

## Act Four • Scene 1 scene description

Titania and Bottom come onstage along with Titania's fairies. Oberon hides and watches them.

Titania is fawning over Bottom and her fairies are catering to his every whim. Bottom becomes sleepy and he and Titania take a nap.

At this point, Puck joins Oberon and Oberon tells him that he has gotten the boy from Titania and that he will now release her from the charm.

Titania awakens and wonders at what she calls the "visions" that she has seen. Oberon instructs Puck to remove the asses head from Bottom. And as the three of them depart, leaving Bottom asleep onstage, Titania asks for an explanation of what has happened.

At this point, Theseus, Hippolyta and Egeus enter and see the lovers asleep on the ground. Theseus assumes that they have gotten up early to celebrate May Day. He then remembers that this is also the day that Hermia is to make her choice. They awaken the young lovers.

Theseus then asks the boys how come they are sleeping together so peacefully when he knows them to be enemies.

Lysander, still in a daze, says that he came to the forest with Hermia intending to escape the laws of Athens. Upon hearing this, Egeus starts screaming for justice. But when Demetrius explains that his love for Hermia is gone, Theseus decides to overrule the law of Athens. He announces that the couples: Lysander and Hermia, and Demetrius and Helena, will be married along with Hippolyta and himself. They all exit.

Bottom, who has been asleep all this time, awakens and is obviously disoriented. He thinks that he has had a bizarre dream and that he should get Quince to write a poem about it. He then exits.

## Act Four • Scene 1

## vernacular

*[the four lovers are asleep onstage, Titania, Bottom, and the fairies enter —Oberon enters behind them, unseen by them]*

TITANIA: *[to Bottom]*

Come, sit down upon this flowerbed,  
while I stick roses in your sleek  
smooth head.

BOTTOM:

Where's Peaseblossom?

PEASEBLOSSOM:

Here.

BOTTOM:

Scratch my head, Peaseblossom. Where's  
Monsieur Cobweb?

COBWEB:

Here.

BOTTOM:

Monsieur Cobweb, get your weapons and  
kill me a bee and bring me the honey.  
Where's Monsieur Mustardseed?

MUSTARDSEED:

Here. What do you wish?

BOTTOM:

Nothing, good Monsieur, except to  
help Cobweb to scratch. I must go to  
the barber's, I feel very hairy. *[he  
yawns]* I'm reclined to take a little  
nap.

TITANIA:

You sleep. Fairies, go.  
Oh, how I love you! *[they  
both sleep]*

*[enter Puck]*

OBERON:

Welcome, good Robin. Do you see this

## Act Four • Scene 1      vernacular

sight? I begin to feel sorry for her.  
 When I met her recently near the woods,  
 I asked her for the orphan boy and right  
 away she gave me him. Now that I have  
 the boy, I will release the Fairy Queen.  
*[he applies the herb to her eyes]*  
     Be as thou wast wont to be,  
     See as thou wast wont to see.  
 Now, my Titania, awaken, my sweet queen.

TITANIA: *[awakening]*  
 My Oberon! what strange visions I have  
 seen! I thought I was in love with an  
 ass.

OBERON:  
 There is your love.

TITANIA:  
 How did this come to pass?

OBERON:  
 Shhh! Robin, take off this head.

OBERON: *[continuing]*  
 Come, my queen, take hands with me.  
 We shall live together peacefully.

TITANIA:  
 My lord, as we go, tell me why I was  
 sleeping found, with these mortals on  
 the ground. *[all three exit]*

*[the sound of a hunting horn is heard  
 and Theseus, Hippolyta and Egeus  
 enter]*

THESEUS:  
 Let us go, fair queen, to the mountain  
 top. But hush! what nymphs are these?

EGEUS:  
 My lord, this is my daughter, and this,  
 Lysander, this is Demetrius, and this,  
 Helena. I wonder at their being here  
 together.

## Act Four • Scene 1

## vernacular

THESEUS:

No doubt they got up early, and came here to bless our wedding day. But, Egeus, isn't this the day that Hermia must make her choice?

EGEUS:

It is, my lord.

THESEUS:

Wake them.

THESEUS: *[continuing]*

Good morning, friends.

LYSANDER:

My lord.

THESEUS:

I beg you all, stand up.

I know you two are rivals. What brought about this peace?

LYSANDER: *[still half asleep—in a daze]*

My lord. I truly cannot say. But, I think I came here with Hermia. We'd planned to escape from Athens.

EGEUS: *[furious]*

Enough, that's enough, my lord; the law, the law on his head. They were planning to run away.

DEMETRIUS:

My lord, fair Helen told me of their plan; and I, in a fury, followed them, Helena, in love, followed me. But, my lord, I don't know by what power—but by some power—my love to Hermia, melted like the snow. And now, with all my heart and soul, I love Helena. I was engaged to her, my lord, before I saw Hermia. But it was as though I were sick and couldn't want her love. But, now I am restored to health and

Act Four · Scene 1      vernacular

I do wish her, love her, long for her,  
and will forevermore be true to her.

THESEUS:

Fair lovers, we will talk more about  
this later. Egeus, I will overrule the  
law; and in the temple, in a little  
while, along with us, these couples  
shall be married. Let us all go to  
Athens. Come, Hippolyta. *[they exit]*

DEMETRIUS:

All this seems small and indistinct,  
like distant mountains turing into  
clouds.

HERMIA:

I seem to see these things with  
blurred vision when everything  
appears double.

HELENA:

Me too. And I have found Demetrius  
like a jewel, mine; but not really  
mine.

DEMETRIUS:

Are you sure we're really awake? It  
seems to me we're still dreaming.  
Wasn't the Duke here and didn't he tell  
us to follow him?

HERMIA:

Yes.

LYSANDER:

And he told us to follow him to the  
temple.

DEMETRIUS:

Why then, we are awake. Let's follow  
and as we go, let's recount our  
dreams. *[they exit]*

BOTTOM: *[awakening but still half-asleep]*

When my cue comes, call me. *[waking  
more]* Oh my God! I have had a  
rare vision. I have had a dream.  
I thought I was...I thought I

Act Four • Scene 2 **scene description**

In this scene we find Quince, Flute, Snout and Starveling concerned about the whereabouts of Bottom. Snug comes on with the news that the Duke and Hippolyta along with the other couples, are married.

Just then Bottom comes running on and tells them that their play is on the *short list* for the Duke's entertainment and that everyone should get ready and meet at the palace.

Act Four • Scene 1 **vernacular**

had...man's eye has not heard,  
man's ear has not seen, man's  
hand is not able to taste, his  
tongue to conceive, nor his heart  
to report what my dream was. I will  
get Peter Quince to write a poem  
about my dream. It will be called  
"Bottom's Dream" because it has no  
bottom! [*he exits*]

Act Four • Scene 2 **vernacular**

[*enter Quince, Flute, Snout and  
Starveling*]

QUINCE:

Have you checked at Bottom's house?  
Has he come home yet?

STARVELING:

Hasn't been heard of.

FLUTE:

If he doesn't show up, our play is  
ruined.

SNUG: [*entering*]

Masters, the Duke is coming from the  
temple, and there were two or three  
other lords and ladies also married.

BOTTOM: [*entering excited*]

Where are you lads?

QUINCE:

Bottom! Oh, thank god!

BOTTOM:

Masters, the Duke has dined. Get your  
costumes together; meet at once at the  
palace; everybody, look over your parts;  
for, the short and the long of it is,  
our play has been picked. No more words;  
Away! [*they all exit*]