

A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DEMENTED KILLING FRENZY

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EXT. THE BOWER NIGHTCLUB - NIGHT

Parked across the road from the "The Bower" is a limo.

INT. LIMO - NIGHT

The clock on the dashboard ticks over from 19 June 23.59 to 20 June 0.00.

A hand reaches out to a packet of Revels chocolates on top of the dashboard and takes the last one.

The partition to the rear is up, so we can't see into the back, but in the front are two goons in cheap suits:

PUCK, early 20s, diminutive but compact, reads a book.

NICK BOTTOM, built like a house, but depressed, eats the last chocolate. He yawns, then shifts in his seat in discomfort.

BOTTOM  
I am stiff and weary.

Puck ignores him. Bottom continues to shift from one buttock to the other, unable to get comfortable.

BOTTOM (CONT'D)  
Which of your hips has the most profound sciatica?

PUCK  
I am sound.

Bottom gives up trying to get comfortable, sits back and sighs. Then sighs again.

Bottom flicks the visor down and looks in the mirror.

BOTTOM  
What ugly sights of death within  
mine eyes!

Bottom sticks his tongue out at the mirror.

BOTTOM (CONT'D)  
Do I look like a cudgel or a hovel-post,  
a staff or a prop?

PUCK  
No.

Puck reaches for a chocolate, but finds the bag empty.

BOTTOM  
Our revels now are ended.

PUCK  
You are too indulgent.

Puck returns to his book. Bottom peers down to look at the cover: "Sapiens - Yuval Noah Harari".

BOTTOM  
He thinks too much; such men are dangerous.

PUCK  
I beseech you, be not so phlegmatic. Thy life's a miracle.

BOTTOM  
Balls, my liege.

PUCK  
Well have you argued, sir.

BOTTOM  
Life is as tedious as a twice-told tale, vexing the dull ear of a drowsy man.

PUCK  
Lay aside life-harming heaviness, and entertain a cheerful disposition.

BOTTOM  
I have of late - but wherefore I know not - lost all my mirth.

PUCK  
Is there no way to cure this?

Bottom shrugs. Puck puts his book away and checks the time.

PUCK (CONT'D)  
Are we well prepared?

BOTTOM  
What wouldst thou have me do?

PUCK  
We must proceed as we do find the people. Swear, drink, dance, revel the night, rob, murder --

BOTTOM  
I do not dance.

PUCK  
Come, come, we are friends: let's  
have a dance.

BOTTOM  
We will not dance.

PUCK  
Did not I dance with you in Brabant  
once?

BOTTOM  
Ay.

PUCK  
When you do dance, I wish you a  
wave o'the sea, that you might ever  
do nothing but that.

Puck can't keep a straight face.

BOTTOM  
O, I am stabb'd with laughter!

PUCK  
Come, you are too severe a morale.

BOTTOM  
I am sorry that such sorrow I  
procure.

PUCK  
I would not wish any companion in  
the world but you.

Bottom can't help but crack a smile. Then the partition  
lowers, revealing OBERON, a gangster, in the back seat.

OBERON  
Gentlemen, let's look to our  
business.

INT. THE BOWER NIGHTCLUB - NIGHT

Hardcore rave music. The dance-floor is rammed with loved-up,  
frenetic dancers.

On the stage is the DJ, TITANIA, headphones on, creating a  
mix on her Midi controller.

The music climbs into a soaring drum roll. From the crowd, hundreds of hands rise into the air, building to the climax.

Titania cues the next mix in, not seeing a figure behind her. The figure's hand, with an eternity bracelet round the wrist, touches her neck.

Titania spins round --

-- it's her lover, GUILDENSTERN, the nightclub owner. They kiss and he delivers his gift, an energy drink.

INT. BACK ROOM, THE BOWER NIGHTCLUB - NIGHT

The rave music is dulled but can still be heard. On a table are piles of different-coloured powders.

Also on the table are scales, pipettes, baggies and all the paraphernalia required to mix mind-altering drugs.

ROSENCRANTZ, wearing a lab coat and face-mask, mixes a concoction and sprinkles it into a roll-up cigarette.

Rosencrantz lowers his face-mask to lick the gum of the rizla paper then contemplates the finished doobie.

ROSENCRANTZ  
Let hell make crook'd my mind.

He lights the doobie and takes a huge drag. He holds the smoke down and the drug hits home.

Closing his eyes, he doesn't notice the barrel of a gun aimed at the back of his head.

ROSENCRANTZ (CONT'D)  
O true apothecary! Thy drugs are --

The gun fires.

Rosencrantz's head explodes. Blood, brains and fragments of skull spray across the table.

What remains of Rosencrantz's head falls onto the table, blood pumping out, soaking into the piles of powder.

Puck, the shooter, pockets the gun and scoops the remaining, blood-soaked powders into plastic baggies.

He holds up a baggy filled with powder, blood and bits of brain. He shakes it and is amused by the squelching.

PUCK  
Oh, that this too, too sullied  
flesh would melt and --

He freezes as he hears movement behind him -  
- it's Guildenstern, a gun aimed at Puck.

PUCK (CONT'D)  
How now, spirit! Whither wander  
you?

GUILDENSTERN  
Either I mistake your shape and  
making quite, or else you are that  
shrewd and knavish sprite call'd  
Robin Goodfellow.

Puck slowly turns to face Guildenstern.

PUCK  
Thou speak'st aright; I am that  
merry wanderer of the night.

GUILDENSTERN  
Farewell, thou lob of spirits.

Guildenstern smiles, his finger over the trigger.

PUCK  
How oft when men are at the point  
of death have they been merry!

Guildenstern freezes, puzzled. Then he feels the gun pressed  
into the back of his head - by Bottom.

GUILDENSTERN  
O, I am slain.

Bottom fires.

More blood and brains spray over the powders on the table.

PUCK  
Sir, my life is yours.

Puck returns to sweeping the blood-soaked powders into bags.

Bottom is troubled.

## INT. THE BOWER NIGHTCLUB - NIGHT

Puck, carrying a briefcase, and Bottom emerge from a "Staff Only" door and cross the dance-floor. Puck stops to dance at Bottom, but Bottom is not amused.

On the stage, Titania sees them then sees a BARMAID emerge from the "Staff Only" door and run towards the stage.

The barmaid gets on stage and runs to Titania.

BARMAID  
Rosencrantz and Guildenstern --

TITANIA  
-- are dead.

The barmaid nods. Titania watches Puck and Bottom push through the exit door and out of sight.

Titania throws her headphones off.

## EXT. THE BOWER NIGHTCLUB - NIGHT

Titania runs out, but the limo is gone. Anger, sorrow and revenge consume her.

## EXT. ATHENS PUBLIC SCHOOL - DAY

Athens School is a co-educational, boarding school made up of a series of imposing Gothic buildings and incongruously modern, flat-roofed science blocks and sports halls.

The school motto is on a plaque above the main gates:

Some are born great

The well-heeled pupils aged from 11 to 18 swarm the town with their grey and tartan uniforms.

## INT. MATHS CLASSROOM - DAY

The MATHS TEACHER points to the last number in an equation on the whiteboard:

$$3b - 2 = 12 + 2b$$

MATHS TEACHER  
2b or not 2b. That is the question.

## INT. LANGUAGES CLASSROOM - DAY

The young class pronounces words in unison as the FRENCH TEACHER points to them on the whiteboard.

YOUNG CLASS  
Monsieur. Madame. Mercy --

The french teacher stops them.

FRENCH TEACHER  
The quality of merci is not strained.

## EXT. SCHOOL CHAPEL - DAY

A rousing hymn (*Jerusalem, say, or I vow to thee, my country*) can be heard being belted out from within the church.

Round the back of the church two 6th formers, HERMIA and LYSANDER, both 18, are making out.

LYSANDER  
Graze on my lips; and if those hills be dry, stray lower, where the pleasant fountains lie.

HERMIA  
O, contain yourself. Your passion draws ears hither.

LYSANDER  
Nor wit nor reason can my passion hide.

The school bell rings.

HERMIA  
No, no, the bell: 'tis time that I were gone.

LYSANDER  
O, wilt thou leave me so unsatisfied?

HERMIA  
What satisfaction canst thou --

LYSANDER  
Yielding up thy body to my will. I am yet unknown to woman. Virginity is peevish, proud, idle -

Lysander cannot contain his lust and reaches for his zip.

LYSANDER (CONT'D)  
I must draw my sword upon you.

Hermia is aghast.

HERMIA  
Not here, sir!

LYSANDER  
In private, then.

HERMIA  
Sure my master is horn-mad --

Lysander leads her away, mid-protest.

INT. DINING HALL, ATHENS SCHOOL - DAY

QUINCE, the head chef, at the counter, oversees students putting away their dirty plates etc.

A huge bear of a student brings his two plates up. Both plates have been licked clean.

QUINCE  
Ate two, Brute?

The bear of a boy is barged out of the way by EGEUS, a teacher. He shoves his plate at Quince.

EGEUS  
What's this? Mutton?

QUINCE  
Ay.

EGEUS  
Who brought it?

QUINCE  
I.

EGEUS  
Tis burnt; and so is all the meat.

QUINCE  
(Mumbles)  
I'll ha' thee burnt.

EGEUS  
What say'st thou?

QUINCE  
Why, I say nothing.

EGEUS  
If I be served such another trick,  
I'll have my brains ta'en out and  
buttered, and give them to a dog  
for a New-Year's gift.

He shoves his whole tray at Quince and storms out.

EXT. ATHENS PUBLIC SCHOOL - DAY

Egeus storms out of the dining hall, passing the sports centre towards the sports field.

Boys, girls and other teachers part in fear.

Egeus joins a group of pupils watching the first team play cricket. The pupils tactfully disperse.

EXT. CRICKET PITCH, ATHENS PUBLIC SCHOOL - DAY

The school sports-star, DEMETRIUS, 18, is batting.

The bowler is at the end of a long run-up. He runs and sends down a fierce delivery.

Demetrius takes a step down the track and swings his bat, sending the ball flying back over the bowler's head.

EXT. ATHENS PUBLIC SCHOOL - DAY

Egeus gasps at the beauty of this shot.

EGEUS  
A hit, a very palpable hit.

The ball flies over Egeus's head, one bounce and into the fives court.

Egeus trots to the court to retrieve the ball.

EXT. CRICKET PITCH, ATHENS PUBLIC SCHOOL - DAY

Demetrius gets in the bowler's face.

DEMETRIUS  
Go fetch it, sister.

The bowler simmers with indignation as Demetrius raises his bat to acknowledge the applause.

EXT. FIVES COURT, ATHENS PUBLIC SCHOOL - DAY

Egeus chases the ball into the courts, reaches down to pick it up, but hears noises from deeper within the court.

He squints to see two pupils making out.

EGEUS  
Mischief, thou art afoot, take --

The words stop in his mouth as the pupils look round at him; they are Lysander and Hermia.

HERMIA  
Father!

EGEUS  
Daughter!

LYSANDER  
Cock!

INT. THE HEAD TEACHER'S OFFICE - DAY

The head teacher, THESEUS, has Egeus, Hermia, Demetrius and Lysander with him.

EGEUS  
Full of vexation come I, with  
complaint against my child, my  
daughter Hermia. Stand forth,  
Demetrius.

Demetrius, still in his whites, steps forward.

EGEUS (CONT'D)  
My noble lord, this man hath my  
consent to marry her. Stand forth,  
Lysander:

With a roll of the eyes, Lysander steps forward.

EGEUS (CONT'D)  
And my gracious duke, this man hath  
bewitch'd the bosom of my child.

THESEUS  
What say you, Hermia? Demetrius is  
a worthy gentleman.

HERMIA  
So is Lysander.

THESEUS  
In himself he is; but in this kind,  
wanting your father's voice, the  
other must be held the worthier.

HERMIA  
I would my father look'd but with  
my eyes.

EGEUS  
How sharper than a serpent's tooth  
it is to have a thankless child.

HERMIA  
I beseech your grace that I may  
know the worst that may befall me  
in this case, if I refuse to "wed"  
Demetrius.

Egeus slams a brochure for "The Athens Convent for Girls" onto the table.

THESEUS  
To abjure for ever the society of  
men.

DEMETRIUS  
Relent, sweet Hermia; and,  
Lysander, yield thy crazed title to  
my certain right.

LYSANDER  
You have her father's love,  
Demetrius; let me have Hermia's: do  
you marry him.

DEMETRIUS  
Scornful Lysander!

LYSANDER  
Demetrius, I'll avouch it to his  
head, made love to Nedar's  
daughter, Helena, and won her soul;  
and she, sweet lady, dotes,  
devoutly dotes, dotes in idolatry,  
upon this spotted and inconstant  
man.

DEMETRIUS  
I will beat thee into handsomeness.

LYSANDER  
Villain, I have done thy mother!

Demetrius goes for Lysander, who flinches back. Egeus keeps Demetrius at bay.

DEMETRIUS  
You are such a woman!

THESEUS  
Gentlemen, enough of this: it came too suddenly; let it die as it was born, and, I pray you, be better acquainted.

Reluctantly Lysander and Demetrius shake hands.

THESEUS (CONT'D)  
For you, fair Hermia, look you arm yourself to fit your fancies to your father's will; or else.

Hermia is close to tears.

INT. HISTORY CLASSROOM - DAY

The lights are off and the class is watching footage of Hitler and Eva Braun.

LYSANDER (O.S.)  
(Whispers)  
For aught that I could ever read,  
could ever hear by tale of history,  
the course of true love never did  
run smooth.

Lysander and Hermia exchange whispers at the back of the class.

HERMIA  
O hell! To choose love by another's eyes.

From across the room Demetrius glares at them. Lysander gives him the finger. Demetrius sneers then turns back to the film.

LYSANDER  
Hear me, Hermia. I have a widow aunt, a dowager of great revenue, and she hath no child: from Athens is her house remote seven leagues; and she respects me as her only son.

