

Measure for Measure abbreviated

Act 5, Scene 1

Joy

Situation: Taking control of events, the duke “unmuffles” Claudio and pardons him. He pardons Angelo, who has agreed to marry Mariana, having earlier said “I am so sorry that I crave death more willingly than mercy.” He tells Lucio that he must marry Kate Keepdown, the mother of his son. He proposes to Isabel.

He unmuffles Claudio.

DUKE TO ISABELLA: If he be like your brother, for his sake is he pardoned; and for your lovely sake, give me your hand and say you will be mine, he is my brother too. Well, Angelo, your evil rewards you well. Look that you love your wife; she is worthy to be your wife.

DUKE TO LUCIO: You, sirrah, that knew me for a fool, a coward, one of lechery, a madman. Wherein have I so deserved of you that you extol me thus?

LUCIO: Faith, my lord, I spoke it but according to the trick. I rather it would please you I might be whipped.

DUKE: Whipped first, sir, and hanged after. If any woman he begot with child, let her appear, and he shall marry her. The nuptial finished, let him be whipped and hanged.

LUCIO: Marrying Kate Keepdown, my lord, is whipping, and hanging.

DUKE: Slandering a prince deserves it.

Officers take Lucio away.

Duke to the Others

See that you reinstate her dignity,
Claudio, she that you wronged. To her be
Good, Angelo; love her, she a woman
Of virtue. Thank you, good friend Escalus.
There's more coming, that's more pleasing, than can
Now be said. For the care of all of us,
Thanks, provost; we'll provide a better sense
Of work. Angelo, forgive the offense
Of the false head. Isabel, if you would,
And if your willing ear doth so incline,
I have an offer that concerns your good:
What's mine is yours and what is yours is mine.
Friends, join us at our palace, where we'll show
You what's to come; 'tis what you all should know.