



Benedick

From *Much Ado About Nothing*

By William Shakespeare

Age Range: Young Adult, Adult

Style: Comedic, Classical

Monologue:

“This can be no trick: the conference was sadly borne. They have the truth of this from Hero. They seem to pity the lady: it seems her affections have their full bent. Love me! Why, it must be requited. I hear how I am censured: they say I will bear myself proudly, if I perceive the love come from her; they say too that she will rather die than give any sign of affection. I did never think to marry: I must not seem proud: happy are they that hear their detractions and can put them to mending. They say the lady is fair; ‘tis a truth, I can bear them witness; and virtuous; ‘tis so, I cannot reprove it; and wise, but for loving me; by my troth, it is no addition to her wit, nor no great argument of her folly, for I will be horribly in love with her. I may chance have some odd quirks and remnants of wit broken on me, because I have railed so long against marriage: but doth not the appetite alter? A man loves the meat in his youth that he cannot endure in his age. Shall quips and sentences and these paper bullets of the brain awe a man from the career of his humor? No, the world must be peopled. When I said I would die a bachelor, I did not think I should live till I were married.”

Play Synopsis:

Much Ado About Nothing is a lively comedy by William Shakespeare that centers on love, deception, and misunderstandings. The story follows two couples: Claudio and Hero, whose romance is nearly ruined by a malicious scheme, and Beatrice and Benedick, whose witty banter masks their growing affection for each other. The villainous Don John tricks Claudio into believing Hero has been unfaithful, leading to public humiliation and heartbreak. Meanwhile, Beatrice and Benedick are hilariously manipulated by their friends into admitting their mutual love. The play concludes with the villain’s exposure, Hero and Claudio’s reconciliation, and Beatrice and Benedick’s marriage, celebrating love and forgiveness.

Read the Play Here:

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