(MORE)

LYSANDER (CONT'D)

If thou lovedst me then, steal  
forth thy father's house tomorrow  
night; and in the wood, a league  
without the town, where I did meet  
thee once with Helena, to do  
observance to a morn of May, there  
will I stay for thee.

Conversation ceases as the teacher walks past.

HERMIA

In that same place thou hast  
appointed me, tomorrow truly will I  
meet with thee.

A shared smile. Demetrius looks over and sees them holding hands under the desks. His blood boils.

EXT. NETBALL COURT, ATHENS SCHOOL - DAY

A game of 6th form netball. One player, HELENA, tall and studious, stands, stubbornly not joining in.

A team-mate passes the ball to her. Helena lets the ball bounce off her and roll to an opponent. Whatever!

INT. ART ROOM, ATHENS SCHOOL - DAY

The art teacher tours the students painting a partially nude model. They are all fine pieces of work until --

-- Helena's painting which has the model dismembered, stabbed, castrated and disembowelled.

INT. HERMIA AND HELENA'S DORM, LANCASTER HOUSE - NIGHT

Helena, at her laptop, scrolls through photos of couples on a non-specific social media site.

She types a comment under a photo:

Thine face is not worth sunburning

Another photo, another comment:

Thou art as fat as butter

She scrolls down to a photo of Demetrius beside the cricket scoreboard in the pavilion.

She sighs dreamily.

HELENA

Lady Bona!

Helena snaps out of her reverie when the door opens and Hermia enters, beaming with love.

Helena closes the website, leaving a history essay on screen.

HERMIA

God speed fair Helena!

Hermia leaps onto her bed, basking in her bliss. Helena snorts with derision.

HELENA

Call you me fair? That fair again unsay. Demetrius loves your fair: O happy fair!

HERMIA

I frown upon him, yet he loves me still.

HELENA

O that your frowns would teach my smiles such skill!

HERMIA

His folly, Helena, is no fault of mine.

HELENA

None, but your beauty: would that fault were mine!

Helena puts on headphones.

Hermia's guilt and excitement get the better of her. She jumps off the bed and whips the headphones off Helena.

HERMIA

Take comfort: he no more shall see my face: Lysander and myself will fly this place.

As Hermia reveals her plan, Helena's mind wanders.

HELENA (V.O.)

How happy some o'er other some can be! Through Athens I am thought as fair as she. But what of that? Demetrius thinks not so.

## INT. CRICKET PAVILION - NIGHT - FLASHBACK

Demetrius and Helena in the throes of a violent passion, lips locked, hands all over each other, crashing into various items of cricket equipment.

HELENA (V.O., CONT'D)  
 For ere Demetrius look'd on  
 Hermia's eyne, he hail'd down oaths  
 that he was only mine.

## EXT. SPORTS FIELD - DAY - FLASHBACK

Demetrius wins his hurdle race, then looks round and sees Helena in the crowd watching adoringly.

But Demetrius is looking at Helena's friend, Hermia, deep in conversation with Lysander.

HELENA (V.O., CONT'D)  
 And when this hail some heat from  
 Hermia felt, so he dissolved, and  
 showers of oaths did melt.

## INT. DINING HALL, ATHENS SCHOOL - DAY - FLASHBACK

Demetrius, next to a dumb-founded Hermia, dresses down Helena who holds a gift for him, a love heart paperweight.

DEMETRIUS  
 -- round-hoof'd, short-jointed,  
 fetlocks shag and long, broad  
 breast, full eye, small head and  
 nostril wide, high crest, short  
 ears, straight legs and passing  
 strong, thin mane, thick tail,  
 broad buttock --

## INT. HERMIA AND HELENA'S DORM, LANCASTER HOUSE - NIGHT

Helena in her bed, the bottom bunk, staring up at the wooden board that serves as the base of the bed above, clinging to the love heart paperweight.

HELENA (V.O.)  
 I will go tell him of fair Hermia's  
 flight: then to the wood will he to-  
 morrow night pursue her; and for  
 this intelligence if I have thanks,  
 it is a dear expense.

Stuck to the wooden board/base of the top bed is a collage of photos of Demetrius.

A clock ticks over from 20 June 23.59 to 21 June 0.00.

EXT. A FIELD - NIGHT

Titania sits on the edge of a stage, staring off into space. In her hand she holds Guildenstern's eternity bracelet.

The stage has a full scaffolded lighting rig, state-of-the-art DJ equipment and a dozen huge amplifiers. It's an old school, outdoor rave.

Titania watches the first stragglers drift in. Behind her, the STAGE MANAGER brings her an energy drink, then speaks into a walkie-talkie.

STAGE MANAGER  
Light, lights, lights!

A series of floodlights spring on, scorching the area with its brightness. Lasers fly across the sky --

-- then all the lights fail, plunging them into darkness.

STAGE MANAGER (CONT'D)  
O wonderful, wonderful, most  
wonderful wonderful, and yet again  
wonderful, and after that, out of  
all whooping.

Titania blinks, adjusting to the virtual darkness, and sees a limo pull into the car park in the next field.

She cannot suppress her anger.

EXT. CAR PARK FIELD - NIGHT

Oberon, Puck and Bottom exit the limo as Titania approaches.

TITANIA  
Get thee away and take the beagles  
with thee.

OBERON  
Sweet saint, for charity, be not so  
curst.

TITANIA  
Thou art a murderer.

She throws Guildenstern's eternity bracelet at him.

TITANIA (CONT'D)  
 I vow to God above, I'll never  
 pause again, never stand still,  
 till either death hath closed these  
 eyes of mine or fortune given me  
 measure of revenge.

OBERON  
 Fairer than tongue can name thee,  
 let me have some patient leisure to  
 excuse myself.

TITANIA  
 Fouler than heart can think thee,  
 thou canst make no excuse but to  
 hang thyself. He was a prince.

OBERON  
 The better for the king of Heaven  
 that hath him.

TITANIA  
 He is in Heaven, where thou shalt  
 never come.

OBERON  
 For he was fitter for that place  
 than earth.

TITANIA  
 And thou unfit for any place but  
 hell.

OBERON  
 Yes, one place else, if you will  
 hear me name it.

TITANIA  
 Some dungeon.

OBERON  
 Your bed-chamber.

Titania is dumbstruck.

OBERON (CONT'D)  
 Doubt thou the stars are fire,  
 doubt that the sun doth move, doubt  
 truth to be a liar, but never doubt  
 I love.

TITANIA  
Away, you three-inch fool!

OBERON  
My noble queen, let former grudges pass.

TITANIA  
I will never take you for my love again.  
(To Puck)  
Go speed elsewhere.

Titania marches away. Oberon ogles her as she goes.

OBERON  
Troth, and your bum is the greatest thing about you.

PUCK  
Was ever woman in this humour woo'd?

OBERON  
Was ever woman in this humour won?

Oberon strides after Titania, catches her up and the argument continues.

Puck shuffles up beside Bottom.

PUCK  
How farest thou, soldier?

BOTTOM  
I am as melancholy as a gib cat or a lugger bear.

PUCK  
A long night is this! Will't please you taste of what is here?

Puck holds up a bag containing hundreds of little, red pills. Bottom is tempted.

INT. LIMO - NIGHT

Bottom, behind the wheel, settles in for a long night. He takes out a red pill and stares at it.

Drugs are not really his thing, but he has a long night ahead. He snaps it in half, then puts half in his mouth as --

-- the door to the back opens and Oberon storms in.

                  OBERON  
Who is't can read a woman?

Bottom, his mouth full, just looks at Oberon.

                  OBERON (CONT'D)  
Come then, away; let's ha' no more  
ado.

Bottom swallows, turns the engine on and drives away.

INT. HERMIA AND HELENA'S DORM, LANCASTER HOUSE - NIGHT

Hermia and Helena asleep in bed. Egeus leans over Hermia.

                  EGEUS  
Sleep - perchance to dream.

He sees a bottle of Vicks VapoRub on the bedside table.

                  EGEUS (CONT'D)  
Ay, there's the rub.

He pockets the rub and exits. Immediately Hermia leaps out of bed, already dressed.

                  HERMIA  
Farewell; and if my fortune be not  
crost, I have a father, you a  
daughter, lost.

Hermia peers out into the corridor, sees that the coast is clear, then sneaks out.

Helena's eyes spring open.

EXT. SCIENCE BLOCK, ATHENS SCHOOL - NIGHT

Helena hides behind the back of the science block, watching the rear of York House, the boys house.

                  HELENA  
But, soft! What light through  
yonder window breaks?

A window opens and Lysander climbs out and runs off. Helena scampers to the open window and climbs in.

INT. LIMO (MOVING) - NIGHT

In the back, Oberon is on his mobile.

OBERON  
Her father loved me, oft invited  
me;

Bottom drives, the pill hitting home. He scrunches his eyes up, shakes his head, but he's in trouble.

OBERON (CONT'D)  
Still question'd me the story of my  
life from year to year - the  
battles, sieges, fortunes that I  
have passed. I ran it through, even  
from my boyish days, to the very  
moment that he bade me tell it.

Bottom loses focus. The car drifts into the middle of the road. Oberon notices.

OBERON (CONT'D)  
Pray, look to't.

Bottom's eyes redden, then roll into the back of his head.

The car heads for a tree. Oberon braces himself for impact.

The car crashes into the tree.

Oberon is jolted forward, but he's braced for it. He recovers quickly and looks up.

Bottom is dazed, sweat dripping off him. The colour drains from his skin.

OBERON (CONT'D)  
Why look'st thou pale?

Bottom raises his head to look in the rear-view mirror. His body twitches like an electric current passing through it.

OBERON (CONT'D)  
Why tremblest thou?

Bottom stares at Oberon with over-whelming fury.

*Writer's Note:*

*Puck's drug turns a person into a "fury". A fury shows all the signs of having taken Ecstasy only in reverse. Instead of overwhelming love, a fury feels an overwhelming urge to kill.*

A fury has elevated energy and alertness; a thirst for blood not water. A fury can hallucinate; can suffer from nausea and muscle cramping and/or spasms; and a fury likes to dance.

Bottom is a fury.

BOTTOM  
I will tear thee joint by joint.

Bottom lunges at Oberon through the partition, grabbing and clawing at him in a frenzy of violence and rage.

The force of the attack pops his seat-belt out.

Bottom grabs Oberon by the head and tries to break his neck, but Oberon manages to wrench his head free.

Oberon backs away into his seat, but Bottom is already scrambling through the partition.

Bottom is so muscly and broad-shouldered, he can only get his head and one arm through. But that doesn't stop him and he pushes through, leaving bits of skin and clothing behind.

Oberon reaches for his mobile on the floor.

But this puts him in range of Bottom, who grabs his arm, jerks it to his face and takes a bite.

Oberon punches Bottom in the face, which hurts Oberon more than it does Bottom, but he wrenches his arm free.

Bottom's other arm squeezes through the partition. Once through, the rest of Bottom will follow.

Below Bottom's flailing body is the partition window button.

Oberon reaches for the button, but it's too close to Bottom, who grabs his arm again.

OBERON  
By Isis, I will give thee bloody teeth.

Oberon kicks Bottom in the face again and again -

- until his arm is free and Bottom is stunned.

Oberon lunges for the button and presses it -

- the wrong way. The partition window lowers, releasing its grip on Bottom.

Bottom's second arm flops through the partition. Bottom regains his bearings.

Oberon presses the button the right way.

Bottom scrambles through the partition as the window rises. The partition window traps Bottom around the mid-riff.

Oberon watches Bottom flail and rage, but unable to get into the back or reverse back into the front.

Careful not to get in range, Oberon opens a back door, kicks his phone out then gets out himself.

OBERON (CONT'D)  
Is the man grown mad? I do  
discharge you of your office.

He slams the door shut.

EXT. COUNTRY ROAD - NIGHT

The crash has taken place on a deserted road with not a soul in sight. The limo rocks to Bottom's struggle within.

Oberon picks up his phone. The screen is cracked. He tries the power button, but no response. It's a goner.

In the distance a set of headlights come into view.

A CRACK from inside the car.

Oberon peers inside: the partition has smashed and Bottom is scrambling over the remaining jagged glass into the back.

Bottom makes it into the back, then slams into the back door before throwing it open and scrambling out.

But Oberon is gone, --

-- hiding under the limo.

Bottom, covered in his own blood, sniffs the air.

BOTTOM  
Fie, foh, and fum! I smell the  
blood of a British man.

There's nowhere for Oberon to be but under the car. Bottom is about to crouch down when --

-- the headlights of the approaching car illuminate him.

Bottom turns to the oncoming car then moves to the middle of the road. The car's horn sounds, but instead of getting out the way, Bottom runs at the car.

The car veers left, but Bottom follows it.

The car brakes, but too late. Bottom is hit, knocked off his feet and lands in a heap on the road.

The car is full of YOUNG ADULTS on their way to the rave. The driver gets out, his face ashen.

YOUNG ADULT  
Speak, brother, hast thou hurt thee  
with the fall?

PASSENGER SEAT YOUNG ADULT  
Hurt him! His body's a passable  
carrion.

Bottom has broken some bones, but gets to his feet.

YOUNG ADULT  
Why the devil came you --

Bottom lunges at the young adult, lifting him off his feet and they both land on the ground with a crunch.

Bottom assails the young adult like a shark feeding frenzy. He bites the young adult's Adam's apple off his throat.

Bottom spits the Adam's apple out, gulps down the blood gushing out of the young adult's neck then gnaws through the rest of the neck.

Inside the car, the other young adults stare at this scene in open-mouthed horror.

Bottom wrenches the head off the young adult on the ground then turns his blood-drenched face to them.

PASSENGER SEAT YOUNG ADULT  
By God's liggens!

Bottom lurches towards the car.

The passenger seat young adult sees Bottom coming, lunges to the driver's seat and pulls the door closed --

-- as Bottom slams his body into the door.

The passenger seat young adult jumps across into the driver's seat and crunches the car into gear.

Bottom beats his fists on the window, smashes it.

Ignoring the smashed glass, the passenger seat young adult puts his foot down as his head is grabbed by Bottom.

