

**BEATRICE & BENEDICK**

*Benedick has just declared his love for Beatrice, and she has reciprocated. This happens immediately after Hero's wedding, at which Claudio shamed Hero in front of everyone.*

**BENEDICK**

By my sword Beatrice thou lov'st me.

**BEATRICE**

Do not swear by it and eat it.

**BENEDICK**

I will swear by it that you love me, and I will make him eat it that says I love not you.

**BEATRICE**

Why then God forgive me.

**BENEDICK**

What offence sweet Beatrice?

**BEATRICE**

You have stayed me in a happy hour, I was about to protest I loved you.

**BENEDICK**

And do it with all thy heart.

**BEATRICE**

I love you with so much of my heart, that none is left to protest.

**BENEDICK**

Come, bid me do anything for thee.

**BEATRICE**

Kill Claudio.

**BENEDICK**

Ha, not for the wide world.

**BEATRICE**

You kill me to deny it, farewell.

**BENEDICK**

Tarry sweet Beatrice.

**BEATRICE**

I am gone, though I am here, there is no love in you, nay I pray you let me go.

**BENEDICK**

Beatrice.

**HERO & CLAUDIO:**

*This teasing scene takes place after Hero, Claudio and Margaret drop some big ol' hints to Benedick that Beatrice is in love with him. They tease Benedick because he's now cleaning himself up to impress Beatrice.*

**CLAUDIO**

If he be not in love with some woman, there is no believing old signs: a brushes his hat a mornings! What should that bode?

**HERO**

That's as much to say, the sweet youth's in love. The greatest note of it is his melancholy.

**CLAUDIO**

And when was he wont to wash his face?

**HERO**

Yea, or to paint himself? For the which I hear what they say of him.

**CLAUDIO**

Nay, but his jesting spirit, which is now crept into a lute string, and now governed by stops.

**HERO**

Indeed that tells a heavy tale for him: conclude, he is in love.

**CLAUDIO**

Nay, but I know who loves him.

**HERO**

That would I know too, I warrant one that knows him not.

**MARGARET & DON JON:**

*Jon has just left the wedding where he supported Claudio in his claim that Hero was cheating on him. He's begun to drink. Margaret has left the wedding, and has gone searching for Jon.*

**MARGARET**

What hast thou done?

**DON JON**

Margaret--

**MARGARET**

Nay, I misspoke.

What have we done? What mad, villainous plot  
Have you cast me in? Are you the mastermind?  
Am I your stooge? And if this is so,  
Have you forgotten who is friend or foe?

**DON JON**

Nay, I have not forgotten my foes,  
I have kept them near and dear to my heart.  
Good Margaret, you are prized for your wit:  
Did you truly think us friends?

**MARGARET**

Yea, what else?

**DON JON**

Accidents. We are the forgotten cast-offs  
Of cutthroat corporates, who met in summer  
To sip and suck the straws of empty  
Tumblers, waiting for the clock to turn back  
On their rudderless lives, Cut to, the children:  
Young fools swearing fealty over skinned knees,  
Promising loyalty they're never known,  
Criss-crossing friendships that fall with the leaves.  
Have I forgotten? No, Margaret, no --  
I have not. Have you?

**MARGARET**

You absolute ass.  
Kindly surface from your sphincter, and see  
With parted eye: What call you me,  
Who dragged you sopping from the lake?

What call you Bea, who pulled gravel from your hands?  
What call you Hero, that tended to your angst,  
And listened to your teenage tempests  
Without complaint?

**DON JON**

You pulled me out after pushing me in.  
The gravel was Bea's hilarious prank.  
Hero -- she attended me then but abandons me now,  
She was promised to me and breaks her word,  
And now she's had her recompense.

**MARGARET**

Jon -- Hero is grown. Leonato is dead.

**DON JON**

Does a promise not count beyond the grave?

**MARGARET**

'Twas not Hero's promise.

**DON JON**

She loved --

**MARGARET**

Years ago.  
Young love does not always provide a base  
Upon which sturdy futures are then built.  
How long has this been the twisted tale  
You have fed your lonely soul? No matter.  
If your warped reality has driven  
You to this sorry state, still I wonder:  
To what end, Jon? For what final purpose?

**DON JON**

I must needs be gone.

**DOGBERRY, MARGARET, DON JON:**

*Don Jon and Margaret were having a conversation after Jon supported Claudio in shaming Hero at the wedding. Dogberry was secretly listening in; he then jumps out and tries to arrest them.*

**DOGBERRY**

*(Jumping out)* I charge you in the Prince's name stand! I am the right master Constable, I have here recovered the most dangerous piece of lechery, that ever was known in the Commonwealth. Which is the offender to be examined?

**DON JON**

You fool --

**DOGBERRY**

Masters, never speak, I charge you, let me obey you to go with me.

**MARGARET**

Are you a Constable?

**DOGBERRY**

Yea, as surely as any upright malefactor.

**MARGARET**

Very well. Proceed.

**DOGBERRY**

*(Creates his own courtroom. Banging with a makeshift gavel:)* The court will come to disorder. Is the whole dissembly appeared?  
Which are the offenders to be examined?

*Margaret and Dogberry look at each other.*

Yea, marry, let them come before me.

