315	PAROLLES	My meaning in 't, I protest, was very honest	
FTLN 2316		in the behalf of the maid, for I knew the young	
FTLN 2317		count to be a dangerous and lascivious boy, who is	
FTLN 2318		a whale to virginity and devours up all the fry it	
FTLN 2319		finds.	235
FTLN 2320	BERTRAM, 「 <i>aside</i> 」	Damnably both-sides rogue!	
	FIRST SOLDIER 「 <i>reads</i> 」		
FTLN 2321		<i>When he swears oaths, bid him drop gold, and</i>	
FTLN 2322		<i>take it.</i>	
FTLN 2323		<i>After he scores, he never pays the score.</i>	
FTLN 2324		<i>Half won is match well made. Match, and well</i>	240
FTLN 2325		<i>make it.</i>	
FTLN 2326		<i>He ne'er pays after-debts. Take it before.</i>	
FTLN 2327		<i>And say a soldier; Dian, told thee this:</i>	
FTLN 2328		<i>Men are to mell with; boys are not to kiss.</i>	
FTLN 2329		<i>For count of this: the Count's a fool, I know it,</i>	245
FTLN 2330		<i>Who pays before, but not when he does owe it.</i>	
FTLN 2331		<i>Thine, as he vowed to thee in thine ear,</i>	
FTLN 2332		<i>Parolles.</i>	
FTLN 2333	BERTRAM, 「 <i>aside</i> 」	He shall be whipped through the	
FTLN 2334		army with this rhyme in 's forehead.	250
FTLN 2335	SECOND LORD, 「 <i>aside</i> 」	This is your devoted friend, sir,	
FTLN 2336		the manifold linguist and the omnipotent soldier.	
FTLN 2337	BERTRAM, 「 <i>aside</i> 」	I could endure anything before but a	
FTLN 2338		cat, and now he's a cat to me.	
FTLN 2339	FIRST SOLDIER, 「 <i>to Parolles</i> 」	I perceive, sir, by 「our」	255
FTLN 2340		general's looks we shall be fain to hang you.	

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FTLN 2341	PAROLLES	My life, sir, in any case! Not that I am afraid	
FTLN 2342		to die, but that, my offenses being many, I would	
FTLN 2343		repent out the remainder of nature. Let me live,	
FTLN 2344		sir, in a dungeon, i' th' stocks, or anywhere, so I	260
FTLN 2345		may live.	
FTLN 2346	FIRST SOLDIER	We'll see what may be done, so you confess	
FTLN 2347		freely. Therefore once more to this Captain	
FTLN 2348		Dumaine: you have answered to his reputation	
FTLN 2349		with the Duke, and to his valor. What is his	265
FTLN 2350		honesty?	
FTLN 2351	PAROLLES	He will steal, sir, an egg out of a cloister. For	
FTLN 2352		rapes and ravishments, he parallels Nessus. He	
FTLN 2353		professes not keeping of oaths. In breaking 'em he	
FTLN 2354		is stronger than Hercules. He will lie, sir, with such	270
FTLN 2355		volubility that you would think truth were a fool.	
FTLN 2356		Drunkenness is his best virtue, for he will be	
FTLN 2357		swine-drunk, and in his sleep he does little harm,	
FTLN 2358		save to his bedclothes about him; but they know	
FTLN 2359		his conditions and lay him in straw. I have but	275
FTLN 2360		little more to say, sir, of his honesty; he has everything	
FTLN 2361		that an honest man should not have; what an	
FTLN 2362		honest man should have, he has nothing.	
FTLN 2363	FIRST LORD, <i>aside</i>	I begin to love him for this.	
FTLN 2364	BERTRAM, <i>aside</i>	For this description of thine honesty?	280
FTLN 2365		A pox upon him! For me, he's more and more	
FTLN 2366		a cat.	
FTLN 2367	FIRST SOLDIER	What say you to his expertness in war?	
FTLN 2368	PAROLLES	Faith, sir, has led the drum before the English	
FTLN 2369		tragedians. To belie him I will not, and more	285
FTLN 2370		of his soldiership I know not, except in that country	
FTLN 2371		he had the honor to be the officer at a place	
FTLN 2372		there called Mile End, to instruct for the doubling	
FTLN 2373		of files. I would do the man what honor I can, but	
FTLN 2374		of this I am not certain.	290
FTLN 2375	FIRST LORD, <i>aside</i>	He hath out-villained villainy so	
FTLN 2376		far that the rarity redeems him.	

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FTLN 2377	BERTRAM, <i>「aside」</i> A pox on him! He's a cat still.	
FTLN 2378	FIRST SOLDIER His qualities being at this poor price,	
FTLN 2379	I need not to ask you if gold will corrupt him to	295
FTLN 2380	revolt.	
FTLN 2381	PAROLLES Sir, for a cardecu he will sell the fee-simple	
FTLN 2382	of his salvation, the inheritance of it, and cut th'	
FTLN 2383	entail from all remainders, and a perpetual succession	
FTLN 2384	for it perpetually.	300
FTLN 2385	FIRST SOLDIER What's his brother, the other Captain	
FTLN 2386	Dumaine?	
FTLN 2387	SECOND LORD, <i>「aside」</i> Why does he ask him of me?	
FTLN 2388	FIRST SOLDIER What's he?	
FTLN 2389	PAROLLES E'en a crow o' th' same nest: not altogether	305
FTLN 2390	so great as the first in goodness, but greater a great	
FTLN 2391	deal in evil. He excels his brother for a coward, yet	
FTLN 2392	his brother is reputed one of the best that is. In a	
FTLN 2393	retreat he outruns any lackey. Marry, in coming on	
FTLN 2394	he has the cramp.	310
FTLN 2395	FIRST SOLDIER If your life be saved, will you undertake	
FTLN 2396	to betray the Florentine?	
FTLN 2397	PAROLLES Ay, and the captain of his horse, Count	
FTLN 2398	Rossillion.	
FTLN 2399	FIRST SOLDIER I'll whisper with the General and know	315
FTLN 2400	his pleasure.	
FTLN 2401	PAROLLES, <i>「aside」</i> I'll no more drumming. A plague of	
FTLN 2402	all drums! Only to seem to deserve well, and to	
FTLN 2403	beguile the supposition of that lascivious young	
FTLN 2404	boy the Count, have I run into this danger. Yet who	320
FTLN 2405	would have suspected an ambush where I was	
FTLN 2406	taken?	
FTLN 2407	FIRST SOLDIER There is no remedy, sir, but you must	
FTLN 2408	die. The General says you that have so traitorously	
FTLN 2409	discovered the secrets of your army and made	325
FTLN 2410	such pestiferous reports of men very nobly held	
FTLN 2411	can serve the world for no honest use. Therefore	
FTLN 2412	you must die.—Come, headsman, off with his	
FTLN 2413	head.	

