

# I.1

Verona.

An open place.

*Enter VALENTINE and PROTEUS*

1  
2  
3  
4  
5 **VALENTINE** Cease to persuade me, Proteus. Home-keeping youth have ever-homely wits. I  
6 would rather entreat your company to join me and see the wonders of the world abroad,  
7 rather than living dully sluggardized at home. Go on and wear out your youth with shapeless  
8 idleness. But since you love, go and love still and thrive therein. Even as I would love to  
9 begin again.

10 **PROTEUS** Wilt you be gone? Sweet Valentine, adieu! Think on your Proteus, when you haply  
11 see some rare note-worthy object in your travels. Wish me to be a partaker in your happiness  
12 when you dost meet some good hap. And in your danger, if ever danger do environ thee,  
13 commend your grievance to my holy prayers. For I will forever be your beadsman,  
14 Valentine.

15 **VALENTINE** Then on a love-book, pray for my success.

16 **PROTEUS** Upon some book that I love, I will pray for thee.

17 **VALENTINE** That's a shallow story of deep love.

18 **PROTEUS** That's a deep story of a deeper love. For he was more than over shoes in love.

19 **VALENTINE** 'Tis true, for you are over boots in love.

20 **PROTEUS** What?

21 **VALENTINE** To be in love is where scorn is bought with groans, coy looks with heart-sore sighs  
22 and one fading moment's mirth.

23 **PROTEUS** So, by your circumstance, you call me fool.

24 **VALENTINE** So, by your circumstance, I fear you'll prove to be a fool.

25 **PROTEUS** 'Tis love you quibble with. I am not Love.

26 **VALENTINE** Oh, Love is your master, for it masters you. And he that is so yoked by Love should  
27 not be chronicled as wise. But wherefore waste I time to counsel thee. You are a votary to  
28 fond desire. Once more, adieu! My father at the road expects my coming, there to see me  
29 shipped.

30 **PROTEUS** And thither will I bring thee, Valentine.

31 **VALENTINE** Sweet Proteus, no. Now, friend, let us take our leave. To Milan I go. Let me hear  
32 from you by letters of your success in love, and what news else betides here in my absence.

33 **PROTEUS** All happiness go with you in Milan!

34 **VALENTINE** As much for you at home, and so, farewell.

35 *Exit VALENTINE*

36 **PROTEUS** He after honor hunts, I after love. He leaves his friends to dignify them more, and I  
37 leave myself, my friends and all, for love. Julia, hast metamorphosed me. She hath made me  
38 neglect my studies, lose my time, war with good counsel. I have set the world for naught and  
39 made my heart sick with thought.

40 *Enter SPEED*

41 **SPEED** Sir Proteus, God save you! Saw you my master?

42 **PROTEUS** Even now he has parted here hence to embark for Milan.

43 **SPEED** Twenty to one then he has shipped already and I have played the sheep in losing him.

44 **PROTEUS** Indeed, a sheep doth very often stray while the shepherd be away.

45 **SPEED** You conclude that my master is a shepherd and I a sheep?

46 **PROTEUS** I do.

1 **SPEED** Nay, the shepherd seeks the sheep, and not the sheep the shepherd. I seek my master, and  
2 my master seeks not me: therefore, I am no sheep.  
3 **PROTEUS** Ah, but the sheep for food follows the shepherd; the shepherd for food follows not the  
4 sheep. You for wages follow your master. Your master for wages follows not thee: therefore  
5 you are a sheep.  
6 **SPEED** Such another proof will make me cry 'baa.'  
7 **PROTEUS** Sirrah, gave you my letter to Julia? What said she?  
8 **SPEED** [First nodding] Ay.  
9 **PROTEUS** Come come, open the matter in brief. What said she?  
10 **SPEED** Then open your purse, Sir, that the money and the matter may be both at once delivered.  
11 **PROTEUS** Well, then, here is for your pains. What said she?  
12 **SPEED** Truly, sir, I think you'll hardly win her.  
13 **PROTEUS** You could perceive so much from her?  
14 **SPEED** Sir, I could perceive nothing at all from her. No, not so much as a ducat for delivering your  
15 letter.  
16 **PROTEUS** What said she? Nothing?  
17 **SPEED** No, not so much as 'Take this for your pains.'  
18 **PROTEUS** Go, go, be gone, *Exit SPEED* I must go send some better messenger. I fear my Julia  
19 would not deign my lines, receiving them from such a worthless post.  
20 *Exit*  
21

## I.2

The same.

Garden of JULIA's house.

*Enter JULIA and LUCETTA*

26 **JULIA** But say, Lucetta, now that we are alone would you then counsel me to fall in love?  
27 **LUCETTA** Ay, madam, so you stumble not unheedfully.  
28 **JULIA** Of all the fair resort of gentlemen that every day parle with me, in your opinion which is  
29 worthiest of love?  
30 **LUCETTA** Please you repeat their names, I'll show my mind according to my shallow simple skill.  
31 **JULIA** What think you of the fair Sir Eglamour?  
32 **LUCETTA** He is a knight, well-spoken, neat and fine, but, were I you, he never should be mine.  
33 **JULIA** What think you of the rich Mercatio?  
34 **LUCETTA** I think well of his wealth, but of himself, so so.  
35 **JULIA** What think you of the gallant Tranio?  
36 **LUCETTA** I think him gallant enough. I'm sure he does little harm, but to his bedclothes.  
37 **JULIA** What think you of the gentle Proteus?  
38 **LUCETTA** Lord, Lord! See what folly reigns in us!  
39 **JULIA** How now! What means this passion at his name?  
40 **LUCETTA** Pardon, dear madam, 'tis a passing shame that I, unworthy as I am, should censure such  
41 lovely gentlemen.  
42 **JULIA** Why not on Proteus, as you did with all the rest?  
43 **LUCETTA** Then I think him best.  
44 **JULIA** Your reason?  
45 **LUCETTA** I have no other, but a woman's reason. I think him so because I think him so.  
46 **JULIA** And would you have me cast my love on him?

1 **LUCETTA** Ay, if you thought your love worth casting away.  
2 **JULIA** But why he above of all the rest?  
3 **LUCETTA** Yet he, of all the rest, I think, best loves you.  
4 **JULIA** They do not love that do not show their love.  
5 **LUCETTA** O, they love least that let men know their love.  
6 **JULIA** I wish I knew his mind.  
7 **LUCETTA** Peruse this paper, madam.  
8 **JULIA** 'To Julia.' Say, from whom? Say, say, who gave it thee?  
9 **LUCETTA** Valentine's page and sent, I think, from Proteus. He would have given it you; but I,  
10 being in the way, did receive it in your name. (*Drops letter*)  
11 **JULIA** Now, by my modesty, you're a goodly broker! Dare you presume to harbor wanton lines?  
12 To whisper and conspire against my youth? Now, trust me, 'tis an office of great worth and  
13 you an officer fit for the place.  
14 **LUCETTA** To plead for love deserves a great fee.  
15 **JULIA** Will you be gone?  
16 **LUCETTA** Ay, that you may ruminate.  
17 *Exit LUCETTA*  
18  
19 **JULIA** And yet I would I had o'erlooked the letter. What a fool is she that knows I am a maid, and  
20 would not force the letter to my view! Fie, fie, how wayward is this foolish love. How  
21 churlishly I chide Lucetta. How angerly I taught my brow to frown, when inward joy  
22 enforced my heart to smile! My penance is to call Lucetta back and ask remission for my  
23 past folly. What ho! Lucetta!  
24 *Re-enter LUCETTA*  
25 **LUCETTA** What would your ladyship? (*Picks up letter*)  
26 **JULIA** Is it near dinner-time? What is that you took up so gingerly?  
27 **LUCETTA** Nothing.  
28 **JULIA** Why did you stoop, then?  
29 **LUCETTA** To take a paper up that I let fall.  
30 **JULIA** And is that paper nothing?  
31 **LUCETTA** Nothing concerning me.  
32 **JULIA** Then let it lie for those that it concerns.  
33 **LUCETTA** Madam, it will not lie where it concerns unless it has a false interpreter.  
34 **JULIA** Some love that hath writ in rhyme.  
35 **LUCETTA** Ay, that I might sing it, madam, to a tune.  
36 **JULIA** Let's see your song. How now, minion!  
37 **LUCETTA** Keep tune there still, so you will sing it out and yet methinks I do not like this tune.  
38 **JULIA** You do not?  
39 **LUCETTA** No, madam. It is too sharp.  
40 **JULIA** You, minion, are too saucy.  
41 **LUCETTA** Nay, now you are too flat.  
42 **JULIA** The tenor is drowned with your unruly bass.  
43 **LUCETTA** Indeed, I bid the base for Proteus.  
44 **JULIA** This babble shall not henceforth trouble me. Here is a coil with protestation! *Tears the*  
45 *letter* Go get you gone, and let the papers lie.

