English

Viola

Play: *Twelfth Night*



Favourite quotes:

What country, friends, is this?

(Where am I?)

Viola's ship was wrecked. She was saved by the Captain, but she does not know where she is.

My brother he is in Elysium, Perchance he is not downed.

(My brother is in heaven, Or perhaps he did not drown)

Viola's brother was lost in the shipwreck. She says that he is probably in heaven, but hopes he did not drown.

I am the man!

Viola disguises herself as a boy, called Cesario.

Disguise, I see, thou art a wickedness.

(I see my disguise is causing problems.)

Viola calls her disguise wicked, because it causes a noble woman, called Olivia, to fall in love with her!

I swear, I am not that I play.

(I promise, I am not a boy)

Viola says this to Olivia. She wants Olivia to see that she is not a boy, but a girl.

What happens to you in the play?

I am shipwrecked in a strange country called Illyria. I lose my twin brother, Sebastian, at sea. I am sure he is dead. I disguise myself as a boy, and use the name Cesario. I look just like my brother.

I find work as Duke Orsino's servant. He loves Olivia. He asks me to deliver messages of love to her, but Olivia doesn't love Orsino back… instead she falls in love with me, thinking I am a man! I try to put her off, without revealing my true identity.

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Meanwhile, I fall in love with my master, Orsino, but I have to keep it a secret. He thinks that women don't feel love as strongly as men. I make him see that women's emotions are just as powerful as men's.

The next time I see Olivia, she says that she is married to me! I think she's gone mad… but she's right… well, sort of. It turns out that my twin, Sebastian, is actually alive and has made it to Illyria! It was him that married Olivia, not me.

I am finally reunited with my brother. I can take my disguise off, and explain to everyone that I am actually a woman. I can finally tell Orsino that I love him, and I am happy to say that he loves me too! We agree to get married.

What problems or dilemmas do you face in the story?

First of all, I have to decide how I will survive in a strange country, when I have lost everything in the shipwreck.

There are many times when I want to take my disguise off, and reveal my real identity. I want to show Olivia who I truly am, so that she will stop loving me. I want to show Orsino who I truly am so we can be together.

I love Orsino, he loves Olivia, and Olivia loves me! This is certainly a strange dilemma. How on earth will we sort it out? It is too hard a knot for me to untie.

What do you look like?

At the beginning of the story, I am wearing a tattered dress. I am bedraggled, as I have just survived a shipwreck.

When I reach land, I decide to dress as a man, and I call myself Cesario. This is so that I can feel safe, and get a good job. When I put on men's clothes, I look just like my twin brother, Sebastian. People often say I look very young. They say I look more like a boy than a man.

People think that I am a very pretty boy, though. Olivia says my looks are 'perfection'. Orsino thinks I am handsome, and even grumpy old Malvolio calls me 'very well-favoured.'

It is only Orsino that notices how feminine I am. He says I have a high pitched voice, and lips that are soft and smooth…just like a girl!

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What am I like?

I am very close to my brother Sebastian. I was so sure he had died in the shipwreck, and it broke my heart.

I am a sympathetic person. When someone is sad, like Orsino, or grieving someone they loved, like Olivia, I do my best to help them… even when I am grieving my own brother. I try to put my own feelings aside and look after others. However, I am not afraid to be strong and to tell people what they don't want to hear. I am gentle, but firm. I don't like fighting, though.

I am very determined. I want to be independent… even if that means I have to become a boy! I hate lying though. It has been so hard to know that I am deceiving people with my disguise. I don't like hiding the truth. I am a bit of a romantic. I fall in love quickly, and I guess you might say I'm a bit dramatic! I'm witty, and good with my words. And the one thing I hate most in others is in gratitude. I think its important to be thankful for what you have.

How do I change over time?

I start the play believing that my brother is dead. When I find out that he is alive, I am so happy. I'm also happy because I have found love with Orsino. And to make things even more wonderful, my brother has found love with Olivia!

At first, I think it is a great idea to disguise myself as a man to be more independent… but I start to regret that decision when things start to get complicated. I hate all the confusion that my disguise is causing! I feel so free when I can finally reveal myself. I spend so much time hiding my feelings for Orsino. When I am finally able to tell him how I feel, and learn that he loves me too, I feel so happy.

How does my personality affect my actions?

I am likeable, sympathetic and friendly. This means people like to be my friend. They ask for my advice, and tell me their secrets. I think that is why both Olivia, and eventually Orsino, fall in love with me!

I am determined and very courageous. Many people would give up if they were washed up in a strange land, but not me. I was determined to succeed, even if that meant dressing up as my brother!

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I am good at hiding my emotions, but I hate lying. The more I lied, the more confusing things got!

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What I'm interested in

I am good at singing and making music. I love to play with words and language, and sometimes I'm very funny! I can even speak French.

What I'm afraid of

I am afraid of never seeing my brother again. I am sure he must have died on the shipwreck, but some part of me keeps hoping that he might still be alive.

I am afraid of being lonely. Without Sebastian, I have no one. I am also afraid of Orsino finding out who I really am. He might be angry with me for lying to him, and he might throw me out of his household. Then I will have nothing, and no-one.

Who do I get on with?

Orsino and I have a special relationship. We talk about everything. If only he knew how much I love our time together.

Olivia really likes me. I don't know what has charmed her, whether it is my looks or my personality!

Who do I clash with?

Olivia has a servant called Malvolio. He is a very strange, very grumpy man. He doesn't seem to like me. I think he wishes Olivia loved him, rather than me!

What am I most proud of?

I am proud of myself for working out a way to survive without my brother. My whole life changed on the day of the shipwreck. I had nothing, and no one. But I decided to get up, be brave, and create a new life.

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How have I been portrayed?

English



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