

Nickopedia's version of *Twelfth Night or As You Like It*

Welcome to the Hotel Illyrium! It's here that a young Viola stumbles to after she washes ashore from the shipwreck that she thinks killed her twin brother, Sebastian. She does what anyone would do when they move into a new town...puts on a disguise to make herself look like a man and tells everyone her name is "Cesario"!

Cesario (a.k.a. Viola in disguise) goes to work for the Duke Orsino as a servant. The Duke sends Cesario to beg the Lady Olivia every day to marry him. But Cesario (Viola) turns out to be the worst wingman ever when Olivia falls in love with him(her) instead of Duke!

Meanwhile, just down the hall from Olivia, hijinks and pranks ensue between the hotel staff and Olivia's guests! It's time to introduce...the Fools! Olivia's cousin The Lady Toby, her maid Maria, and her hapless pursuer Sir Andrew Aguecheek stay up until late at night in the lobby tormenting the concierge Malvolio. All it takes is a fake letter and a little sneaking around to convince Malvolio that Olivia is in love with him, and that to steal her affections, all he has to do is dress up in tights and profess his love to her to seal the deal!

With the Duke's affections set on Olivia, Olivia's on Viola in disguise as Cesario, and Viola's turning towards the Duke...it's a regular love triangle. And then wouldn't you know who shows back up? Sebastian, the brother Viola thought she lost at sea! Just at the perfect moment too.

Everyone in the hotel thinks he's their new best friend Cesario! Sebastian is confused as to why everyone in this crazy hotel seems to know him, but he doesn't ask any questions when the beautiful Olivia asks to marry him (thinking he is Cesario)! Meanwhile, Sir Andrew takes it upon himself to challenge this Cesario to a duel for Olivia's hand in marriage, unluckily he runs into Sebastian, who's all too ready for a fight!

You've never seen a case of mistaken identity worse than Sebastian and Cesario just barely missing each other while the staff and residents of the hotel think they're seeing doubles! But, to quote Billy Shakes himself, 'all's well that ends well'. Just when things can't seem to get any worse, Sebastian and Viola (Cesario) finally run into each other! Brother and sister are reunited, Olivia and Sebastian run off into the sunset (trust me, they're madly in love, even though they just met), and Cesario can at last reveal to the Duke that she's really a shipwreck surviving woman named Viola, and the Duke falls in love with her! It's a happy ending for all! Well, all except Malvolio, who swears to get revenge on all the pranksters at the last moment (smells like a Twelfth Night sequel to me). So, enjoy William Shakespeare's Twelfth Night. It's like Gilligan's Island meets Serendipity meets the Parent Trap but it's Shakespeare and in a 1920s hotel... sort of!

By Nick DiJuilo – Assistant Director