

## A little bit of Shakespeare: As You Like It

### The Setting:

Frederick, taking advantage of his brother's frequent absences, has usurped his land and title. He now calls himself Duke Frederick. (Shakespeare never names this brother, "the senior Duke") Senior, the exiled Duke, is now living as an outlaw in the Forest of Arden and is enjoying the rustic life. Young men are leaving Frederick's court and going to join Senior in voluntary exile.

There is an undercurrent of resentment against Frederick and sympathy for Rosalind, Senior's daughter. Rosalind has been allowed to remain in court for she is best friends with Celia, Duke Frederick's daughter. The Duke is rather heavy-handed and has permitted some injustices to flourish. One of those is the way he lets Oliver de Boys mistreat his youngest brother. The middle son, Jaques de Boys, has gone to join Senior's court in exile. The youngest, Orlando de Boys, is stuck tending the farm. That does sit well with his ambitions.

Duke Frederick hears that opposition to his rule is crystallizing around his niece Rosalind. He suspects she's even encouraging his daughter, to turn against him. In a fit of paranoia, Frederick banishes Rosalind and threatens to kill her. Rosalind flees, disguised as a young man.

### The NPCs:

Duke Frederick, the usurper. Senior, the old duke in exile. Oliver and Jaques de Boys, Orlando's older brothers in a house divided. Charles, a wrestler and general thug for the Duke. Phoebe, Silvius, and Audrey, shepherds and country folk of Arden.

### The Stage:

Frederick's court is solid stone but riddled with intrigue. Senior's court is nothing more than trees and tents. But, it is a refuge from the politics of Duke Frederick. The Forest of Arden is a great natural resource, but not without its own dangers. A number of peasant homes are in the forest. The de Boys farm is Orlando's burden.

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Name: Celia, daughter of Duke Frederick

Details: Good upbeat attitude, but also a spoiled rich girl



People respect/fear my father.



Some of the court is still loyal to me.



I have courtly graces in unusual places.



Being fair of face helps me get my way.



I am my father's daughter and I love the intrigue.



I'd never betray my cousin.

Name: Orlando de Boys, son of Old Rowland

Details: Strapping young man who has been treated poorly or abandoned by his brothers.



I'm in touch with the earth.



Just a little too shy with the ladies.



Hard work = hard muscles.



I'm a natural gentleman.



I won't be denied my education.



I'm my father's son and wear that pride like a badge (or is that arrogance by another name?)

Name: Touchstone the Minstrel, Frederick's jester

Details:



Sweet-talking songster



I've been there. I've been everywhere.



Hey hey, ladies!



The countryside is so -- messy.



Vanity, vanity, all is vanity



Stranger to (actual) danger

Name: Father Oliver Martext, a country vicar

Details:



My thoughts are in heaven



According to ancient authors...



Let me brew you a potion for that



I am friends to everyone.



I'm God's servant, but Frederick's employee.



No, I didn't see anything. Ask god.

Name: Adam, Old Rowland's and now Orlando's servant

Details: He was old even when Rowland de Boys was alive



I know what you're thinking!



My ears are as sharp as my tongue



Proper manners will open doors and more



Old bones.



What were we talking about?



I'll never rise above my station.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Details: \_\_\_\_\_



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