

# story of twelfth night by william shakespeare

The Enchanting Story of Twelfth Night by William Shakespeare

**Story of Twelfth Night by William Shakespeare** is one of the most beloved and enduring comedies penned by the Bard. Full of mistaken identities, witty banter, and heartfelt romance, this play continues to captivate audiences centuries after it was first performed. But what exactly makes the story of Twelfth Night so special? Let's dive deep into the plot, characters, themes, and unique elements that have solidified its place in the canon of classic English literature.

## Understanding the Story of Twelfth Night by William Shakespeare

At its core, the story of Twelfth Night by William Shakespeare revolves around themes of love, disguise, and joyful confusion. The play is set in the fictional land of Illyria, where a shipwreck separates twins Viola and Sebastian. Believing her brother to be lost at sea, Viola disguises herself as a young man named Cesario to find work under Duke Orsino.

## Plot Overview: The Dance of Disguise and Desire

Viola's decision to dress as a man sets off a chain of comedic and romantic complications. Serving Duke Orsino, who is hopelessly in love with Lady Olivia, Viola (as Cesario) becomes an intermediary, delivering Orsino's love messages to Olivia. The twist? Olivia falls for Cesario, unaware that Cesario is actually Viola in disguise. Meanwhile, Viola herself develops feelings for Orsino, creating a classic love triangle filled with irony and unspoken affection.

Meanwhile, Sebastian, Viola's twin brother, is alive and also arrives in Illyria, further complicating the narrative. Mistaken identities abound, leading to humorous situations and eventual revelations that untangle the romantic knots.

## Key Characters and Their Roles in the Story of Twelfth Night by William Shakespeare

The brilliance of the story lies not only in its plot but also in its

memorable characters, each contributing uniquely to the unfolding drama.

## **Viola/Cesario: The Heart of the Story**

Viola is arguably the play's protagonist. Her intelligence, courage, and adaptability make her a compelling figure. Her disguise as Cesario is more than a mere plot device—it allows Shakespeare to explore themes of gender fluidity and identity, topics surprisingly modern for a 17th-century work.

## **Duke Orsino: The Lovesick Nobleman**

Orsino's romantic pursuit of Olivia sets the story in motion. His exaggerated expressions of love and melancholy provide both humor and a window into the nature of infatuation and desire.

## **Olivia: The Object of Affection**

Olivia is a wealthy countess mourning her brother's death. Her swift shift from rejecting Orsino's advances to falling for Cesario adds to the play's exploration of love's unpredictability.

## **Supporting Characters: Malvolio, Sir Toby Belch, and Feste**

The story of *Twelfth Night* by William Shakespeare is enriched by its supporting cast, including Malvolio, the pompous steward who becomes the target of a famous prank; Sir Toby Belch, Olivia's rowdy uncle; and Feste, the witty fool who often serves as the voice of reason wrapped in humor. Their interactions provide comic relief and deepen the play's exploration of social class and human folly.

## **Thematic Depth in the Story of *Twelfth Night* by William Shakespeare**

While *Twelfth Night* is often celebrated for its comedic elements, it also delves into complex themes that resonate universally.

## **Love in Its Many Forms**

The play portrays various facets of love: unrequited love, self-love, romantic love, and friendship love. Orsino's idealized love for Olivia contrasts with Olivia's passionate but sudden affection for Cesario. Meanwhile, Viola's silent love for Orsino adds emotional depth, illustrating love's complexity beyond mere attraction.

## **Identity and Disguise**

Viola's cross-dressing challenges traditional gender roles and questions the fluidity of identity. The confusion caused by mistaken identities invites audiences to reflect on how appearances can be deceptive and how true selves can be hidden beneath layers of performance.

## **Festivity and Chaos**

True to its title, the story of Twelfth Night by William Shakespeare captures the spirit of the Twelfth Night holiday, a time of revelry and role reversals. The play revels in chaos and disorder, ultimately restoring harmony and order by its conclusion.

## **Noteworthy Scenes and Their Significance**

Certain scenes in Twelfth Night stand out for their emotional intensity, humor, or thematic richness.

### **Malvolio's Humiliation**

One of the most famous subplots involves Malvolio being tricked into believing Olivia loves him. His ridiculous behavior, including wearing yellow stockings and smiling constantly, makes him a figure of ridicule. This scene highlights the dangers of self-love and social ambition, while also raising questions about cruelty and forgiveness.

