

A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM

By William Shakespeare

Act 1, Scene 1

EGEUS

Full of vexation come I, with complaint
Against my child, my daughter Hermia. --
Stand forth, Demetrius. -- My noble lord,
This man hath my consent to marry her. --
Stand forth, Lysander. -- And my gracious Duke, This man hath bewitch'd the bosom of my
child. Thou, thou, Lysander, thou hast given her rhymes, And interchanged love-tokens with my
child.
Thou hast by moonlight at her window sung
With feigning voice verses of feigning love,
And stolen the impression of her fantasy.
With cunning hast thou filched my daughter's heart, Turned her obedience, which is due to me,
To stubborn harshness. And, my gracious Duke,
Be it so she will not here before your grace Consent to marry with Demetrius,
I beg the ancient privilege of Athens,
As she is mine, I may dispose of her:
Which shall be either to this gentleman
Or to her death, according to our law
Immediately provided in that case.