1 **LUCETTA** She makes it strange, but she would be best pleased to be so angered with another  
2 letter.

3 *Exit LUCETTA*

4 **JULIA** Nay, would I were so angered with the same! O hateful hands, to tear such loving words!  
5 I'll kiss each paper for amends. Look, here is writ 'kind Julia.' Unkind Julia! And here is writ  
6 'love-wounded Proteus.' Poor wounded name! My heart as a bed shall lodge you till your  
7 wound be thoroughly healed. Thus I heal it with a sovereign kiss. But twice or thrice was  
8 'Proteus' written down. Be calm, good wind, blow not a word away till I have found each  
9 letter in the letter. Lo, here in one line is his name twice writ, 'Poor forlorn Proteus,  
10 passionate Proteus, To the sweet Julia:' 'Sweet Julia' that I'll tear away. And yet I will not  
11 sit so prettily. He couples it to his complaining names. Thus will I fold them together, one  
12 upon another. Now kiss, embrace, do what you will.

13 *Re-enter LUCETTA*

14 **LUCETTA** Madam, Dinner is ready, and your father stays.

15 **JULIA** Well, let us go.

16 **LUCETTA** What, shall these papers lie like tell-tales here?

17 **JULIA** If you respect them, best to take them up.

18 **LUCETTA** Nay, I was taken up for laying them down. Yet here they shall not lie, for catching  
19 cold.

20 **JULIA** I see you have a month's mind to them.

21 **LUCETTA** Ay, madam, you may say what sights you see. I see things too, although you judge I  
22 wink.

23 **JULIA** Come, come, will it please you go?

24 *Exeunt*

25

26

## I.3

27

**The same.**

28

**ANTONIA's house.**

29

*Enter ANTONIA and PANTHINO*

30 **ANTONIA** Tell me, Panthino, what sad talk was that within the cloister?

31 **PANTHINO** 'Tis of your son, Proteus.

32 **ANTONIA** Why, what of him?

33 **PANTHINO** I wonder that your ladyship would suffer him to spend his youth at home while other  
34 women put forth their sons to seek preferment. Some to the wars to try their fortune there.  
35 Some to discover islands far away. Some to the studious universities. I importune you to let  
36 him spend his time no more at home.

37 **ANTONIA** Need you not importune me. This very to that month I have been hammering. I have  
38 considered well his loss of time and how he cannot be a perfect man. Not being tried and  
39 tutored in the world. Then tell me, whither were I best to send him?

40 **PANTHINO** I think your ladyship is not ignorant that his companion, the youthful Valentine,  
41 attends the emperor in his royal court.

42 **ANTONIA** I know it well.

43 **PANTHINO** 'Twere good, I think, that your ladyship did sent him thither.

44 **ANTONIA** I like your counsel. You hath advised me well. With the greatest speed and dispatch, I  
45 will send him to the emperor's court.

1 **PANTHINO** Tomorrow, may it please you, Don Alphonso, with other gentlemen of good esteem  
2 are journeying to salute the emperor.

3 **ANTONIA** Then with good company then shall Proteus go. And, in good time, now will we break  
4 with him.

5 *Enter PROTEUS*

6 **PROTEUS** Sweet love! Sweet lines! Sweet life! Here is her hand, the agent of her heart. Here is  
7 her oath for love, her honor's pawn. O, that our fathers would applaud our love and seal our  
8 happiness with their consents! O heavenly Julia, we shall be as one.

9 **ANTONIA** How now, Proteus. What letter are you reading there?

10 **PROTEUS** May it please your lordship, 'tis just a word or two of commendations sent from  
11 Valentine, delivered by a friend that came from him.

12 **ANTONIA** Lend me the letter. Let me see what news.

13 **PROTEUS** There is no news, my lord, but that he writes how happily he lives. How well beloved  
14 and daily graced by the emperor. Wishing me with him, the partner of his fortune.

15 *(PROTEUS hands letter to AM, ad lib)*

16 **ANTONIA** And how stand you affected to his wish?

17 **PROTEUS** As one relying on your ladyship's will and not depending on his friendly wish.

18 **ANTONIA** My will is something sorted along with his wish. I am resolved that you shall spend  
19 some time with Valentine. Tomorrow be in readiness to go. Excuse it not, for I am resolved.

20 **PROTEUS** My lady, I cannot be so soon provided.

21 **ANTONIA** Look, what things you want shall be sent after thee. No more of stay! Tomorrow you  
22 must go. Come on, Panthino, you shall be employed to hasten on his expedition.

23 *Exeunt ANTONIA and PANTHINO*

24 **PROTEUS** I feared to show my mother Julia's letter lest she should take exceptions to my love.  
25 And with the advantage of mine own excuse, she hath excepted most against my love. O,  
26 how this spring of love resembles the uncertain glory of an April day, one that now shows all  
27 the beauty of the sun and by and by a cloud takes it all away!

28 *Re-enter PANTHINO*

29 **PANTHINO** Sir Proteus, your mother calls for you. She is in haste so therefore, I pray you go.

30 **PROTEUS** Why, this it is and my heart accords thereto. Yet a thousand times it answers 'no.'

31 *Exeunt*

32

33

## II.1

34

### Milan.

35

### The DUKE's palace.

36

*Enter VALENTINE and SPEED*

37 **SPEED** Sir, your glove.

38 **VALENTINE** Ha! Let me see. Ay, give it me. It's mine. It does fit. Sweet ornament that decks a  
39 thing divine! Ah, Silvia, Silvia!

40 **SPEED** Madam Silvia! Madam Silvia!

41 **VALENTINE** How now, sirrah?

42 **SPEED** She is not within hearing, sir.

43 **VALENTINE** Why, sir, who bade you call her?

44 **SPEED** Your worship, sir, or else I mistook.

45 **VALENTINE** Well, you'll still be too forward.

46 **SPEED** And yet I was last chided for being too slow.

