

Reading Shakespeare: <http://readingshakespeare.org>
Mary Ellen Dakin

A Midsummer Night's Dream Film Script
Joseph Dreeszen

ACT IV, Scene 1

EXTERIOR / ANOTHER PART OF THE WOOD / AFTERNOON

(Trees surround a small opening in the woods, which is filled with high grass. Birds are singing and small animals run by. It is a peaceful place. Puck is seen hiding behind a tree. He drops "Cupid's Flower" near a stream. When he tries to grab for it, Bottom awakens. The camera is looking right at the grass, which begins to move in odd ways, because Bottom, who we don't see yet, is stretching and yawning and making odd, bellowing noises. Suddenly, Bottom stands up in the grass, which is almost as high as his chest.)

BOTTOM

(Shouting to the trees) When my cue comes, call me, and I will answer. My next is *(he lifts his index finger)* "Most fair Pyramus." Hey-ho! *(Camera zooms in on Bottom's face, which looks confused. He looks around, yelling names.)* Peter Quince! Flute the bellows-mender! Snout the tinker! *(Now he sounds nervous and doubtful and almost whimpers)* Starveling! *(Camera pulls away to show Bottom standing alone in the grassy field)* *(Camera zooms back to Bottom)* God's my life! Stolen hence and left me *(he chuckles)* asleep! *(Shakes his head in disbelief; speaks with growing awe)* I have had a most rare vision. I have had a dream past the wit of man to say what dream it was. Man is but an ass if he go about to expound this dream. Methought I was *(a donkey walks by in the background – Bottom turns but doesn't see it; shrugs his shoulders)* – there is no man can tell what. Methought I was and methought I had *(reaches above his head to feel for donkey ears, then runs to a nearby stream to see his reflection. Speaks defiantly now)* but man is but a patched fool if he will offer to say what methought I had. *(He sees "Cupid's Flower," picks it up, talks to it with affection)* The eye of man hath not heard, the ear of man hath not seen, man's hand is not able to taste, his tongue to conceive, nor his heart to report what my dream was. *(Points finger into the air)* I will get Peter Quince to write a ballad of this dream. It shall be called "Bottom's Dream" *(makes "marquee finger" gestures as though he sees his name in lights)* because it *(pauses in thought, then quickly says)* hath no bottom; and I will sing it in the latter end of a play, *(sounds proud)* before the Duke. Peradventure, to make it the more gracious, I shall *(stops: sees Titania running in the forest; then sadly says)* sing it at her death. *(Looks down and drops the flower into the stream)*

[Exit.]

(Camera follows flower in water, then fades to black)

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