


[Scene 2]

Enter Quince the carpenter, and Snug the joiner, and Bottom the weaver, and Flute the bellows-mender, and Snout the tinker, and Starveling the tailor.

FTLN 0258	QUINCE ✓ Is all our company here?	
FTLN 0259	BOTTOM You were best to call them generally, man by	
FTLN 0260	man, according to the scrip.	
FTLN 0261	QUINCE Here is the scroll of every man's name which	
FTLN 0262	is thought fit, through all Athens, to play in our	5
FTLN 0263	interlude before the Duke and the Duchess on his	
FTLN 0264	wedding day at night.	
FTLN 0265	BOTTOM First, good Peter Quince, say what the play	
FTLN 0266	treats on, then read the names of the actors, and so	
FTLN 0267	grow to a point.	10
FTLN 0268	QUINCE Marry, our play is "The most lamentable	
FTLN 0269	comedy and most cruel death of Pyramus and	
FTLN 0270	Thisbe."	
FTLN 0271	BOTTOM A very good piece of work, I assure you, and a	
FTLN 0272	merry. Now, good Peter Quince, call forth your	15
FTLN 0273	actors by the scroll. Masters, spread yourselves.	
FTLN 0274	QUINCE Answer as I call you. Nick Bottom, the weaver.	
FTLN 0275	BOTTOM Ready. Name what part I am for, and	
FTLN 0276	proceed.	
FTLN 0277	QUINCE You, Nick Bottom, are set down for Pyramus.	20
FTLN 0278	BOTTOM What is Pyramus—a lover or a tyrant?	
FTLN 0279	QUINCE A lover that kills himself most gallant for love.	
FTLN 0280	BOTTOM That will ask some tears in the true performing	
FTLN 0281	of it. If I do it, let the audience look to their	
FTLN 0282	eyes. I will move storms; I will condole in some	25
FTLN 0283	measure. To the rest.—Yet my chief humor is for a	
FTLN 0284	tyrant. I could play Ercles rarely, or a part to tear a	
FTLN 0285	cat in, to make all split:	
FTLN 0286	<i>The raging rocks</i>	
FTLN 0287	<i>And shivering shocks</i>	30
FTLN 0288	<i>Shall break the locks</i>	

FTLN 0289		<i>Of prison gates.</i>	
FTLN 0290		<i>And Phibbus' car</i>	
FTLN 0291		<i>Shall shine from far</i>	
FTLN 0292		<i>And make and mar</i>	35
FTLN 0293		<i>The foolish Fates.</i>	
FTLN 0294		This was lofty. Now name the rest of the players.	
FTLN 0295		This is Ercles' vein, a tyrant's vein. A lover is more	
FTLN 0296		condoling 	
FTLN 0297	QUINCE	Francis Flute, the bellows-mender.	40
FTLN 0298	FLUTE	Here, Peter Quince.	
FTLN 0299	QUINCE	Flute, you must take Thisbe on you.	
FTLN 0300	FLUTE	What is Thisbe—a wand'ring knight?	
FTLN 0301	QUINCE	It is the lady that Pyramus must love.	
FTLN 0302	FLUTE	Nay, faith, let not me play a woman. I have a	45
FTLN 0303		beard coming.	
FTLN 0304	QUINCE	That's all one. You shall play it in a mask, and	
FTLN 0305		you may speak as small as you will.	
FTLN 0306	BOTTOM	An I may hide my face, let me play Thisbe too.	
FTLN 0307		I'll speak in a monstrous little voice: "Thisne,	50
FTLN 0308		Thisne!"—"Ah Pyramus, my lover dear! Thy Thisbe	
FTLN 0309		dear and lady dear!"	
FTLN 0310	QUINCE	No, no, you must play Pyramus—and, Flute,	
FTLN 0311		you Thisbe.	
FTLN 0312	BOTTOM	Well, proceed.	55
FTLN 0313	QUINCE	Robin Starveling, the tailor.	
FTLN 0314	STARVELING	Here, Peter Quince.	
FTLN 0315	QUINCE	Robin Starveling, you must play Thisbe's	
FTLN 0316		mother.—Tom Snout, the tinker.	
FTLN 0317	SNOUT	Here, Peter Quince.	60
FTLN 0318	QUINCE	You, Pyramus' father.—Myself, Thisbe's	
FTLN 0319		father.—Snug the joiner, you the lion's part.—	
FTLN 0320		And I hope here is a play fitted.	
FTLN 0321	SNUG	Have you the lion's part written? Pray you, if it	
FTLN 0322		be, give it me, for I am slow of study.	65
FTLN 0323	QUINCE	You may do it extempore, for it is nothing but	
FTLN 0324		roaring.	