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FTLN 2414	PAROLLES	O Lord, sir, let me live, or let me see my	330
FTLN 2415		death!	
FTLN 2416	FIRST SOLDIER	That shall you, and take your leave of	
FTLN 2417		all your friends. <i>〔He removes the blindfold.〕</i> So,	
FTLN 2418		look about you. Know you any here?	
FTLN 2419	BERTRAM	Good morrow, noble captain.	335
FTLN 2420	SECOND LORD	God bless you, Captain Parolles.	
FTLN 2421	FIRST LORD	God save you, noble captain.	
FTLN 2422	SECOND LORD	Captain, what greeting will you to my	
FTLN 2423		Lord Lafew? I am for France.	
FTLN 2424	FIRST LORD	Good captain, will you give me a copy of	340
FTLN 2425		the sonnet you writ to Diana in behalf of the Count	
FTLN 2426		Rossillion? An I were not a very coward, I'd compel	
FTLN 2427		it of you. But fare you well.	
		<i>〔Bertram and Lords〕 exit.</i>	
FTLN 2428	FIRST SOLDIER	You are undone, captain—all but your	
FTLN 2429		scarf; that has a knot on 't yet.	345
FTLN 2430	PAROLLES	Who cannot be crushed with a plot?	
FTLN 2431	FIRST SOLDIER	If you could find out a country where	
FTLN 2432		but women were that had received so much	
FTLN 2433		shame, you might begin an impudent nation. Fare	
FTLN 2434		you well, sir. I am for France too. We shall speak of	350
FTLN 2435		you there. <i>He exits.</i>	
	PAROLLES		
FTLN 2436		Yet am I thankful. If my heart were great,	
FTLN 2437		'Twould burst at this. Captain I'll be no more,	
FTLN 2438		But I will eat and drink, and sleep as soft	
FTLN 2439		As captain shall. Simply the thing I am	355
FTLN 2440		Shall make me live. Who knows himself a braggart,	
FTLN 2441		Let him fear this, for it will come to pass	
FTLN 2442		That every braggart shall be found an ass.	
FTLN 2443		Rust, sword; cool, blushes; and Parolles live	
FTLN 2444		Safest in shame. Being fooled, by fool'ry thrive.	360
FTLN 2445		There's place and means for every man alive.	
FTLN 2446		I'll after them. <i>He exits.</i>	

## [Scene 4]

*Enter Helen, Widow, and Diana.*

HELEN

FTLN 2447 That you may well perceive I have not wronged you,  
 FTLN 2448 One of the greatest in the Christian world  
 FTLN 2449 Shall be my surety, 'fore whose throne 'tis needful,  
 FTLN 2450 Ere I can perfect mine intents, to kneel.  
 FTLN 2451 Time was, I did him a desired office 5  
 FTLN 2452 Dear almost as his life, which gratitude  
 FTLN 2453 Through flinty Tartar's bosom would peep forth  
 FTLN 2454 And answer thanks. I duly am informed  
 FTLN 2455 His Grace is at Marseilles, to which place  
 FTLN 2456 We have convenient convoy. You must know 10  
 FTLN 2457 I am supposed dead. The army breaking,  
 FTLN 2458 My husband hies him home, where, heaven aiding  
 FTLN 2459 And by the leave of my good lord the King,  
 FTLN 2460 We'll be before our welcome.

WIDOW

Gentle madam, 15

FTLN 2462 You never had a servant to whose trust  
 FTLN 2463 Your business was more welcome.

HELEN

Nor [you,] mistress,

FTLN 2465 Ever a friend whose thoughts more truly labor  
 FTLN 2466 To recompense your love. Doubt not but heaven 20  
 FTLN 2467 Hath brought me up to be your daughter's dower,  
 FTLN 2468 As it hath fated her to be my motive  
 FTLN 2469 And helper to a husband. But O, strange men,  
 FTLN 2470 That can such sweet use make of what they hate  
 FTLN 2471 When saucy trusting of the cozened thoughts 25  
 FTLN 2472 Defiles the pitchy night! So lust doth play  
 FTLN 2473 With what it loathes for that which is away.  
 FTLN 2474 But more of this hereafter.—You, Diana,  
 FTLN 2475 Under my poor instructions yet must suffer  
 FTLN 2476 Something in my behalf. 30

DIANA

Let death and honesty

FTLN 2478 Go with your impositions, I am yours  
 FTLN 2479 Upon your will to suffer.



FTLN 2480 HELEN Yet, I pray you—  
 FTLN 2481 But with the word “The time will bring on summer,” 35  
 FTLN 2482 When briars shall have leaves as well as thorns  
 FTLN 2483 And be as sweet as sharp. We must away.  
 FTLN 2484 Our wagon is prepared, and time revives us.  
 FTLN 2485 All’s well that ends well. Still the fine’s the crown.  
 FTLN 2486 Whate’er the course, the end is the renown. 40

*They exit.*

[Scene 5]

*Enter [Fool, Countess,] and Lafew.*

FTLN 2487 LAFEW No, no, no, your son was misled with a  
 FTLN 2488 snipped-taffeta fellow there, whose villainous saffron  
 FTLN 2489 would have made all the unbaked and doughy  
 FTLN 2490 youth of a nation in his color. Your daughter-in-law  
 FTLN 2491 had been alive at this hour, and your son here 5  
 FTLN 2492 at home, more advanced by the King than by that  
 FTLN 2493 red-tailed humble-bee I speak of.  
 FTLN 2494 COUNTESS I would I had not known him. It was the  
 FTLN 2495 death of the most virtuous gentlewoman that ever  
 FTLN 2496 nature had praise for creating. If she had partaken 10  
 FTLN 2497 of my flesh and cost me the dearest groans of a  
 FTLN 2498 mother, I could not have owed her a more rooted  
 FTLN 2499 love.  
 FTLN 2500 LAFEW ’Twas a good lady, ’twas a good lady. We may  
 FTLN 2501 pick a thousand salads ere we light on such another 15  
 FTLN 2502 herb.  
 FTLN 2503 FOOL Indeed, sir, she was the sweet marjoram of the  
 FTLN 2504 salad, or rather the herb of grace.  
 FTLN 2505 LAFEW They are not herbs, you knave. They are  
 FTLN 2506 nose-herbs. 20  
 FTLN 2507 FOOL I am no great Nebuchadnezzar, sir. I have not  
 FTLN 2508 much skill in [grass.]  
 FTLN 2509 LAFEW Whether dost thou profess thyself, a knave or a  
 FTLN 2510 fool?

