

As You Like It

Character description (11-30-18)

CHAFFEY COLLEGE by Kelly Ford-Kaminski

Duke Senior, living in exile in the Forest of Arden, he is the brother of Duke Frederick and the father of Rosalind. He is the rightful ruler of the dukedom in which the play is set and although he did not put up much of a fight to keep his dukedom, he seems to make the most of what life gives him. Living in the Forest of Arden he claims to learn as much from stones and brooks as he would in a church or library. He proves himself to be a kind and fair-minded ruler.

Amiens, a lord/lady attending Duke Senior.

Jaques, a faithful lord/lady attending Duke Senior. She is an example of a stock figure in Elizabethan comedy, a woman possessed of a hopelessly melancholy disposition. Like a spectator, she watches and judges the actions of other characters without ever fully participating. At the end of the play she resolves to assume a solitary and contemplative life in a convent.

Rosalind, the daughter of the banished Duke Senior, she falls in love with Orlando and by dressing as a man (Ganymede), woos Orlando. Considered one of Shakespeare's most delightful heroines, she is independent minded, strong-willed, good-hearted, and terribly clever. She teaches those around her to think, feel, and love better than they have previously.

Touchstone, a clown, a court fool. Although his job is to criticize the behavior and point out the folly of those around him, he fails to do so with even a fraction of Rosalind's grace. Almost every line he speaks echoes with bawdy innuendo.

Duke Frederick, Duke Senior's brother, and usurper of his throne. His cruel nature and volatile temper are displayed when he banishes Rosalind, his niece from court. Even Celia, his own daughter cannot mitigate his unfounded anger. He eventually changes his ways and therefore gives credence to the fact the humans can change for the better.

Le beau, a courtier attending Duke Frederick's court

Charles, a wrestler to Duke Frederick's court. Charles demonstrates both his caring nature and his political savvy when he asks Oliver to intercede in his upcoming fight with Orlando; he does not want to injure the young man. But his concern proves unwarranted when Orlando beats him senseless.

Celia, the daughter of Duke Frederick and Rosalind's dearest friend. Her devotion to Rosalind is unmatched as she follows Rosalind into exile. She has an immediate devotion to Oliver, who she marries at the end of the play; Celia possesses a loving heart, but is prone to deep, almost excessive emotions.

Orlando, the youngest son of Rowland de Boys, he falls in love with Rosalind. He is an attractive young man who under his brother's neglectful care, has languished without a gentleman's education or training. He is a fitting hero for the play, and though he proves no match for her wit or poetry, the most obvious romantic match for Rosalind.

Oliver, Orlando's elder brother, another son of Sir Rowland de Boys, he plots against Orlando and ends up falling in love with Celia. He admits to hating Orlando without cause or reason and goes to great lengths to ensure his brother's downfall. Through a turn of events, Orlando ends up saving Oliver's life. This display of undeserved generosity prompts Oliver to change himself into a better, more loving person.

Jaques/Jacqui, Orlando's and Oliver's sister/brother, a daughter/son of Sir Rowland de Boys.

Adam/Amanda, a servant to Oliver and friend to Orlando she was the elderly servant of Sir Rowland. Having witnessed Orlando's hardships, she agrees to follow Orlando into exile, using her own modest

life's savings. She is a model of loyalty and devoted service.

Dennis/Denise. servant to Oliver

Sir Oliver Martext, a parish priest

Corin/Corinne, a shepherdess who attempts to counsel her friend Silvius in the ways of love.

Silvius, a young suffering shepherd in love with Phoebe, who refuses to return his affections.

Phoebe, a young shepherdess, who disdains the affections of Silvius. She falls in love with Ganymede (Rosalind in disguise) but Rosalind tricks Phoebe into marrying Silvius.

William, a country youth in love with Audrey

Audrey, a country wench, a simpleminded goat keeper who agrees to marry Touchstone.

Lord 1, attends Duke Frederick also a denizen of the forest.

Lord 2, attends Duke Frederick also a denizen of the forest.

Lord 1, attends Duke Senior also a denizen of the forest.

Lord 2, attends Duke Senior also a denizen of the forest.