WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE'S ...

AS YOU LIKE IT

"All the world's a stage..."

CAST OF CHARACTERS



DUKE FREDERICK The Duchess' usurping younger brother

THE DUCHESS Rosalind's mom and Frederick's sister

ROSALIND Daughter of the Duchess

CELIA Daughter of Frederick and Rosalind's cousin

OLIVER Orlando's cruel older brother

ORLANDO Brave, youngest brother of Oliver

ADAM Orlando's faithful servant

JAQUES A melancholy nobleman

TOUCHSTONE The court jester

AUDREY A humble goatherd

SILVIUS A young shepherd in love with Phoebe

PHOEBE A young shepherdess in love with Ganymede

TEXT BY
JUDITH NEWMARK

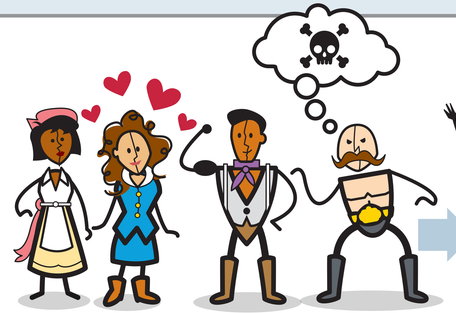
GRAPHIC BY
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START Some time ago...



1 Duke Frederick banishes his strong, smart, suffragette sister, the Duchess. At Frederick's rigid court, everybody has their place and better know EXACTLY what it is. The Duchess and friends create a new home in the Forest of Arden, where they can feel free and discover themselves.

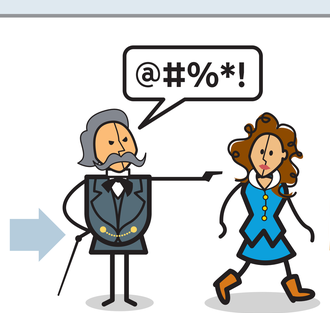
2 The Duchess had to leave behind her daughter, Rosalind. She and Frederick's daughter, Celia, have grown up as close as sisters. They're inseparable! Today they watch the royal wrestling matches.



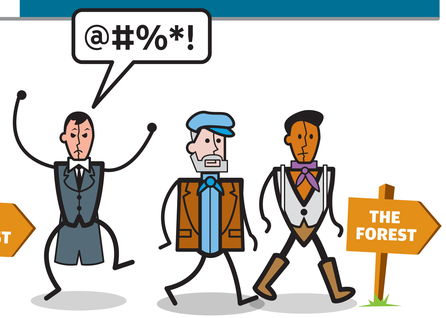
3 Orlando – sweet, shy and handsome – will fight Charles, a brute. The cousins beg Orlando to withdraw. Rosalind is in love!



4 Surprise! Orlando wins, even though his scheming older brother Oliver ordered Charles to kill him in the ring. When the cousins congratulate him, Orlando is tongue-tied. He loves Rosalind too!



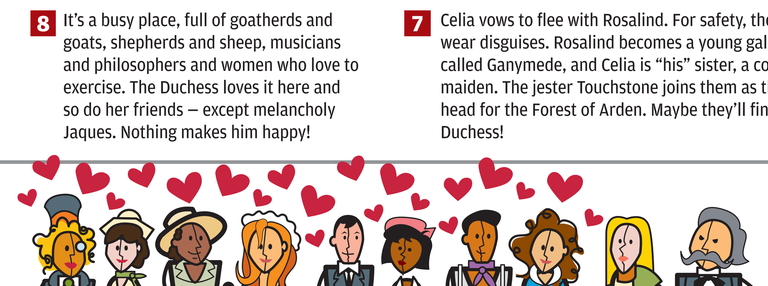
5 Frederick is furious! He hated Orlando's father, who was friends with the Duchess. Lashing out, he banishes Rosalind!



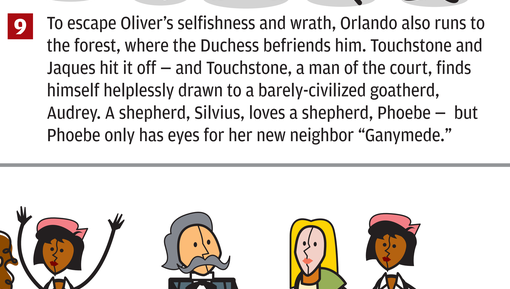
6 To escape his brother's selfishness and wrath, Orlando leaves for the Forest of Arden with a devoted old servant, Adam.



