

## The Two Gentlemen of Verona

### SYNOPSIS

#### *The Two Gentleman of Verona*

Valentine sets off from Verona to see the world, while Proteus stays at home because he is in love with Julia. She is also in love with him, but neither knows it, until Lucetta, Julia's servant, shows her a letter Proteus has written. He is reading the reply when his father, Antonio, tells him that he must go to Milan to join Valentine. The lovers say goodbye and swear that they will be true to each other.

In Milan, Proteus finds that Valentine has fallen in love with Silvia, the Duke's daughter, and plans to run away with her so that she does not have to marry the man chosen by her father, Turio. Valentine tells Proteus about his plan, but Proteus, who has fallen in love with Silvia at first sight, betrays the plan to the Duke and Valentine is banished from Milan. In the countryside he meets a band of outlaws and is chosen as their leader.

Meanwhile Julia, disguised as Sebastian, has come to Milan to search for Proteus. Overhearing him declaring his passion for Silvia, she is shocked, but, in disguise, she becomes his servant. When Proteus sends her with a message to Silvia, Julia is happy to discover that Silvia is not interested in Proteus and remains faithful to Valentine. Silvia escapes into the forest to find Valentine. The Duke and Turio pursue her, followed by Proteus and Julia. Silvia is captured by the outlaws and then rescued by Proteus, who, finding that she still rejects him, tries to rape her. Valentine arrives and stops him. Proteus is forced to admit what he has done. Julia reveals her true identity and a reconciliation begins.

Media:

DVD:

*The Two Gentlemen of Verona* (BBC TV Shakespeare 1983), dir. Don Taylor

CD Audio:

Songs from the 1972 musical *Two Gentlemen of Verona*

*The Two Gentlemen of Verona* (Arkangel Complete Shakespeare)

[Michael Mitchell]