1 **VALENTINE** Go to, go to. Tell me, do you know Madam Silvia?  
2 **SPEED** She that your worship loves?  
3 **VALENTINE** Why, how know you that I am in love?  
4 **SPEED** Marry, by these special marks. First, you have learned, like Sir Proteus, to wreath your  
5 arms, like a malcontent. To relish a love-song, like a robin redbreast. To walk alone, like  
6 one that had the pestilence. To sigh, like a schoolboy that had lost his A B C's. You are  
7 metamorphosed with a mistress, that, when I look on you, I can hardly think you my master.  
8 **VALENTINE** Are all these things perceived in me?  
9 **SPEED** They are all perceived without ye.  
10 **VALENTINE** But tell me, do you know my lady Silvia?  
11 **SPEED** Sir, I know her well enough.  
12 **VALENTINE** What do you know?  
13 **SPEED** That she is fair and, of you, well-favored.  
14 **VALENTINE** I have loved her ever since I saw her and still I see her beautiful. Marry, last night  
15 she did enjoin me to write some lines to one she loves.  
16 **SPEED** And have you?  
17 **VALENTINE** Though I am loath to help her seek a love beyond my frame, I have.  
18 **SPEED** Are they not lamely writ?  
19 **VALENTINE** No, boy, but as well as I can do them.  
20 **SPEED** (*Reads*) O know, sweet love, that I always write of you. For you and my love is still my  
21 finest argument. So all my best is dressing old words like new. Spending again what is  
22 already spent. For as the sun is daily both new and old, so is my love still telling what is told.  
23 **VALENTINE** Peace! Here she comes.  
24 *Enter SILVIA*  
25 **VALENTINE** Madam and mistress, a thousand good-morrows.  
26 **SPEED** [*Aside*] O, give ye good even! Here are a million of manners.  
27 **SILVIA** Sir Valentine, to you, I give two thousand.  
28 **SPEED** [*Aside*] He should give her interest and she gives it him.  
29 **VALENTINE** As you enjoin me, I have writ your letter to the secret, nameless friend of yours.  
30 Which I was much unwilling to proceed in but for my duty to your ladyship.  
31 **SILVIA** I thank you gentle Valentine. 'Tis very smartly done. I thank you.  
32 **VALENTINE** What means your ladyship? Do you not like it?  
33 **SILVIA** Yes, yes. the lines are very quaintly writ. But since unwillingly writ, take them again.  
34 Nay, take them.  
35 **VALENTINE** Madam, they are for you.  
36 **SILVIA** Ay, ay, you writ them, sir, at my request. But I will none of them, they are for you. I  
37 would have had them writ more movingly.  
38 **VALENTINE** Please you, I'll write your ladyship another.  
39 **SILVIA** And when it's writ, for my sake read it over, and if it please you, keep it.  
40 **VALENTINE** If it please me, madam, what then?  
41 **SILVIA** Why, if it please you, take it for your labor. And so, good morrow, Sir Valentine.  
42 *Exit SILVIA*  
43 **SPEED** O excellent device!  
44 **VALENTINE** How now, sir? What are you reasoning with yourself?  
45 **SPEED** She has made you write to yourself! Why, do you not perceive the jest?  
46 **VALENTINE** No, believe me.

1 **SPEED** Often have you writ to her, and she, in her modesty, or else for want of idle time, could not  
2 again reply. She hath taught her love himself to write unto her lover. Why muse you, sir?  
3 'Tis dinner-time.

4 **VALENTINE** I have dined.

5 **SPEED** O, be not like your mistress, be moved, be moved.

6 *Exeunt*

7

8

## II.2

9

**Verona.**

10 **JULIA'S house.**

11 *Enter PROTEUS and JULIA*

12 **PROTEUS** Have patience, gentle Julia.

13 **JULIA** I must, where is no remedy.

14 **PROTEUS** When possibly I can, I will return.

15 **JULIA** Keep this remembrance for your Julia's sake. (*Giving a ring.*)

16 **PROTEUS** Why then, we'll make exchange. Here, take you this. (*Giving a ring.*)

17 **JULIA** And seal the bargain with a holy kiss.

18 **PROTEUS** Here is my hand for my true constancy. And when that hour over slips me in the day  
19 when I sigh not, Julia, for your sake, then in that next ensuing hour, let some foul mischance  
20 torment me for my love's forgetfulness! My mother stays my coming. Nay, speak not. The  
21 good tide is now and I must be away. Forego the tide of our tears, that tide will forever keep  
22 me by your side. Julia, farewell!

23 *Exit JULIA*

24 *Exit PROTEUS*

25

26

## II.3

27

**The same.**

28

**A street.**

29

*Enter LAUNCE, leading a AM dog*

30 **LAUNCE** Nay, 'twill be this hour ere I have done weeping. I am leaving my fair Verona, must go  
31 with my master, Sir Proteus to the Imperial's court in Milan. Where I am loath to be. I think  
32 Crab, my dog, is the sourest-natured animal that lives. My mother is weeping for my parting.  
33 My father is wailing. My sister is crying. Our maid is howling. Even our cat is wringing her  
34 hands. The whole of our house is in a great perplexity, yet did not this cruel-hearted cur shed  
35 one tear. He is a stone, a very pebble stone, and has no more pity in him than a dog. Why,  
36 my grandam wept herself blind at my parting. I'll show you the manner of it. This shoe is  
37 my father. No, this left shoe is my father. No, no, this left shoe is my mother. Yes, it is so, it  
38 is so, for it hath the worser sole. This shoe, with the hole in it, is my mother, and this my  
39 father. Now come I to my father. Father, I ask your blessing. Now the shoe could not speak  
40 a word for weeping. Now should I kiss my father, but well, he weeps on. Now come I to my  
41 mother. O, that she could speak. Well, I kiss her. Why, there 'tis; here's my mother's breath  
42 up and down. Now the dog all this while sheds not a tear nor speaks a word. See how I lay  
43 the dust with my tears.

44

*Enter PANTHINO*

1 **PANTHINO** Launce, away, away, be aboard! your master is shipped and you are to post after with  
2 oars. What's the matter, man? Why weepest thou? Away, fool! You'll lose the tide if you  
3 tarry any longer.  
4 **LAUNCE** It is no matter if the tide is lost, for it is the unkindest tide that ever any man tied.  
5 **PANTHINO** What's the unkindest tide?  
6 **LAUNCE** Why, he that's tied here, Crab, my dog.  
7 **PANTHINO** Tut, man, I mean you'll lose the flood, and in losing the flood, you lose your voyage,  
8 **LAUNCE** Lose the tide and the voyage and the master and the service and the tide! Why, man, if  
9 the rivers were dry, I am able to fill it with my tears. If the wind were down, I could drive  
10 the boat with my sighs.  
11 **PANTHINO** Come, come away, man. I was sent to call thee.  
12 **LAUNCE** Sir, call me what you darest.  
13 **PANTHINO** Wilt you go?  
14 **LAUNCE** Well, I will go.

15 *Exeunt*

## 16 **II.4**

17 **Milan.**

18 **The DUKE's palace.**

19 *Enter VALENTINE*

20 *Enter SILVIA and THURIO*

21 **SILVIA** Servant!  
22 **VALENTINE** Mistress?  
23 **SILVIA** Servant, you are sad.  
24 **VALENTINE** Indeed, madam, I seem so.  
25 **THURIO** So do all counterfeits. What seem I that I am not?  
26 **VALENTINE** You seem wise.  
27 **THURIO** What instance of the contrary?  
28 **SILVIA** A fine volley of words, gentlemen, and quickly shot off.  
29 **THURIO** Sir, if you spend word for word with me, I shall make your wit bankrupt.  
30 **VALENTINE** I know you well, sir. You have an exchequer of words.  
31 **SILVIA** No more, gentlemen, no more. Here comes my father.  
32 *Enter DUKE*  
33 **DUKE** Sir Valentine, know you Dona Antonia, your countrywomen?  
34 **VALENTINE** Ay, my good lord, I know the gentlelady.  
35 **DUKE** Hath she not a son?  
36 **VALENTINE** Ay, my good lord;  
37 **DUKE** And you know him well?  
38 **VALENTINE** Sir Proteus? I know him as myself. For from our infancy we have conversed and  
39 spent our hours together. He is complete in feature and in mind with all good grace to grace  
40 a gentleman.  
41 **DUKE** Well, sir, then be it known that this gentleman is come to me. I think 'tis no unwelcome  
42 news to you.  
43 **VALENTINE** Should I have wished for news, it would had been this.  
44 **DUKE** Then welcome him then according to his worth. Silvia, I will speak to you, and you, Sir  
45 Thurio. For Valentine, I need not cite him to it. I will send him hither to you presently.  
46 *Exit DUKE and THURIO*



1 **VALENTINE** This is the gentleman I told your ladyship about. He would have come along with  
2 me, but his mistress did hold his eyes locked in her crystal looks.