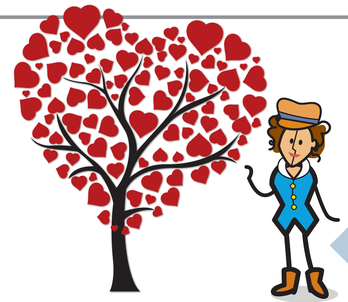
7 Celia vows to flee with Rosalind. For safety, they wear disguises. Rosalind becomes a young gallant called Ganymede, and Celia is "his" sister, a country maiden. The jester Touchstone joins them as they head for the Forest of Arden. Maybe they'll find the Duchess!



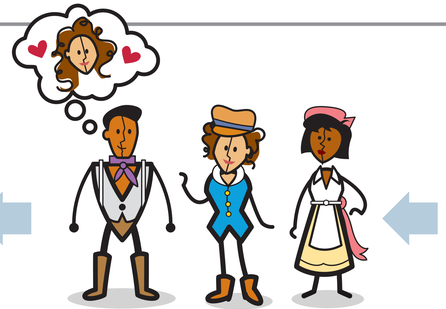
8 It's a busy place, full of goatherds and goats, shepherds and sheep, musicians and philosophers and women who love to exercise. The Duchess loves it here and so do her friends – except melancholy Jaques. Nothing makes him happy!



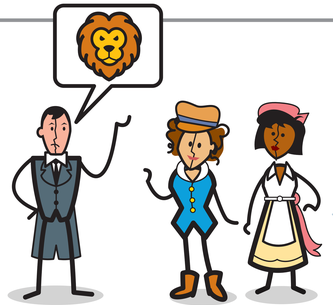
9 To escape Oliver's selfishness and wrath, Orlando also runs to the forest, where the Duchess befriends him. Touchstone and Jaques hit it off – and Touchstone, a man of the court, finds himself helplessly drawn to a barely-civilized goatherd, Audrey. A shepherd, Silvius, loves a shepherd, Phoebe – but Phoebe only has eyes for her new neighbor "Ganymede."



10 Meanwhile the cousins, exploring the woods, find that the trees are covered with love poems someone has written to Rosalind! Whomever could it be?



11 It's Orlando, and Rosalind hatches a plan! "Accidentally" running into Orlando in the woods, "Ganymede" promises to cure his lovesickness. Orlando must woo Ganymede AS IF HE WERE ROSALIND, and Ganymede will respond AS IF HE WERE ROSALIND. Which he is! But Orlando doesn't know that and she's not telling. Let the game begin!



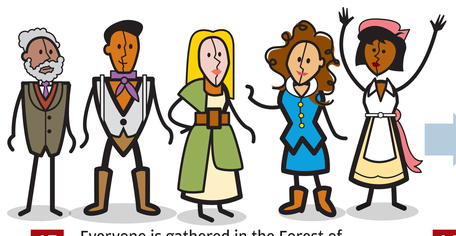
12 Oliver is in the forest too. Still enraged, Frederick has ordered him to capture Orlando! But Oliver's a changed man. As he explains to "Ganymede" and "his" sister, a lioness tried to eat him while he slept on the ground.



13 But his precious brother Orlando saved him, suffering injury himself. Orlando is safe with the duchess now. When Oliver waves a scarf drenched in Orlando's blood, "Ganymede" faints - and Oliver and Celia look at each other. In Arden, just one look is plenty.



14 Touchstone rescues Audrey from an unwelcome suitor, creating a new pair of lovers in Arden. Phoebe again rejects Silvius, pining for "Ganymede." Orlando, quickly recovered, also wants to find "Ganymede" again.



15 Everyone is gathered in the Forest of Arden, where "Ganymede" promises answers to everyone's questions. Then she and "Aliena" slip off – to return as Rosalind and Celia.



16 Even Frederick has arrived, converted to a monastic life by a hermit he just met. But first, he must apologize to his sister and his daughter. Jaques will join him. Maybe prayer and meditation really can ease his long melancholy.



17 What a celebration! Four weddings, two sets of siblings reconciled, two parents reunited with their children. It's almost too much happiness to take. But Rosalind and Orlando step out to remind us that happiness is for everyone...even the audience.

THE END