What is your name, friend?

**DON JON**

I am a Gentleman, sir, and my name is Jon.

**DOGBERRY**

*(To audience)* Write down Master gentleman Jon:  
Master, it is proved already that you are little better than a false knave, and it will go near to be thought so shortly, how answer you for yourself?

**DON JON**

Marry sir, I say I am none.

**DOGBERRY**

*(To audience)* A marvelous witty fellow I assure you, but I will go about with him.  
Come you hither, lady, a word in your ear: Ma'am, Missus, Ms....I say to you, it is thought you are a false knave.

**MARGARET**

Sir, I say to you, I am none.

**DOGBERRY**

Well, stand aside, 'fore God you are in a tale: *(to audience)* have you writ down that they are none?

**MARGARET**

Master Constable, you go not the way to examine, you must call forth a witness.

**DOGBERRY**

Yea marry, that's the efastest way, let the Watch come forth: *(choosing audience members)*  
Masters, I charge you in the Prince's name, accuse these men.

**MARGARET**

This man hath accused the Lady Hero wrongfully.

**DON JON**

Master Constable.

**DOGBERRY**

Pray thee fellow peace, I do not like thy look I promise thee. What heard you him say else?

**MARGARET**

That the lady Hero did talk with a man  
At her window between twelve and one.  
But I can confirm this to be false.

**DOGBERRY**

Say what now?

## **BENEDICK MONOLOGUE**

*Benedick speaks to the audience immediately after having overheard Hero, Margaret and Claudio talk about how Beatrice is in love with him.*

This can be no trick: the conference was sadly borne. They have the truth of this from Hero. They seem to pity the lady: it seems her affections have their full bent. Love me! why, it must be requited. I hear how I am censured: they say I will bear myself proudly, if I perceive the love come from her; they say too that she will rather die than give any sign of affection. I did never think to marry: I must not seem proud: happy are they that hear their detractions and can put them to mending. They say the lady is fair; 'tis a truth, I can bear them witness; and virtuous; 'tis so, I cannot reprove it; and wise, but for loving me; by my troth, it is no addition to her wit, nor no great argument of her folly, for I will be horribly in love with her. I may chance have some odd quirks and remnants of wit broken on me, because I have railed so long against marriage: but doth not the appetite alter? a man loves the meat in his youth that he cannot endure in his age. Shall quips and sentences and these paper bullets of the brain awe a man from the career of his humour? No, the world must be peopled. When I said I would die a bachelor, I did not think I should live till I were married. Here comes Beatrice. By this day! she's a fair lady: I do spy some marks of love in Her.

## **CLAUDIO MONOLOGUE**

*After publicly shaming Hero at their own wedding for purportedly sleeping with someone else, Claudio discovers his information was false and is told that Hero died shortly after. Overcome with guilt, he asks Beatrice for forgiveness, and she tells him to come to the house the next morning and deliver a public speech both honoring Hero's death, and sharing the wedding vows that he would have made, had they been married as intended.*

Done to death by slanderous tongues,  
Was the Hero that here lies:  
Death in guerdon of her wrongs,  
Gives her fame which never dies:  
So the life that died with shame,  
Lives in death with glorious fame.  
Hang thou there upon the tomb,  
Praising her when I am dumb.  
My Hero, today I join hands with yours,  
To leave behind my solitary path,  
And forever merge it with thy own.  
I promise to share with thee my happiness,  
My sorrow, my triumphs and my failures.  
I promise to be honest and open,  
To speak truth.  
I shall not jump to judgement; thy wisdom  
Hath taught me better, and I endeavor  
To uphold and honor it.  
I shall always support you, and promise  
To listen louder and to speak softer,  
To trust wider and to doubt fewer,  
To value having and to hold closer,  
And this above all: to love you, always,  
With a renewed fervor each and ev'ry day.  
Give me your hand before this holy Frier,  
I am your husband if you like of me.

## **JON MONOLOGUE**

*Jon confesses to the audience that he is not as cheery as he has put on, having discovered that his childhood love, Hero, has fallen for someone else.*

Why am I thus out of measure sad?

There is no measure in the occasion that breeds,

therefore the sadness is without limit. I cannot hide what I am:

I must be sad when I have cause, and smile at no man's jests, eat when I have stomach, and wait for no man's leisure: sleep when I am drowsy, and tend on no man's business, laugh when I am merry, and claw no man in his humor.

Yea, but I must not make the full show of this,

till I may do it without contrivance,

it is needful that I frame the season for my own harvest.

I have intelligence of an intended marriage.

Benedick's right hand, the most exquisite Claudio, looks on Hero, and no matter how strongly I may wish against it,

I have seen her eyes fall on him.

He looked on her before he went to war;

I looked on her before the war had stirred,

And Leonato promised me that she would be mine.

But Leonato's dead, and if Hero knew of this our agreement, she makes no show of it. If I had my mouth, I would bite.

But I must bow and smile and take the bite that's fed me.

It is agreed upon that the Lady Margaret shall woo Hero in Claudio's name, and having obtained her, give him her.

Will it serve for any Model to build mischief on?

Come, come, let me thither, that young start-up hath all the glory: if I can cross him any way, I bless myself every way. Shall we go prove what's to be done?