3 **SILVIA** Belike that now she hath enfranchised them upon some other pawn.

4 **VALENTINE** Nay, surely not, I think she holds him prisoner still.

5 **SILVIA** Then he should be blind. And, being blind how could he see his way to seek out you?

6 **VALENTINE** Why, lady, Love has twenty pairs of eyes.

7 **SILVIA** They say that Love has not eyes at all. Love is blind. Here comes a gentleman.

8 *Enter PROTEUS*

9 **VALENTINE** Dear Proteus, welcome! Mistress, I beseech you, confirm his welcome with some  
10 special favor.

11 **SILVIA** I will if this be he that you oft have wished to hear from.

12 **VALENTINE** Ay, mistress, it is. Sweet lady, entertain him to be my fellow-servant to your  
13 ladyship.

14 **SILVIA** Too low a mistress for so high a servant.

15 **PROTEUS** Oh not so, sweet lady.

16 *Re-enter THURIO*

17 **THURIO** Madam, my lord your father would speak with you.

18 **SILVIA** I wait upon his pleasure. Come, Sir Thurio, go with me.

19 **PROTEUS** We'll both attend upon your ladyship.

20 *Exeunt SILVIA and THURIO*

21 **VALENTINE** Now, tell me, how do all from whence you came? How does your lady? How  
22 thrives your love?

23 **PROTEUS** My tales of love in the past were wont to weary you.

24 **VALENTINE** Ay, Proteus, but that life is altered now. I have done penance for condemning love.  
25 Those high imperious thoughts have punished me in revenge of my contempt of love. Love  
26 hath chased sleep from my enthralled eyes and made them watchers of mine own heart's  
27 sorrow. O gentle Proteus, love is a mighty lord. And so it has humbled me. I confess now I  
28 can now break my fast, dine, sup and sleep upon the very name of love.

29 **PROTEUS** Enough! I read your fortune in your eye. Was that the idol that you worship so?

30 **VALENTINE** Even so it is she. Is she not a heavenly saint?

31 **PROTEUS** No, but she is an earthly paragon.

32 **VALENTINE** Call her divine.

33 **PROTEUS** I will not flatter her.

34 **VALENTINE** O, flatter me then for love delights in praises.

35 **PROTEUS** When I was sick, you gave me bitter pills and I must minister the same to you.

36 **VALENTINE** Then speak the truth by her. If not divine, then let her be a principality. Sovereign  
37 to all the creatures on the earth.

38 **PROTEUS** Why, Valentine, what braggardism is this?

39 **VALENTINE** Pardon me, Proteus. All I am is nothing to her whose worth makes other worthies  
40 nothing. She is alone.

41 **PROTEUS** Then leave her alone.

42 **VALENTINE** Not for the world. Why, man, she is mine own. And I am rich in having such a  
43 jewel My foolish rival is Sir Thurio. Her father only favors him for his possessions are so  
44 huge. He has gone with her along, and I must be after. For love, you know, is full of  
45 jealousy.

46 **PROTEUS** But she loves you?

1 **VALENTINE** Ay, and we are betrothed. More over, marriage-hour, with all the cunning manner of  
2 our flight, is determined. I must climb to her window with a ladder made of cords and spirit  
3 her away to a new life. Good Proteus, go with me to my chamber and aid me with your  
4 counsel in these affairs.

5 **PROTEUS** Go on before. I shall inquire you forth.

6 **VALENTINE** Will you make haste?

7 **PROTEUS** I will. *Exit VALENTINE* Even as one heat another heat expels. Or one nail by it's  
8 strength drives out another, so the remembrance of my former love is by a newer object quite  
9 forgotten. Is it mine, or Valentine's praise, her true perfection, or my false transgression, that  
10 makes me reasonless to reason thus? She is fair. But so is Julia that I love. That I did love,  
11 for now my love is thawed. Like a waxen image against a fire, my love for Julia bears no  
12 impression of the thing it once was. *(Takes letter from AM from I.3, tears letter)* I think my  
13 zeal for Valentine is also cold and that I love him not as I was did. O, but I love his lady too,  
14 too much. If I can check my erring love, I will. If not, to compass her I'll use all of my skill.

15 *Exit*  
16

## 17 II.5

18 **The same. A street.**

19 *Enter SPEED and LAUNCE severally*

20 **SPEED** Launce! By mine honesty, welcome to Milan! Say, sirrah, how did your master part with  
21 Madam Julia? Shall she marry him?

22 **LAUNCE** Ask my dog. If he say ay, it will! If he say no, it will. If he shake his tail and say  
23 nothing, it will.

24 **SPEED** The conclusion is then is that it will. I tell you, my master is become a hot lover.

25 **LAUNCE** Why, I tell you, I care not though he burn himself in love. Will you go with me to the  
26 alehouse?

27 **SPEED** At your service.

28 *Exeunt*  
29

## 30 II.6

31 **The same.**

32 **The DUKE'S palace.**

33 *Enter PROTEUS*

34 **PROTEUS** To leave my Julia, I shall be forsworn. To love fair Silvia, I shall be forsworn. To  
35 wrong my friend, I shall be much forsworn. Love first bade me to swear and now Love bids  
36 me to forswear. At first I did adore a twinkling star, but now I worship a celestial sun. I  
37 cannot choose to love, and yet I do. If I choose to love where I would love, Julia, I would  
38 lose and Valentine, I would lose. If I keep them, I would lose myself. But if I lose them, I  
39 find myself by their loss. For Valentine, I find myself; for Julia, I find Silvia. I am a dearer  
40 friend to myself than either of them. For love is most precious in itself. Remembering that  
41 my love to her is dead, I will forget that Julia is alive. And Valentine I'll now hold as an  
42 enemy. I cannot now prove constant to myself without some treachery used to Valentine.  
43 This night he means with a corded ladder to climb celestial Silvia's chamber-window. I  
44 myself am now his competitor. I'll presently give her father notice of their disguising and  
45 pretended flight. He, all enraged, will banish Valentine, for he intends Thurio shall wed his

1 daughter. But, Valentine being gone, I'll quickly cross Thurio by some sly trick and blunt his  
2 dull proceedings. Love, lend me wings to make my purpose swift, as you have lent me wit to  
3 plot this drift!

4 *Exit PROTEUS*  
5

## 6 **II.7**

7 **Verona.**

8 **JULIA'S house.**

9 *Enter JULIA and LUCETTA*

10 **JULIA** Lucetta, tell me how, with my honor, I may undertake a journey to my loving Proteus in  
11 Milan.

12 **LUCETTA** Alas, the way is wearisome and long! Better forbear your travel till Proteus makes his  
13 return.

14 **JULIA** I'll be as patient as a gentle stream and make a pastime of each weary step, till the last step  
15 have brought me to my love.

16 **LUCETTA** But in what habit will you go along?

17 **JULIA** Not as I am, like a woman, for that would invite the loose encounters of lascivious men.  
18 Gentle Lucetta, fit me with such weeds as may beseem some well-reputed page.

19 **LUCETTA** What fashion, madam shall I make your breeches?

