



As You Like It

At a time when France was divided into Dukedoms, there reigned in one of them a usurper, Duke Frederick.

Duke Frederick had driven out his brother, but had kept the latter's daughter Rosalind behind as company for his own daughter, Celia. The two girls were close friends in spite of the enmity between their fathers.

One day Duke Frederick invited Celia and Rosalind to watch a wrestling match. The match was won by a stranger who then revealed himself as Orlando, the son of a friend of the banished Duke.

1. When the usurper heard this, his liking for the boy at once changed to displeasure. Although Orlando's father had died, in his lifetime he had been a loyal subject of the rightful Duke, and Duke Frederick hated to be reminded of his banished brother or his friends. Ill-humoured, he left the courtyard.



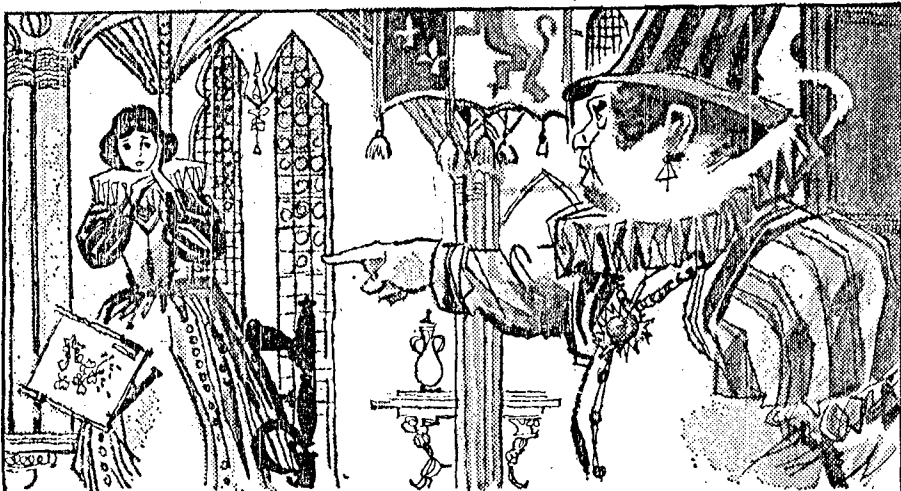
2. Rosalind was delighted to hear that Orlando was a son of her father's old friend. "Had I known before," she told Celia, "I would have added tears to my pleas for him not to endanger his life in such an unequal fight."



3. They soon helped him to recover from the Duke's unexpected ill-will. Then as they took leave of Orlando, Rosalind hung back. Once Celia had gone, Rosalind undid the gold chain she wore, and gave it to Orlando, saying, "Wear this for me."



4. Later, Rosalind did nothing but talk about the handsome young wrestler, and Celia knew that her cousin was in love with Orlando.



5. When the Duke heard the girls talking about Orlando, he angrily ordered Rosalind to leave the palace, and follow her father into exile. He had only let her stay on Celia's account.

6. In vain Celia pleaded with her father not to banish Rosalind. Then, since she loved her cousin dearly, she resolved to go with her.

