

Duke. Vpon mine honor thou shalt marrie her,
Thy slanders I forgive, and therewithall
Remit thy other forfeits: take him to prison,
And see our pleasure herein executed.
Luc. Marrying a punke my Lord, is pressing to death,
Whipping and hanging.
Duke. Slandering a Prince deserues it.
She *Claudio* that you wrong'd, looke you restore.
Ioy to you *Mariana*, loue her *Angelo*:
I haue confes'd her, and I know her vertue.
Thanks good friend, *Escalus*, for thy much goodnesse,

There's more behinde that is more gratefull.
Thanks *Pronoff* for thy care, and secrecie,
We shall employ thee in a worthier place.
Forgiue him *Angelo*, that brought you home
The head of *Ragozine* for *Claudio*,
Th' offence pardons it selfe. Deere *Isabell*,
I haue a motion much imports your good,
Whereto if you'll a willing care incline;
What's mine is yours, and what is yours is mine,
So bring vs to our Pallace, where wee'll show
What's yet behinde, that meete you all should know.

The Scene Vienna.

The names of all the Actors.

Vincenio: the Duke.
Angelo, the Deputie.
Escalus, an ancient Lord.
Claudio, a young Gentleman.
Lucio, a fantastique.
2. Other like Gentlemen.
Pronoff.

Thomas. } 2. Friars.
Peter. }
Elbow, a simple Constable.
Froth, a foolish Gentleman.
Clowne.
Abhorson, an Executioner.
Barnardine, a dissolute prisoner.
Isabella, sister to *Claudio*.
Mariana, betrothed to *Angelo*.
Isabel, beloved of *Claudio*.
Francisca, a Nun.
Mistress Over-don, a Bawd.

FINIS.



The Comedie of Errors.

Actus primus, Scena prima.

Enter the Duke of Ephesus, with the Merchant of Syracuse,
Laylor, and other attendants.

Merchant.

Roceed *Solimus* to procure my fall,
And by the doome of death end woes and all.
Duke. Merchant of *Syracusa*, plead no more.
I am not part all to insigne our Lawes;
The enmity and discord which of late
Sprung from the rancorous outrage of your Duke,
To Merchants our well-dealing Countymen,
Who wanting gilders to redeme their liues,
Haue seal'd his rigorous statutes with their bloods,
Excludes all pity from our threatening lookes:
For since the mortall and intestine iarrers
Twixt thy sedicious Countymen and vs,
It hath in solemne Synodes bene decreed,
Both by the *Syracusians* and our selues,
To admit no trafficke to our aduerse townes:
Nay more, if any borne at *Ephesus*
Be seene at any *Syracusian* Martes and Fayres:
Againe, if any *Syracusian* borne
Come to the Bay of *Ephesus*, he dies:
His goods confiscate to the Dukes dispose,
Vnlesse a thousand markes be leuied
To quit the penalty, and to ransom him:
Thy substance, valued at the highest rate,
Cannot amount vnto a hundred Markes,
Therefore by Law thou art condemn'd to die.
Mer. Yet this my comfort, when your words are done,
My woes end likewise with the euening Sonne.
Duk. Well *Syracusian*; say in briefe the cause
Why thou departedst from thy native home?
And for what cause thou cam'st to *Ephesus*.
Mer. A heauier taske could not haue bene impos'd,
Then I to speake my griefes vspeakable:
Yet that the world may witness that my end
Was wrought by nature, not by vile offence,
Ile vtter what my sorrow giues me leaue.
In *Syracusa* was I borne, and wedde
Vnto a woman, happy but for me,
And by me; had not our hap bene bad:
With her I liu'd in ioy, our wealth increast
By prosperous voyages I often made
To *Epidamium*, till my factors death,
And he great care of goods at randome left,
Drew me from kinde embracements of my spouse;
From whom my absence was not fixe monthes olde,
Before her selfe (almost at fasting vnder

The pleasing punishment that women beare)
Had made prouision for her following me,
And soone, and safe, arriv'd where I was:
There had she not bene long, but she became
A ioyfull mother of two goodly formes:
And, which was strange, the one so like the other,
As could not be distinguish'd but by names.
That very howe, and in the selfe-same Inne,
A meane woman was deliuered
Of such a burthen Male, twins both alike:
These, for their parents were exceeding poore,
I bought, and brought vp to acend my ionnes.
My wife, not meaneely proud of two such boyes,
Made daily motions for our home returne:
Vnwillling I agreed, alas, too soone wee came aboard.
A league from *Epidamium* had we saild
Before the alwaies winde-obeying deepe
Gaued any Tragicke Instance of our harme:
But longer did we not retaine much hope;
For what obscured light the heavens did grant,
Did but conuay vnto our fearefull mindes
A doubtfull warrant of immediate death,
Which though my selfe would gladly haue imbrac'd,
Yet the incessant weepings of my wife,
Weeping before for what she saw must come,
And pittieous playnings of the prettie babes
That mourn'd for fashion, ignorant what to feare,
Forst me to seeke delays for them and me,
And this it was: (for other meanes was none)
The Sailors fought for safety by our boate,
And left the ship then sinking ripe to vs.
My wife, more carefull for the latter borne,
Had fastned him vnto a small sparce Mast,
Such as sea-faring men prouide for stormes:
To him one of the other twins was bound,
Whilst I had bene like heedfull of the other.
The children thus dispos'd, my wife and I,
Fixing our eyes on whom our care was fixt,
Fastned our selues at eyther end the mast,
And floating straight, obedient to the streame,
Was carried towards *Corinth*, as we thought,
At length the sonne gazing vpon the earth,
Dispers't those vapours that offended vs,
And by the benefite of his wish'd light
The seas waxt calme, and we discovered
Two shippes from tarre, making amaine to vs:
Of *Corinth* that, of *Epidamium* this,
But ere they came, oh let me say no more,
Gather the sequell by that went before.

Duk. Nay forward old man, doe not breake off so,
H For

Shakespeare, William. *The Comedie of Errors*. In *Mr. William Shakespeares comedies, histories, & tragedies: published according to the true originall copies*. London: Isaac Jaggard and Edward Blount, 1623. Folger STC 22273 Fo.1 no. 68

Shakespeare's First Folio (*Mr. William Shakespeares comedies, histories, & tragedies: published according to the true originall copies*. London: Isaac Jaggard and Edward Blount, 1623) contained thirty-six of Shakespeare's plays. Grouped into categories of comedies, histories, and tragedies, *The Comedie of Errors* can be found in the comedies. Without the First Folio, *The Comedy of Errors* would be lost.