

A Midsummer Night #nofilter By Brett Wright Reviewed by Joshua Radford

Name: Joshua Radford

Grade: 12

Book Title: A Midsummer Night #nofilter

Author: William Shakespeare, Brett Wright

Number of Pages: 86

Rating (On A Scale of 1-5): 1

Character List:

- **Hermia, Lysander, Helena, Demetrius** - Hermia is being forced to marry Demetrius, a man she doesn't love. While she really loves Lysander, Helena really loves Demetrius, unrequitedly so. A love *square* if you will.
- **Egeus** - Egeus is the father of Hermia who sets our story in motion by forcing the hand of his daughter to Demetrius.
- **Oberon** - Oberon is the king of the fairies. His petty marriage squabbles lead him to hire the mischievous Puck to use love potion on his wife and our love square; make them love the "right" people..
- **Titania** - Stubborn in her husband's attempts to knight an Indian prince. Eventually caught in the confusing mess caused by the love potion, she falls in love with a man with the head of a donkey, serving as the hyperbole of the plot's absurdity.
- **Puck** - Puck is a naive trickster. He is given the order by Oberon to alter Titania's will and also the fix our love square. But his tricks just screw everything up.

Review:

This isn't your typical Shakespearean story. It is a redesigning of "A Midsummer Night's Dream" in the language and visual style of a text chat. No longer do actual scenes occur between two speaking characters, but a series of emojis and casual, acronymical phrases awkwardly thrown together in a retelling of a Shakespearean classic. It starts with a distraught Egeus marching into Theseus' court with his daughter whom he wants to force to marry to Demetrius, who loves her. She is in love with Lysander and they plan to run away together, all the while Hermia's friend Helena is lovingly fighting for Demetrius' love. By pure coincidence, Theseus is to marry in a few days. The fairy king, Oberon, separate from the rest, is looking for revenge on his wife, hiring Puck to manipulate her with a love potion and, meanwhile, to make everything work with the four "lovers" now chasing each other through the forest, no one getting what they truly want. Puck is hasty and irresponsible with his task and now the forest is littered with unrequited love. Weird, right? Well apparently not enough. The "#nofilter" version seen here feels that the whimsical forest fairies and a quartet of lovers just wasn't comedic and silly enough.

Upon further examination, the intent of this book seems to be to satirize Shakespeare with the funny drama of modern texting. These books serve to entertain and increase comprehension of the plot for the reader. But, essentially

"A Midsummer Night's Dream" is a satirization of his cliched "Romeo and Juliet" love story. What we are left with from basic predictable plot is only the expert, revolutionary use of language and syntax that is Shakespeare. This book chose to sterilize all good merit that Shakespeare had. Even compared to their Macbeth retelling, at least that was a serious book that would profit from a comedic reimagining. But, a satire of a satire? It doesn't even serve a purpose. It is beyond lazy to create book with no literary value, no unique insight, and no purposeful social commentary. Nobody, a teen with no Shakespeare experience nor adult just looking for a fun read, will get any value from this book. With other sources or the originals themselves out there, it isn't worth your time.