

THE TWO "GENTLEMEN" OF VERONA

SYNOPSIS



Prolgue

Our play begins with the **Host**, actors and musicians welcoming the audience to *The Two "Gentlemen" of Verona*.



ACT 1. Scene 1.

Valentine and **Proteus** have been best friends since childhood. Valentine is preparing to travel from their home in Verona to Milan. Proteus chooses to stay in Verona to be closer to a young lady named Julia.

Valentine and Proteus say goodbye to one another. Valentine's serving-person, **Speed**, arrives late to accompany Valentine and shares that he has delivered Proteus' love letter to Julia.



ACT 1. Scene 2.

Julia talks with her serving-person, **Lucetta**, about falling in love. Lucetta gives Julia Proteus' letter. Pretending not to be interested in him, Julia tears up the letter before reading it, a choice she soon regrets.



ACT 1. Scene 3.

Proteus tries to compose a love sonnet for Julia.

His father, **Antonio**, interrupts and tells his son that it is time for Proteus to go to Milan to expand his horizons and be with Valentine.

A heavy-hearted Proteus prepares to leave for Milan and bid farewell to Julia.



ACT 2. Scene 1.

In Milan, Valentine has fallen in love with **Silvia**, the daughter of the Duke.

Silvia has asked for Valentine's help composing a song for the man she secretly admires. After he performs it, she flirtatiously gives the song back to him.

With Speed's help, Valentine discovers that Sylvia reciprocates his feelings.



ACT 2. Scene 2.

Proteus and Julia say a tearful goodbye, but exchange rings and make a promise to remain faithful to one another while Proteus is away. Proteus leaves.



ACT 2. Scene 3.

Proteus' serving-person, **Launce**, arrives for the journey to Milan, along with his dog, **Crab**.

Lance expresses his grief at saying goodbye to his own family while accompanying Proteus.



ACT 2. Scene 4.

A party is being held in Milan. Valentine and Silvia stay near each other all night, which raises the suspicions of **Thurio**, a wealthy suitor of Silvia's.

Silvia's father, the **Duke**, welcomes Valentine to Milan, though he favors Thurio as a potential husband for Silvia.



Proteus, Launce and Crab all arrive to Milan. Valentine introduces Proteus to Silvia and tells his best friend that they have fallen in love and plan to elope.

Proteus falls in love with Silvia immediately.



ACT 2. Scene 5.

Launce and Speed (and Crab) catch up and talk about their respective masters' love lives.



ACT 2. Scene 6.

A conflicted Proteus ruminates on his loyalty to love, friendship and, lest he forget, Julia.

After thinking about his situation, Proteus reasons that the only way to be true to his heart is to pursue Silvia himself.

He decides to tell the Duke and Thurio about Valentine's plan to run away with Silvia as a step toward winning her affection.



ACT 2. Scene 7.

While Proteus is in Milan planning his next move, Julia eagerly awaits his return to Verona.

Determined to see him, Julia decides to travel to Milan and surprise him. With Lucetta's help, she disguises herself as a man for protection during the journey.



ACT 3. Scene 1.

Proteus tells Thurio and the Duke about Valentine's plan to elope with Silvia. At first, the Duke and Thurio are skeptical, but Proteus convinces them to investigate for themselves.

Proteus asks only that they do not tell Valentine who betrayed him.



When Valentine arrives to leave with Silvia, the Duke and Thurio thwart their plans.

As a punishment, the Duke banishes Valentine from Milan and threatens to kill him if he ever returns.

Heartbroken, Valentine shares the news with Proteus. Proteus comforts his friend before Valentine departs to wander the woods beyond Milan.

Julia prepares to begin her journey to Milan and reunite with Proteus.

(APT's production takes an intermission here.)



ACT 3. Scene 1. (Continued)

Launce reveals that he has fallen in love with an unnamed milkmaid. He shares a comical list of her virtues and faults with Speed, and the two discuss the benefits and pitfalls of pursuing a relationship with her.

ACT 3. Scene 2.

With Valentine banished, the Duke continues his efforts to match Silvia with Thurio.