### **Viola and Orsino's Conversations**

The exchanges between Viola (as Cesario) and Orsino are filled with subtle irony and emotional tension. Through these dialogues, Shakespeare explores the nature of love and the pain of unspoken feelings.

## The Reunion of Twins

The climax of the play involves the touching reunion of Viola and Sebastian, resolving the confusion and bringing emotional closure. This moment underscores themes of family, identity, and reconciliation.

## Why the Story of Twelfth Night by William Shakespeare Remains Relevant Today

The enduring popularity of Twelfth Night lies in its universal themes and vibrant characters. The play's exploration of love's complexities, identity, and social dynamics continues to resonate with modern audiences. Its humor is timeless, and its insights into human nature remain profound.

Moreover, contemporary adaptations often highlight its themes of gender fluidity and the performative aspects of identity, making it a favorite subject in discussions about gender and sexuality.

## Tips for Reading or Watching Twelfth Night

If you're new to Shakespeare or Twelfth Night specifically, here are some pointers to enhance your experience:

- **Pay attention to language:** Shakespeare's poetic expressions can be challenging but are rich in meaning. Reading with annotations or watching performances with subtitles can help.
- **Focus on characters:** Understanding each character's motivations clarifies the plot's twists and turns.
- **Enjoy the humor:** Much of the comedy comes from wordplay and situational irony—don't rush; savor the wit.
- **Consider historical context:** Knowing about Elizabethan social norms enriches understanding of the play's themes.
- **Explore multiple interpretations:** Different productions may emphasize various aspects, from slapstick comedy to deep emotional drama.

# **Final Reflections on the Story of Twelfth Night by William Shakespeare**

The story of Twelfth Night by William Shakespeare is a masterful blend of humor, romance, and insightful commentary on human nature. Its playful plot, filled with mistaken identities and romantic entanglements, invites audiences to laugh while also pondering deeper questions about love and identity. Whether you encounter it on stage, screen, or in print, Twelfth Night remains a timeless celebration of the complexities and joys of life's unpredictable dance.

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **What is the main plot of Shakespeare's Twelfth Night?**

Twelfth Night centers on the shipwrecked Viola, who disguises herself as a man named Cesario, leading to a complex love triangle involving Duke Orsino and Countess Olivia, along with themes of mistaken identity and festive misrule.

### **Who are the primary characters in Twelfth Night and their roles?**

The primary characters include Viola (who disguises herself as Cesario), Duke Orsino (who loves Olivia), Countess Olivia (who falls for Cesario), Sebastian (Viola's twin brother), and the comedic duo Sir Toby Belch and Maria.

### **What themes are explored in Twelfth Night?**

Twelfth Night explores themes such as love and identity, gender roles and disguise, the folly of ambition, the joy and chaos of festivity, and the nature of mistaken identity and deception.

### **How does disguise play a role in Twelfth Night?**

Disguise is central to the plot, as Viola's male disguise creates dramatic irony and misunderstandings, allowing Shakespeare to explore gender fluidity and the complexities of love and attraction.

### **What is the significance of the title 'Twelfth Night'?**

The title refers to the Twelfth Night holiday marking the end of Christmas festivities, a time of revelry and role reversals, which reflects the play's

themes of festivity, disguise, and the overturning of social norms.

## Additional Resources

**\*\*The Story of Twelfth Night by William Shakespeare: A Timeless Exploration of Identity and Desire\*\***

**Story of twelfth night by william shakespeare** is a rich tapestry of mistaken identities, romantic entanglements, and social satire that continues to captivate audiences centuries after its first performance. As one of Shakespeare's most beloved comedies, *\*Twelfth Night\** intricately weaves themes of love, gender fluidity, and the folly of human behavior into a narrative set in the fictional land of Illyria. This article delves into the plot, characters, and underlying motifs of the play, offering an analytical perspective on why this work remains relevant and frequently studied within the Shakespearean canon.

## Understanding the Narrative Structure of Twelfth Night

At its core, the story of *\*Twelfth Night by William Shakespeare\** revolves around the chaos that ensues after a shipwreck separates twins Viola and Sebastian. Believing her brother to be dead, Viola disguises herself as a young man named Cesario to secure employment under Duke Orsino. This disguise sets the stage for a complex love triangle: Viola, as Cesario, falls in love with Orsino, who is in love with Countess Olivia. Meanwhile, Olivia becomes infatuated with Cesario—unaware that Cesario is actually Viola in disguise.