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FTLN 2511	FOOL	A fool, sir, at a woman's service, and a knave at a	25
FTLN 2512		man's.	
FTLN 2513	LAFEW	Your distinction?	
FTLN 2514	FOOL	I would cozen the man of his wife and do his	
FTLN 2515		service.	
FTLN 2516	LAFEW	So you were a knave at his service indeed.	30
FTLN 2517	FOOL	And I would give his wife my bauble, sir, to do	
FTLN 2518		her service.	
FTLN 2519	LAFEW	I will subscribe for thee, thou art both knave	
FTLN 2520		and fool.	
FTLN 2521	FOOL	At your service.	35
FTLN 2522	LAFEW	No, no, no.	
FTLN 2523	FOOL	Why, sir, if I cannot serve you, I can serve as	
FTLN 2524		great a prince as you are.	
FTLN 2525	LAFEW	Who's that, a Frenchman?	
FTLN 2526	FOOL	Faith, sir, he has an English <sup>1</sup> name, <sup>1</sup> but his	40
FTLN 2527		phys'nomy is more hotter in France than there.	
FTLN 2528	LAFEW	What prince is that?	
FTLN 2529	FOOL	The black prince, sir, alias the prince of darkness,	
FTLN 2530		alias the devil.	
FTLN 2531	LAFEW,	<sup>1</sup> <i>giving him money</i> <sup>1</sup> Hold thee, there's my	45
FTLN 2532		purse. I give thee not this to suggest thee from thy	
FTLN 2533		master thou talk'st of. Serve him still.	
FTLN 2534	FOOL	I am a woodland fellow, sir, that always loved a	
FTLN 2535		great fire, and the master I speak of ever keeps a	
FTLN 2536		good fire. But sure he is the prince of the world; let	50
FTLN 2537		his Nobility remain in 's court. I am for the house	
FTLN 2538		with the narrow gate, which I take to be too little	
FTLN 2539		for pomp to enter. Some that humble themselves	
FTLN 2540		may, but the many will be too chill and tender, and	
FTLN 2541		they'll be for the flow'ry way that leads to the	55
FTLN 2542		broad gate and the great fire.	
FTLN 2543	LAFEW	Go thy ways. I begin to be awearry of thee. And	
FTLN 2544		I tell thee so before because I would not fall out	
FTLN 2545		with thee. Go thy ways. Let my horses be well	
FTLN 2546		looked to, without any tricks.	60

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FTLN 2547	FOOL	If I put any tricks upon 'em, sir, they shall be	
FTLN 2548		jades' tricks, which are their own right by the law	
FTLN 2549		of nature.	<i>He exits.</i>
FTLN 2550	LAFEW	A shrewd knave and an unhappy.	
FTLN 2551	COUNTESS	So he is. My lord that's gone made himself	65
FTLN 2552		much sport out of him. By his authority he	
FTLN 2553		remains here, which he thinks is a patent for his	
FTLN 2554		sauciness, and indeed he has no pace, but runs	
FTLN 2555		where he will.	
FTLN 2556	LAFEW	I like him well. 'Tis not amiss. And I was about	70
FTLN 2557		to tell you, since I heard of the good lady's death	
FTLN 2558		and that my lord your son was upon his return	
FTLN 2559		home, I moved the King my master to speak in the	
FTLN 2560		behalf of my daughter, which in the minority of	
FTLN 2561		them both his Majesty out of a self-gracious	75
FTLN 2562		remembrance did first propose. His Highness hath	
FTLN 2563		promised me to do it, and to stop up the displeasure	
FTLN 2564		he hath conceived against your son there is	
FTLN 2565		no fitter matter. How does your Ladyship like it?	
FTLN 2566	COUNTESS	With very much content, my lord, and I	80
FTLN 2567		wish it happily effected.	
FTLN 2568	LAFEW	His Highness comes post from Marseilles, of	
FTLN 2569		as able body as when he numbered thirty. He will	
FTLN 2570		be here tomorrow, or I am deceived by him that in	
FTLN 2571		such intelligence hath seldom failed.	85
FTLN 2572	COUNTESS	It rejoices me that, I hope, I shall see him	
FTLN 2573		ere I die. I have letters that my son will be here	
FTLN 2574		tonight. I shall beseech your Lordship to remain	
FTLN 2575		with me till they meet together.	
FTLN 2576	LAFEW	Madam, I was thinking with what manners I	90
FTLN 2577		might safely be admitted.	
FTLN 2578	COUNTESS	You need but plead your honorable	
FTLN 2579		privilege.	
FTLN 2580	LAFEW	Lady, of that I have made a bold charter. But I	
FTLN 2581		thank my God it holds yet.	95

*Enter [Fool.]*

FTLN 2582 FOOL O madam, yonder's my lord your son with a  
FTLN 2583 patch of velvet on 's face. Whether there be a scar  
FTLN 2584 under 't or no, the velvet knows, but 'tis a goodly  
FTLN 2585 patch of velvet. His left cheek is a cheek of two pile  
FTLN 2586 and a half, but his right cheek is worn bare. 100

FTLN 2587 LAFEW A scar nobly got, or a noble scar, is a good liv'ry  
FTLN 2588 of honor. So belike is that.

FTLN 2589 FOOL But it is your carbonadoed face.

FTLN 2590 LAFEW Let us go see your son, I pray you. I long to talk  
FTLN 2591 with the young noble soldier. 105

FTLN 2592 FOOL 'Faith, there's a dozen of 'em, with delicate fine  
FTLN 2593 hats, and most courteous feathers which bow the  
FTLN 2594 head and nod at every man.

*They exit.*

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## ACT 5

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「Scene 1」

*Enter Helen, Widow, and Diana, with two Attendants.*

HELEN

FTLN 2595 But this exceeding posting day and night  
FTLN 2596 Must wear your spirits low. We cannot help it.  
FTLN 2597 But since you have made the days and nights as one  
FTLN 2598 To wear your gentle limbs in my affairs,  
FTLN 2599 Be bold you do so grow in my requital 5  
FTLN 2600 As nothing can unroot you.

