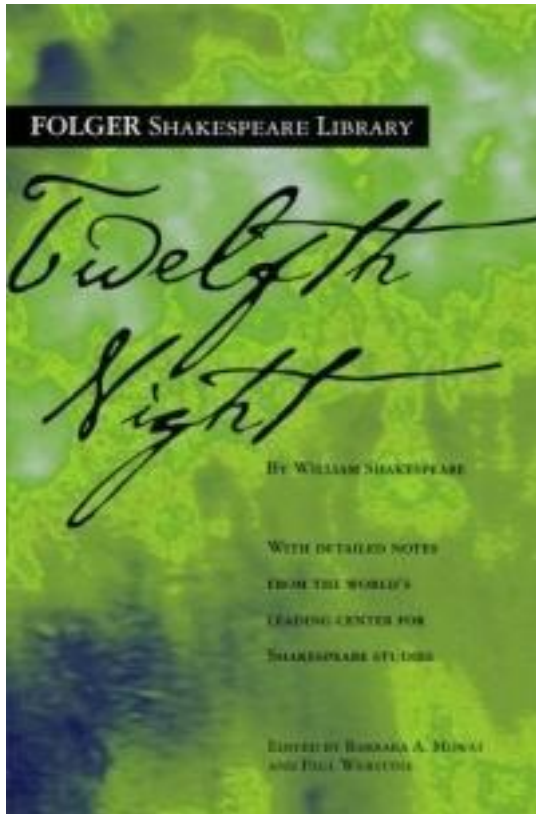

William Shakespeare

Twelfth Night



Title: Twelfth Night

Author: William Shakespeare

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Description

Set in a topsy-turvy world like a holiday revel, this comedy devises a romantic plot around separated twins, misplaced passions, and mistaken identity. Juxtaposed to it is the satirical story of a self-deluded steward who dreams of becoming "Count Malvolio" only to receive his comeuppance at the hands of the merrymakers he wishes to suppress. The two plots combine to create a farce touched with melancholy, mixed throughout with seductively beautiful explorations on the themes of love and time, and the play ends, not with laughter, but with a clown's sad song.

Insightful reviews

Kelly: The only reason this gets four and not five stars is that we're rating on the scale of Shakespeare to Shakespeare, and I think that there is some awkwardness in this one in terms of the conclusion; where everyone goes and how they get to it. There are also some very thin plot devices that annoy me.

However, that being said, I love this play. I played Mariah in it in high school, and it was one of the most fun things I've been in. It can be played for laughs, or for the dark side. The movie version I own goes for the dark depression, the one I was in was slapstick comedy, mostly. I prefer a mix of the two. I like it when it's slapstick, and then you strike a completely discordant note with the Fool or Malvolio, for instance. It can be quite striking in that regard, I think.

One of my favorites of the comedies!

Malxox : Whenever I'm made to read Shakespeare I cringe, but take the play nonetheless. However, I always seem to enjoy it, so I don't know why I feel so opposed upon first being told that's what we're reading, haha. In the end it was rather good, and I enjoyed it, *but* ... She's the Man will obviously always be better :P

Henry Avila: Now a strange, astonishing thing or two , happened, off the west coast of the Balkans, (Illyria), in an undetermined age, aristocratic, identical twins, a boy and a girl, well around twenty, give or take a few years, were lost at sea, shipwrecked by a powerful storm. Presumed drowned by the other surviving sibling, both saw their relative in an untenable situation. But this being a play, the twins keep on breathing, reaching the beautiful, dry, glorious beach, with separate help from out of the blue, the ship's kind sea captain, and an infamous pirate , miracles do occur, sometimes. Nevertheless, unknown to the grieving duo ... For some reason, they changed their names, on land, Sebastian becomes , Roderigo, and his sister Viola, much more drastically, a man, Cesario, wearing men's clothes, a pretty boy she is too, (a rose by any other name would smell as sweet). She/He, starts working for the local Duke, Orsino, who loves another person of noble blood , Countess Olivia. But the lady is grieving for a recently deceased, beloved brother, and is in no mood for romance, besides the Duke doesn't appeal to her sad soul. Olivia needs a year to mourn, the lady tells the passionate, impatient Duke. And Olivia has a secret crush on his messenger, Cesario, (Orsino is a very jealous, fierce man, who likes to duel), he also, after just a few days becomes very fond of his new,

sweet servant. Now the distraught Countess, in her mansion, has her drunken uncle living with her, a big headache, Sir Toby, imbibing all night long, coming home in a boisterous condition, out of control, waking up the whole household, with his cowardly young friend, Sir Andrew. What can Olivia do, he's a relative. And Sir Andrew wants to marry the countess too, and has given money to her impecunious uncle. Another member of her entourage is her late father's jester, The Fool, also called Feste, acting silly is his job and does it very well, but The Fool is the smartest one around. Witty comments are his specialty ... Still the head of her servants, stern Malvolio, hated by the rest, rules with an iron hand, except Sir Toby, the noble family is above him. But the lackeys are restless and want revenge. More trouble for Lady Olivia, she falls in desperate love with the disguised Viola, as Cesario, who becomes very uneasy. And when Sebastian finally arrives in town, people speak to the visitor, as if they recognize him ! The twin feels quite confused, agitated, is he or these strangers mad ? Even Sir Andrew and Sir Toby, take their swords out to fight the supposedly timid "Cesario" , who is not his sister, and knows how to duel. A surprise ensues, for the not too brave pair. Another splendid, fun play , from the incomparable master William Shakespeare... enough said or written.

Alan: right here Shakespeare borrows as so usually in his comedies, from Plautus for the overarching plot--the separated siblings, the twinning (recall his Errors, and the Menaechmi), the coming from sea. yet he provides quite a bit as to make it unrecognizable as a Roman comedy. He provides an enticing drunk, Sir Toby, who fleeces a foolish aristocrat who--perhaps by myself in literature-- is aware himself to be silly. He adds, for instance, a parody of Renaissance psychiatry (well, extra theology, yet on account that "psyche" in Greek is either "soul" and "mind," that is fair) practiced on Shakespeare's purely American. rather than the typical psyche ward question, "What does 'the grass is often greener at the different facet of the fence' suggest to you?" Feste as Reverend Psychiatrist asks, "What is the opinion of Pythagoras in regards to the soul?" Remember, you cannot get out of the psyche ward except you solution right. Well, Malvolio DOES get it right, he hits it out of the park, yet Feste retains him in lockdown anyway. Why? Herein lies a tale. Malvolio is portrayed as stark raving mad just because he desires to marry the boss's daughter--or really, the boss herself. A loopy idea. An American idea, person who could take a pair centuries and a Revolution to be authorized by means of anyone at all. these rejects at the different aspect of the Atlantic. Yes, Malvolio is Shakespeare's purely American (except almost certainly Othello?). And he's indeed, as he himself pleads at performs end, notoriously abused. He vows revenge more often than not pack--which we, as extremely joyful playgoers, can't support, even though justice, and America, are on his side.

Maxwell: this can be a enjoyable play. no longer my favorite. Makes me are looking to watch She's the Man.

Lyn: studying Shakespeare is sort of like taking place into the basement of literature and reading the foundations. So frequently i locate the origins of what has turn into trite and overdone, and but Shakespeare used to be the fountain from which lots springs. this can be very true of Twelfth Night, it truly is obvious that such a lot of comedies and romances over the centuries have been seriously encouraged through this play. nonetheless very entertaining.

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