

3: INTO THE WOODS

Adapted by Julia Cranney

SCENE 4: THE WOODS OUTSIDE ATHENS

PUCK Ah, it's nice to back where I belong - in the woods. Duke Theseus might rule over the court but this is the land of the fairies, ruled by my master, King Oberon and his Queen Titania, which usually works fine, but they're arguing at the moment and it's causing all sorts of problems. Uh-oh, here they come now. This is not going to be pretty...

FX [PUCK FLIES OFF]

OBERON There she is, proud Titania.

TITANIA So here must be jealous Oberon. Fairies, let's go.

OBERON Wait! Am I not your lord?

TITANIA If you are my lord then I suppose I must be your lady.

OBERON My lady would not treat me so.

TITANIA Oberon, these are the mutterings of jealousy. We've been having the same argument since spring.

OBERON Exactly. Because you won't -

TITANIA Do as you say?

OBERON Well...

TITANIA You're selfish Oberon. Because of our fighting, the rivers are overflowing, the crops are rotting in the fields and all the year's seasons are running into each other. It's a mess, and it's our fault.

OBERON So you admit then, that these problems were caused by you? I only asked for one of your little fairies to be my helper.

TITANIA O, set your heart at rest. You will not take any of them from me.

[A FAIRY BLOWS A RASPBERRY AT OBERON]



A Midsummer Night's Dream

- OBERON How long within this wood do you intend to stay?
- TITANIA Probably 'til after Theseus's wedding day. Now, if you'll do what's right and stop your arguing, stay. If not, begone!
- OBERON Give me what I want and I will go with you.
- TITANIA Not for all your fairy kingdom. Fairies, away! I shall only argue more, if we longer stay.
- OBERON Ooh that fairy! I will not let her leave this wood until I have had my revenge. Puck, come here.
- PUCK Yes, my lord.
- OBERON Do you remember the time we saw winged Cupid misfire his bow and land an arrow upon a little flower?
- PUCK I do, my lord.
- OBERON It turned from milk-white to deepest purple with its wound of love. Fetch me that flower! The juice of it, when put on dreaming eyes, will make the sleeper madly dote with love upon the next live creature that it sees. Fetch it for me and come straight back here again.
- PUCK I'll fly all around the world and find it for you. Won't be a minute!
- [PUCK FLIES OFF]*
- OBERON Once I have this juice, I'll drop it onto Titania's eyes as she sleeps, making sure that the next thing she sees is some wild animal: a lion, a bear, maybe a meddling monkey? Whatever it is, she will fall hopelessly in love with it and when I break the spell, she'll be so embarrassed that she'll think twice about ever crossing me again!
- HELENA Demetrius, slow down!
- OBERON But who comes here?
- DEMETRIUS I love you not, Helena, therefore pursue me not. Where are Lysander and Hermia? You told me they would be here and now here I am. Get you gone and follow me no more.
- HELENA No matter what you say Demetrius I will stay with you. I love you!