The plot thickens with the introduction of a variety of supporting characters, including the clever servant Maria, the pompous Malvolio, and Sir Toby Belch, Olivia's drinking uncle. Their subplots inject humor and social commentary, creating a layered narrative that balances romantic confusion with satire of social norms.

## Key Characters and Their Roles

The effectiveness of the story of *\*Twelfth Night by William Shakespeare\** can largely be attributed to its well-crafted characters, each representing different facets of Elizabethan society and human nature.

- **Viola/Cesario:** The protagonist whose disguise challenges traditional gender roles and explores themes of identity and self-expression.
- **Duke Orsino:** Represents romantic idealism and the sometimes fickle

nature of love.

- **Countess Olivia:** A noblewoman who subverts expectations by rejecting Orsino's advances and falling for Cesario.
- **Malvolio:** The puritanical steward whose self-love and ambition lead to his comic downfall.
- **Sir Toby Belch and Maria:** Embodiment of the play's festive and rebellious spirit, orchestrating schemes that highlight social hierarchies.

## Exploring Themes and Motifs in the Story of Twelfth Night by William Shakespeare

The enduring appeal of *Twelfth Night* hinges on its exploration of universal themes, many of which resonate with contemporary audiences. The story deftly navigates the complexities of love, identity, and social order through its multifaceted characters and witty dialogue.

### Love in Its Many Forms

Love is depicted in various guises—unrequited, self-love, romantic, and even friendship. Orsino's infatuation with Olivia initially appears superficial, emphasizing the fickleness of desire. Olivia's unexpected attraction to Cesario challenges conventional courtship norms, while Viola's concealed love for Orsino adds a layer of dramatic irony. The play's nuanced portrayal of love reflects Shakespeare's keen observation of human emotions and relationships.

### Gender and Disguise

One of the most analyzed aspects of the story of *Twelfth Night* by William Shakespeare is Viola's cross-dressing, which disrupts rigid gender binaries and invites audiences to question the performative nature of gender. Viola's male persona, Cesario, enables her to navigate a patriarchal society with more freedom, while simultaneously complicating romantic dynamics. This gender fluidity has made *Twelfth Night* a subject of interest in gender studies and queer theory.

## Folly, Festivity, and Social Critique

True to its classification as a comedy, *\*Twelfth Night\** incorporates elements of festivity and folly. The subplot involving Malvolio's humiliating downfall orchestrated by Maria and Sir Toby serves as a critique of social ambition and puritanism. It highlights tensions between classes and the absurdity of self-importance. These comic elements provide balance to the romantic entanglements and enhance the play's entertainment value.

## Comparative Context and Historical Significance

When situating the story of *\*Twelfth Night by William Shakespeare\** within the broader context of Elizabethan drama, it stands out for its sophisticated use of disguise and the theme of mistaken identity—a common trope in Renaissance theatre. However, Shakespeare's treatment of these devices in *\*Twelfth Night\** is particularly nuanced, blending humor with poignant commentary on human nature.

Compared to other Shakespearean comedies such as *\*As You Like It\** or *\*Much Ado About Nothing\**, *\*Twelfth Night\** delves deeper into the ambiguity of identity and the fluidity of love. Its setting in the mythical Illyria adds a dreamlike quality, distancing the narrative enough to explore social conventions without direct confrontation.

## Pros and Cons of the Play's Narrative Choices

- **Pros:**

- Complex characters with psychological depth.
- Engaging use of cross-dressing to explore gender roles.
- Rich comedic subplots that balance the romantic tension.
- Timeless themes that resonate across cultures and eras.

- **Cons:**

- Some modern readers may find the resolution—particularly the quick romantic pairings—rushed or lacking depth.
- Malvolio's subplot raises questions about the ethics of his humiliation.



- The play's reliance on mistaken identities may appear contrived to some contemporary audiences.

## Legacy and Modern Interpretations

The story of \*Twelfth Night by William Shakespeare\* continues to inspire countless adaptations in theatre, film, and literature. Its themes of love, identity, and societal roles are frequently reimagined to reflect contemporary issues. Modern productions often emphasize the gender-bending aspects, making it a popular choice for discussions around LGBTQ+ representation.

Critics and scholars also appreciate the play's linguistic richness and its ability to blend high comedy with moments of genuine emotional insight. This balance contributes to \*Twelfth Night\*'s status as a staple in Shakespearean repertoire worldwide.