*Enter 「a Gentleman,」 a gentle Astringer.*

FTLN 2601 In happy time!  
FTLN 2602 This man may help me to his Majesty's ear,  
FTLN 2603 If he would spend his power.—God save you, sir.  
FTLN 2604 GENTLEMAN And you. 10

HELEN

FTLN 2605 Sir, I have seen you in the court of France.  
FTLN 2606 GENTLEMAN I have been sometimes there.

HELEN

FTLN 2607 I do presume, sir, that you are not fall'n  
FTLN 2608 From the report that goes upon your goodness,  
FTLN 2609 And therefore, goaded with most sharp occasions 15  
FTLN 2610 Which lay nice manners by, I put you to  
FTLN 2611 The use of your own virtues, for the which  
FTLN 2612 I shall continue thankful.

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FTLN 2613	GENTLEMAN	What's your will?	
FTLN 2614	HELEN, <i>['taking out a paper']</i>	That it will please you	20
FTLN 2615		To give this poor petition to the King	
FTLN 2616		And aid me with that store of power you have	
FTLN 2617		To come into his presence.	
	GENTLEMAN		
FTLN 2618		The King's not here.	
FTLN 2619	HELEN	Not here, sir?	25
FTLN 2620	GENTLEMAN	Not indeed.	
FTLN 2621		He hence removed last night, and with more haste	
FTLN 2622		Than is his use.	
FTLN 2623	WIDOW	Lord, how we lose our pains!	
FTLN 2624	HELEN	All's well that ends well yet,	30
FTLN 2625		Though time seem so adverse and means unfit.—	
FTLN 2626		I do beseech you, whither is he gone?	
	GENTLEMAN		
FTLN 2627		Marry, as I take it, to Rossillion,	
FTLN 2628		Whither I am going.	
FTLN 2629	HELEN, <i>['giving him the paper']</i>	I do beseech you, sir,	35
FTLN 2630		Since you are like to see the King before me,	
FTLN 2631		Commend the paper to his gracious hand,	
FTLN 2632		Which I presume shall render you no blame	
FTLN 2633		But rather make you thank your pains for it.	
FTLN 2634		I will come after you with what good speed	40
FTLN 2635		Our means will make us means.	
FTLN 2636	GENTLEMAN	This I'll do for you.	
	HELEN		
FTLN 2637		And you shall find yourself to be well thanked	
FTLN 2638		Whate'er falls more. We must to horse again.—	
FTLN 2639		Go, go, provide.	45
		<i>['They exit.']</i>	

## [Scene 2]

*Enter [Fool] and Parolles.*

FTLN 2640 PAROLLES, [holding out a paper] Good Monsieur  
 FTLN 2641 Lavatch, give my lord Lafew this letter. I have ere  
 FTLN 2642 now, sir, been better known to you, when I have  
 FTLN 2643 held familiarity with fresher clothes. But I am  
 FTLN 2644 now, sir, muddied in Fortune's mood, and smell 5  
 FTLN 2645 somewhat strong of her strong displeasure.  
 FTLN 2646 FOOL Truly, Fortune's displeasure is but sluttish if it  
 FTLN 2647 smell so strongly as thou speak'st of. I will henceforth  
 FTLN 2648 eat no fish of Fortune's butt'ring. Prithee,  
 FTLN 2649 allow the wind. 10  
 FTLN 2650 PAROLLES Nay, you need not to stop your nose, sir. I  
 FTLN 2651 spake but by a metaphor.  
 FTLN 2652 FOOL Indeed, sir, if your metaphor stink I will stop my  
 FTLN 2653 nose, or against any man's metaphor. Prithee, get  
 FTLN 2654 thee further. 15  
 FTLN 2655 PAROLLES Pray you, sir, deliver me this paper.  
 FTLN 2656 FOOL Foh! Prithee, stand away. A paper from Fortune's  
 FTLN 2657 close-stool, to give to a nobleman!

*Enter Lafew.*

FTLN 2658 Look, here he comes himself.—Here is a purr of  
 FTLN 2659 Fortune's, sir, or of Fortune's cat—but not a 20  
 FTLN 2660 musk-cat—that has fall'n into the unclean fishpond  
 FTLN 2661 of her displeasure and, as he says, is muddied  
 FTLN 2662 withal. Pray you, sir, use the carp as you may,  
 FTLN 2663 for he looks like a poor, decayed, ingenious, foolish,  
 FTLN 2664 rascally knave. I do pity his distress in my 25  
 FTLN 2665 smiles of comfort, and leave him to your Lordship.

*[He exits.]*

FTLN 2666 PAROLLES My lord, I am a man whom Fortune hath  
 FTLN 2667 cruelly scratched.  
 FTLN 2668 LAFEW And what would you have me to do? 'Tis too  
 FTLN 2669 late to pare her nails now. Wherein have you 30

FTLN 2670           played the knave with Fortune that she should  
 FTLN 2671           scratch you, who of herself is a good lady and  
 FTLN 2672           would not have knaves thrive long under 「her?」  
 FTLN 2673           There's a cardecu for you. Let the justices make  
 FTLN 2674           you and Fortune friends. I am for other business.           35  
 FTLN 2675   PAROLLES   I beseech your Honor to hear me one single  
 FTLN 2676           word.  
 FTLN 2677   LAFEW     You beg a single penny more. Come, you shall  
 FTLN 2678           ha 't. Save your word.  
 FTLN 2679   PAROLLES   My name, my good lord, is Parolles.           40  
 FTLN 2680   LAFEW     You beg more than 「a」 word, then. Cock's my  
 FTLN 2681           passion; give me your hand. How does your drum?  
 FTLN 2682   PAROLLES   O my good lord, you were the first that  
 FTLN 2683           found me.  
 FTLN 2684   LAFEW     Was I, in sooth? And I was the first that lost           45  
 FTLN 2685           thee.  
 FTLN 2686   PAROLLES   It lies in you, my lord, to bring me in some  
 FTLN 2687           grace, for you did bring me out.  
 FTLN 2688   LAFEW     Out upon thee, knave! Dost thou put upon me  
 FTLN 2689           at once both the office of God and the devil? One           50  
 FTLN 2690           brings thee in grace, and the other brings thee out.  
 FTLN 2691           「*Trumpets sound.*」 The King's coming. I know by  
 FTLN 2692           his trumpets. Sirrah, inquire further after me. I  
 FTLN 2693           had talk of you last night. Though you are a fool  
 FTLN 2694           and a knave, you shall eat. Go to, follow.           55  
 FTLN 2695   PAROLLES   I praise God for you.