But Bottom loses his grip as the car drives away. Bottom gives chase.

Oberon emerges from under the limo and sees Bottom chase the car into the distance. They head in the direction of laser lights in the sky: the rave.

Oberon covers the headless man's body with his trench-coat, then weighs up his options: safety or the rave?

He chooses safety and walks away from the rave.

EXT. A FIELD - NIGHT

A DJ on his Midi board rouses the crowd from the stage.

Puck moves through the crowd, looking for business. He sees Titania at the bottom of the stage, drinking an energy drink.

Puck approaches her.

PUCK  
How do you, pretty lady?

TITANIA  
Will you shog off!

PUCK  
This strained passion doth you wrong. Shalt thou ease thy angry heart?

He holds out a red pill.

PUCK (CONT'D)  
This will make black white, foul fair, wrong right, base noble, old young, coward valiant.

TITANIA  
Hide not thy poison with such sugar'd words.

PUCK  
I will not poison thee. My master himself is in love.

TITANIA

The devil it is that's thy master.

PUCK

I tell thee, my master is become a hot lover.

Titania can only laugh at this.

TITANIA

How came you to this? Speak not, reply not, do not answer me.

Puck waves at someone behind Titania. Instinctively Titania turns to see the DJ waving back.

With Titania looking away, Puck drops a pill into her energy drink before she turns back.

PUCK

I am too blunt and saucy. Forgive me this my virtue. Farewell, pretty lady.

He winks, then jumps on the stage and confers with the DJ.

Titania picks up her energy drink -- and replaces the lid.

INT. WOOD - NIGHT

Lysander leads Hermia through the wood, but she's wilting.

LYSANDER

Fair love, you faint with wandering in the wood; and to speak troth, I have forgot our way.

HERMIA

Be it so, Lysander: find you out a bed; for I upon this bank will rest my head.

She slumps on the ground. Lysander sidles up next to her.

LYSANDER

One turf shall serve as pillow for us both; one heart, one bed, two bosoms --

HERMIA

Nay, good Lysander; for my sake, my dear, lie further off yet, do not lie so near.

LYSANDER  
 I mean, that my heart unto yours is  
 knit so that but one heart we can  
 make of it; then by your side --

Hermia pushes him away.

HERMIA  
 Gentle friend, for love and  
 courtesy lie further off.

LYSANDER  
 Amen, amen, to that fair prayer,  
 say I.

Lysander lies further off, but he's still horny as hell.

INT. WOOD - NIGHT

Hermia is asleep. Lysander snuggles up to her.

LYSANDER  
 Two bosoms interchained with an  
 oath; so then two bosoms --

Hermia wakes and pushes him off.

HERMIA  
 Nay, by your leave, hold your  
 hands!

LYSANDER  
 But I love thee; none but thee; and  
 thou deservest it.

HERMIA  
 Lysander, yield!

Hermia uses all her strength to push him off.

Lysander storms away. He lights a cigarette and blows the smoke up into the air. Laser lights flitter across the sky.

He peers through the trees. The rave in the distance.

LYSANDER  
 Here is my bed.

He looks back at the sleeping Hermia.

LYSANDER (CONT'D)  
 Sleep give thee all his rest!

He stomps off towards the rave.

EXT. WOOD - NIGHT

Demetrius forges through the wood, Helena at his heels.

DEMETRIUS

I love thee not, therefore pursue  
me not.

HELENA

You draw me, you hard-hearted  
adamant.

DEMETRIUS

Do I entice you? Do I speak you  
fair? Or, rather, do I not in  
plainest truth tell you, I do not,  
nor I cannot love you?

HELENA

I am your spaniel; and, Demetrius,  
the more you beat me, I will fawn  
on you: use me but as your spaniel,  
spurn me, strike me --

DEMETRIUS

Tempt not too much the hatred of my  
spirit; for I am sick when I do  
look on thee.

HELENA

And I am sick when I look not on  
you.

EXT. CAR PARK FIELD - NIGHT

Demetrius and Helena come out of the wood into the car park,  
the rave in the next field over.

DEMETRIUS

The common people swarm like summer  
flies.

HELENA

You shall seek all day ere you find  
them, and when you have them, they  
are not worth the search.

Demetrius sees Lysander among the hoards.

DEMETRIUS

Thou hast no more brain than I have  
in mine elbows.

Demetrius runs towards the rave.

HELENA

O, my sweet beef.

Helena sighs, then runs after him.

EXT. A FIELD - NIGHT

The DJ shouts into the microphone.

DJ

Stamp, rave and fret, that I may  
sing and daaaaaaance!

The crowd roar their approval. The rave is in full swing now.  
It's a hell of a party.

Thumping dance music booms out of the amps. Most are dancing,  
some are hugging, some just swaying. Everyone's loved up.

Amongst them Puck is doing a roaring trade with red pills.

Watching from the side of the stage is Titania.

TITANIA

O God, that men should put an enemy  
in their mouths to steal away their  
brains! That we should, with joy,  
pleasance, revel and applause,  
transform ourselves into beasts!

She is about to take a swig from her energy drink when she is summoned by the frantic stage manager.

Titania puts the energy drink down and goes to help.

EXT. A FIELD - NIGHT

Lysander ambles through the rave; he loves it. Dancing with a nutter, then flirting with a scantily-clad dancer.

A spaced-out hippy raver leans on him for support.

LYSANDER

That unmatch'd form and feature of  
blown youth blasted by ecstasy.

Lysander whispers to the hippy raver, who points through the crowds at Puck doing another deal.

EXT. A FIELD - NIGHT

Demetrius has lost sight of Lysander, but storms through the crowd anyway.

EXT. A FIELD - NIGHT

Lysander forges through the ravers towards Puck.

EXT. A FIELD - NIGHT

Demetrius stops in the midst of the rave, scouring the crowd for Lysander. He sees him and goes after him.

EXT. A FIELD - NIGHT

Puck sees off another satisfied customer when another approaches: Lysander, trying to be street.

LYSANDER  
How now, you dawg?

Puck is not impressed.

PUCK  
Know'st him thou look'st on?

LYSANDER  
Little Robin. Thou know'st that we  
two went to school together.

PUCK  
Hush!

Puck looks around to make sure no-one heard that.

PUCK (CONT'D)  
What need you?

LYSANDER  
What have you?

Puck sizes Lysander up, then takes out a red pill.

PUCK

A medicine that's able to breathe  
life into a stone, quicken a rock,  
and make you dance canary with  
sprightly fire and motion.

LYSANDER

I'll now taste of thy drug.

There's a violent kerfuffle in the crowd, but they ignore it.  
Lysander reaches for the pill, but Puck withholds it.

PUCK

Money, youth?

Ravers flee the kerfuffle, but Lysander and Puck ignore it as  
Lysander produces a fistful of cash.

PUCK (CONT'D)

Bliss be upon you.

Mid-exchange, they simultaneously freeze and look round at  
the kerfuffle:

A fury repeatedly stabs a floored raver in the stomach with a  
glo-stick, blood mixing with the luminous green. The fury  
throws the stick away and drinks the red/green mixture.

LYSANDER

O most bloody sight!

Lysander and Puck simultaneously look round at another  
kerfuffle:

Two ravers snog, but one is a fury. Blood spurts from their  
joined lips as the raver struggles, but the fury refuses to  
end this bloody kiss.

PUCK

She murders with a kiss.

Lysander and Puck simultaneously look round at another  
kerfuffle:

A fury pushes his thumbs into the eyes of another raver.

THUMB FURY

Out, vile jelly! Where is thy  
lustre now?

Lysander and Puck simultaneously look round at each other,  
then run in opposite directions.

EXT. A FIELD - NIGHT

Demetrius gains on Lysander, who is now fleeing in his direction. Demetrius is going to get him --

-- but then a fury steps in front of Demetrius.

DEMETRIUS  
Thou basest thing, avoid!

The fury pounces on Demetrius and pins him to the ground.

The fury lashes out at Demetrius with his arms, his face, with everything he has.

Demetrius keeps him at bay, but he's struggling.

Then another fury attacks the attacking fury. The pair of furies maul each other, giving Demetrius a chance to leg it.

EXT. A FIELD - NIGHT

Pockets of kerfuffles develop throughout the crowd.

On stage, the DJ has stopped dancing; he just stares at his Midi as if in a trance.

Offstage, Titania watches the kerfuffles with growing fear.

A crackled voice booms out from a discarded walkie-talkie:

STAGE MANAGER  
(From walkie-talkie)  
-- O horror, horror, horror!

Titania picks up the walkie-talkie and speaks into it.

TITANIA  
Pray, speak what has happen'd?

STAGE MANAGER  
(From walkie-talkie)  
Tongue nor heart cannot conceive  
nor name thee.  
(To someone else)  
Go get him surgeons! Go, villain,  
fetch a surgeon.

Titania spots the stage manager amongst the crowd, tending to a wounded man, panicked ravers running around her.

A little further off a fury drinks the blood pumping out of a dead man's neck like a dog lapping at a hose-pipe.

TITANIA  
Mistress. Fly, be gone! If you'd  
save your life, fly to your house.

The stage manager sees the hose fury.

STAGE MANAGER  
(From walkie-talkie)  
Away, you mouldy rogue, away!

The walkie-talkie doesn't pick up the hose fury's reply.

TITANIA  
(Screams into walkie-  
talkie)  
Fly, fly, fly!

The hose fury attacks the stage manager.

STAGE MANAGER  
(Over walkie-talkie)  
Abate thy rage, abate thy manly  
rage, abate thy rage, great duke!  
Good bawcock, bate thy rage --

The hose fury mauls the stage manager to death.

Titania watches, dumbstruck.

The latest mix fades out, but nothing plays in its place.

Titania looks round onto the stage:

The DJ is a fury. Sweat drips from his face. His eyes are blood-red. His skin pale, the muscles in his body twitch.

He turns to Titania.

DJ  
I could much your good dry oats.

The walkie-talkie drops to the floor.

INT. OFFSTAGE - NIGHT

Titania chased by the DJ, still with his headphones on.

INT. BACKSTAGE - NIGHT

The DJ runs down the stairs, then stops.

Backstage is as apocalyptic as the field but on a smaller scale. There are pockets of incidents but no Titania.

The DJ doesn't look round under the stage, made up of a maze of scaffolding, hiding amongst which is Titania.

Titania manipulates her way through the maze of metal bars, towards the front of the stage; further away from the DJ.

The DJ, shaking with fury, stares out in the opposite direction at pockets of violent incidents.

Titania creeps through the bars, getting further under the stage. She doesn't realise that her clip-on backstage pass is close to falling off.

Titania freezes when the DJ rages at a hallucination:

DJ  
You whoreson upright rabbit, away!

Titania watches the DJ assail this imaginary foe with kicks and punches.

DJ (CONT'D)  
Thou art the son and heir of a  
mongrel bitch!

The DJ overcomes his imaginary foe, stamps on him, bends over double and dry-retches.

Titania is scared to breathe.

The DJ falls into a trance. Titania decides to move further under the stage, squeezes over another metal bar, dislodging her pass.

The pass falls onto a metal bar, making a teeny, tiny --  
-- TING!

Titania freezes.

The DJ blinks out of his trance. Did he hear something?

Titania stays frozen.

The DJ turns to the back of the stage, crouches down and looks into the maze of scaffolding --

-- and sees Titania. Titania sees him.

The DJ runs at her.

Titania scrambles through the maze of metal bars.

The DJ is faster and doesn't care about injuring himself. He catches her by the ankle and pulls her back.

She grabs onto a metal bar and pulls herself away.

He grabs her again. She kicks out at him, getting free, and knocking a baggy containing two red pills out of his pocket onto the ground.

The DJ takes the blows, not caring, grabs Titania's legs and clammers up her body.

Titania releases her grip on the metal bar and hits out at the DJ as he climbs up her body.

They are now face to face. Titania keeps the drooling DJ's mouth, teeth gnashing, away from hers.

With both hands on his face, she can't stop his hands scratching, gouging at her face.

Inadvertently her hands find the headphones cord hanging round his neck. She squeezes them with all her might.

Unable to breathe, the DJ stops attacking her face and tries to get the cord off his neck.

She loops the cord around a metal bar and uses her whole body to keep it tight around his neck.

Arms and legs flailing, the DJ is strangled then goes limp.

But Titania keeps pulling on the cord till she's absolutely positively 100 per cent certain, then she slumps in a heap.

She catches her breath.

The DJ convulses.

Titania tenses, then jumps as the DJ convulses then vomits up red puke, containing one of Puck's pills, semi-digested.

Titania looks over and sees the dropped baggy of red pills.

EXT. A FIELD - NIGHT

Lysander lies dead on the ground.

Only he's pretending. He opens an eye and scans the vicinity. There are no furies nearby, just corpses.

He opens both eyes and lifts his head. With the coast clear, he gets up and runs.

He hides behind a row of portaloos and takes a longer look at the carnage.

LYSANDER  
Hell is empty and all the devils  
are here.

He sees Helena being chased by a pair of furies.

LYSANDER (CONT'D)  
Mort du vinaigre! Is this not  
Helen? Women are soft, mild,  
pitiful --

Helena performs a gymnastic back-flip and mid-air spin, confusing her pursuers.

LYSANDER (CONT'D)  
-- and flexible.

The chase heads towards Lysander.

LYSANDER (CONT'D)  
I'll hide me hereabout, his looks I  
fear, and his intents I doubt.

Lysander opens a portaloo door --

-- to see a fury inside. Lysander pales.

LYSANDER (CONT'D)  
Kill me tomorrow: let me live  
tonight!

The fury roars and Lysander slams the door shut.

With the lock on the fury's side, Lysander has to push against the door to keep it closed.

The fury batters the door from the other side. Lysander isn't strong enough. The door is flung open, propelling Lysander to the ground.

Lysander closes his eyes in fear and scrunches himself up into a ball. The fury bounds out to attack him --

-- but Helena leaps out of nowhere, taking the fury out.