20 **JULIA** Lucetta, as you love me, let me have what you think is most mannerly. But tell me, wench,  
21 how will the world repute me for undertaking such an unstaid journey?

22 **LUCETTA** If Proteus likes your journey when you come, 'tis no matter who's displeas'd when you  
23 are gone.

24 **JULIA** That is the least, Lucetta, of my fear. A thousand oaths, an ocean of his tears and instances  
25 of infinite love warrant me to welcome my Proteus.

26 **LUCETTA** All these are servants to deceitful men.

27 **JULIA** Enough, presently go with me to my chamber and take a note of what I stand in need to  
28 furnish me upon my longing journey.

29 *Exeunt*  
30

## 31 **III.1**

32 **Milan.**

33 **The DUKE's palace.**

34 *Enter DUKE and PROTEUS*

35 **DUKE** Now, tell me, Proteus, what's your will with me?

36 **PROTEUS** My gracious lord, while the law of friendship bids me to conceal it, know, worthy  
37 prince, that Sir Valentine, my friend, this night intends to steal away your daughter. I myself  
38 am one made privy to his plot. I know you have determined to bestow her on the noble  
39 Thurio.

40 **DUKE** Proteus, I thank you for your honest care. This love of theirs I have often seen. Haply when  
41 they have judged me fast asleep. Knowing that tender youth is soon suggested, I lodge  
42 nightly her in an upper tower. The key I have ever kept myself and thence she cannot be  
43 conveyed away.

44 **PROTEUS** Know, my lord, they have devised a plan how he to her chamber-window will ascend  
45 and with a corded ladder fetch her down. For which the youthful lover now is gone and this

1 way comes he with it presently. If it pleases you, you may intercept him. But, good my  
2 Lord, do it so cunningly that my information be not discovery.

3 **DUKE** Upon mine honor, he shall never know that I had any light of this from you.

4 **PROTEUS** Adieu, my Lord. Sir Valentine is coming.

5 *Exit PROTEUS*

6 *Enter VALENTINE*

7 **DUKE** Sir Valentine, whither you away so fast?

8 **VALENTINE** Please it your grace, there is a messenger that stays to bear my letters to my friends,  
9 And I am going to deliver them.

10 **DUKE** Be they of much import?

11 **VALENTINE** The tenor of them does but signify my health and happy being at your court.

12 **DUKE** Nay then, no matter, stay with me awhile. I am to break with you of some affairs that touch  
13 me near, wherein you must be secret. I now am full resolved to take a wife.

14 **VALENTINE** What would your Grace have me to do in this?

15 **DUKE** There is a lady here in Verona whom I affect, but she is nice and coy. She nought esteems  
16 my aged eloquence. Now therefore, I would have you as my tutor. For I have long forgot to  
17 court.

18 **VALENTINE** Then win her with gifts, if she respect not your words. Dumb jewels often in their  
19 silent kind do more than quick words to move a woman's mind.

20 **DUKE** But she did scorn a present that I sent her.

21 **VALENTINE** A woman sometimes scorns what best contents her. Send her another, never give  
22 her o'er. For scorn at first makes after-love the more. A man, I say, is no man, if with his  
23 tongue he cannot win a woman.

24 **DUKE** But she is promised unto a youthful gentleman of worth, and kept severely from the resort  
25 of men. No man hath access to her by day.

26 **VALENTINE** Why, then, I would resort to her by night.

27 **DUKE** Ay, but the doors be locked and keys kept safe. No man hath recourse to her by night.

28 **VALENTINE** What, may one enter at her window?

29 **DUKE** Her chamber is aloft, far from the ground.

30 **VALENTINE** Then, a ladder made quaintly of cords to cast up with a pair of anchoring hooks.

31 **DUKE** Now, as you are a gentleman of blood, advise me where I may have such a ladder.

32 **VALENTINE** When would you use it? I pray, sir, tell me that. By seven o'clock, I'll get you such  
33 a ladder.

34 **DUKE** But, hark thee; I will go to her alone. How shall I best convey the ladder thither?

35 **VALENTINE** It will be light, my lord. You may bear it under a cloak that is of any length.

36 **DUKE** Then let me see your cloak. I'll get me one of such another length.

37 **VALENTINE** Why, any cloak will serve the turn, my lord.

38 **DUKE** I pray thee, let me feel your cloak upon me. What letter is this? What's here? 'To Silvia!'  
39 *(Reads)* 'My thoughts do harbor with my Silvia nightly. My herald thoughts in your pure  
40 bosom rest them. What's here? 'Silvia, this night I will enfranchise thee.' 'Tis so and here's  
41 the ladder for that very purpose. Go, base intruder! Overweening slave! If you linger in my  
42 territories by heaven, my wrath shall far exceed the love I ever bore my daughter or thyself.  
43 Be gone! I will not hear your vain excuses. But, as you love your life, make speed from  
44 hence.

45 *Exit DUKE*

1 **VALENTINE** And why not death rather than living torment? To die is to be banished from myself  
2 for Silvia is myself. Banished from her is self from self, a deadly banishment! If I tarry here,  
3 I but attend on death. But, fly I hence, I fly away from life.  
4 *Enter PROTEUS and LAUNCE*  
5 **PROTEUS** Run, boy, run, run, and seek him out.  
6 **LAUNCE** Soho, soho!  
7 **PROTEUS** Valentine?  
8 **VALENTINE** No.  
9 **PROTEUS** What then?  
10 **VALENTINE** Nothing.  
11 **LAUNCE** Can nothing speak? Master, shall I strike?  
12 **PROTEUS** Who would you strike?  
13 **LAUNCE** Nothing.  
14 **PROTEUS** Villain, forbear. Friend Valentine, a word.  
15 **VALENTINE** My ears are stopped and cannot hear good news. So much of bad already has  
16 possessed them. There is no Valentine if Silvia has forsworn me. What is your news?  
17 **LAUNCE** Sir, there is a proclamation that you are vanished.  
18 **PROTEUS** That you are banished from hence, from Silvia and from me, your friend. O, that's the  
19 news!  
20 **VALENTINE** O, I have fed upon this woe already and now excess of it will make me surfeit. Does  
21 Silvia know that I am banished?  
22 **PROTEUS** Ay, ay, and she has offered to the doom a sea of melting pearls, which some call tears.  
23 **VALENTINE** No more, unless the next word that you speak has some malignant power upon my  
24 life.  
25 **PROTEUS** Cease to lament for that which you can not help and study help for that which you  
26 lament. Time is the nurse and breeder of all good. Here if you stay, you cannot see your  
27 love. Besides, your staying will abridge your life. Hope is a lover's staff. Walk hence with  
28 that and manage it against despairing thoughts. Your letters may be here, though you are  
29 hence. Which, being writ to me, shall be delivered to the milk-white bosom of your love.  
30 Come, I'll convey you through the city-gate and, ere we part, confer at large of all that may  
31 concern your love affairs. Come, Valentine.  
32 **VALENTINE** O my dear Silvia! O Hapless Valentine!  
33 *Exeunt VALENTINE and LAUNCE*  
34 *Exit PROTEUS*  
35  
36 *Exit*  
37

## III.2

**The same.**

**The DUKE's palace.**

*Enter DUKE and THURIO*

42 **DUKE** Sir Thurio, fear not, my daughter will be yours now that Valentine is banished from her  
43 sight.  
44 **THURIO** But if she will not love me.  
45 **DUKE** Nay, what's love got to do with it? 'Tis but a second-hand emotion.  
46 **THURIO** I fear that since his exile she hath despised me more.

1 *Enter PROTEUS*

2 **DUKE** How now, Sir Proteus! Is your countryman according to our proclamation gone?