「*They exit.*」

「Scene 3」

*Flourish. Enter King, 「Countess,」 Lafew, the two French  
 Lords, with Attendants.*

KING

FTLN 2696           We lost a jewel of her, and our esteem  
 FTLN 2697           Was made much poorer by it. But your son,



FTLN 2698	As mad in folly, lacked the sense to know	
FTLN 2699	Her estimation home.	
FTLN 2700	COUNTESS                               'Tis past, my liege,	5
FTLN 2701	And I beseech your Majesty to make it	
FTLN 2702	Natural rebellion done i' th' blade of youth,	
FTLN 2703	When oil and fire, too strong for reason's force,	
FTLN 2704	O'erbears it and burns on.	
FTLN 2705	KING                                       My honored lady,	10
FTLN 2706	I have forgiven and forgotten all,	
FTLN 2707	Though my revenges were high bent upon him	
FTLN 2708	And watched the time to shoot.	
FTLN 2709	LAFEW                                     This I must say—	
FTLN 2710	But first I beg my pardon: the young lord	15
FTLN 2711	Did to his Majesty, his mother, and his lady	
FTLN 2712	Offense of mighty note, but to himself	
FTLN 2713	The greatest wrong of all. He lost a wife	
FTLN 2714	Whose beauty did astonish the survey	
FTLN 2715	Of richest eyes, whose words all ears took captive,	20
FTLN 2716	Whose dear perfection hearts that scorned to serve	
FTLN 2717	Humbly called mistress.	
FTLN 2718	KING                                     Praising what is lost	
FTLN 2719	Makes the remembrance dear. Well, call him hither.	
FTLN 2720	We are reconciled, and the first view shall kill	25
FTLN 2721	All repetition. Let him not ask our pardon.	
FTLN 2722	The nature of his great offense is dead,	
FTLN 2723	And deeper than oblivion we do bury	
FTLN 2724	Th' incensing relics of it. Let him approach	
FTLN 2725	A stranger, no offender, and inform him	30
FTLN 2726	So 'tis our will he should.	
FTLN 2727	GENTLEMAN                           I shall, my liege. <i>「He exits.」</i>	
FTLN 2728	KING	
FTLN 2728	What says he to your daughter? Have you spoke?	
FTLN 2729	LAFEW	
FTLN 2729	All that he is hath reference to your Highness.	
FTLN 2730	KING	
FTLN 2730	Then shall we have a match. I have letters sent me	35
FTLN 2731	That sets him high in fame.	

*Enter Count Bertram.*

FTLN 2732	LAFEW	He looks well on 't.	
FTLN 2733	KING	I am not a day of season,	
FTLN 2734		For thou mayst see a sunshine and a hail	
FTLN 2735		In me at once. But to the brightest beams	40
FTLN 2736		Distracted clouds give way. So stand thou forth.	
FTLN 2737		The time is fair again.	
FTLN 2738	BERTRAM	My high-repented blames,	
FTLN 2739		Dear sovereign, pardon to me.	
FTLN 2740	KING	All is whole.	45
FTLN 2741		Not one word more of the consumèd time.	
FTLN 2742		Let's take the instant by the forward top,	
FTLN 2743		For we are old, and on our quick'st decrees	
FTLN 2744		Th' inaudible and noiseless foot of time	
FTLN 2745		Steals ere we can effect them. You remember	50
FTLN 2746		The daughter of this lord?	
FTLN 2747	BERTRAM	Admiringly, my liege. At first	
FTLN 2748		I stuck my choice upon her, ere my heart	
FTLN 2749		Durst make too bold a herald of my tongue;	
FTLN 2750		Where the impression of mine eye infixing,	55
FTLN 2751		Contempt his scornful perspective did lend me,	
FTLN 2752		Which warped the line of every other favor,	
FTLN 2753		Scorned a fair color or expressed it stol'n,	
FTLN 2754		Extended or contracted all proportions	
FTLN 2755		To a most hideous object. Thence it came	60
FTLN 2756		That she whom all men praised and whom myself,	
FTLN 2757		Since I have lost, have loved, was in mine eye	
FTLN 2758		The dust that did offend it.	
FTLN 2759	KING	Well excused.	
FTLN 2760		That thou didst love her strikes some scores away	65
FTLN 2761		From the great compt. But love that comes too late,	
FTLN 2762		Like a remorseful pardon slowly carried,	
FTLN 2763		To the great sender turns a sour offense,	
FTLN 2764		Crying "That's good that's gone!" Our rash faults	
FTLN 2765		Make trivial price of serious things we have,	70

FTLN 2766	Not knowing them until we know their grave.	
FTLN 2767	Oft our displeasures, to ourselves unjust,	
FTLN 2768	Destroy our friends and after weep their dust.	
FTLN 2769	Our own love, waking, cries to see what's done,	
FTLN 2770	While shameful hate sleeps out the afternoon.	75
FTLN 2771	Be this sweet Helen's knell, and now forget her.	
FTLN 2772	Send forth your amorous token for fair Maudlin.	
FTLN 2773	The main consents are had, and here we'll stay	
FTLN 2774	To see our widower's second marriage day.	
	「COUNTESS」	
FTLN 2775	Which better than the first, O dear heaven, bless,	80
FTLN 2776	Or, ere they meet, in me, O nature, cesse!	
	LAFEW	
FTLN 2777	Come on, my son, in whom my house's name	
FTLN 2778	Must be digested, give a favor from you	
FTLN 2779	To sparkle in the spirits of my daughter,	
FTLN 2780	That she may quickly come.	85
	<i>「Bertram gives him a ring.」</i>	
FTLN 2781	By my old beard	
FTLN 2782	And ev'ry hair that's on 't, Helen that's dead	
FTLN 2783	Was a sweet creature. Such a ring as this,	
FTLN 2784	The last that e'er I took her leave at court,	
FTLN 2785	I saw upon her finger.	90
FTLN 2786	BERTRAM                              Hers it was not.	
	KING	
FTLN 2787	Now, pray you, let me see it, for mine eye,	
FTLN 2788	While I was speaking, oft was fastened to 't.	
	<i>「Lafew passes the ring to the King.」</i>	
FTLN 2789	This ring was mine, and when I gave it Helen,	
FTLN 2790	I bade her if her fortunes ever stood	95
FTLN 2791	Necessitied to help, that by this token	
FTLN 2792	I would relieve her. 「To Bertram.」 Had you that craft to	
FTLN 2793	reave her	
FTLN 2794	Of what should stead her most?	
FTLN 2795	BERTRAM                              My gracious	100
FTLN 2796	sovereign,	

