

All's Well that Ends Well abbreviated

Act 1, Scene 1

Infatuation

Situation: Bertram has been asked by France's king to leave Rossillion and to join his court in Paris where he can, with time, come of age and qualify to succeed his father as Count of Rossillion. Helen, the teenage daughter of the late Gerald de Narbon, has a crush on Bertram and is heartbroken over his plans to leave for Paris.

COUNTESS: Heaven bless him. Farewell, Bertram.

BERTRAM: The best wishes that can be forged in your thoughts be servants to you.

Countess exits.

BERTRAM TO HELEN: Be comforting to my mother.

LAFEW: Farewell, pretty lady. You must hold the credit of your father.

Bertram and Lafew exit.

Helen to Herself, No. 1

O, I think not of my father, rather
These tears, more than I shed for my father
At his death, fall at the thought of him. What
Was he like? I have too soon forgot. My
Jumbled mind carries no face in it but
Bertram's. I'm undone. It is as if I
Should love a star and think to wed it, he
So above me. In his light must I be
Comforted. The ambition of my love
Plagues it self. 'Twas pleasing, though a plague, to
Present to my mind's eye a picture of
Each expression of his face; of he who
Curls my heart with his arched brows and plays on
My weak will with his keen eye. Now he's gone.