3 **PROTEUS** He is gone, my good lord.

4 **DUKE** My daughter takes his going grievously.

5 **PROTEUS** A little time, my lord, will kill that grief.

6 **DUKE** You know how willingly I would effect the match between Sir Thurio and my daughter.

7 **PROTEUS** I do, my lord.

8 **DUKE** And also, I think, you are not ignorant of how she opposes her against my will.

9 **PROTEUS** She did, my lord, when Valentine was here.

10 **DUKE** What might we do to make the girl forget the love of Valentine and love Sir Thurio?

11 **PROTEUS** The best way is to slander Valentine with falsehood, cowardice and poor descent.

12 Three things that women highly hold in hate.

13 **DUKE** Ay, but she'll think that it is spoken in hate.

14 **PROTEUS** Ay, if his enemy deliver it. Therefore it must with circumstance be spoken by one  
15 whom she esteems as his friend.

16 **DUKE** Then you must undertake to slander him.

17 **PROTEUS** And that, my lord, I shall be loath to do. 'Tis an ill office for a gentleman, especially  
18 against his very friend.

19 **DUKE** Where your good words cannot advantage him, your slander can never damage him.

20 Therefore the office is indifferent, being entreated to it by your friend.

21 **PROTEUS** You have prevailed, my lord. If I can do it by ought that I can speak in his dispraise,  
22 she shall not long continue love to him.

23 **THURIO** Therefore, as you unwind her love from him, you must provide to lay it on me. Which  
24 must be done by praising me as much as you dispraise Sir Valentine.

25 **DUKE** And, Proteus, we dare trust you in this because we know, on Valentine's report, you are  
26 already Love's firm votary. Upon this warrant you shall have access where you and Silvia  
27 may confer at large.

28 **PROTEUS** As much as I can do, I will effect. But you, Sir Thurio, are not sharp enough. You  
29 must tangle her desires by wailful sonnets, whose composed rhymes should be full-fraught  
30 with serviceable vows.

31 **DUKE** Ay, Much is the force of heaven-bred poetry. This discipline shows you have been in love.

32 **THURIO** And your advice this night I'll put in practice. I have a sonnet that will serve the turn to  
33 give the onset to my good advice.

34 **DUKE** About it, gentlemen!

35 **PROTEUS** We'll wait upon your grace till after supper and afterward determine our proceedings.

36 **DUKE** Even now about it! I will pardon you.

37 *Exeunt*

## 38 39 **IV.1**

40 **The frontiers of Mantua.**

41 **A forest.**

42 **SPEED** How now sirrah?

43 **VALENTINE** What light is light, if Silvia be not seen? What joy is joy, if Silvia be not by?

44 Unless it be to think that she is by and feed upon the shadow of perfection. Except I be by

45 Silvia in the night, there is no music in the nightingale. Unless I look upon Silvia in the day,  
46 there is no day for me to look upon.

1 **SPEED** You weep, like a young wench that had buried her grandma. Or to fast, like one that takes  
2 diet. Or to watch like one that fears robbing.  
3 **VALENTINE** She is my essence and I leave to be as I am, if I be not by her fair influence.  
4 **SPEED** You were wont, when you laughed, you crowed like a cock. When you walked, you  
5 walked like one of the lions. When you fasted, it was presently after dinner. When you  
6 looked sad, it was for want of money.  
7 **VALENTINE** Why a living torment? I am banished from myself. For Silvia is myself. It is self  
8 from self. A deadly banishment! She is my essence. I am leave to be as I am if I be not by  
9 her fair influence fostered, illumined, cherished, and kept alive. In conclusion, I am set to  
10 her.  
11 **SPEED** I would you were so set that your affection be ceased.

12  
13 *Exeunt*

## 14 **IV.2**

15 **Milan.**

16 **Outside the DUKE's palace, under SILVIA's chamber.**

17 *Enter PROTEUS*

18 **PROTEUS** Already have I been false to Valentine and now I must be as unjust to Thurio. Under  
19 the color of commending him, I have access to my own love. But Silvia is too fair, too true,  
20 too holy, to be corrupted with my worthless gifts. When I confess my true loyalty to her, she  
21 twits me with my falsehood to my friend. When to her beauty I commend my vows, she bids  
22 me think how I have been forsworn in breaking faith with Julia whom I once loved. But here  
23 comes Thurio. Now we must be to her window and give some evening music to her ear.

24 *Enter THURIO and Musicians*

25 **THURIO** How now, Sir Proteus, are you crept before us?  
26 **PROTEUS** Ay, gentle Thurio. For you know that love will creep in service where it cannot go.

27 **THURIO** Now, gentlemen, Let's tune, and to it lustily awhile.

28 *Enter, at a distance, HOST, and JULIA in boy's clothes*

29 **HOST** Now, my young guest, methinks you're melancholy. I pray you, why is it?

30 **JULIA** Marry, mine host, because I cannot be merry.

31 **HOST** Come, we'll have you merry. I'll bring you where you shall hear music and see the  
32 gentleman that you asked for.

33 **JULIA** But shall I hear him speak?

34 **HOST** Ay, that you shall.

35 **JULIA** That will be music indeed.

36 *Music plays*

37 **HOST** Ay, but, peace! Let's hear them.

38 **SONG.**

39 *Who is Silvia? What is she, that all our swains commend her? Holy, fair and wise is she. The*  
40 *heaven did such grace lend her. That she might admired be. Is she as kind as she is fair, for*  
41 *beauty lives with kindness? To Silvia let us sing that Silvia is excelling. She excels each*  
42 *mortal thing upon the dull earth dwelling. To her let us garlands bring.*

43 **HOST** How now! Are you sadder than you were before? How do you, man? The music likes you  
44 not.

45 **JULIA** You mistake. The musician likes me not.

46 **HOST** Why, my pretty youth?

1 **JULIA** He plays false.  
2 **HOST** How? Out of tune on the strings?  
3 **JULIA** Not so, but yet so false that he grieves my very heart-strings.  
4 **HOST** You have a quick ear.  
5 **JULIA** Ay, I would I were deaf. It makes me have a slow heart. But, Host, doth this Sir Proteus  
6 that we talk on often resort unto this gentlewoman?  
7 **HOST** I tell you what his man, Launce, told me he loved her out of all nick.  
8 **JULIA** Peace! Stand aside, the company parts.  
9 **PROTEUS** Sir Thurio, fear you not. I will so plead that you shall say my cunning drift excels.  
10 **THURIO** Where meet we?  
11 **PROTEUS** At Saint Gregory's well.  
12 **THURIO** Farewell then.  
13 *Exeunt THURIO and Musicians*  
14 *Enter SILVIA above*  
15 **PROTEUS** Madam, good even to your ladyship.  
16 **SILVIA** I thank you for your music, gentlemen. Who is that that spake?  
17 **PROTEUS** One, lady, if you knew his pure heart's truth, you would quickly learn to know him by  
18 his voice.  
19 **SILVIA** Sir Proteus, as I take it.  
20 **PROTEUS** Sir Proteus, gentle lady, and your servant.  
21 **SILVIA** What's your will?  
22 **PROTEUS** That I may compass yours.  
23 **SILVIA** You have your wish. My will is even this that you presently hie you home to bed. You are  
24 a subtle, perjured, false, disloyal man! You think that I am so shallow, so conceitless, to be  
25 seduced by your flattery? Return you to Verona and make your love amends.  
26 **PROTEUS** I grant, sweet love, that I did once love a lady but she is dead.  
27 **JULIA** [*Aside*] 'Twere false, if I should speak it for I am sure she is not buried.  
28 **SILVIA** Say that she be, but yet Valentine, your friend survives. You are a witness, I am betrothed  
29 and you are not ashamed to wrong him with your importunacy?  
30 **PROTEUS** I likewise hear that Valentine is dead.  
31 **SILVIA** And so suppose am I for in his grave assure yourself that my love is dead and buried.  
32 **PROTEUS** Sweet lady, let me rake it from the earth.  
33 **SILVIA** Go to your lady's grave and call her's hence.  
34 **PROTEUS** Madam, if your heart be so inflexible, vouchsafe me your picture for my love for you.  
35 Give me the picture that is hanging in your chamber.  
36 **SILVIA** I am very loath to be your idol, sir, but since your falsehood shall become you well to  
37 worship shadows and adore false shapes, send to me in the morning and I'll send it. And so,  
38 good rest.  
39 *Exeunt PROTEUS and SILVIA severally*  
40 **JULIA** Pray you, good sir, where lies Sir Proteus?  
41 **HOST** Marry, at my house. Trust me, I think 'tis almost day.  
42 **JULIA** Not so, but it has been the longest night that e'er I watched and the most heaviest.

