

Twelfth Night abbreviated

Act 2, Scene 2

Introspection

Situation: Viola quickly picks up on Olivia's scheme to get him to return to her. Having made such a convincing plea on behalf of Orsino, Cesario realizes that Olivia has fallen for him. The moment of truth arrives when Malvolio runs him down and tells him, speaking for Olivia, that "he left this ring behind him, and tell him I'll have none of it."

MALVOLIO: Come, sir, you peevishly threw it to her, and her will is it should be so returned.
He throws down the ring and exits.

VIOLA: I left no ring with her. What means this lady?

Viola to herself

Her eyes had lost her tongue from what had been
My wicked disguise. Now I'm asked back in,
The cunning, churlish messenger; doth seem
I am the man. If so, the world is men's.
Poor soul, she were better to love a dream.
The ease which insincere men melt women's
Waxen hearts must be one of nature's laws.
Alas, our frailty must be the cause,
Not we. Such as we are made, such we be.
My master loves her dearly and I some
Fond of him where she now mistakenly
Seems to dote on me. O, what will become
Of this that time must untangle, not I;
This knot is too hard for me to untie.