

eternally knit". Despite **not agreeing to the arranged marriage** that Egeus set-up, **Hermia does eventually "obey"** as she follows the orders given by Theseus, yet another male ruler.

Conclusion

- A Midsummer Night's Dream also **affirms the ideal of marriage itself. Without marriage, all the characters** throughout the play are **chaotic and unruly as love and desire transforms them into mindless creatures.** Even **before the mortals are drugged with love potions, love is portrayed as a troublesome force that licenses bad behavior.** Yet **marriage is a civilizing force that restores order by containing and restraining this desire.** Desire disrupts the ideals of gender and love. It turns gentlemen like Demetrius into unchivalrous fools and makes Helena act authoritatively and masculine, which at the time, was the exact opposite of what was "ideal" for women. **By getting married, all of these wrongs are corrected.**
- The **hierarchy itself is overturned without marriage.** Helena herself states that Demetrius's **"wrongs do set a scandal on my sex. We cannot fight for love, as men may do; we should be wooed and were not made to woo".** The power of desire inverts the ideal roles of men and women.
- The **ideals of early modern marriage** only allowed for **one man and one woman to be together,** as Puck confirms by stating **"Jack shall have Jill".** By getting married, all the **bestial desires of the lovers are controlled.** Marriage is used as an "excuse" to solve all the problems that the lovers have, further affirming the "benefits" of marriage during the early modern period.

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