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# A Midsummer Night's Dream The Graphic Novel: Original Text (Shakespeare Range)



## Synopsis

This is the entire, unabridged play brought to life as a vivid and engaging full-color graphic novel. With its mix of real people who stumble into a fairy kingdom (with its own problems!) it is little wonder that this play is one of the best loved and most performed of all Shakespeare's masterpieces - and a firm favorite for outdoor theater on a warm summer's evening. Designed to encourage readers to enjoy classical literature, titles in the Classical Comics range stay true to the original vision of the authors. To support the use of this title in the classroom, photocopyable teachers resources are available that offer lesson plans and activities from 6th grade and up: ISBN 978-1-907127-75-5

**Synopsis:** Hermia is in love with Lysander but her father forbids them to marry, insisting that she marries Demetrius instead, whom Hermia's friend Helena loves. Hermia and Lysander escape to the woods, pursued by Demetrius and Helena. However there is trouble in the woods because the king and queen of the fairies, Oberon and Titania, have quarrelled. To spite Titania, Oberon instructs the mischievous Puck to squeeze the juice of a magic flower into her eyes while she sleeps, so that she falls in love with the first thing she sees when she wakes. He also instructs Puck to apply the same magic to Demetrius so that he will fall in love with Helena. However, Puck gets it all wrong...

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

The proliferation of graphic-novel Shakespeare adaptations continues. Cardy and Nicholson's artwork gives the characters a nicely expressive range; the color palette is bold, luminescent, and

mood evoking; and the well-designed panel flow presents an engaging version of the classic comedy. The volume is clearly intended for classroom use, and it is one of three versions: original text (presenting the play in its entirety), plain text (which uses contemporary language), and quick text (a heavily abridged adaptation). The back matter discusses how to convert a play into comics format, offers a short biography of Shakespeare, and touches on the Globe Theatre. Grades 7-12.

--Francisca Goldsmith

Although it's been more than 40 years since I graduated with a degree in English and I've retired from a non-literary career in government, I still read Shakespeare on a regular basis. I'm updating my collection with volumes that will fit into my backpack for travel. This edition fits nicely and the binding protects it from being bent better than a paperback.

This was helpful as a precursor to seeing a live production of the play, as it had been many years since I last read it. Shakespeare's language is, of course, beautiful, but it is also helpful to be able to glance at the "translation" to make sure I am really getting the meaning correctly.

One of my favorite Shakespeare plays with an easy to read translation, yes please. I have a BA in English, so reading Shakespeare is easy for me, but this book was a gift. The recipient really enjoyed reading Shakespeare in plain English.

Purchased the kindle version. Simple illustrations were omitted deliberately because of possible copyright infringements. I figure if I am purchasing the book, I should get the book, copyright and all.

I am performing this play coming up, and purchased this version of "Twelfth Night" to serve as a guide. First, physically, it is small enough not to be bulky as you carry it around onstage, but the text is still easily readable. Second, the modern text sits on the opposing page of the original, translating it line-by-line. This version even includes a character breakdown. I would recommend the "No Fear Shakespeare" editions to any actors preparing to perform the Bard's plays to fully understand the text and to make it fun.

As with most Shakespeare the language can both add and take away from the meaning or in this case the humor. Going to see the play at the Globe and didn't want to be confused so I read this first and will check out the movie next. Funny stuff that I've seen before but of course what I've seen

before was likely influenced by this.

Shakespeare's classic comedy gets the graphic novel treatment courtesy of Classical Comics. The text is in the original language, perfect for classroom instruction, and the artwork is good enough to bring the story to life for inquiring minds. The comedy may lose a little in a book presentation, but a graphic novel may help pull in new generations of Shakespeare fans. The narrative captures the overlapping stories of the original play: The dilemma of the Duke of Athens over the fate of the maiden Hermia and her two lovers, the rivalry of the King and the Queen of the Fairies, and the group of thespians hoping to pull off a winning play in front of the Duke of Athens. The story relies heavily on magic, passion, and the interference of the mischievous Puck, but it all works and works. Recommended as a good introduction to a great play.

When I lived in the Alexandria, VA area (1999-2001), I would visit The Folger Library in Wash, DC on a near-monthly basis. It's so wonderful to be able to build my Folger Library here! Thank you!

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