Lysander opens his eyes and sees Helena on top of the fury. She punches him in the throat, in the temple and then the other temple, knocking the fury unconscious.

HELENA

This is excellent sport, i'faith.

She goes to the astonished Lysander and offers her hand.

HELENA (CONT'D)

Give me your arm. Up-so. How is't?  
Feel you your legs?

LYSANDER

I am not sick.

Helena raises her eyebrows at him.

LYSANDER (CONT'D)

Thou knowest I am as valiant as  
Hercules. I grant you I was down  
and out of breath. Trust me, I was  
coming to you. And now let's go.

Before she can protest, he takes her hand and pulls her into  
the portaloo.

EXT. A FIELD - NIGHT

Demetrius lies on the roof of an abandoned ambulance. He sees  
Helena and Lysander lock themselves in the portaloo.

DEMETRIUS

O, they are at it.

His feelings puzzle him. Is he jealous? He shakes this  
feeling off and scours the field.

DEMETRIUS (CONT'D)

Where is my love?

EXT. WOOD - NIGHT

Hermia asleep. A figure runs past chased by another. Neither  
see her. She tosses and turns.

HERMIA

Help me, Lysander, help me!

(Wakes)

Ay me, for pity! What a dream was  
here! Lysander, look how I quake  
with fear.

But Lysander has gone. She is alone.

HERMIA (CONT'D)

Lysander! Lord! Speak, of all  
loves! I swoon almost with fear.  
No? Then I well perceive you all  
not nigh either death or you I'll  
find immediately.

She sets off into the wood.

INT. PORTALOO - NIGHT

It's a one-person cubicle. Lysander enjoys being in Helena's personal space, but the feeling isn't mutual.

LYSANDER

Thou art an Amazon and fightest  
with the sword of Deborah.

HELENA

And thou art a natural coward,  
without instinct. Why stay we  
prating here?

LYSANDER

I like this place, and willingly  
could waste my time in it.

HELENA

You are a tame man, go!

Helena unlocks the door; Lysander re-locks it.

LYSANDER

Good madam, stay awhile.

HELENA

Nay, what hope have we in hiding  
us?

LYSANDER

I hope to be saved. I hope to know  
your honour better.

Lysander winks. Helena frowns.

INT. AMBULANCE - NIGHT

From the roof Demetrius peers in through the driver's side window and sees the keys aren't in the ignition.

EXT. A FIELD - NIGHT

Demetrius shuffles back onto the roof, then sees a person on another abandoned ambulance roof. He recognises him.

DEMETRIUS  
Hey, Robin, jolly Robin.

It's Puck, trying to ignore Demetrius.

DEMETRIUS (CONT'D)  
Thou know'st that we two went to  
school together. How now, my lord!  
What hap?

PUCK  
Your town is troubled with unruly  
boys.

DEMETRIUS  
Poor ignorant baubles. What is the  
remedy?

PUCK  
Now remains that we find out the  
cause of this effect - or rather  
say, the cause of this defect.

DEMETRIUS  
Drugs fit.

A light-bulb moment for Puck.

PUCK  
Speak on; but be not over-tedious.

DEMETRIUS  
Look how they gaze! See how the  
giddy multitude do point, and nod  
their heads, and throw their eyes.

Puck looks out at the furies. One is dancing to no music,  
some are in a trance, a few fight amongst themselves.

He counts them off:

PUCK  
He hath a drug of mine. He hath a  
drug of mine. He hath a drug of  
mine. He hath a...  
(Sudden realisation)  
Bottom!

INT. PORTALOO - NIGHT

Lysander on a charm offensive; Helena not buying it.

LYSANDER  
I have 'scaped by miracle.

HELENA  
What, fought you with them all?

LYSANDER  
All! I know not what you call all;  
but if I fought not with fifty of  
them, I am a bunch of radish.

HELENA  
Pray God you have not murdered some  
of them.

LYSANDER  
Dost thou mock me? Naughty lady!

EXT. A FIELD - NIGHT

Demetrius is joined on the ambulance roof by Puck.

PUCK  
I must from hence.

DEMETRIUS  
'Tis impossible.

PUCK  
If we both stay, we both are sure  
to die.

DEMETRIUS  
He that flies shall die. I will not  
die today for any man's persuasion.

Up close Puck can see Demetrius's house tie.

PUCK  
York, is it not?

DEMETRIUS  
That is my home.

PUCK  
And I the house of York. Are we not  
brothers?

DEMETRIUS  
My sword and yours are kin.

PUCK  
Meet I an infant of the house of York?

DEMETRIUS  
Nay, I assure you.

PUCK  
Then, noble York, take thou this task in hand.

Demetrius is torn; his loyalty tested.

PUCK (CONT'D)  
We are all bastards. I am a bastard too. I love bastards. I am a bastard begot, bastard instructed, bastard in mind, bastard in valour, in every thing illegitimate. Now, gods, stand up for bastards!

DEMETRIUS  
Enough, my lord. I put myself to thy direction.

PUCK  
Good lad. Look you to the guard.

Puck points out to the field where a security guard lies dead on the ground, spilling out of his pocket are a set of Alfa-Romeo car keys.

INT. PORTALOO - NIGHT

Lysander looms over Helena.

HELENA  
Go thou further off; yet Hermia still loves you: then be content.

LYSANDER  
I grant, sweet love, that I did love a lady; but she is dead.

HELENA  
Say that she be.

LYSANDER  
Two, together weeping, make one woe.  
(MORE)

LYSANDER (CONT'D)

Let us seek out some desolate shade, and there weep our sad bosoms empty.

Lysander's hands wander.

HELENA

Fiddler, forbear; you grow too forward, sir.

LYSANDER

I grow to you.

HELENA

What means you, sir? For God's sake, hold your hands.

EXT. A FIELD - NIGHT

Helena and Lysander can be heard by the furies, who gather round the portaloo.

INT. PORTALOO - NIGHT

Helena holds Lysander off.

LYSANDER

Doomsday is near. Let us die in honour: making the beast with two backs.

HELENA

I am not a slut.

EXT. A FIELD - NIGHT

Lysander and Helena's portaloo draws the furies, leaving the coast clear for Puck and Demetrius to climb down.

But one dancing fury is right beside the car keys.

Puck advances on the dancing fury.

INT. PORTALOO - NIGHT

Helena fends Lysander off.

LYSANDER

Nay, if the gentle spirit of moving  
words can no way change to a milder  
form, I'll woo you like a soldier,  
at arm's end, and love you 'gainst  
the nature of love, - force ye.

Unable to keep him at bay, Helena knees Lysander in the crotch and he doubles over.

HELENA

Are you not hurt i'th' groin?

Lysander can't speak.

HELENA (CONT'D)

A good man is a silent one.

Then the portaloo rocks.

EXT. A FIELD - NIGHT

The furies rock the portaloo, trying to get in.

EXT. A FIELD - NIGHT

Puck advances unseen on the dancing fury. He draws his gun from the back of his trousers.

EXT. A FIELD - NIGHT

Unable to force the door, the furies tip the portaloo over.

INT. PORTALOO - NIGHT

As the portaloo tips, the contents of the toilet spill out.

LYSANDER

Odours, odours!

EXT. A FIELD - NIGHT

Puck creeps up behind the dancing fury and whacks him over the back of the head with the butt of the gun.

The fury cries out in pain, but doesn't go down. Puck hits him again and the fury drops, out cold.

But the furies by the upended portaloo have all heard and turn on Puck.

Puck raises his gun, but it's an empty threat; there are too many furies. He snatches up the car keys and runs.

The furies give chase.

Puck runs past the ambulances, the furies in pursuit.

Hiding in the ambulance is Demetrius. He waits for the swarm of furies to pass, then looks out.

The coast is clear, so he runs to the portaloo and flings open the door.

DEMETRIUS  
Out, hyperbolical fiend!

The portaloo is empty.

Helena and Lysander have already legged it. He sees them running into the wood. Demetrius runs after them.

EXT. CAR PARK FIELD - NIGHT

Puck runs into the sea of cars. He presses the button on the car keys, but no car reacts.

The furies are close behind.

He presses the button again and again.

PUCK  
Romeo, Romeo, wherefore art --

The beeping of a car. Puck sees a car in the distance, lights flashing and doors unlocking.

Puck runs to the car.

INT. ALFA ROMEO - NIGHT

Puck leaps into the car, locks it and starts the engine. Furies surround the vehicle, trying to get in.

PUCK  
Parting is such sweet sorrow.

Puck drives away.

EXT. CAR PARK FIELD - NIGHT

The Alfa Romeo drives through the furies and away to safety.

INT. BACKSTAGE - NIGHT

Titania is under the stage, listening to sounds from the field: silence.

She crawls out.

INT. BACKSTAGE - NIGHT

Backstage is deserted so she climbs the stairs to the stage.

EXT. RAVE STAGE - NIGHT

Titania steps out onto the stage to see the field deserted.

She sees her energy drink, reaches down to pick it up, then freezes. There's movement in the field.

The furies chasing Puck return to the field, see Titania and run towards the stage.

Titania runs offstage, but sees a fury coming up the stairs. She's trapped.

There's only one escape route - up.

She drops her energy drink and climbs the scaffolding at the side of the stage that holds up the lighting rig.

EXT. LIGHTING RIG - NIGHT

Titania scampers up the scaffolding, furies in pursuit.

When she reaches the top, she reaches out to a floodlight, but burns her hand.

The furies gain on her.

Using her sleeve as protection, she manoeuvres the floodlight to point downward at the furies.

Blinded by the light, the furies in pursuit lose their grip and fall.

Now safe, Titania takes out and examines the DJ's baggy of red pills.

EXT. WOOD - NIGHT

Hermia wanders through the wood, alone and scared. She stops by a tree where a psychedelic flyer is pinned:

MIDSUMMER RAVE

She digs in her bag, takes out her diary and rips out a page. She takes down the flyer and replaces it with her diary page.

HERMIA

Hang there, my verse, in witness of  
my love. If you do love me, you  
will find me out.

Hermia wanders on.

EXT. COUNTRY ROAD - NIGHT

The Alfa Romeo approaches the abandoned limo and slows. The Alfa Romeo brakes and Puck opens the window.

PUCK

My lord!

No response. Puck steps out of the car, gun already drawn.

He creeps to the limo and peers in. Smashed partition window, and blood everywhere, the door on the other side ajar --

-- a body on the other side of the car.

Puck creeps round and sees Oberon's coat covering the young adult's corpse, blood pooled around him.

Puck squats down and lifts the coat to find the body beneath without a head.

PUCK (CONT'D)

Alas, where is thy head?

BOTTOM (O.S.)

Thrown in the Thames.

Puck looks up and there stands Bottom, drenched in blood.

BOTTOM (CONT'D)

Yet who would have thought the old  
man to have had so much blood in  
him.

PUCK  
Bless thee, Bottom! Bless thee!  
Thou art translated.

Out of Bottom's sight, Puck reaches round to the gun tucked into the back of his trousers.

BOTTOM  
My heart for anger burns; I cannot brook it.

PUCK  
Sir, I am a poor friend of yours,  
that loves you.

BOTTOM  
When I have slain thee with my proper hand, I'll follow those that even now fled hence, and on the gates of Lud's-town, set your heads.

PUCK  
Why will you kill me?

Bottom falters; he doesn't know.

BOTTOM  
Base compulsion.

The rage fills Bottom's eyes. He runs at Puck.

Puck draws his gun and fires --

-- Bottom crunches into Puck. The gun falls under the limo.

Puck lands on his back with a crunch. He looks up, expecting the killer blow but none comes. He lifts his head.

Bottom is sprawled on the ground, seemingly unconscious.

Puck gets to his feet.

Bottom's feet twitch - but he remains unconscious.

Puck creeps to Bottom. He has to reach over Bottom's body to get the gun under the car - and even then his fingers don't quite reach it.

PUCK  
Come here, pistol.

Puck is almost on top of Bottom, face to face.

Rapid eye movement behind Bottom's eyelids --

-- as Puck gets hold of the gun.

Puck steps away, gun drawn. Bottom remains unconscious.

EXT. COUNTRY ROAD - NIGHT

Puck opens the Alfa Romeo boot; amongst the things inside is a set of jump leads.

EXT. WOOD - NIGHT

Helena forges through the wood, Lysander at her heels.

LYSANDER

Content with Hermia! No; I do  
repent the tedious minutes I with  
her have spent.

Helena finds a page pinned to a tree and reads it.

HELENA

"O grim-look'd night! O night with  
hue so black! O night, which ever  
art when day is not! O night, O  
night! Alack, alack, alack --"

LYSANDER

This is the silliest stuff that  
ever I heard.

HELENA

Peace, you dull fool! I found them  
on a tree.

LYSANDER

Truly, the tree yields bad fruit.

HELENA

These vows are Hermia's. Your  
ladyship is near.

Helena forges on.

LYSANDER

O, I am out of breath in this fond  
chase.

EXT. DISUSED CHURCH - NIGHT

The door is opened by a VICAR who sees Puck getting Bottom, bound by jump leads, out of the boot of the Alfa Romeo.

PUCK  
Some help here, ho.

The vicar tucks the gun hiding behind his back into his trousers and helps Puck.

INT. DISUSED CHURCH - NIGHT

The disused church is a front for Oberon's drug operation.

Bottom, tied to a chair, swings from one extreme emotion to another: rage to bliss.

Puck, the vicar, other goons and chemists observe.

VICAR  
How long hath this possession held  
this man?

PUCK  
Above an hour, my lord. This week  
he hath been heavy, sour, sad, and  
much different from the man he was;  
but till this afternoon his passion  
ne'er brake into extremity of rage.

Without warning, Bottom's rage turns to bliss.

GOON  
Mark how he trembles in his  
ecstasy!

Puck shifts uncomfortably at this reference.

PUCK  
Is there no way to cure this?

The vicar approaches Bottom and frees one of Bottom's arms.

VICAR  
Give me your hand and let me feel  
your pulse.