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FTLN 2797	Howe'er it pleases you to take it so,	
FTLN 2798	The ring was never hers.	
FTLN 2799	COUNTESS                               Son, on my life,	
FTLN 2800	I have seen her wear it, and she reckoned it	105
FTLN 2801	At her life's rate.	
FTLN 2802	LAFEW                                I am sure I saw her wear it.	
	BERTRAM	
FTLN 2803	You are deceived, my lord. She never saw it.	
FTLN 2804	In Florence was it from a casement thrown me,	
FTLN 2805	Wrapped in a paper which contained the name	110
FTLN 2806	Of her that threw it. Noble she was, and thought	
FTLN 2807	I stood <sup>1</sup> ungaged, <sup>1</sup> but when I had subscribed	
FTLN 2808	To mine own fortune and informed her fully	
FTLN 2809	I could not answer in that course of honor	
FTLN 2810	As she had made the overture, she ceased	115
FTLN 2811	In heavy satisfaction and would never	
FTLN 2812	Receive the ring again.	
FTLN 2813	KING                                Plutus himself,	
FTLN 2814	That knows the tinct and multiplying med'cine,	
FTLN 2815	Hath not in nature's mystery more science	120
FTLN 2816	Than I have in this ring. 'Twas mine, 'twas Helen's,	
FTLN 2817	Whoever gave it you. Then if you know	
FTLN 2818	That you are well acquainted with yourself,	
FTLN 2819	Confess 'twas hers and by what rough enforcement	
FTLN 2820	You got it from her. She called the saints to surety	125
FTLN 2821	That she would never put it from her finger	
FTLN 2822	Unless she gave it to yourself in bed,	
FTLN 2823	Where you have never come, or sent it us	
FTLN 2824	Upon her great disaster.	
FTLN 2825	BERTRAM                                She never saw it.	130
	KING	
FTLN 2826	Thou speak'st it falsely, as I love mine honor,	
FTLN 2827	And mak'st conjectural fears to come into me	
FTLN 2828	Which I would fain shut out. If it should prove	
FTLN 2829	That thou art so inhuman—'twill not prove so,	
FTLN 2830	And yet I know not. Thou didst hate her deadly,	135

FTLN 2831 And she is dead, which nothing but to close  
 FTLN 2832 Her eyes myself could win me to believe  
 FTLN 2833 More than to see this ring.—Take him away.  
 FTLN 2834 My forepast proofs, howe'er the matter fall,  
 FTLN 2835 Shall tax my fears of little vanity, 140  
 FTLN 2836 Having vainly feared too little. Away with him.  
 FTLN 2837 We'll sift this matter further.

FTLN 2838 BERTRAM If you shall prove  
 FTLN 2839 This ring was ever hers, you shall as easy  
 FTLN 2840 Prove that I husbanded her bed in Florence, 145  
 FTLN 2841 Where yet she never was. *〔He exits, under guard.〕*

FTLN 2842 KING  
 I am wrapped in dismal thinkings.

*Enter a Gentleman.*

FTLN 2843 GENTLEMAN Gracious sovereign,  
 FTLN 2844 Whether I have been to blame or no, I know not.  
*〔He gives the King a paper.〕*  
 FTLN 2845 Here's a petition from a Florentine 150  
 FTLN 2846 Who hath for four or five removes come short  
 FTLN 2847 To tender it herself. I undertook it,  
 FTLN 2848 Vanquished thereto by the fair grace and speech  
 FTLN 2849 Of the poor suppliant, who, by this, I know  
 FTLN 2850 Is here attending. Her business looks in her 155  
 FTLN 2851 With an importing visage, and she told me,  
 FTLN 2852 In a sweet verbal brief, it did concern  
 FTLN 2853 Your Highness with herself.

FTLN 2854 *〔KING reads〕 Upon his many protestations to marry me*  
 FTLN 2855 *when his wife was dead, I blush to say it, he won* 160  
 FTLN 2856 *me. Now is the Count Rossillion a widower, his*  
 FTLN 2857 *vows are forfeited to me and my honor's paid to him.*  
 FTLN 2858 *He stole from Florence, taking no leave, and I follow*  
 FTLN 2859 *him to his country for justice. Grant it me, O king.*  
 FTLN 2860 *In you it best lies. Otherwise a seducer flourishes,* 165  
 FTLN 2861 *and a poor maid is undone.*

*Diana Capilet.*

FTLN 2863	LAFEW	I will buy me a son-in-law in a fair, and toll for	
FTLN 2864		this. I'll none of him.	
	KING		
FTLN 2865		The heavens have thought well on thee, Lafew,	170
FTLN 2866		To bring forth this discov'ry.—Seek these suitors.	
FTLN 2867		Go speedily, and bring again the Count.	
		<i>「Gentleman and Attendants exit.」</i>	
FTLN 2868		I am afeard the life of Helen, lady,	
FTLN 2869		Was foully snatched.	
FTLN 2870	COUNTESS	Now justice on the doers!	175
		<i>Enter Bertram 「under guard.」</i>	
	KING		
FTLN 2871		I wonder, sir, 「since」 wives are monsters to you	
FTLN 2872		And that you fly them as you swear them lordship,	
FTLN 2873		Yet you desire to marry.	
		<i>Enter Widow 「and」 Diana.</i>	
FTLN 2874		What woman's that?	
	DIANA		
FTLN 2875		I am, my lord, a wretched Florentine,	180
FTLN 2876		Derivèd from the ancient Capilet.	
FTLN 2877		My suit, as I do understand, you know	
FTLN 2878		And therefore know how far I may be pitied.	
	WIDOW		
FTLN 2879		I am her mother, sir, whose age and honor	
FTLN 2880		Both suffer under this complaint we bring,	185
FTLN 2881		And both shall cease without your remedy.	
	KING		
FTLN 2882		Come hither, count. Do you know these women?	
	BERTRAM		
FTLN 2883		My lord, I neither can nor will deny	
FTLN 2884		But that I know them. Do they charge me further?	
	DIANA		
FTLN 2885		Why do you look so strange upon your wife?	190