43 *Exeunt*

44

45

## IV.3

The same.

46



1 *Enter SILVIA above*  
2 *Enter AUDIENCE MEMBER*  
3 **AUDIENCE MEMBER** This is the hour that Madam Silvia did entreat me to call and know her  
4 mind. Madam, madam?  
5 **SILVIA** Friar Laurence.  
6 **AUDIENCE MEMBER** Your servant, dear lady.  
7 **SILVIA** You are not ignorant of what good will I bear unto the banished Valentine, nor how my  
8 father would enforce me marry vain Thurio, whom my very soul abhors. I would to  
9 Valentine, to Mantua, where I hear he makes abode. I will fly this place and seek out my  
10 Valentine.  
11 **AUDIENCE MEMBER** Madam, when will you go to Sir Valentine?  
12 **SILVIA** This evening coming.  
13 **AUDIENCE MEMBER** Then, ado and farewell.  
14 *Exeunt*  
15

## IV.4

**The same.**

16 *Enter PROTEUS and JULIA*  
17  
18 **PROTEUS** Sebastian is your name? I like you well and will employ you in some service presently.  
19 **JULIA** In what you please, I'll do what I can.  
20 **PROTEUS** I hope you will. Sebastian, I have entertained you because I have need of such a youth  
21 that can with some discretion do my business. Go presently and take this ring and deliver it  
22 to Madam Silvia. She that delivered it to me loved me.  
23 **JULIA** It seems you loved not her, to leave her token. She is dead, belike?  
24 **PROTEUS** Not so. I think she lives.  
25 **JULIA** Alas!  
26 **PROTEUS** Why do you cry 'alas'?  
27 **JULIA** I cannot choose but pity her.  
28 **PROTEUS** Wherefore should you pity her?  
29 **JULIA** Because methinks that she loved you as well as you do love your lady Silvia. I am sure she  
30 dreams of you that has forgotten her love. You dote on her that cares not for your love. 'Tis  
31 a pity that love should be so contrary. Thinking of it makes me cry 'alas!'  
32 **PROTEUS** Well enough of that, give her this ring and this letter. That's her chamber. Tell my lady  
33 I claim the promise for her heavenly picture.  
34 *Exit PROTEUS*  
35  
36 **JULIA** How many women would do such a message? Alas, poor fool! Why do I pity him that with  
37 his very heart despises me? He loves her and he despises me. Because I love him I must pity  
38 him. This ring, I gave him when he parted from me to bind him to remember my good will.  
39 I am my master's true-confirmed love and yet will I woo for him. But yet I do it coldly as,  
40 heaven it knows, I would not have him speed. *Enter SILVIA* Gentlewoman, good day! I  
41 pray you, I would speak with Madam Silvia.  
42 **SILVIA** What would you with her, if that I be she?  
43 **JULIA** If you be she, I do entreat your patience to hear me speak the message I am sent on.  
44 **SILVIA** From whom?  
45 **JULIA** From my master, Sir Proteus, madam.  
46 **SILVIA** O, he sends you for a picture.

1 **JULIA** Ay, madam.  
2 **SILVIA** Here then. Go give your master this. Tell him from me that one Julia, that his changing  
3 thoughts forget, would better fit his chamber than this shadow.  
4 **JULIA** Madam, please you peruse this letter. (*Hands over letter*) Pardon me, madam, I have  
5 unadvised delivered you a paper that I should not. This is the letter to your ladyship.  
6 **SILVIA** I pray thee, let me look on that again.  
7 **JULIA** It may not be, good madam, pardon me.  
8 **SILVIA** There, hold! I will not look upon your master's lines. I know they are stuffed with  
9 protestations and full of new-found oaths which he will break as easily as I do tear his paper.  
10 **JULIA** Madam, moreover, he sends your ladyship this ring.  
11 **SILVIA** The more shame for him that he sends it me, for I have heard him say a thousand times his  
12 Julia did gave it to him at his departure. Though his false finger have profaned the ring, mine  
13 shall not do his Julia so much wrong.  
14 **JULIA** She thanks you.  
15 **SILVIA** What say you?  
16 **JULIA** I thank you, madam, that you tender her. Poor gentlewoman! My master wrongs her much.  
17 **SILVIA** Do you know her?  
18 **JULIA** Almost as well as I do know myself. To think upon her woes I do confess that I have wept  
19 a hundred several times.  
20 **SILVIA** She thinks that Proteus has forsaken her.  
21 **JULIA** I think she does and that's her cause of sorrow.  
22 **SILVIA** Is she not passing fair?  
23 **JULIA** She has been fairer, madam, than she is. When she did think my master loved her well, she,  
24 in my judgment, was as fair as you.  
25 **SILVIA** How tall was she?  
26 **JULIA** About my stature.  
27 **SILVIA** She is beholden to you, gentle youth. Alas, poor lady, desolate and left! I weep myself to  
28 think upon your words. Here, youth, there is my purse. I give you this for your sweet  
29 mistress' sake, because you love her. Farewell.

30 *Exit SILVIA*

31 **JULIA** And she shall thank you for it, if e'er you know her. A virtuous gentlewoman, mild and  
32 beautiful. I hope my master's suit will be but cold, since she respects my mistress' love so  
33 much. Here is her picture. Let me see. I think, if I had such a tire, this face of mine were full  
34 as lovely as is this of hers. And yet the painter flattered her a little, unless I flatter with  
35 myself too much. Her hair is auburn, mine is perfect yellow. Her eyes are grey as glass, and  
36 so are mine. Ay, but her forehead's low, and mine is high. O you senseless form, you shall  
37 be worshipped, kissed, loved and adored!

38 *Exit*

39

## V.1

**The same.**

**The DUKE's palace.**

*Enter THURIO, PROTEUS, and JULIA*

44 **THURIO** Sir Proteus, what says Silvia to my suit?  
45 **PROTEUS** O, sir, I find her milder than she was. And yet she takes exceptions at your person.  
46 **THURIO** What, that my leg is too long?