Bottom's rage takes over.

BOTTOM  
There is my hand, and let it feel  
your ear.

Bottom swings wildly at the vicar, but doesn't connect and topples over, chair and all.

VICAR  
Will you not be cured of your infirmity?

BOTTOM  
No. I will tear thee joint from joint and strew this hungry churchyard with thy limbs.

Bottom flails on the floor. A couple of goons hold his free arm down as the vicar places his hands on his forehead.

VICAR  
I charge thee, Satan, housed within this man to yield possession to my holy prayers and to thy state of darkness hie thee straight: I conjure thee by all the saints in Heaven!

No-one has seen Oberon enter, carrying a large hold-all.

OBERON  
They cannot help him.

Puck's joy at seeing Oberon is genuine.

PUCK  
Lives he?

OBERON  
I am no counterfeit.

PUCK  
I saw him dead, breathless and bleeding on the ground. That headless man I thought had been my lord. O master, what a strange infection is fall'n.

OBERON  
So I hear.

They all turn their attention onto Bottom.

OBERON (CONT'D)  
Ay me, poor man, how pale and wan he looks!

Oberon reaches in Bottom's pocket and commandeers his mobile.

VICAR

I will not let him stir till I have  
used the approved means I have,  
with wholesome syrups, drugs and  
holy prayers, to make of him a  
formal man again.

OBERON

I will reward you for this  
venturous deed.

Oberon leads Puck away for a private conversation.

OBERON (CONT'D)

There's other business for thee.

PUCK

At thy service.

OBERON

Put him to execution.

PUCK

Bottom? He is our cousin, cousin.

OBERON

He foams at mouth and by and by  
breaks out to savage madness.

PUCK

With the help of surgeons he might  
yet recover.

OBERON

There is no remedy, sir, but you  
must die. We shall see and know our  
friends in Heaven. Are you now  
going to dispatch this deed?

Puck doesn't like it, but:

PUCK

He shall be executed presently.

OBERON

Thanks, sir; all the rest is mute.

PUCK

And what wilt thou do?

Oberon picks up his hold-all, the sound of metal clanking  
together.

OBERON

I'll have more lives than drops of  
blood were in my father's veins.

EXT. WOOD - NIGHT

Hermia pins another poem to a tree. Noise from the darkness.

HERMIA

Who's there? Nay, answer me. Stand  
and unfold yourself.

No answer. A presence closes in on her.

HERMIA (CONT'D)

By the pricking of my thumbs,  
something wicked this way comes.

Hermia hurries back the way she's come. She runs even though  
she can barely see.

A noise from ahead and she stops.

HERMIA (CONT'D)

See, ho! Who is that there? Good  
faith, I tremble stiff with fear.

She takes a different direction.

A noise behind her. She looks back - then trips.

On the ground, she looks back to see what she has tripped  
over: a corpse mutilated beyond recognition.

HERMIA (CONT'D)

Such a piece of slaughter the sun  
and moon ne'er look'd upon!

She looks up to find herself in a glade filled with mutilated  
corpses.

At the end of the clearing is a fury, covered in blood,  
eating a corpse's entrails and singing.

HERMIA (CONT'D)

Has this fellow no feeling of his  
business, that he sings at grave-  
making?

The singing fury looks up and sees her.

SINGING FURY  
Now thou art come unto a feast of  
death.

He belches, almost following through.

HERMIA  
What art thou there? Speak!

SINGING FURY  
A beast, as thou art.

HERMIA  
Nature teaches beasts to know their  
friends.

The singing fury has over-eaten and isn't breathing so good.  
He just manages to make it to his feet.

SINGING FURY  
Pray you, who does the wolf love?

HERMIA  
The lamb.

SINGING FURY  
Ay, to devour him.

The singing fury staggers towards her, but stops as Demetrius  
steps between them.

DEMETRIUS  
Abandon the society of this female;  
or, clown, thou perishest; or, to  
thy better understanding, diest;  
or, to wit, I kill thee, make thee  
away, translate thy life into  
death, thy liberty into bondage. I  
will kill thee a hundred and fifty  
ways; therefore tremble and depart.

The singing fury throws up a little blood, staggers towards  
Demetrius then collapses on the ground.

Demetrius seizes his chance, grabs the already unconscious  
singing fury and bashes his head against the ground.

DEMETRIUS (CONT'D)  
If any spark of life be yet  
remaining, down, down to hell; and  
say I sent thee thither.

DJ struts, triumphant, to Hermia.

DEMETRIUS (CONT'D)  
Show me a murderer; I'll deal with  
him.

HERMIA  
Fie, Demetrius! If thou hast slain  
Lysander in his sleep, being o'er  
shoes in blood, plunge in the deep,  
and kill me too.

DEMETRIUS  
Madam, this service I have done for  
you, though you respect not aught  
your servant doth, to hazard life  
and rescue you from him.

HERMIA  
What's this to my Lysander? Where  
is he? Ah, good Demetrius, wilt  
thou give him me?

DEMETRIUS  
I had rather give his carcass to my  
hounds.

Demetrius sees a fury watching them, but Hermia doesn't.

HERMIA  
Out, dog! Out, cur! Thou drivest me  
past the bounds of maiden's  
patience.

Demetrius sees more furies surround them, but can't get a word in edgeways.

HERMIA (CONT'D)  
Hast thou slain him, then? Hence-  
forth be never number'd among men!  
O, once tell true, tell true, even  
for my sake! Durst thou have look'd  
upon him being awake, and hast thou  
kill'd him sleeping?

DEMETRIUS  
Look about you: know you any here?

Hermia sees the furies surrounding them. She and Demetrius go back to back as the furies close in.

HERMIA  
Where be your gibes now?

A noise from the darkness. A blood-covered, dishevelled Helena runs into the glade and joins them.

HELENA

Friends, be gone; I have myself  
resolved upon a course which has no  
need of you; be gone.

(To the furies)  
To me, blood-thirsty lord.

Helena proceeds to fight all four furies, overcoming them all with an astonishing display of judo, kung fu and gymnastics.

Demetrius looks on in awe.

DEMETRIUS

O Helena, goddess, nymph, perfect,  
divine! To what, my love, shall I  
compare thine eyne?

With the furies down, Helena ushers the others away.

HELENA

Fly, my lord, there is no tarrying  
here.

DEMETRIUS

I your servant.

EXT. COUNTRY ROAD - NIGHT

A motorbike, headlights off, freewheels towards the field.

The driver, Oberon, has the hold-all over his shoulder. He parks and listens -- silence.

He reaches in the hold-all, takes out two handguns, then gets off the bike and heads towards the field.

OBERON

O mistress mine, where are you  
roaming? O, stay and hear: your  
true love's coming.

EXT. DISUSED CHURCH - NIGHT

The vicar lays his hands on Bottom. At the back of the church Puck watches, his gun in his hand.

PUCK

Now might I do it pat, now he is  
praying; and now I'll do it.

But he can't. He lulls his head.

PUCK (CONT'D)  
But I cannot choose but weep to  
think they would lay him i' th'  
cold ground.

A hand on his shoulder. Puck looks up: it's the vicar.

VICAR  
There is a change.

INT. DISUSED CHURCH - NIGHT

Bottom is still bound to the chair, but the fury in him has gone. He drifts in and out of consciousness.

Puck and the vicar observe from a distance.

VICAR  
Look, he recovers. A beast no more.

PUCK  
All may be well.

VICAR  
Fetch thy master home. Save your subjects from such massacre and ruthless slaughters.

Puck gets out his phone and dials.

EXT. A FIELD - NIGHT

Oberon stalks towards the stage, a gun in each hand, and the hold-all over his shoulder.

Bottom's mobile in his pocket rings and vibrates.

The noise from the phone attracts a fury, who runs at him. Oberon shoots him dead.

OBERON  
I curse the day - and yet, I think,  
few come within the compass of my curse,

The gunshot attracts more furies. Oberon moves towards the stage, shooting the furies that attack from all sides.

OBERON (CONT'D)

- wherein I did not some notorious ill, as kill a man, or else devise his death, ravish a maid, or plot the way to do it. Set deadly enmity between two friends,

Out of ammo, he drops the handguns and gets a pump-action shotgun from his hold-all and carries on killing.

                  OBERON (CONT'D)

Set fire on barns and haystacks in the night, and bid the owners quench them with their tears. Oft have I digg'd up dead men from their graves, and set them upright at their dear friends' doors.

Again out of ammo, he uses the shotgun to hit the oncoming furies away.

                  OBERON (CONT'D)

Even when their sorrows almost were forgot and on their skins, as on the bark of trees, have with my knife carved in Roman letters, let not your sorrow die, though I am dead.'

Oberon is out of ammo and out of strength. He throws the shotgun at the oncoming furies and climbs onto the stage.

                  OBERON (CONT'D)

Tut, I have done a thousand dreadful things as willingly as one would kill a fly.

With a sea of furies in the field, Oberon reaches in his hold-all and takes out the last piece of kit: two grenades.

                  OBERON (CONT'D)

If one good deed in all my life I did, I do repent it from my very soul.

Oberon pulls the pins, lobs them into the furies and climbs up the lighting rig.

A massive explosion.

EXT. LIGHTING RIG - NIGHT

Titania clings on as the grenades explode. Oberon joins her.

OBERON  
Ill met by moonlight, proud  
Titania. How doth the lady?

Titania looks down at the damage: lots of dead furies but many more still swarming beneath them.

TITANIA  
Dead, I think.

INT. HOUSEMASTER'S BEDROOM, LANCASTER HOUSE - NIGHT

Egeus asleep. The rumble of the explosion in the distance wakes him.

EGEUS  
Peace! What noise?

INT. HERMIA AND HELENA'S DORM, LANCASTER HOUSE - NIGHT

Egeus peers in. Both beds are empty.

EXT. WOOD - NIGHT

In the wood is a bird-watching cabin, the light on inside.

INT. CABIN - NIGHT

The cabin is disused and serves as a lost property centre with all manner of lost goods in a pile in the corner.

In another corner Lysander sits alone.

LYSANDER  
Am I a coward? I may speak it to my  
shame, I have a truant been to  
chivalry. A coward, a most devout  
coward, religious in it.

He takes out his red pill.

LYSANDER (CONT'D)  
What if it be poison? This is most  
brave.

He swallows the pill.

The door flies open and Helena, Demetrius and Hermia run in.

HERMIA

Thou art not by mine eye, Lysander,  
found.

She hugs him; it's barely reciprocated. Lysander sneers at Demetrius.

LYSANDER

Where is this rash and most  
unfortunate man?

DEMETRIUS

Go, prick thy face, and over-red  
thy fear, thou lily-liver'd boy.

LYSANDER

Thou mis-shapen dick!

HERMIA

Prithee, peace. But why unkindly  
didst thou leave me so?

LYSANDER

All thy tediousness.

HERMIA

What say you?

LYSANDER

You must not marvel. I like Helen.  
Fair Helena, who --

DEMETRIUS

-- more engilds the night than all  
you fiery oes and eyes of light.

LYSANDER

You are unkind, Demetrius; be not  
so; for you love Hermia; this you  
know I know: and here, with all my  
heart, in Hermia's love I yield you  
up my part.

DEMETRIUS

Lysander, keep thy Hermia; I will  
none: if e'er I loved her, all that  
love is gone. My heart to her but  
as guest-wise sojourn'd, and now to  
Helen is it home return'd.

LYSANDER

By your leave, this maid is mine.

DEMETRIUS

Alas, poor rogue! I think, i'faith,  
she loves me.

They both turn to Helena.

LYSANDER

The lady shall say her mind freely.

Helena turns on Hermia.

HELENA

Have you conspired, have you with  
these contrived to bait me with  
this foul derision?

HERMIA

I scorn you not: it seems you scorn  
me.

HELENA

Ay, do, persever, counterfeit sad  
looks, make mouths upon me when I  
turn my back; wink each at other;  
but fare ye well: 'tis partly my  
own fault; which death or absence  
soon shall remedy.

Helena heads for the door. Lysander and Demetrius try to stop  
her.

LYSANDER

Stay, gentle Helena --

DEMETRIUS

My love --

HELENA

Off, pluck off!

Helena throws them out the way and exits.

EXT. WOOD - NIGHT

Helena steps out of the cabin and freezes.

Furies are everywhere, in a trance-like state, dancing to  
inaudible music.

HERMIA (O.S.)

Sweet, do not scorn her so.

With the door open, the furies can hear them. They snap out of their trance and turn on Helena.

HELENA  
O excellent!

Helena runs back into the cabin.

INT. CABIN - NIGHT

Helena runs in and barricades the door with lost property.

DEMETRIUS  
Helen, I love thee; by my life, I do.

LYSANDER  
I say I love thee more than he can do.

A window smashes. Demetrius rushes to it and keeps out the furies as Lysander searches the lost property for weapons.

HERMIA  
Lysander, where to tends all this?

LYSANDER  
Away, you Ethiope!

Lysander picks up a shovel, runs at Demetrius and whacks the fury attacking him with it.

HERMIA  
Why are you grown so rude?

LYSANDER  
Why think you so? Your virginity!

Lysander keeps the furies out of the broken window as Demetrius plugs the window with chairs.

LYSANDER (CONT'D)  
Your old virginity, is like one of our French withered pears, it looks ill, it eats drily; marry, 'tis a withered pear.

HERMIA  
O me!

LYSANDER  
Virginity breeds mites, much like a cheese.

HERMIA

What means this jest? Am I not  
Hermia? Are not you Lysander?

LYSANDER

Ay, by my life; and never did  
desire to see thee more. Therefore  
be out of hope, of question, of  
doubt; be certain, nothing truer;  
'tis no jest that I do hate thee  
and love Helena.

With the smashed window plugged, another window smashes.

As Lysander and Demetrius keep the furies out of this second  
window, Hermia turns on Helena keeping the door closed.

HERMIA

You juggler! You canker-blossom!  
You thief of love! What, have you  
come by night and stolen my love's  
heart from him?

