

**Audition Side: Love's Labour's Lost | Costard**

*Note: Sides have been abridged for auditions.*

**Act 1 Scene 1: King of Navarre, Berowne, Costard, Dull the Constable**

COSTARD The matter is to me, sir, as concerning Jaquenetta. The manner of it is, I was taken with the manner.

BEROWNE In what manner?

COSTARD In manner and form following, sir, all those three. I was seen with her in the manor house, sitting with her upon the form, and taken following her into the park, which, put together, is "in manner and form following." Now, sir, for the manner. It is the manner of a man to speak to a woman. For the form—in some form.

BEROWNE For the "following," sir?

COSTARD As it shall follow in my correction, and God defend the right.

KING Will you hear this letter with attention?

BEROWNE As we would hear an oracle.

COSTARD Such is the simplicity of man to hearken after the flesh.

KING *reads* Great deputy, the welkin's vicegerent and sole dominator of Navarre, my soul's earth's god, and body's fost'ring patron—

COSTARD Not a word of Costard yet.

KING *reads* So it is—

COSTARD It may be so, but if he say it is so, he is, in telling true, but so.

KING Peace.

COSTARD Be to me, and every man that dares not fight.

KING No words.

COSTARD Of other men's secrets, I beseech you.

KING *reads* So it is, besieged with sable-colored melancholy, I did commend the oppressing humor to the most wholesome physic of thy health-giving air; and, as I am a gentleman, betook myself to walk. Then for the place where—where, I mean, I did encounter that obscene and most prepost'rous event that draweth from my snow-white pen the ebon-colored ink, which here thou viewest, beholdest, surveyest, or seest. There did I see that low-spirited swain, that base minnow of thy mirth,—

COSTARD Me?

KING *reads* that unlettered, small-knowing soul,—

COSTARD Me?

KING *reads* that shallow vassal,—

COSTARD Still me?

KING *reads* which, as I remember, hight Costard,—

COSTARD O, me!

KING *reads* sorted and consorted, contrary to thy established proclaimed edict and continent canon, which with—O with—but with this I passion to say wherewith—

COSTARD With a wench.

KING *reads* with a child of our grandmother Eve, a female; or, for thy more sweet understanding, a woman: him, I, as my ever-esteemed duty pricks me on, have sent to thee, to receive the meed of punishment by thy sweet Grace's officer, Anthony Dull, a man of good repute, carriage, bearing, and estimation.

DULL Me, an 't shall please you. I am Anthony Dull.

KING *reads* For Jaquenetta—so is the weaker vessel called which I apprehended with the aforesaid swain—I keep her as a vessel of thy law's fury, and shall, at the least of thy sweet notice, bring her to trial. Thine, in all compliments of devoted and heartburning heat of duty,  
Don Adriano de Armado.

BEROWNE This is not so well as I looked for, but the best that ever I heard.

KING Ay, the best, for the worst. [To Costard.] But, sirrah, what say you to this?

COSTARD Sir, I confess the wench.

KING Did you hear the proclamation?

COSTARD I do confess much of the hearing it, but little of the marking of it.

KING It was proclaimed a year's imprisonment to be taken with a wench.

COSTARD I was taken with none, sir. I was taken with a damsel.

KING Well, it was proclaimed "damsel."

COSTARD This was no damsel neither, sir. She was a virgin.

BEROWNE It is so varied too, for it was proclaimed "virgin."

COSTARD If it were, I deny her virginity. I was taken with a maid.

KING This "maid" will not serve your turn, sir.

COSTARD This maid will serve my turn, sir.

KING Sir, I will pronounce your sentence: you shall fast a week with bran and water.

COSTARD I had rather pray a month with mutton and porridge.