

All's Well that Ends Well abbreviated

Act 1, Scene 3

Daughter to Mother

Situation: Helen acknowledges to the Countess that she loves her son. She apologetically tries to explain the situation as she sees it, asking the Countess for understanding.

COUNTESS: My love hath in 't a bond whereof the world takes note. Come, come, disclose the state of your affection.

Helen kneels.

HELEN: Then I confess here on my knee before high heaven and you that I love your son.

Helen to Countess

My family was poor but honest; so's my
Love. Be not angry; he is not hurt by
My love for him. I follow him not by
Any token of presumption, knowing
I love in vain, strive against hope, and try
To pour through this capricious, forgiving
Sieve the waters of my unlimited
Love and go on losing. Let it be said,
My dearest madam, if ever you did
Imagine a virtuous youth who woos
A star, then give pity to her who bid
Not to choose, gave where she was sure to lose;
Who sought not to find what her search implies,
But sweetly bewildered lives where she dies.

COUNTESS: Had you not lately an intent --- speak truly --- to go to Paris?

HELEN: Madam, I had.