

Much Ado About Nothing abbreviated

Act 5, Scene 1

Proposal

Situation: A humbled Claudio accepts Leonato's offer of redemption, being told by Benedick that "you have killed a sweet lady, and her death shall fall heavy on you." Later Claudio, in a moment of full disclosure, is told by Borachio that "you were brought into the orchard and saw me court Margaret in Hero's garments."

LEONATO: Which is the villain? Which of these is he?

BORACHIO: If you would know your wronger, look on me.

LEONATO: Art thou the slave that with thy breath hast killed mine innocent child?

BORACHIO: Yea, even I alone.

Leonato to Prince, Claudio and Borachio

Thy lie to thyself knave, not so as said.
Here stand men of honor, a third is fled.
Record my daughter's death, men, with your high
And worthy deeds, if you bethink of it.
You cannot bid my daughter live, but I
Pray you hang a verse on her tomb, commit
To all of Messina how innocent
She died, and here tonight sing to content
Her bones. Come to me in the morning. The
Marriage hoped for Hero will not be filed;
Be yet my nephew. My brother hath a
Daughter, almost the copy of my child
That's dead. If you give her the right you should
Have given her cousin, end grief I would.

CLAUDIO: Your overkindness doth wring tears from me. I do embrace your offer and dispose for henceforth of poor Claudio.