

## Twelfth Night abbreviated

Act 2, Scene 5

### Tease

**Situation:** The house staff, through their letter to the pretentious Malvolio, written by Maria purporting to be from Olivia, is a most unkind trick on Malvolio, not that he doesn't deserve it. But in the abstract, it is funny.

MALVOLIO: By my life, this is my lady's hand!

MALVOLIO READS: "To the unknown beloved, this, and my good wishes." Her very phrases! "Jove knows I love, but who? Lips, do not move; no man must know." No man must know! If this should be thee, Malvolio!

TOBY ASIDE: Excellent wench, say I.

Malvolio reads the letter.

### Maria as Olivia to Malvolio

Be not afraid of greatness. Some are born  
Great; it's achieved by some, and for some worn  
Because it is thrust upon them. Let thy  
Blood and spirit embrace thy fates. Inure  
Thyself to what thou soon can be. Untie  
Thy tongue with arguments of state, fair sir;  
Be surly with servants and opposite  
With a kinsman. She who sighs counsels it.  
Remember who commended thy yellow  
Stockings and wished to see thee cross-gartered.  
Go, if to be, or remain the fellow  
Of knaves. Thou canst but know 'twas I you heard.  
If thou seek'st my love, smile when we meet,  
For thy smiles become thee well, dear my sweet.

MALVOLIO: I will smile. I will do everything that thou wilt have me.