HELENA

Fie, fie! You counterfeit, you  
puppet, you!

HERMIA

Puppet? Why so? Ay, that way goes  
the game. Now I perceive that she  
hath made compare between our  
statures; she hath urged her  
height; and are you grown so high  
in his esteem; because I am so  
dwarfish and so low? How low am I,  
thou painted maypole? Speak; how  
low am I? I am not yet so low but  
that my nails can reach unto thine  
eyes.

Hermia attacks Helena, compromising the door.

HELENA

I pray you, though you mock me,  
gentlemen, let her not hurt me.

Lysander leaves Demetrius to pull Hermia off Helena,  
compromising the second window.

HELENA (CONT'D)

You perhaps may think, because she  
is something lower than myself,  
that I can match her.

Lysander returns to helping Demetrius --

HERMIA  
Lower! Hark, again.

-- leaving Hermia to attack Helena again.

HELENA  
O, when she's angry, she is keen  
and shrewd! And though she be but  
little, she is fierce.

Lysander restrains Hermia.

HERMIA  
"Little" again! Nothing but "low"  
and "little"! Why will you suffer  
her to flout me thus?

LYSANDER  
Get you gone, you dwarf; you  
minimus, of hindering knot-grass  
made; you bead, you acorn.

Lysander pushes her to the ground, then helps the others  
secure the windows.

Hermia sits, a heap on the floor.

HERMIA  
I am amazed and know not what to  
say.

EXT. ATHENS PUBLIC SCHOOL - NIGHT

Egeus is with a POLICE OFFICER outside Lancaster House.

EGEUS  
Saw you my daughter? Hast thou  
found my daughter?

POLICE OFFICER  
We will, my lord.

EGEUS  
I do confess my fault; let me go  
with you.

POLICE OFFICER  
It will be dangerous to go on.

EGEUS  
My lord, this is my daughter.

POLICE OFFICER  
When I return with victory from the  
field I'll see your grace: till  
then I'll follow her.

The officer gets in his car.

EGEUS  
I was not born a yelder.

Egeus gets in his car and drives after them.

INT. DISUSED CHURCH - NIGHT

Puck and the vicar with Bottom, no longer a fury, but still tied to a chair.

BOTTOM  
I have had a most rare vision. I  
have had a dream, past the wit of  
man to say what dream it was.

VICAR  
How dost thou feel thyself now?

BOTTOM  
My rage is gone; and I am struck  
with sorrow.

PUCK  
Bottom! O most courageous day! O  
most happy --

BOTTOM  
Get thee from my sight; thou gavest  
me poison: dangerous fellow, hence!

Bottom tries to free himself, but cannot.

PUCK  
What, art thou mad?

BOTTOM  
The drug he gave me, which he said  
was precious and cordial to me,  
have I not found it murderous --

PUCK  
That was not to be blamed.

BOTTOM

It is the cause, it is the cause,  
my soul. Unbind my hands, I'll pull  
them off myself.

PUCK

Doth he still rage? Be you quiet,  
monster.

BOTTOM

Monster, I will kill this man.

PUCK

He talks at random; sure, the man  
is mad. Keep him dark and safely  
lock'd.

Puck answers his phone.

PUCK (CONT'D)

My lord.

(Glances at Bottom)

Not dead, for all your -- ... But  
he -- ... So I will, sir.

Puck hangs up and returns to Bottom. Puck's mood is black.

PUCK (CONT'D)

I have business to my lord.

BOTTOM

You will accompany me thither.  
Untie my hands.

Puck isn't going to do that.

BOTTOM (CONT'D)

Though I am mad, I will not bite.

PUCK

I am commanded...

He takes out his gun.

PUCK (CONT'D)

... here.

BOTTOM

You lie, ye rogue!

PUCK

This was order'd by the good  
discretion of --

BOTTOM  
I swear I'll cuff you. Untie my hands.

Bottom stops struggling when he sees that Puck is serious.

BOTTOM (CONT'D)  
Will you kill your brother?

PUCK  
"Sir, my life is yours." Fond man, remember that?

BOTTOM  
Faith, I do.

PUCK  
All debts are cleared between you and I.

Puck unties Bottom's ropes. An awkward moment of fraternity that neither of them know how to deal with.

PUCK (CONT'D)  
Come, let's away. There is a fray to be fought.

EXT. LIGHTING RIG - NIGHT

Titania and Oberon up the lighting rig.

OBERON  
Do you remember since we lay all night in windmill in Saint George's field?

TITANIA  
Ha, 'twas a merry night.

OBERON  
You loved me.

TITANIA  
You loved, I loved for intermission. I never loved you much.

OBERON  
The lady doth protest too much, methinks.

Titania scoffs with disdain.

OBERON (CONT'D)  
 Beshrew my father's ambition! He  
 was thinking of civil wars when he  
 got me: therefore was I created  
 with a stubborn outside, with an  
 aspect of iron, that, when I come  
 to woo ladies, I fright them.

TITANIA  
 O, bid me leap.

OBERON  
 If thy revengeful heart cannot  
 forgive, lo, I lend thee this sharp-  
 pointed sword;  
 (Takes out a flik-knife)  
 Which if thou please to hide in  
 this true bosom. And let the soul  
 forth that adoreth thee, I lay it  
 naked to the deadly stroke, and  
 humbly beg the death upon my knee.

Oberon opens his shirt and attempts a kneel. He slips,  
 forcing Titania to shuffle over and pull him up.

TITANIA  
 Arise, dissembler: though I wish  
 thy death, I will not be the  
 executioner.

OBERON  
 Then bid me kill myself, and I will  
 do it.

TITANIA  
 I have already.

OBERON  
 Tush, that was in thy rage: speak  
 it again.

Titania falters.

OBERON (CONT'D)  
 Say, then, my peace is made.

TITANIA  
 That shall you know hereafter.

OBERON  
 But shall I live in hope?

She sizes him up.

TITANIA  
'Tis more than you deserve.

Oberon smiles; he's winning.

INT. CABIN - NIGHT

Relative calm. The furies have given up trying to get in.

Lysander looks pale. Hermia quietly cries. Demetrius and Helena hold the door.

DEMETRIUS  
Do you not love me? Do you not,  
indeed? Well, do not then; for  
since you love me not, I will not  
love myself.

HELENA  
As if!

DEMETRIUS  
Nay, tell me if you speak in jest  
or no.

HELENA  
I would I knew thy heart.

DEMETRIUS  
'Tis figured in my tongue.

HELENA  
I fear me both are false.

DEMETRIUS  
Then you do not love me?

Helena is distracted by Lysander with the shivers.

HELENA  
Lysander, whereto tends all this?

Lysander turns to her; he is on the turn.

LYSANDER  
I have a faint cold fear thrills  
through my veins, that almost  
freezes up the heat of life.

DEMETRIUS  
As I am an honest man, he looks  
pale. Art thou sick, or angry?

Helena tends Lysander.

LYSANDER  
My tongue cleave to the roof within  
my mouth. Have I aspic in my lips?

Helena waves Hermia to the sink.

HELENA  
Give me some drink.

LYSANDER  
A chilling sweat o'er-runs my  
trembling joints. My belly's as  
cold as if I had swallowed  
snowballs.

DEMETRIUS  
Go bind this man, for he is frantic  
too.

Hermia scours through the lost property.

LYSANDER  
And now my sight fails, and my  
brain is giddy.

Hermia produces a golf club and a skipping rope.

DEMETRIUS  
Give me the iron, I say, and bind  
him here.

HERMIA  
Is this certain?

DEMETRIUS  
Most certain. Bind him, I say.

Hermia takes the skipping rope and binds Lysander.

LYSANDER  
Whence comes this restraint?

Hermia looks into Lysander's eyes as they fill with blood.

HERMIA  
Believe me, you are marvellously  
changed.

Hermia pulls the rope tight, but she hasn't tied it and Lysander easily throws it off.

He grabs Hermia by the throat.

LYSANDER

Now could I drink hot blood and do  
such bitter business as the day  
would quake to look on.

He is about to bite her face when Demetrius whistles, drawing his attention.

DEMETRIUS

You are a counterfeit cowardly  
knaves.

LYSANDER

That which hath made them drunk  
hath made me bold.

He throws Hermia across the room then goes for Demetrius, who swings the golf club at him.

Lysander catches the club and uses it to throw Demetrius across the room.

But then Helena is waiting for him. She and Demetrius fight Lysander like a wrestling tag team, one holding the door closed, the other fighting Lysander. Then swapping.

Hermia acts as an arms supplier, handing Demetrius and Helena items from the lost property to use as weapons: such as a bicycle wheel and a prosthetic limb.

DEMETRIUS

The fiend is strong within him.

The fight ends when Demetrius pins Lysander to the floor and is about to stab him with the metal bar from a bicycle seat --

HERMIA

No!

Demetrius pauses.

HERMIA (CONT'D)

It is my love.

Demetrius relents. Hermia gives him the skipping rope and together they tie Lysander up.

EXT. LIGHTING RIG - NIGHT

Titania is turned away from Oberon. He looks round at her and sees her wipe her eyes.

OBERON

Have you wept all this while?

          TITANIA

Yes and I will weep a while longer.

          OBERON

I will not desire that.

          TITANIA

You have no reason; I do it freely.

          OBERON

Weep not, sweet queen; for  
trickling tears are vain.

          TITANIA

But have I not cause to weep?

          OBERON

What cause withholds you then, to  
mourn for him?

Titania shakes her head.

          OBERON (CONT'D)

I charge thee, as Heaven shall work  
in me for thine avail, tell me  
truly. Upon what cause?

Titania finally meets his eye.

          TITANIA

I do love nothing in the world so  
well as you: is not that strange?

          OBERON

As strange as the thing I know not.  
By my sword, thou lovest me.

          TITANIA

Peace, fool.

          OBERON

I will swear by it that you love  
me; and I will make him eat it that  
says I love not you.

Out of the corner of her eye, Titania sees blue flashing  
lights in the distance.

          TITANIA

Peace, I say!

OBERON  
With no sauce that can be devised  
to it. I protest I love thee.

                  TITANIA  
Peace! I will stop your mouth.

She pulls his face towards her and opens her mouth to kiss him. He doesn't see the red pill on the tip of her tongue.

The kiss starts passionately, then Oberon realises something is wrong. He tries to pull away but Titania keeps their mouths locked until --

-- he swallows. Then she lets go.

                  TITANIA (CONT'D)  
O, a kiss long as my exile, sweet  
as my revenge.

She swings along the rig, out of his reach.

                  OBERON  
What hast thou done?

                  TITANIA  
Thou sodden-witted lord! One of  
them you shall be.

She points down at the furies, then escapes along the lighting rig then down the other leg.

                  OBERON  
Villanous whore! 'Sblood, you  
starveling, you elf-skin, you dried  
neat's tongue, you bull's pizzle!

The police arrive en masse, distracting the furies, giving Titania the opportunity to flee.

                  OBERON (CONT'D)  
You stock-fish! O for breath to  
utter what is like thee!

INT. ALFA ROMEO (MOVING) - NIGHT

Bottom drives, Puck his passenger. Oberon's motorbike races past, going the other way. As it passes the driver gives Bottom and Puck the finger.

                  PUCK  
That was my lady.

EXT. A FIELD - NIGHT

Furies versus police. Armed officers take no prisoners, shooting furies if necessary.

EXT. CAR PARK FIELD - NIGHT

Puck and Bottom on the roof of the Alfa Romeo, watching the carnage, horrified and distraught.

BOTTOM

I never saw an action of such  
shame; experience, manhood, honour,  
ne'er before did violate so itself.

Puck takes out his mobile and dials.

EXT. A FIELD - NIGHT

Bottom's mobile lies on the ground. The screen reads "Puck calling". A police officer's size 12 treads on it.

EXT. CAR PARK FIELD - NIGHT

Puck and Bottom as Bottom's voicemail kicks in:

BOTTOM (V.O.)  
Come, come; thou'lt do thy message,  
wilt thou not?

The phone beeps and Puck hangs up. Bottom is inconsolable.

BOTTOM  
O my master!

In the distance, Egeus's car parks. Egeus exits the vehicle and runs towards the field.

EXT. A FIELD - NIGHT

Egeus wades through the corpses, looking for Hermia.

One of the corpses looks a lot like her. He bends down to have a closer look --

-- and the corpse opens her blood-red eyes. She's a fury.

She grabs his head, coughs a mouthful of blood onto his face and tries to eat him.

He screams. Then a gunshot.

The fury's head explodes as the bullet hits her, splattering Egeus. The shooter, a police officer, moves on.

Egeus is traumatised by the episode. He staggers to the stage and leans against it to get his breath back.

EGEUS  
Stay, give me drink.

He sees Titania's discarded energy drink on the stage, grabs it and downs the lot.

He looks at the carnage around him.

EGEUS (CONT'D)  
Gone she is to death or dishonour.

INT. CABIN - DAY

Hermia looks out of a broken window at the furies. Demetrius holds the door.

DEMETRIUS  
It's almost morning, is't not?

HERMIA  
Day, my lord.

Helena examines Lysander, bound and gagged.

HELENA  
What shall be done with him?

HERMIA  
He is my prisoner, and you shall not have him.

HELENA  
He is, indeed; and living to kill thee.

HERMIA  
What should I do with him? It is my love.

A bell rings in the distance.

DEMETRIUS  
Didst thou not hear a noise?

HERMIA

I heard the owl scream and the  
crickets cry.

HELENA

Did you not speak?

DEMETRIUS

When?

HELENA

Now.

Hermia peers out the window again.

EXT. CABIN - DAY

The bell rings again, clearer now. The furies drift away  
towards the sound of the bell.

INT. CABIN - DAY

Hermia turns to Helena with dread.

HERMIA

The Windsor bell hath struck.

HELENA

Boy, bristle thy courage up. We  
must away.

Demetrius leaps to his feet.

DEMETRIUS

I am commanded.

EXT. ATHENS PUBLIC SCHOOL - DAY

The army of furies drifts out of the wood and heads towards  
the school.

