

A Midsummer Night's Dream – Synopsis

Set in the mythic world of ancient Greece, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* weaves together three distinct worlds across one extraordinary night.

In the court of Athens, where the Duke, Theseus, is preparing to marry the Amazonian queen, Hippolyta, Egeus' daughter, Hermia, is ordered by her father to marry a man she does not love — or face death. She flees into the forest with her true love Lysander, pursued by Demetrius, the man she has rejected, and by Helena, her friend, who is hopelessly in love with Demetrius.

The forest is no ordinary forest. It is the domain of Oberon and Titania, King and Queen of the Fairies, whose quarrel over a changeling child has thrown the natural world into chaos. Determined to teach Titania a lesson, Oberon dispatches his mercurial servant Puck to find a magical flower whose juice, dropped on sleeping eyelids, causes the sleeper to fall instantly in love with the first creature they see on waking. What follows is a night of enchantment, confusion and inspired comedy as the lovers are bewitched, hearts are broken and mended, and Puck's mischief spirals magnificently beyond anyone's control.

Into this same forest comes a third group — six Athenian craftsmen rehearsing a play, written by one of their number, for Duke Theseus' wedding. Their leader is the irrepressible Nick Bottom, who falls victim to Puck's magic, acquires the head of a donkey, and finds himself adored by the Queen of the Fairies herself.

By dawn, the spells are lifted, the lovers find each other, and Bottom wakes from the strangest dream he has ever had — or ever will. The play ends in celebration, with the craftsmen performing for the court in a manner nobody present will ever forget.

A Midsummer Night's Dream is a magical, enchanting play about transformation, leaving everyone involved changed and more alive to wonder than they were the day before.