

Side 6: Corin, Silvius

2.4.12 *As You Like It*

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~~TOUCHSTONE Aye, now am I in Arden, the more fool I! When I was at home I was in a better place; but travellers must be content.~~

~~Enter CORIN and SILVIUS~~

~~ROSALIND Aye, be so, good Touchstone. Look you who comes here:~~

~~A young man and an old in solemn talk.~~

~~CORIN That is the way to make her scorn you still.~~

~~SILVIUS O Corin, that thou knew'st how I do love her.~~

~~CORIN I partly guess, for I have loved ere now.~~

~~SILVIUS No, Corin, being old, thou canst not guess,~~

~~Though in thy youth thou wast as true a lover~~

~~As ever sighed upon a midnight pillow.~~

~~But if thy love were ever like to mine –~~

~~As sure I think did never man love so –~~

~~How many actions most ridiculous~~

~~Hast thou been drawn to by thy fantasy?~~

~~CORIN Into a thousand that I have forgotten.~~

~~SILVIUS O thou didst then never love so heartily.~~

~~If thou remembrest not the slightest folly~~

~~That ever love did make thee run into,~~

~~Thou hast not loved.~~

~~Or if thou hast not sat as I do now,~~

~~Wearing thy hearer in thy mistress' praise,~~

~~Thou hast not loved.~~

~~Or if thou hast not broke from company~~

~~Abruptly as my passion now makes me,~~

14–15 | *As verse, Capell; prose* F 14 here: | *This edn; here, F; here? Capell* 28 slightest | F; slighted *Rowe* 32 Wearing | F; Wearing F2

12 *Arden* Punning on 'a den', here meaning a hole or vagina: compare 'MERCUTIO God ye good den [evening], fair gentlewoman. / NURSE Is it good den? / MERCUTIO 'Tis no less, I tell ye, for the bawdy hand of the dial is now upon the prick of noon' (*Rom.* 2.4.110–13). Alternatively there is a pun on 'harden', 'a coarse fabric made from the hards of flax or hemp' (*OED sv sb*).

12 *the more fool I* Proverbial (*Dent* F505.1).

13 *travellers* Possibly with a pun on 'travailleurs', labourers: both senses generate a bawdy meaning of visiting or toiling in strange places.

16 The dialogue that follows between Corin and Silvius is like the discourse between Thenot and Cuddy in the February Eclogue of Spenser's *Shepherd's Calendar* (1579).

22 *were* The subjunctive form in a conditional clause.

23 *As* For to be (*OED As conj* 8d).

25 *fantasy* (1) imagination (*OED sv* 4), (2) desire, liking (*OED sv* 7).

32 *Wearing* Exhausting (*OED Wear v* 10a); this may, however, be a spelling of 'wearying' (see *Hulme*, p. 319).

32 *in with* (*OED prep* 13).

34 *broke* escaped (for the dropped 'en' inflection, see *Abbott* 343).

35 *Abruptly* Interruptedly, with sudden breaks (*OED sv* 2, although the usage is recorded only from 1607).

35 *passion* pain in love.

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As You Like It 2.4.50

Thou hast not loved.

O Phoebe, Phoebe, Phoebe!

Exit

~~ROSALIND Alas, poor shepherd, searching of thy wound,~~

~~I have by hard adventure found mine own.~~

~~TOUCHSTONE And I mine: I remember when I was in love, I broke my sword upon a stone and bid him take that for coming a night to Jane~~

~~Smile; and I remember the kissing of her batler and the cow's dugs~~

~~that her pretty chapped hands had milked, and I remember the~~

~~wooing of a peasecod instead of her, from whom I took two cods~~

~~and, giving her them again, said with weeping tears, 'Wear these for~~

~~my sake.' We that are true lovers run into strange capers; but as all~~

~~is mortal in Nature, so is all nature in love mortal in folly.~~

~~ROSALIND Thou speak'st wiser than thou art ware of.~~

~~TOUCHSTONE Nay, I shall ne'er be ware of mine own wit till I break my shine against it.~~

36–7 | F *subst.; one line, Capell subst.* 38 *thy wound* | *Rowe; they would* F; *their wound* F2 42 *batler* | F; *batlet* F2 43 *chapped* | *Eds.; chopt* F 44 *cods* | F; *peas* *Johnson*

37 *Phoebe* The name is an epithet for the moon-goddess Artemis (or Diana) (*Metamorphoses*, 1, 575; *MND* 1.1.209), who was associated with hunting and virginity.

38 *searching* of probing.

38 *of* For the construction (which reveals that 'searching' was taken as a verbal noun), see *Abbott* 178.

38 **thy wound* *Rowe's* emendation completes a partial correction in F2 of an obvious error (see *collation: a compositural misreading of woūde?*).

39 *hard adventure* bad fortune.

39 *mine own* For 'wound' meaning vagina, the meaning *Touchstone* picks up, see *Partridge*, pp. 221–2.

40–2 *I... Smile* A smutty anecdote that involves punishment of *Touchstone's* penis either for leading him nightly to his mistress or for ejaculating in her presence (for 'come' in this sense, see 1.2.23 n., *Williams*, p. 75).

41 *him* Either *Touchstone's* sword or the stone: if the latter, there is a continuation of the bawdy since 'stone' was colloquial for testicle. This may also be a reference to the tavern fool, *John Stone* (*Chambers*, III, 369), a rival for the love of *Jane Smile*.

41 *a-night* at night (*Abbott* 24).

42 *batler* wooden paddle or beetle used for washing clothes (see *OED Battle v*⁴) or, if small, for making butter – and 'batler', like milking, had bawdy

connotations; F2's 'batlet' may be a Warwickshire form used by Shakespeare (see *Knowles*, p. 93).

43 **chapped* F's 'chopt' is an obsolete form (*OED Chopped ppl adj*¹).

44 *peasecod* pea-pod, here a synecdoche for 'pea-plant' (a sense not recorded in *OED*); for the association of peas with fertility and their use in wooing rituals, see *Brewer*, p. 954 and *Brand*, II, 99; given the mention of the 'two cods' in the next line, there is implicit play here on the reversed form 'cod-piece' (*Williams*, p. 231).

44 *whom* the pea-plant.

44 *cods* (1) husks, pods, (2) testicles (*OED Cod sb*¹ 4).

45 *weeping tears* abundant weeping (*OED Weeping ppl adj* 3a).

46 *capers* frolicsome leaps, fantastic situations, acts of copulation (*Williams*, pp. 62–3; with a pun on *capere* Latin for 'goat', proverbially lecherous).

46–7 *all... folly* all that lives must die, so all those who love are bound to do foolish things.

48 Compare the proverb, 'There is more in it than you are ware of' (*Tilley* M1158).

48 *thou art ware of* you know.

49–50 Compare the proverb, 'Fools set stools for wise men to break their shins' (*Tilley* F543) and the saying, 'To break one's shins' (*Dent* S342.1) which, given that 'wir' means wisdom and penis (*Williams*, p. 341), suggests a 'sexual mishap' (*Williams*, p. 52).

49 *ware* (1) apprehensive, (2) aware.