Hoping to win her favor, Thurio and the Duke enlist Proteus' help in wooing Silvia on Thurio's behalf. Proteus agrees and promises to assist him that evening.



ACT 4. Scene 1.

Valentine stumbles upon a band of **outlaws** hiding in the woods outside Milan. Like him, each has been banished for past misdeeds.

While the outlaws are spirited, they lack a leader to help organize them. They ask Valentine to become their captain, and he agrees.





ACT 4. Scene 2.

Proteus meets Thurio outside Silvia's window to serenade her. It does not go well.

While Proteus and Thurio focus on winning Silvia's attention, Julia, disguised as a young man named "Sebastian," arrives and discovers Proteus confessing his love for another woman.

Thurio departs after an unsuccessful evening, but Proteus stays to woo Silvia for himself as a shocked Julia observes.

Silvia insists that she only loves Valentine. Determined to win at least some token of her affection, Proteus asks for one of her portraits. Eager to be rid of him, Silvia agrees to give him the portrait later.



ACT 4. Scene 3.

After Proteus leaves, Julia follows him home. Once the coast is clear, Silvia escapes from her room and meets with **Sir Eglamour**, a kind nobleman. She asks him to accompany her in the woods in search of Valentine. He agrees to help.



ACT 4. Scene 4.

Launce recounts a story about his beloved dog, Crab, whose misbehavior at court landed Lance in trouble instead.

An undercover Julia (still disguised as "Sebastian") gains Proteus' confidence. Proteus enlists "him" to give his ring (given to him by Julia) to Silvia.

Left alone, Julia shares her conflicted feelings about the misguided Proteus with the audience.





ACT 4. Scene 4. (Continued)

"Sebastian" waits for Silvia with a message from Proteus. Irritated by Proteus' stubbornness, Silvia gives "Sebastian" her portrait to give to Proteus.

Silvia encourages "Sebastian" to tell Proteus to abandon his pursuit of her and return to Julia in Verona. Silvia then departs for the woods in search of Valentine.



ACT 5. Scene 1.

Sir Eglamour and Silvia depart for the wilderness.

ACT 5. Scene 2.

That evening, Proteus, "Sebastian" and Thurio meet outside Sylvia's window for another serenade.

The Duke appears with news that Silvia has fled. All four "men" leave to search for her.



ACT 5. Scene 3.

Silvia is captured by the outlaws. Sir Eglamour leaves her behind.



ACT 5. Scene 4.

Valentine, the newly appointed "King of the Outlaws," tells the audience that he has found peace living in the wilderness. He still misses Silvia, though.

Upon hearing some commotion nearby, Valentine hides to observe whom his outlaw friends have captured.



Proteus and "Sebastian" catch up with Silvia. Proteus once again professes his love for Silvia, but she remains unmoved.

She accuses Proteus of betraying his best friend, Valentine, out of jealousy and declares that she will never love him.



ACT 5. Scene 4. (Continued)

Upon overhearing Proteus' confession, Valentine and Julia emerge from their respective hiding places.

Reunited at last, Silvia and Valentine embrace. Julia and Valentine take turns expressing their disappointment in Proteus' behavior.



Realizing the gravity of his mistakes, Proteus apologizes to Valentine, Sylvia and Julia for the harm he has caused and for allowing his judgment to be so clouded.

Julia takes the opportunity to, quite literally, knock some sense into him.



Proteus admits his guilt and accepts responsibility for his actions. Having learned his lesson, Julia, Silvia and Valentine agree to move forward and try to repair their relationships.

The outlaws enter with a captured Thurio and Duke in tow.



Valentine defends Silvia from Thurio, who immediately steps down from the challenge. Impressed at Valentine's character, the Duke declares him worthy of marrying Silvia and gives the couple his blessing.

Valentine asks the Duke to pardon the outlaws and allow them to return to Milan. The Duke grants his request.

Everyone prepares to return to Milan. Valentine and Proteus reconcile, and Proteus and Julia rekindle their relationship. Silvia announces that she and Valentine will be married on the same day as Julia and Proteus.

Celebration ensues. The Host and cast bid the audience goodbye.

The End.

