



THE PLOT

In the olden days, a duke in France was banished from his dukedom by his younger brother Frederick. The duke and his followers started living in the Forest of Arden.

Rosalind, the daughter of the banished duke, was also deprived of the dukedom, but was allowed to stay in the palace as a companion to Celia, the daughter of duke Frederick. The two were great friends and loved each other.

A wrestling match was organised between a professional wrestler and a young man who had no experience. Rosalind and Celia saw the mismatch between the two competitors and tried their best to stop the young man from participating. The young man still participated in the fight, saying that he had nothing to be ashamed of if he lost. There was nobody to cry for him if he was killed.



Inspired by the presence of the two ladies, the young man fought brilliantly and won the match.

The young man introduced himself as Orlando, the youngest son of the now dead Sir Rowland de Boys to Frederick who was pleased with his performance. This displeased Frederick because Sir Rowland used to be a close friend of Frederick's elder brother, the banished duke. Rosalind who was in love with Orlando gifted him a chain that she was wearing.

Frederick was also displeased because people often praised Rosalind for her qualities and pitied her because her father had been banished. He banished Rosalind too. The crestfallen Celia tried in vain to change her father's mind, and finally decided to accompany Rosalind to the forest.

Rosalind and Celia started their journey to the Forest of Arden to look for Rosalind's father. Rosalind, the taller of the two, disguised as a country boy named Ganymede and Celia disguised as Ganymede's sister Aliena.



Rosalind and Celia met a stranger who introduced himself as the servant of a shepherd who wanted to sell his cottage. They bought the cottage and the sheep. They employed the servant to serve them and decided to stay there till they could find Rosalind's father.

They did not know that Orlando was in the forest too. Sir Rowland had entrusted his elder son, Oliver with the responsibility of bringing up Orlando. Oliver thoroughly neglected Orlando and was jealous of him. Oliver had arranged the wrestling match, expecting Orlando would get killed. On hearing about Orlando's victory in the match, the jealous Oliver planned to kill him by setting him on fire while he slept in his room.

Adam, an old servant of Sir Rowland, came to know of Oliver's plan and advised Orlando to escape. Adam was very fond of Sir Rowland whom Orlando resembled and he faithfully accompanied Orlando to the Forest of Arden.



Orlando then went in search of food and came across the banished duke and his friends who were about to have dinner. He tried to be aggressive, but the duke welcomed him to dinner. Orlando went back to get Adam. Both of them had dinner and were given shelter by the duke when he came to know that Orlando was Sir Rowland's son.

Orlando could not forget Rosalind and carved her name and some love sonnets on the barks of the trees in the forest. Rosalind and Celia came across the carvings, but did not know who was responsible for them. It was then that they met Orlando and recognised him from the chain that had been gifted by Rosalind. Orlando did not recognise them due to their disguise.

Rosalind, dressed as Ganymede, decided to play a prank on Orlando. She asked Orlando to visit their cottage every day. She would act as Orlando's love interest and would keep wooing him. She would be feminine and whimsical, and her whimsical attitude would perhaps cure Orlando of his love for Rosalind. This continued for days, but



Orlando's love for Rosalind did not decrease and this pleased her immensely.

One day, as Orlando was on his way to meet Ganymede, he saw a sleeping man with a snake around his neck. The snake went away as Orlando went closer. He then noticed a lioness in the bush, waiting to attack the sleeping man when he awoke. Orlando noticed that the man was none other than his brother Oliver. He fought the lioness off, but one of his arms was injured in the process.

The repentant Oliver understood how cruel he had been to Orlando and begged his forgiveness. Orlando readily forgave him and asked Oliver to inform Ganymede that he would not be able to visit her that day. On reaching the cottage, Oliver narrated the events to the two sisters and thoroughly repented for his past misdeeds.

Seeing Oliver's repentance, Celia, disguised as Aliena, fell in love with him. Hearing about Orlando's injury, Ganymede fainted.