Act III Scene I

THE FOREST, NEAR ATHENS.

IS EVERYBODY HERE?

YES. THIS GRASSY SPACE CAN BE THE STAGE, AND THESE BUSHES CAN BE OUR DRESSING ROOM.

THERE ARE THINGS IN THIS COMEDY THAT WON'T GO DOWN WELL.

THE LADIES WON'T LIKE PYRAMUS KILLING HIMSELF.

PETER QUINCE --

YES, BOTTOM?

THAT IS A PROBLEM!

I THINK WE SHOULD LEAVE THE KILLING OUT.

NO, I KNOW HOW TO GET AROUND IT.
WRITE AN INTRODUCTION THAT TELLS THE AUDIENCE THAT HE DOESN'T REALLY DIE. TELL THEM THAT HE IS NOT PYRAMUS AT ALL, BUT ME, BOTTOM.

VERY WELL.

AND MAKE IT RHYME.

WON'T THE LADIES BE AFRAID OF THE LION?

GOOD POINT.

A LION IS A FIERCE BIRD - WE NEED TO SORT THIS OUT!

ANOTHER INTRODUCTION, TO SAY IT ISN'T A REAL LION?

WE SHOULD SAY WHO HE IS, AND THEY SHOULD BE ABLE TO SEE PART OF HIS FACE. HE CAN SPEAK TO THE AUDIENCE AND TELL THEM NOT TO BE AFRAID.

VERY WELL.

HE CAN SAY THAT HE IS SNUG THE JOINER.
WE NEED A CALENDAR!

WILL THE MOON BE SHINING THE NIGHT WE PUT ON OUR PLAY?

YES, THE MOON SHINES THAT NIGHT.

THEN JUST LEAVE A WINDOW OPEN, AND THE MOON CAN SHINE THROUGH IT.

IT MIGHT BE BETTER IF SOMEONE COMES ONSTAGE, DRESSED AS THE MOON.

AND WE NEED A WALL - PYRAMUS AND THISBE SPOKE THROUGH A HOLE IN A WALL.

WE CAN'T BRING A WALL ONSTAGE.

SOMEONE CAN CARRY PLASTER, OR STONES, AND PRETEND HE'S A WALL - AND HE CAN HOLD HIS FINGERS LIKE THIS, FOR PYRAMUS AND THISBE TO SPEAK THROUGH.
LETS REHEARSE!
YOU START, PYRAMUS, AND THEN GO INTO THE BUSHES WHEN YOU HAVE FINISHED YOUR SPEECH.

WHO ARE THESE FOOLS, SO CLOSE TO THE FAIRY QUEEN?

SPEAK, PYRAMUS, GET READY, THISBE.

THISBE, FLOWERS HAVE SWEET, ODIOUS...

ODOURS!

- HAVE SWEET ODOURS AND A SMELL, LIKE YOUR BREATH, MY DARLING THISBE. I HEAR A VOICE - WAIT HERE, MY DEAR; I SHALL SHORTLY REAPPEAR.

THATS THE STRANGEST PYRAMUS EVER!

SHOULD I SPEAK NOW?

YES. HE HAS GONE TO SEE WHAT THE NOISE IS, AND WILL SOON BE BACK.
LOVELY PYRAMUS, YOU ARE SO FAIR: I LOVE YOUR FACE, I LOVE YOUR HAIR. MY HEART WITH YOU ALONE I SHARE, WITH YOU, I WOULD GO ANYWHERE. I SHALL MEET YOU AT NINNY’S GRAVE.

NINUS’S GRAVE! BUT YOU SHOULD SAY THAT AFTER PYRAMUS HAS COME BACK.

COME IN, PYRAMUS - YOU HAVE MISSED YOUR CLUE!

WITH YOU, I WOULD GO ANYWHERE.

IF I WERE FAIR, THISBE, I WOULD STILL LOVE ONLY YOU.

IT’S A MONSTER!

RUN!

HELP!

GASP!
I will lead you round and round, like horse, pig, bear or hound.

Over here, over there, I will chase you everywhere.

Why did they run away? Are they trying to frighten me?

What do you look like, Bottom?

I look like what you see, you donkey-brain!
YOU'VE BEEN TRANSFORMED, BOTTOM!

THEY ARE TRYING TO MAKE AN ASS OUT OF ME, TO FRIGHTEN ME.

BUT I WON'T RUN AWAY - I SHALL SING, TO PROVE I'M NOT AFRAID!

BLACKBIRD HAS A YELLOW BEAK, THE WREN HAS A LITTLE SQUEAK.

WHO IS THAT ANGEL SINGING?

WHEN THE CUCKOO STARTS TO SING, QUESTION NOT ITS WARNING.

WHO WOULD WASTE THEIR TIME, QUESTIONING A BIRD?