EXT. WOOD - DAY

Demetrius and Helena run through the wood. A fury jumps out  
at them and they knock him over without breaking stride.

EXT. CRICKET PITCH, ATHENS PUBLIC SCHOOL - DAY

Demetrius and Helena run out of the wood. In the distance the furies are trying to enter both boarding houses.

HELENA  
A plague o'both your houses.

Demetrius stops.

DEMETRIUS  
Lively Helena!

Helena looks back. Demetrius nods to the building they're standing beside: the cricket pavilion.

Thinking he means hanky-panky, she shakes her head, smiling.

HELENA  
'Tis now no time to --

DEMETRIUS  
There is a willow.

INT. CRICKET PAVILION - DAY

Demetrius picks up his favourite cricket bat. Behind him Helena puts on a pair of batting gloves.

HELENA  
Bring me to the party!

EXT. CRICKET PITCH, ATHENS PUBLIC SCHOOL - DAY

Demetrius and Helena stride towards the boarding houses, Demetrius wielding the bat as if about to begin an innings, Helena punching her gloved fists together like a boxer.

INT. SHOWER ROOM, LANCASTER HOUSE - DAY

Sleepy 6th form girls in nightwear drift through their morning ablutions.

The sound of the showers hides the fingers scraping at the high windows until - the glass shatters.

Screams and panic.

A fury, careless to the cuts the broken glass cause him, tries to scramble through the window.

A girl opens the door to flee and is pounced on by a fury.  
The fury sees the roomful of 6th form girls, trembling.

SHOWER ROOM FURY  
How a dozen of virginities?

INT. A DORM, YORK HOUSE - DAY

Two 6th form boys dress. One of them goes to the window and opens the curtains.

Outside are a mass of furies. They smash the window.

INT. HEADMASTER'S BATHROOM, YORK HOUSE - DAY

Theseus leans over a sink, whirring electric toothbrush in his mouth. Hearing a noise, he turns the toothbrush off.

But all he hears is silence.

He switches the toothbrush back on and continues brushing - until he hears another noise and turns the toothbrush off.

Now he hears a noise.

He spits toothpaste into the sink.

INT. HEADMASTER'S STAIRS, YORK HOUSE - DAY

Toothbrush still in hand, Theseus descends the stairs.

INT. HEADMASTER'S KITCHEN, YORK HOUSE - DAY

Theseus steps into the kitchen to find the fridge open. A fury kneels before it, eating raw steak.

THESEUS  
What bloody man is that?

The fury, drooling blood, turns to Theseus.

TOOTHBRUSH FURY  
Villain, thy hand yields thy  
death's instrument.

Theseus looks down at the toothbrush, drops it, inadvertently turning it on, and runs.

The fury drops the steak, picks up the toothbrush and takes off the brush, revealing the pointy end.

INT. SHOWER ROOM, LANCASTER HOUSE - DAY

Furies try to get in through the window. A girl beats them with pink, fluffy slippers.

Other girls use towels to whip the shower room fury who devours the girl he leapt on.

A girl gets a jolt of courage and throws a can of hairspray at the shower room fury.

The shampoo hits the fury.

SHAMPOO 6TH FORMER  
The devil take thy soul!

SHOWER ROOM FURY  
'Tis done already.

The fury prepares to launch himself at the girls --

-- when the door is flung open and a beaten up fury is thrown in - followed by Helena.

HELENA  
Ladies, you are not merry:  
gentlemen, whose fault is this?

Both furies scramble to their feet and attack Helena, but she upends both with two cricket-gloved punches.

HELENA (CONT'D)  
One i'the neck and two i'the thigh.

Another couple of blows and the furies stay down.

HELENA (CONT'D)  
Good ladies, let's go. Wisely and  
slow; they stumble that run fast.

INT. CORRIDOR, YORK HOUSE - DAY

6th form boys run out of their dorms and run to the exit, then stop, en masse.

The doorway fills with hungry furies.

The boys back away, then a voice from the back of the corridor:

DEMETRIUS (O.S.)  
Silence, you airy toys!

The boys part, showing Demetrius, cricket bat in hand.

DEMETRIUS (CONT'D)  
Cricket!

He skips down the corridor at the onrushing furies and plays a hook shot on the leading fury's head.

6TH FORM BOY  
Shot, by Heaven!

Demetrius plays off drives, square cuts and lofted drives on the onrushing furies until the bat breaks.

DEMETRIUS  
Follow my heels, rugby!

Demetrius rugby-tackles the next oncoming fury and the other boys back him up, making a ruck.

The ruck crushes the remaining furies then a few well-placed blows render the remaining furies unconscious.

DEMETRIUS (CONT'D)  
Excellent play! Come, I'll conduct you to the sanctuary.

6TH FORM BOY  
Where is the master, boatswain?

INT. HEADMASTER'S BATHROOM, YORK HOUSE - DAY

Locked in the bathroom, Theseus listens at the door.

He hears the sound of the electric toothbrush get nearer and nearer till it's right outside the door.

The door handle turns, but the lock holds firm.

Theseus stays frozen.

The handle turns frantically. The whole door rattles. The lock holds but the hinges are old and loose.

THESEUS  
Hang thee, young baggage!  
Disobedient wretch! Thou shalt be heavily punish'd.

The top hinge break, creating an opening. The fury reaches in, but can't get in any further.

Theseus keeps his shoulder against the door, keeping it closed, but the bottom hinge weakens.

The fury puts all his weight on the door and the bottom hinge gives.

Theseus unlocks the door so it comes away completely. He falls onto his back and uses it as a shield with the fury on top, scratching and clawing at the door.

INT. HEADMASTER'S BEDROOM, YORK HOUSE - DAY

Demetrius picks the toothbrush off the floor. He is flanked by the 6th form boys.

DEMETRIUS  
Good dawning to thee, friend.

The toothbrush fury spins his head round and sees them.

DEMETRIUS (CONT'D)  
Go thou, and fill another room in  
hell.

Demetrius leaps on the fury and buries the whirring toothbrush in his skull. He leaves the toothbrush, still whirring, in the fury's skull.

The 6th form boys look on in horror.

DEMETRIUS (CONT'D)  
Gaze where you should, and that  
will clear your sight.

Demetrius lifts the door off Theseus.

THESEUS  
Ah, good Demetrius. Noble,  
courageous, high, unmatchable --

DEMETRIUS  
Come, come, no more of that. Wilt  
take thy chance with me?

THESEUS  
Captain, I will.

INT. CABIN - DAY

Lysander's head is lulled; Hermia raises it. His eyes are closed, his skin pale; he looks dead.

HERMIA

No, no, no life! Why should a dog,  
a horse, a rat have life and thou  
no breath at all?

Lysander opens his eyes. He is still a fury, but he's fighting it and it's killing him.

HERMIA (CONT'D)

How dost thou, sweet lord?

LYSANDER

I am dying.

HERMIA

Talk not of dying.

LYSANDER

I will stand for't a little though  
therefore I die a virgin.

HERMIA

Are you meditating on virginity?

LYSANDER

I am a poor fellow. Unpitied let me  
die, and well deserved. I am sorry  
that with reverence I did not  
entertain thee as thou art. I spake  
not true.

HERMIA

You were a little sick.

LYSANDER

I am still possess'd.

HERMIA

Fear not, my lord; we can contain  
ourselves.

LYSANDER

I so much thirst --

HERMIA

Your great love to me restrains you  
thus. You would not do me violence.  
Do you not love me?

LYSANDER

I beyond all limit of what else  
i'the world do love, prize, honour  
you.

Hermia is torn.

HERMIA  
How dangerous is it that this man  
goes loose?

INT. CORRIDOR, LANCASTER HOUSE - DAY

Helena leads her 6th-formers over a carpet of slain furies.

SHAMPOO 6TH FORMER  
Trow you who hath done this?

HELENA  
'Twas I.

SHAMPOO 6TH FORMER  
Thou art a Roman.

EXT. ATHENS PUBLIC SCHOOL - DAY

Helena leads her 6th-formers out, across a quad to the back of the dining hall just as Demetrius arrives with his 6th-formers and Theseus.

HELENA  
Why, how now, my bawcock!

DEMETRIUS  
How dost thou, chuck?

They kiss. Theseus watches, confused.

THESEUS  
Old Nedar's Helena. How comes this gentle concord in the world, that hatred is so far from jealousy?

DEMETRIUS  
'Tis very strange, that is the brief and the tedious of it.

INT. DINING HALL, ATHENS SCHOOL - DAY

They burst in through the glass double-doors and block the entrance with anything they can find.

Quince and the rest of the school watch, mid-breakfast.

QUINCE

What work's, my countrymen, in hand? Where go you with bats and clubs? The matter? Speak, I pray you.

Demetrius and Helena exchange a look; how to explain.

INT. CABIN - DAY

Lysander's hands are untied. He unties his feet, stands and looks to the door --

-- where Hermia watches.

HERMIA

What news, my love!

Lysander's fight has gone and all that's left is fury.

LYSANDER

Embowell'd will I see thee by and by!

Teeth bared, Lysander advances on her.

HERMIA

Am not I Hermia? Are not you Lysander? And are not you my husband? Are not you he?

Lysander falters. There's a spark of fight in him yet - but the rage takes over again.

LYSANDER

I will do such things - what they are yet, I know not; but they shall be the terrors of the earth!

He advances on her again.

HERMIA

Prevent it, resist it, let it not be so.

Again he falters.

HERMIA (CONT'D)

Resist it now.

Lysander fights the rage.

LYSANDER  
We are unable to resist.

Hermia runs to him and embraces him.

HERMIA  
Then kill, kill, kill, kill!

Lysander bares his teeth. He loses the fight, then wins. He returns the embrace.

LYSANDER  
I will resist.

INT. DINING HALL, ATHENS SCHOOL - DAY

Quince is gob-smacked.

QUINCE  
This is the strangest tale that ever I heard. How many is killed?

THESEUS  
Between fourteen and five and thirty.

QUINCE  
Strict preciseness.

DEMETRIUS  
I judge their number upon or near the rate of thirty.

HELENA  
Truly, I thought there had been one number more.

QUINCE  
Come, enough!

THESEUS  
How thirty, at least!

A bang!

A fury is at the reinforced glass doors. He bangs on the doors, trying to get in.

Another bang! Another fury, this time at a window.

More and more bangs as more and more furies surround the building, trying to get in.

THESEUS (CONT'D)  
The noise is round about us. Let us  
from it.

DEMETRIUS  
What pleasure, sir, find we in  
life, to lock it from action and  
adventure?

QUINCE  
Young gentleman, your spirits are  
too bold for your years.

HELENA  
What! Think'st thou that we fear  
them?

The beginning of a crack appears in one of the glass doors  
that a host of furies bang against.

QUINCE  
And what wilt thou do?

Helena isn't sure, but Demetrius has a plan.

EXT. CABIN - DAY

Hermia and Lysander, still a fury but under control, emerge  
from the cabin, hand in hand.

The severed head of a police officer drops at their feet.  
They freeze.

A fury is waiting for them: Oberon, blood on his mouth, the  
police officer's headless corpse at his feet.

OBERON  
What is the body when the head is  
off?

LYSANDER  
Mistress, fly, be gone! So cowards  
fight when they can fly no further.

Lysander guides Hermia away and prepares to fight Oberon, but  
she rushes back to his side.

HERMIA  
Do not fight to-day. Death is  
certain.

LYSANDER  
And live you yet. Go, you wild  
bedfellow.

Hermia is even more in love with him than before as he hurries her away and prepares to fight.

Oberon roars in readiness. He doesn't see Puck behind him, a tow rope in his hands.

PUCK  
Valiant youth, single out some  
other chase; for I myself will hunt  
this wolf.

Hermia tugs Lysander away.

HERMIA  
O brave monster! Lead the way.

Oberon squares up to Puck.

OBERON  
How now, mad spirit! What night-  
rule now about this haunted grove?

PUCK  
Yield thee as my prisoner.

They circle each other.

OBERON  
Think'st thou to catch my life so  
pleasantly?

PUCK  
Do you yield, sir?

OBERON  
To who? To thee? What art thou?  
Have I not an arm as big as thine?  
A heart as big? Say what thou art,  
why I should yield to thee?

PUCK  
I am thy true servitor. I'll not  
kill thee.

OBERON  
And I will kill thee. Your hearts  
I'll stamp out with my horse's  
heels and make a quagmire of your  
mingled brains. Here by the cheeks  
I'll drag thee up and down.  
(MORE)

OBERON (CONT'D)  
I'll lead you about a round,  
thorough bog, thorough bush,  
thorough brake, thorough briar --

                  PUCK  
Peace!

Puck stops; he has Oberon where he wants him.

                  PUCK (CONT'D)  
Brevity is the soul of wit.

Puck tosses the rope at Oberon, who easily dodges it. The throw is hugely overshot.

                  OBERON  
He throws without distinction.

Puck smiles.

                  PUCK  
He throws a thunderbolt.

Oberon looks where the rope landed and sees it in Bottom's hands. Bottom dives on Oberon, smothering him, allowing Puck to bind him.

INT. KITCHENS, DINING HALL - DAY

There is a hatch on the ceiling. Demetrius pulls it open and a ladder drops down.

Demetrius climbs, but Helena stops him.

                  HELENA  
If thou fail us, all our hope is  
done.

                  DEMETRIUS  
If we should fail, we fail! But  
screw your courage to the sticking  
place, and we'll not fail.

They kiss.

                  DEMETRIUS (CONT'D)  
A man can die but once.

He strides up the ladder.

                  HELENA  
Heaven keep him from these beasts!

Helena closes the hatch after him.

INT. DINING HALL, ATHENS SCHOOL - DAY

Helena returns to the dining hall.

THESEUS  
Is he gone?

HELENA  
Ay, sir. We go to gain a little  
patch of ground.

QUINCE  
Wherefore? Tell true.

Helena leads him to the double doors and points over the top of the furies outside at the sports hall, a large brick building where the only windows are unreachably high.

