

EXCERPT OF

*Love-in-Idleness,  
a Horror Play*

© 2025

Ethan Shaw

3616 E. 3920 N. Kimberly, ID 83341

208-749-1373

batmuffin13@gmail.com

Characters:

*the woman/Oberon –*

*20s-40s. Similar age to man. Female-presenting. In love, but exhausted. Not weak but not dominant. Wants the best for the man but wants the best for herself more than anything else: a baby. She/her.*

*Ageless. Gender presentation could be any but should remain constant throughout Oberon's lines. Masculine characteristics and he/him pronouns, but not necessarily "male". Powerful and Intelligent. Extremely so - but not the "classic Oberon" either. Afraid.*

*the man/Puck –*

*20s-40s. Similar age to woman. Male-presenting. In love, but exhausted. Not dominant but not weak. Wants the best for the woman but wants the best for himself more than anything else: love. He/him.*

*Ageless: so much so that they could appear older or waaayyyy younger than Oberon. Zealous and eager. Gender presentation should not be hyper-masculine but not the "classic Puck" either that is young and solely mercurial.*

*Doctor – a voice-over role. Any age. Male-presenting voice. Should have a physical or photonic representation onstage.*

*Scene transitions should be quick. woman should do as much of the transition as possible without man being inactive.*

*Lack of punctuation reflects the emptiness/confusion in the characters, not speed. Line shortness comes from interruption by self or by others. Brackets indicate unspoken intention of the line.*

*IMPORTANT: The events of this play are in reverse chronological order unless stated otherwise. One very specific and iconic physical position must take place in each "scene." Suggestions are **bolded** in stage directions, though your production may reveal other options in its staging.*

*man and woman mostly never leave stage. There should be a physical or photonic representation*

*of man and woman when Puck and/or Oberon are onstage.*

*“FX” = “effects”. Indicates a non-realistic moment of movement, lighting, sound, or a combination with something else that is consistent throughout the show to help with the scene transitions.*

*Scene: Bedroom*

**woman stands over man who is sleeping in bed**, covered. She crosses to a couch, which has her own blankets/pillows on it. FX.

*Scene: Home*

*woman gets ready for bed while giving man the silent treatment. man has been giving woman the silent treatment but now fights to find the right thing to say, assessing his situation as he looks at some paperwork from doctor’s office.*

man

hey- [what’s the matter?]

woman responds silently.

it’s- [not going to be like this forever]

woman continues to get ready for bed. man slides her schedule, mischevously.

man

babe

woman gets into bed and begins to go to sleep. man gets the idea to act like a monkey. Starts slow and escalates to facetious antagonizing but remains a tactic to flirt. He moves to tickle her. She bats his arm away. Stare down.

woman

--

man mischievously smiles. Moves to tickle again.

woman

(more aggressively)

--

man aggressively moves to tickle again.

woman

NO

man resumes monkey shenanigans, going all-out with tickling woman.

woman

*(ad lib. – enjoying the tickles)*

HEY. NO. NO. AH. HAHAHHAHA HEY NO stop that no please HEY NO I DON'T LIKE IT

**woman is pinned. Stare down** again. Heavy breathing. Tension. Spicccyyy. man disguises another move to tickle as a swoop to kiss. *Ad lib* joyful, laughing noises. Suddenly and accidentally, woman pokes man in the eye. man steps away quickly, very upset, very hurt.

woman

ohmygosh

i'm so sorry

hey-

man pushes her away. Stare down. Slowly and purposefully, not angrily, man goes to bed, starts to gather some bedding to move to the couch but woman beats him to it and takes her stuff to the couch. man takes sleeping medication with water and begins to go to bed. Robin enters, voicing woman's thoughts/wishes:

ROBIN

(Referencing the sleeping medication)

Flower of this purple dye,

Hit with Cupid's archery,  
Sink in apple of his eye.  
When his love he doth espy,  
Beg of her for remedy.

**CONTACT PLAYWRIGHT FOR FULL SCRIPT**