1 **PROTEUS** No, that it is too little.  
2 **THURIO** I'll wear a boot to make it somewhat rounder. How likes she my discourse?  
3 **PROTEUS** 'Tis ill when you talk of war.  
4 **THURIO** But well, when I discourse of love and peace?  
5 **JULIA** [Aside] But better, indeed, when you hold your peace. Here comes the duke.  
6 *Enter DUKE, AUDIENCE MEMBER*  
7 **DUKE** How now, Sir Proteus! How now, Thurio! Which of you saw Silvia of late?  
8 **THURIO** Not I.  
9 **DUKE** Saw you my daughter?  
10 **PROTEUS** Nor I Neither.  
11 **DUKE** Why then, 'tis true, she's fled to that peasant, Valentine. Friar Laurence here did meet with  
12 Silvia as she shared her confession.  
13 **PROTEUS** Friar Laurence, is it true that Silvia came to you? Where did she say she was gong?  
14 *(ad lib)*  
15 **DUKE** I pray you, stand not to discourse. Dispatch, sweet gentlemen, and follow me.  
16 *Exit DUKE, AUDIENCE MEMBER*  
17 **THURIO** Why, so it is to be a peevish girl, I'll after her for the love of the reckless Silvia.  
18 *Exit THURIO*  
19 **PROTEUS** And I will follow more for Silvia's love than hate of Thurio that goes before me.  
20 *Exit PROTEUS*  
21 **JULIA** And I will follow more to cross that love than hate for Silvia that is gone.  
22 *Exit JULIA*  
23

## V.2

### The frontiers of Mantua.

#### The forest.

*Enter SILVIA, CAST, AUDIENCE MEMBERS*

24  
25  
26  
27  
28 **SILVIA** O Valentine, this I endure for thee!  
29 **ALL** Silvia! *(ad lib)*  
30  
31

## V.3

### Another part of the forest.

*Enter VALENTINE, SPEED*

32  
33  
34  
35 **VALENTINE** How does use breed a habit in a man! This shadowy desert, unfrequented woods,  
36 here can I sit alone, unseen of any and to the nightingale's complaining notes, tune my  
37 distresses and record my woes. Repair me with your presence, Silvia. You gentle nymph,  
38 cherish your forlorn swain! *(Off-stage voices)* What hallowing and what stir is this today?  
39 Withdraw, Valentine, withdraw. Who's this comes here?  
40 *Enter PROTEUS, LAUNCE, SILVIA, and JULIA*  
41 **PROTEUS** Madam, vouchsafe me but one fair look.  
42 **VALENTINE** [Aside] How like a dream is this I see and hear! Love, lend me some patience to  
43 forbear it awhile.  
44 **SILVIA** O miserable, unhappy that I am!  
45 **PROTEUS** Unhappy you were, madam, before I came. But by my coming I have made you happy.

1 **SILVIA** By your approach you make me most unhappy.

2 **JULIA** [*Aside*] And me, when he approached to your presence.

3 **SILVIA** O, had I been seized by a hungry lion. I would have been a breakfast to the beast rather  
4 than have false Proteus rescue me. Heaven be my judge of how I love Valentine. His life is  
5 as tender to me as my soul! I do detest you. You are false and perjured, Proteus. Therefore  
6 be gone. Solicit me no more.

7 **PROTEUS** What? Could I not have but one calm look! O, 'tis the curse of love, and still approved  
8 when women cannot love when they're beloved!

9 **SILVIA** Read over Julia's heart, your first, best love, for whose dear sake you did then abandon your  
10 faith. You have no faith left now. You counterfeit to your true friend!

11 **PROTEUS** Once in love, who respects friend?

12 **SILVIA** All men but Proteus.

13 **PROTEUS** Nay, if the gentle spirit of moving words can not change you to a milder form, I'll woo  
14 you like a soldier and love you against the nature of love.

15 **SILVIA** O heaven!

16 **VALENTINE** Ruffian, let go that rude uncivil touch.

17 **PROTEUS** Valentine!

18 **VALENTINE** You common friend that's without faith or love. For such is a friend now, you  
19 treacherous man! Who should be trusted, when one's own right hand is perjured to the  
20 bosom? Proteus, I am sorry, but I must never trust you again. The private wound is deepest.  
21 O time most curst. Amongst all my foes there is a friend that could be the worst!

22 **PROTEUS** My shame and guilt confounds me. Forgive me, Valentine. If hearty sorrow were a  
23 sufficient ransom for offence, I tender it here. I do as truly suffer as e'er I did commit.

24 **VALENTINE** Then I am paid. Once again, I do receive you honest. Who by repentance is not  
25 satisfied is not of heaven nor earth, for these are pleased. By penitence the Eternal's wrath is  
26 appeased. And, that my love may appear plain and free, all that was mine in Silvia I offer  
27 you.

28 **JULIA** O me, unhappy! *Swoons*

29 **PROTEUS** Look to the boy.

30 **SPEED** Why, boy! Why, wag! Speak!

31 **LAUNCE** What's the matter? How now, what's this? (*Finds ring.*)

32 **JULIA** O good sir, my master charged me to deliver that ring to Madam Silvia, which, out of my  
33 neglect, was never done.

34 **PROTEUS** Where is that ring, boy?

35 **LAUNCE** Here 'tis. This is it.

36 **PROTEUS** How! Let me see. Why, this is the ring I gave to Julia.

37 **JULIA** O, cry you mercy, sir, I have mistook. This is the ring you sent to Silvia.

38 **PROTEUS** But how have you come you by this ring? At my departure from Verona, I gave this  
39 ring to Julia.

40 **JULIA** And Julia herself did give it me. And Julia herself hath brought it hither. (*Unmasks*)

41 **PROTEUS** How! Julia!

42 **JULIA** Behold her that gave aim to all your oaths and entertained them deeply in her heart. How  
43 oft have you with perjury cleft the root! O Proteus, let this habit make you blush! Be you  
44 ashamed that I have taken upon me such immodest raiment. If shame lives in a disguise of  
45 love, it is the lesser blot, modesty finds, that women to change their shapes more than men  
46 change their minds.

1 **PROTEUS** Than men change their minds! 'Tis true. O heaven, were man but constant, he would  
2 be perfect. One error fills him with faults and makes him run through all the sins.  
3 Inconstancy falls off ere it begins. What is in Silvia's face, I may spy more freshly in Julia's  
4 with a constant eye?  
5 **VALENTINE** Come, come, a hand from either. Let me be blest to make this happy close. 'Twere  
6 pity two such friends should be long foes.  
7 **PROTEUS** Bear witness, Heaven, I have my wish for ever.  
8 **JULIA** And I mine.  
9 *Enter DUKE and THURIO*  
10 **VALENTINE** Forbear, forbear, I say! It is the duke. Your grace is welcome to a man disgraced.  
11 **DUKE** Sir Valentine!  
12 **THURIO** Yonder is Silvia, and Silvia is mine.  
13 **VALENTINE** Thurio, give back, or else embrace your death. Come not within the measure of my  
14 wrath. Do not name Silvia your love. While here she stands, take not possession of her. I  
15 dare you but to breathe upon my love.  
16 **THURIO** Sir Valentine, I care not for her. I, I hold him but a fool that will endanger his body for a  
17 girl that loves him not. I claim her not, and therefore she is yours.  
18 **DUKE** The more degenerate and base are you. To make such means for her as you have done and  
19 leave her on such slight conditions. Away with you all. (*Exeunt THURIO, Speed, LAUNCE*)  
20 I do applaud your spirit, Valentine, and I think you are worthy of an empress' love. Know  
21 then, I here forget all former grieves, cancel all grudges, and repeal you home again. You are  
22 a gentleman and well derived. Take you your Silvia, for you have deserved her.  
23 **VALENTINE** I thank your grace. The gift has made me happy.  
24 **DUKE** You have prevailed. I pardon them and you. Come, let us go. We will include all jars with  
25 triumphs, mirth and rare solemnity.  
26 *Exit DUKE*  
27 **VALENTINE** O know, sweet love, that I always write of you. For you and my love is still my  
28 finest argument. So all my best is dressing old words like new. Spending again what is  
29 already spent. For as the sun is daily both new and old, so is my love still telling what is told.  
30 *Exeunt VALENTINE and SILVIA*  
31 **PROTEUS** Julia, I pray you now, forgive and forget.  
32 *Exeunt Severally*