HELENA  
It is the most impenetrable.

INT. KITCHENS, DINING HALL - DAY

Theseus, Quince and all arm themselves with anything they can lay their hands on: soup ladles, frying pans.

EXT. DINING HALL, ATHENS SCHOOL - DAY

The furies have the dining hall surrounded. They don't see Demetrius on the flat roof.

DEMETRIUS  
You herds of boils and plagues!

A few furies see him.

DEMETRIUS (CONT'D)  
Come, come, you foward and unable worms. Thou art as loathsome as a toad. You Banbury cheese! You bull's pizzle!

They all see him now. A few climb up the drainpipes.

DEMETRIUS (CONT'D)  
Come on, my fellows: there's some among you have beheld me fighting: come, try upon yourselves what you have seen me.

He runs along the roof and hurdles across a narrow gap onto the flat roof of the science block.

On the ground, the furies follow him.

INT. DINING HALL, ATHENS SCHOOL - DAY

Helena watches Demetrius lead the furies away, the others poised for battle behind her.

HELENA

The fatal followers do pursue. Make you ready your stiff bats and clubs.

EXT. SCIENCE BLOCK ROOF - DAY

Demetrius runs across the roof, leading the furies further and further away from the dining hall.

INT. DINING HALL, ATHENS SCHOOL - DAY

Helena opens the door and leads the group out.

EXT. DINING HALL, ATHENS SCHOOL - DAY

Helena leads the group across a lawn to the sports centre.

EXT. SCIENCE BLOCK ROOF - DAY

Demetrius hurdles across another gap onto another flat roof. A fury has made it onto this roof and is in pursuit.

EXT. LAWN - DAY

Helena leads the group to the sports centre, but a rogue fury leaps out at them out of nowhere.

The fury is instantly brained by a series of blows from a ladle, a saucepan and a toaster.

EXT. SPORTS CENTRE - DAY

Helena hurries the group in. She sees Demetrius running across the maths block roof, heading for a much bigger hurdle to the next roof.

HELENA  
Our fortune lies upon this jump.

EXT. MATHS BLOCK ROOF - DAY

Demetrius leaps --

Egeus's car is parked in the gap between buildings.

EXT. LANGUAGES BLOCK ROOF - DAY

-- Demetrius just makes it onto the languages block roof, stumbling as he lands.

He looks back at the fury attempting the same jump --

-- and falling short.

DEMETRIUS  
By Heaven, methinks it were an easy leap.

He stands and sees that a fury is waiting for him on this roof: Egeus.

DEMETRIUS (CONT'D)  
Was there ever man had such luck!

EGEUS  
Why do you keep alone? How chance my daughter is not with you?

DEMETRIUS  
My mistress with a monster is in love. They are in the very wrath of love, and they will together. Clubs cannot part them.

EGEUS  
I took thee for thy better. I chose an eagle, and did avoid a puttock.

DEMETRIUS  
The object and the pleasure of mine eye, is only Helena. To her, my lord, was I betroth'd ere I saw Hermia: but, like in sickness, did I loathe this food; but, as in health, come to my natural taste, now I do wish it, love it, long for it, and will for evermore be true to it.

EGEUS

Lovers and madmen have such  
seething brains.

DEMETRIUS

O, there has been much throwing  
about of brains.

EGEUS

Your oath, my lord, is vain and  
frivolous. You sin against  
obedience. Thou shalt be heavily  
punished.

Egeus bares his teeth and advances on Demetrius.

Demetrius scrambles to his feet and hurdles across to the  
roof he's just comes from.

But this time he has no momentum and falls short.

EXT. SPORTS CENTRE - DAY

Helena gasps, watching from the doorway.

EXT. MATHS BLOCK ROOF - DAY

Demetrius grabs the edge of the roof and clings on. He looks  
down.

DEMETRIUS

The wall is high, and yet will I  
leap down.

Egeus has taken a run-up. He lands on the roof then stumbles.

DEMETRIUS (CONT'D)

Good ground, be pitiful and hurt me  
not! If I get down, and do not  
break my limbs, I'll find a  
thousand shifts to get away.

Demetrius looks up to see Egeus reaching down to grab him.

DEMETRIUS (CONT'D)

As good to die and go, as die and  
stay.

Demetrius lets go.

EXT. SPORTS CENTRE - DAY

Helena sees this and screams.

EXT. PASSAGEWAY - DAY

Demetrius lands on top of Egeus's car with a crunch.

From the other side of the maths block, the herd of furies hear this and head towards the car.

Demetrius rolls off the car onto the ground. He gets to his feet and hobbles towards Helena and the sports centre.

The furies are after him and much faster.

Demetrius keeps going but he's never going to make it. He looks back to see Egeus jump down from the roof and land well. He joins the pursuit.

Demetrius looks ahead to Helena at the sports centre door.

HELENA  
Sweet, now, make haste!

DEMETRIUS  
Shut the doors upon me!

Helena refuses; she's distraught. Theseus is at her shoulder.

THESEUS  
Let the doors be shut upon him!

HELENA  
Ay, like a dastard and a  
treacherous coward!

She pushes him away and screams.

HELENA (CONT'D)  
Demetrius!

Demetrius can't go on. He turns to the furies and raises his hand in surrender.

Egeus leads the herd towards him.

EGEUS  
If you have tears, prepare to shed  
them now.

The dismembered head of a police officer flies through the air, hits Egeus on the head, knocking him down.

The other furies stop.

The head-thrower is Lysander. He stands between Demetrius and the furies, blocking their path.

Hermia helps Demetrius to his feet and helps him to the safety of the sports centre. Demetrius looks back.

Lysander single-handedly faces off the entire herd of furies.

DEMETRIUS

Now, by the Gods, I do applaud his courage.

Lysander addresses the furies.

LYSANDER

On, on, you noblest English. Whose blood is fet from fathers of war-proof! Fathers that, like so many Alexanders, have in these parts from morn till even fought and sheathed their swords for lack of argument: dishonour not your mothers; now attest that those whom you call'd fathers did beget you. Be copy now to men of grosser blood, and teach them how to war.

Egeus stands, disorientated.

LYSANDER (CONT'D)

And you, good yeoman, whose limbs were made in England, show us here the mettle of your pasture; let us swear that you are worth your breeding; which I doubt not; for there is none of you so mean and base, that hath not noble lustre in your eyes. I see you stand like greyhounds in the slips, straining upon the start.

He has the furies in the palm of his hand.

LYSANDER (CONT'D)

The game's afoot: follow your spirit, and upon this charge cry 'God for Harry, England, and Saint George!'

With a roar Lysander runs towards the wood. The furies roar in support and follow him.

Leaving the school deserted and fury-free.

INT. DISUSED CHURCH - DAY

Oberon, out cold, tied to a chair. He comes round and the fury in him has gone.

Sitting in the pews, watching him, are Puck and Bottom.

PUCK  
Welcome, brave captain and  
victorious lord!

Oberon takes a moment to collect his thoughts then total recall hits him - Titania's revenge.

OBERON  
What a brazen-fac'd varlet!

EXT. ATHENS PUBLIC SCHOOL - DAY

A police officer questions Theseus, Helena, Hermia and a patched-up Demetrius.

POLICE OFFICER  
Who began this bloody fray?

THESEUS  
Butchers and villains! Bloody  
cannibals! All incontinent varlets!  
A thousand fiends, a thousand  
hissing snakes, ten thousand  
swelling toads, as many urchins,  
would make such fearful and  
confused cries as any mortal body  
hearing it should straight fall  
mad, or else die suddenly.

The police officer looks to the students for confirmation.

HELENA  
'Twas a rough night.

EXT. WOOD - DAY

Lysander asleep in a pile of leaves. His eyes creek open. The fury has left him.

He lifts his head and sees sleeping ravers strewn throughout the wood.

He gets to his feet and looks around to orientate himself. He sees a sleeper he recognises: Egeus. He wakes him.

LYSANDER  
How now, Sir Hugh? No school to-day?

EGEUS  
I shall reply amazedly, half sleep,  
half waking: but as yet, I swear, I  
cannot truly say how I came here.

LYSANDER  
Let us every one go home, and by  
the way let us recount our dreams.

EGEUS  
Never talk of it.

LYSANDER  
I mean, my lord --

EGEUS  
No mention of me more must be heard  
of. Whatsoever else shall hap to-  
night, give it an understanding but  
no tongue. Swear by my sword.

LYSANDER  
By Jupiter, I swear.

EGEUS  
No more words: away!

Egeus marches back towards school. Lysander follows.

EXT. ATHENS PUBLIC SCHOOL - DAY

Hermia, Helena and Demetrius in recovery.

HELENA  
Were such things here as we do  
speak about?

DEMETRIUS  
We that are true lovers run into  
strange capers.

HELENA  
So methinks; and I have found  
Demetrius like a jewel, mine own,  
and not mine own.

DEMETRIUS  
By Heaven, I love thee better than  
myself.

Hermia is miles away. Helena puts a reassuring hand on her arm.

HELENA  
I am sorry for't: the man is a  
proper man, of mine honour.

HERMIA  
He was excellent indeed.

DEMETRIUS  
Still thus!

Demetrius looks towards the wood.

Hermia and Helena follow his gaze and see Lysander and Egeus striding towards them from the wood.

Hermia runs to them. Lysander runs to her. They embrace as everyone greets them like returning heroes.

HERMIA  
O hero, what a hero hadst thou  
been!

DEMETRIUS  
Your hero, every man's hero.

HELENA  
Our most valiant brother.

HERMIA  
O, how I love thee! How I dote on  
thee!

LYSANDER  
I love thee; by my life, I do: I  
swear by that which I will lose for  
thee, to prove him false that says  
I love thee not. We two must go  
together.

They look at Theseus.

THESEUS  
You must hold the credit of your  
father.

They all look at Egeus.

HERMIA  
Father, your blessing.

DEMETRIUS  
Believe me, sir, they butt together  
well.

All eyes on Egeus. He appears to melt and takes Hermia's hand, then his face hardens.

EGEUS  
Get thee to a nunnery!

INT. HERMIA AND HELENA'S DORM, LANCASTER HOUSE - NIGHT

Helena, at her laptop, scrolls through photos of couples on a non-specific social media site.

She types a comment under a photo:

Thou art as wise as thou art beautiful.

Another photo, another comment:

More fairer than fair, beautiful than beauteous, truer  
than truth itself

Pleased with her efforts, she shuts down her computer.

EXT. CRICKET PITCH, ATHENS PUBLIC SCHOOL - DAY

A bowler starts his run-up. He bowls a wicked, fast ball.

Which the batsman, Demetrius, hits back over the bowler's head with consummate ease.

Demetrius strides to the bowler and shakes his hand.

DEMETRIUS  
I do say thou art quick. Very  
notably discharged.

In the crowd Helena applauds vigorously.

INT. CHAPEL, NUNNERY - DAY

Hermia, at prayers, the soul of piety.

INT. CORRIDOR, NUNNERY - DAY

Hermia escorted to her chamber by a nun.

HERMIA  
Farewell, dear sister.

Hermia exits into her chamber.

INT. CHAMBER, NUNNERY - DAY

Hermia closes the door, waits a moment to be sure the coast is clear, then opens her window to reveal --

-- Lysander's beaming face.

LYSANDER  
How now, my headstrong!

Hermia gives him a huge kiss and, without breaking lips, pulls him into the room.

EXT. NUNNERY - DAY

Lysander has used a ladder to get to her chamber window. As his feet disappear into the room, the ladder falls away.

FADE TO BLACK.

Superimpose: SOME TWO MONTHS HENCE

EXT. THE BUZZARD NIGHTCLUB - NIGHT

Parked across the road from the "The Buzzard" is a limo.

INT. LIMO - NIGHT

The clock on the dashboard ticks over from 23.59 19 August to 0.00 20 August.

The partition is up. In the front Puck reads "Homo Deus - Yuval Noah Harari". Bottom is deep in thought.

PUCK  
What a piece of work is man.  
There's nothing level in our cursed  
natures but direct villainy.

Bottom mulls this over, then:

BOTTOM

The web of our life is of a mingled  
yarn, good and ill together.

PUCK

There's a stewed phrase indeed.

BOTTOM

Be of good cheer, youth. How much  
better is it to weep at joy than to  
joy at weeping!

Bottom smiles, disconcerting Puck.

PUCK

Hast thou drunk?

BOTTOM

The time of life is short! To spend  
that shortness basely were too  
long.

Puck, totally unnerved, returns to his book.

BOTTOM (CONT'D)

I mean to take my leave. For good.

PUCK

What means this? When?

BOTTOM

To-morrow; to-day; presently.

PUCK

Where?

BOTTOM

Iceland.

PUCK

Pish for thee, Iceland! And what  
wilt thou do?

Bottom thinks long and hard about this, before:

BOTTOM

I will go lose myself. We know what  
we are, but know not what we may  
be.

Puck looks at his book, which holds no interest anymore. He throws it on the dashboard.

PUCK  
I shall miss thee.

Bottom sees that he has saddened Puck so leans over to him:

BOTTOM  
Shall we dance?

Puck smiles. The partition lowers; Oberon is in the back.

OBERON  
Once more unto the breach, dear  
friends, once more.

INT. THE BUZZARD NIGHTCLUB - NIGHT

Titania, with a new look, DJs to a slim crowd.

Amongst the crowd is a raver with a red pill. He takes it.

Titania looks round at the other ravers. They all have red pills and they all take them.

At the back Puck is dealing. Bottom guards the door.

Titania is trapped.

She looks offstage and sees Oberon. He offers his hand: a chance to save herself.

She stares at him in horror --

-- but it's an act. Her expression changes to a smug smile.

Behind Oberon are two police officers.

All the ravers in the crowd spit out the red pills. They're all police officers.

A couple of officers arrest Puck. Three are required to arrest Bottom.

Titania keeps DJ-ing. She shouts into the mic:

TITANIA  
If music be the food of love, play  
ooooooooon --

CUT TO BLACK.

THE END