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	BERTRAM	
FTLN 2886	She's none of mine, my lord.	
FTLN 2887	DIANA	If you shall marry,
FTLN 2888	You give away this hand, and that is mine;	
FTLN 2889	You give away heaven's vows, and those are mine;	
FTLN 2890	You give away myself, which is known mine,	195
FTLN 2891	For I by vow am so embodied yours	
FTLN 2892	That she which marries you must marry me,	
FTLN 2893	Either both or none.	
FTLN 2894	LAFEW, <i>['to Bertram']</i>	Your reputation comes too short
FTLN 2895	for my daughter. You are no husband for her.	200
	BERTRAM, <i>['to the King']</i>	
FTLN 2896	My lord, this is a fond and desp'rate creature	
FTLN 2897	Whom sometime I have laughed with. Let your	
FTLN 2898	Highness	
FTLN 2899	Lay a more noble thought upon mine honor	
FTLN 2900	Than for to think that I would sink it here.	205
	KING	
FTLN 2901	Sir, for my thoughts, you have them ill to friend	
FTLN 2902	Till your deeds gain them. Fairer prove your honor	
FTLN 2903	Than in my thought it lies.	
FTLN 2904	DIANA	Good my lord,
FTLN 2905	Ask him upon his oath if he does think	210
FTLN 2906	He had not my virginity.	
	KING	
FTLN 2907	What sayst thou to her?	
FTLN 2908	BERTRAM	She's impudent, my lord,
FTLN 2909	And was a common gamester to the camp.	
	DIANA	
FTLN 2910	He does me wrong, my lord. If I were so,	215
FTLN 2911	He might have bought me at a common price.	
FTLN 2912	Do not believe him. O, behold this ring,	
FTLN 2913	Whose high respect and rich validity	
FTLN 2914	Did lack a parallel. Yet for all that	
FTLN 2915	He gave it to a commoner o' th' camp,	220
FTLN 2916	If I be one.	

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FTLN 2917	COUNTESS	He blushes, and 'tis hit.	
FTLN 2918		Of six preceding ancestors that gem,	
FTLN 2919		Conferred by testament to th' sequent issue,	
FTLN 2920		Hath it been owed and worn. This is his wife.	225
FTLN 2921		That ring's a thousand proofs.	
FTLN 2922	KING, <i>['to Diana']</i>	Methought you said	
FTLN 2923		You saw one here in court could witness it.	
	DIANA		
FTLN 2924		I did, my lord, but loath am to produce	
FTLN 2925		So bad an instrument. His name's Parolles.	230
	LAFEW		
FTLN 2926		I saw the man today, if man he be.	
	KING		
FTLN 2927		Find him, and bring him hither. <i>['Attendant exits.']</i>	
FTLN 2928	BERTRAM	What of him?	
FTLN 2929		He's quoted for a most perfidious slave,	
FTLN 2930		With all the spots o' th' world taxed and debauched,	235
FTLN 2931		Whose nature sickens but to speak a truth.	
FTLN 2932		Am I or that or this for what he'll utter,	
FTLN 2933		That will speak anything?	
FTLN 2934	KING	She hath that ring of yours.	
	BERTRAM		
FTLN 2935		I think she has. Certain it is I liked her	240
FTLN 2936		And boarded her i' th' wanton way of youth.	
FTLN 2937		She knew her distance and did angle for me,	
FTLN 2938		Madding my eagerness with her restraint,	
FTLN 2939		As all impediments in fancy's course	
FTLN 2940		Are motives of more fancy; and in fine	245
FTLN 2941		Her <i>['infinite cunning']</i> with her modern grace	
FTLN 2942		Subdued me to her rate. She got the ring,	
FTLN 2943		And I had that which any inferior might	
FTLN 2944		At market price have bought.	
FTLN 2945	DIANA	I must be patient.	250
FTLN 2946		You that have turned off a first so noble wife	
FTLN 2947		May justly diet me. I pray you yet—	
FTLN 2948		Since you lack virtue, I will lose a husband—	



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FTLN 2949	Send for your ring. I will return it home,	
FTLN 2950	And give me mine again.	255
FTLN 2951	BERTRAM I have it not.	
FTLN 2952	KING, [to Diana] What ring was yours, I pray you?	
	DIANA	
FTLN 2953	Sir, much like the same upon your finger.	
	KING	
FTLN 2954	Know you this ring? This ring was his of late.	
	DIANA	
FTLN 2955	And this was it I gave him, being abed.	260
	KING	
FTLN 2956	The story, then, goes false you threw it him	
FTLN 2957	Out of a casement?	
FTLN 2958	DIANA I have spoke the truth.	
	<i>Enter Parolles.</i>	
	BERTRAM	
FTLN 2959	My lord, I do confess the ring was hers.	
	KING	
FTLN 2960	You boggle shrewdly. Every feather starts you.—	265
FTLN 2961	Is this the man you speak of?	
FTLN 2962	DIANA Ay, my lord.	
	KING	
FTLN 2963	Tell me, sirrah—but tell me true, I charge you,	
FTLN 2964	Not fearing the displeasure of your master,	
FTLN 2965	Which, on your just proceeding, I'll keep off—	270
FTLN 2966	By him and by this woman here what know you?	
FTLN 2967	PAROLLES So please your Majesty, my master hath	
FTLN 2968	been an honorable gentleman. Tricks he hath had	
FTLN 2969	in him which gentlemen have.	
FTLN 2970	KING Come, come, to th' purpose. Did he love this	275
FTLN 2971	woman?	
FTLN 2972	PAROLLES Faith, sir, he did love her, but how?	
FTLN 2973	KING How, I pray you?	
FTLN 2974	PAROLLES He did love her, sir, as a gentleman loves a	
FTLN 2975	woman.	280

