

As You Like It – William Shakespeare (Plot Overview Pt. 3)

Phoebe becomes increasingly cruel in her rejection of Silvius. When Rosalind intervenes, disguised as Ganymede, Phoebe falls hopelessly in love with him(her).

As Rosalind and Celia go to meet with Orlando for their wooing session, she instead finds Oliver in the woods. He describes how Orlando stumbled upon him in the forest and saved him from being devoured by a hungry lioness. Oliver and Celia's eyes meet, and they fall instantly in love. Orlando believes that this is a trick from Oliver until his brother promises to give away his wealth and land to Orlando and to live in the forest of Ardenne once he is married to Celia. Touchstone, in the meantime, falls in love with a young woman named Audrey.

As time passes, Phoebe becomes increasingly insistent in her pursuit of Ganymede, and Orlando grows tired of pretending that a boy is his dear Rosalind. Rosalind decides to end the charade. She promises that Oliver will marry Rosalind, and that Phoebe will wed Ganymede, unless she refuses to, then she will marry Silvius. She makes everyone pledge to meet the next day at the wedding.

The day of the wedding arrives, and Rosalind gathers the various couples: Phoebe and Silvius; Celia and Oliver; Touchstone and Audrey; and Orlando. The group congregates before Duke Senior and his men. Rosalind, still disguised as Ganymede, reminds the lovers of their various vows. Rosalind leaves with the disguised Celia, and the two soon return as themselves, accompanied by Hymen, the god of marriage. Hymen officiates at the ceremony and marries Rosalind and Orlando, Celia and Oliver, Phoebe and Silvius, and Audrey and Touchstone. The festive wedding celebration is interrupted by even more festive news: while marching with his army, Duke Frederick came upon a holy man who convinced him to put aside his worldly concerns and assume a monastic life. -Frederick changes his ways and returns the throne to Duke Senior. The guests continue dancing, happy in the knowledge that they will soon return to the royal court.