

All's Well that Ends Well abbreviated

Act 4, Scene 4

Observation

Situation: Following the midnight encounter, a French Lord, aware of the tryst, says “he gratifies his lust in the spoil of honor. He has given her his ancestral ring.” Another lord reports on the rumor that Bertram’s wife Helen “on her pilgrimage to Saint Jaques le Grand made a groan of her last breath, and now sings in heaven.” But the very much alive Helen, the Widow of Florence and Diana have made plans as a team to visit the French king.

Helen to the Widow and Diana

That you may believe that you may trust me,
The King of France shall be my surety,
Whose help I need. His Grace is at Marseilles
To where we have an escort. You must know
I am supposed dead, and with the army
Breaking and he hieing home, we must go
Swiftly. But O, strange men, who can such sweet
Use make of what they hate when they do greet
A lascivious thought, their deceiving
Actions defiling the night. So lust sends
Men to play with that which they loathe, taking
It for what is away. All’s well that ends
Well. Always, the conclusion is the crown.
Whate’er our course, the end is our renown.

WIDOW: Gentle madam, you never had servants to whose trust your business was more welcome.

DIANA: Let death and honesty go with your commands. I am yours upon your will to suffer.