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FTLN 2976	KING	How is that?	
FTLN 2977	PAROLLES	He loved her, sir, and loved her not.	
FTLN 2978	KING	As thou art a knave and no knave. What an	
FTLN 2979		equivocal companion is this!	
FTLN 2980	PAROLLES	I am a poor man, and at your Majesty's	285
FTLN 2981		command.	
FTLN 2982	LAFEW	He's a good drum, my lord, but a naughty	
FTLN 2983		orator.	
FTLN 2984	DIANA	Do you know he promised me marriage?	
FTLN 2985	PAROLLES	Faith, I know more than I'll speak.	290
FTLN 2986	KING	But wilt thou not speak all thou know'st?	
FTLN 2987	PAROLLES	Yes, so please your Majesty. I did go	
FTLN 2988		between them, as I said; but more than that he	
FTLN 2989		loved her, for indeed he was mad for her, and	
FTLN 2990		talked of Satan and of limbo and of furies and I	295
FTLN 2991		know not what. Yet I was in that credit with them	
FTLN 2992		at that time, that I knew of their going to bed and	
FTLN 2993		of other motions, as promising her marriage, and	
FTLN 2994		things which would derive me ill will to speak of.	
FTLN 2995		Therefore I will not speak what I know.	300
FTLN 2996	KING	Thou hast spoken all already, unless thou canst	
FTLN 2997		say they are married. But thou art too fine in thy	
FTLN 2998		evidence. Therefore stand aside.	
		「 <i>To Diana.</i> 」	
FTLN 2999		This ring you say was yours?	
FTLN 3000	DIANA	Ay, my good lord.	305
	KING		
FTLN 3001		Where did you buy it? Or who gave it you?	
	DIANA		
FTLN 3002		It was not given me, nor I did not buy it.	
	KING		
FTLN 3003		Who lent it you?	
FTLN 3004	DIANA	It was not lent me neither.	
	KING		
FTLN 3005		Where did you find it then?	310
FTLN 3006	DIANA	I found it not.	

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	KING	
FTLN 3007	If it were yours by none of all these ways,	
FTLN 3008	How could you give it him?	
FTLN 3009	DIANA                                   I never gave it him.	
FTLN 3010	LAFEW   This woman's an easy glove, my lord; she goes	315
FTLN 3011	off and on at pleasure.	
	KING	
FTLN 3012	This ring was mine. I gave it his first wife.	
	DIANA	
FTLN 3013	It might be yours or hers for aught I know.	
	KING, <i>['to Attendants']</i>	
FTLN 3014	Take her away. I do not like her now.	
FTLN 3015	To prison with her, and away with him.—	320
FTLN 3016	Unless thou tell'st me where thou hadst this ring,	
FTLN 3017	Thou diest within this hour.	
FTLN 3018	DIANA                                   I'll never tell you.	
	KING	
FTLN 3019	Take her away.	
FTLN 3020	DIANA                                I'll put in bail, my liege.	325
	KING	
FTLN 3021	I think thee now some common customer.	
	DIANA, <i>['to Bertram']</i>	
FTLN 3022	By Jove, if ever I knew man, 'twas you.	
	KING	
FTLN 3023	Wherefore hast thou accused him all this while?	
	DIANA	
FTLN 3024	Because he's guilty and he is not guilty.	
FTLN 3025	He knows I am no maid, and he'll swear to 't.	330
FTLN 3026	I'll swear I am a maid, and he knows not.	
FTLN 3027	Great king, I am no strumpet. By my life,	
FTLN 3028	I am either maid or else this old man's wife.	
	KING	
FTLN 3029	She does abuse our ears. To prison with her.	
	DIANA	
FTLN 3030	Good mother, fetch my bail. <i>['Widow exits.']</i> Stay,	335
FTLN 3031	royal sir.	

FTLN 3032 The jeweler that owes the ring is sent for,  
 FTLN 3033 And he shall surety me. But for this lord  
 FTLN 3034 Who hath abused me as he knows himself,  
 FTLN 3035 Though yet he never harmed me, here I quit him. 340  
 FTLN 3036 He knows himself my bed he hath defiled,  
 FTLN 3037 And at that time he got his wife with child.  
 FTLN 3038 Dead though she be, she feels her young one kick.  
 FTLN 3039 So there's my riddle: one that's dead is quick.  
 FTLN 3040 And now behold the meaning. 345

*Enter Helen and Widow.*

FTLN 3041 KING Is there no exorcist  
 FTLN 3042 Beguiles the truer office of mine eyes?  
 FTLN 3043 Is 't real that I see?  
 FTLN 3044 HELEN No, my good lord,  
 FTLN 3045 'Tis but the shadow of a wife you see, 350  
 FTLN 3046 The name and not the thing.  
 FTLN 3047 BERTRAM Both, both. O, pardon!  
 HELEN  
 FTLN 3048 O, my good lord, when I was like this maid,  
 FTLN 3049 I found you wondrous kind. There is your ring,  
 FTLN 3050 And, look you, here's your letter. *['She takes out a* 355  
 FTLN 3051 *paper.']* This it says:  
 FTLN 3052 *When from my finger you can get this ring*  
 FTLN 3053 *And 'are' by me with child, etc.* This is done.  
 FTLN 3054 Will you be mine now you are doubly won?  
 BERTRAM  
 FTLN 3055 If she, my liege, can make me know this clearly, 360  
 FTLN 3056 I'll love her dearly, ever, ever dearly.  
 HELEN  
 FTLN 3057 If it appear not plain and prove untrue,  
 FTLN 3058 Deadly divorce step between me and you.—  
 FTLN 3059 O my dear mother, do I see you living?  
 LAFEW  
 FTLN 3060 Mine eyes smell onions. I shall weep anon.— 365  
 FTLN 3061 *['To Parolles.']* Good Tom Drum, lend me a handkercher.

FTLN 3062

So, I thank thee. Wait on me home.

FTLN 3063

I'll make sport with thee. Let thy courtesies alone.

FTLN 3064

They are scurvy ones.

KING

FTLN 3065

Let us from point to point this story know,

370

FTLN 3066

To make the even truth in pleasure flow.

FTLN 3067

「*To Diana.*」 If thou be'st yet a fresh uncroppèd flower,

FTLN 3068

Choose thou thy husband, and I'll pay thy dower.

FTLN 3069

For I can guess that by thy honest aid

FTLN 3070

Thou kept'st a wife herself, thyself a maid.

375

FTLN 3071

Of that and all the progress more and less,

FTLN 3072

Resolvedly more leisure shall express.

FTLN 3073

All yet seems well, and if it end so meet,

FTLN 3074

The bitter past, more welcome is the sweet.

*Flourish.*

## 「EPILOGUE」

FTLN 3075

The King's a beggar, now the play is done.

FTLN 3076

All is well ended if this suit be won,

FTLN 3077

That you express content, which we will pay,

FTLN 3078

With strift to please you, day exceeding day.

FTLN 3079

Ours be your patience, then, and yours our parts. 5

FTLN 3080

Your gentle hands lend us, and take our hearts.

*All exit.*

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