

TWELFTH NIGHT 3.4 in Modern English

SIR TOBY Hello, sir!

CESARIO Hello to you!

SIR TOBY BELCH You'd better think up a way to defend yourself. I don't know what you've done to upset him, but someone has challenged you to a duel. He's riled up and bloodthirsty, and he's waiting for you at the back of the orchard. Draw your sword and get on your toes, because your assailant is quick, skillful, and deadly.

CESARIO There must be some mistake, sir. I'm sure nobody would have any reason to fight with me. I can't remember anything I've ever done to offend anyone.

SIR TOBY BELCH You're wrong about that, I assure you. So if you value your life at all, be on your guard.

CESARIO But who is this person, sir?

SIR TOBY BELCH He's a knight, but when he's fighting a civilian he's a real monster. He's killed three people!

CESARIO I'll go back inside. I'm not a fighter.

SIR TOBY BELCH No, sir. He's furious because you insulted him, and he has a right to satisfaction. So go out there and give him what he wants.

CESARIO This is as rude as it is strange. Please, do me this one favor: find out what I've done to offend this knight. It must be something I did accidentally.

SIR TOBY BELCH I will do so. Mr. Fabian, stay with this gentleman until I come back.

SIR TOBY exits.

CESARIO Excuse me, sir, do you know anything about this?

FABIAN I know the knight is furious with you!

CESARIO What kind of man is he?

FABIAN He really is the most skillful, bloodthirsty, and dangerous opponent you can find!

CESARIO I'm much more of a religious type than a fighter, and I don't care who knows it.

SIR TOBY BELCH Wow, he's a real devil. I've never seen such a monster.

SIR ANDREW That's it! I won't mess with him.

SIR TOBY BELCH Yes, but now there's no way to calm him down. Fabian can hardly control him over there.

SIR ANDREW Darn it, let it go!

FABIAN and CESARIO enter.

SIR TOBY (to FABIAN) I've persuaded him that the young man is a fighting machine.

FABIAN He's just as terrified of Sir Andrew. He's pale and hyperventilating, as if a bear were chasing him.

SIR TOBY BELCH (to CESARIO) There's nothing you can do about it, sir. He insists on fighting with you because he swore he would.

CESARIO God help me!

FABIAN Back off if he seems really furious.

SIR TOBY BELCH Come on, Sir Andrew, there's no way out! He must fight you now for the sake of his honor.

SIR ANDREW God help me!

FABIAN Come on, get started!

CESARIO I am not doing this willingly!

They draw their swords.

ANTONIO enters.

ANTONIO Put your sword away. If this young gentleman has offended you, I'll take the blame for it. If you've offended him, I'll fight you.

SIR TOBY BELCH You, sir? Who are you?

ANTONIO I'm just a good friend of his. In fact, I'd do even more to him than what you've heard him promise to do.

SIR TOBY BELCH If you're someone who gets into fights, I'll fight with you.