In conclusion, the story of \*Twelfth Night by William Shakespeare\* remains a powerful exploration of human folly and affection. Its clever plot, dynamic characters, and thematic complexity ensure its place as one of the most enduring works in Western literature, inviting ongoing analysis and appreciation.

## Story Of Twelfth Night By William Shakespeare

**story of twelfth night by william shakespeare: William Shakespeare's Twelfth Night**  
Ratri Ray, 2006 The Present Book Aims At Making Shakespeare S The Merchant Of Venice More Comprehensible To The Common Reader. Beginning With The Life And Works Of Shakespeare, The Book Provides A Scene-Wise Critical Summary Of The Play So That, As The Reader Casts His Eyes Over Them, He Becomes Familiar With The Common Critical Views About The Individual Scenes Themselves. It Has Numerous Citations From The Text So That Even If The Reader Is Not Familiar With It, He Will Have A Chance Of Reading Shakespeare S Poetry. The Analyses Of The Different Elements Of Drama Are Accompanied With The Views Of Renowned Critics. This Latter Feature Makes The Book All The More Useful To Teachers As Well As Students. Along With The Recent Critical Views, The Classical Theories About Comedies As Well As Elizabethan Conventions Have Been Lucidly And Briefly Explained So That The Student May Not Find Any Difficulty In Understanding Them. A Brief Analysis According To Classical Sanskrit Dramaturgy Has Also Been Included. Important Questions Have Also Been Given So As Help In Further Consideration Of Literary Text. A Select Bibliography And Index Completes The Book. The Book Is Highly Readable, Self-Contained And Comprehensive; It Will Undoubtedly Prove An Invaluable Reference Book To Both Students And Teachers Of English Literature.

**story of twelfth night by william shakespeare: Twelfth Night Or What You Will by**

**William Shakespeare** William Shakespeare, 2018-12-10 William Shakespeare's Twelfth Night, of What You Will, was written in 1601 or 1602 at the end of Christmastide. It is a comedy intended as entertainment at the end of the holiday season. The play is set in Illyria, and follows the story of the twins Viola and Sebastian. The beginning of the play finds Viola shipwrecked on the Illyrian coast and helped to shore by the captain. Her twin brother Sebastian, also aboard the ship, is nowhere to be found and Viola believes him dead. She disguises herself as a man named Cesario and begins service under the Duke Orsino. Duke Orsino pines after Olivia. However Olivia is in mourning after losing her father and brother, and will not be brought out of her grief or accept marriage proposals for seven years. Duke Orsino decides to have Cesario help him, asking Cesario to explain how strong his love is for Olivia. However, Olivia mistakenly falls in love with Cesario, believing Viola's disguise too well. Viola herself has fallen helplessly in love with Duke Orsino. While this love triangle is occurring, multiple characters create a ruse to convince Olivia's conceited steward Malvolio that Olivia is in love with him. These conspirators include Sir Toby Belch, Sir Andrew Aguecheek, Olivia's servants Maria and Fabian, and the fool, Feste. Amused by their deception, they create a ruckus at Olivia's house by drinking and partying late into the night and hiding a fake love letter allegedly written by Olivia to Malvolio. The servant Maria pens the letter to imitate Olivia's writing, and asks Malvolio to wear yellow stockings, smile affectionately at Olivia whenever she appears, and to be rude to the rest of the household. When Malvolio discovers the letter he is excited to learn of Olivia's affections and begins to follow the letter's instructions. Olivia is not pleased to see the change in his character and does not return any affection at all. His tormentors pretend Malvolio has gone insane and see that he is locked in a dungeon, where the fool Feste visits and mocks him, pretending to be a priest at times. The missing twin Sebastian has meanwhile been rescued from the shipwreck by his friend Antonio. Seeing the resemblance between Sebastian and Cesario confuses Olivia who believes them to be the same person. She asks Sebastian for his hand and they marry secretly. When Viola and Sebastian are reunited there is confusion amongst all. Viola reveals that she was Cesario in disguise and that she loves Duke Orsino. They decide to marry. Sir Toby Belch, who was also an admirer of Olivia's, decides instead to marry her servant Maria. Malvolio is angry at the deception and says he will take revenge, but is talked down by Fabian. The gender bending from Shakespeare's Twelfth Night, is a comment on a day of revelry that was commonplace in Shakespeare's era. On this twelfth night after Christmas roles were changed as women dressed as men and vice versa. The celebration was based on a Roman festival called Saturnalia, which was an excuse for an evening of drunken festivities and inverted social order. In Twelfth Night, the grumpy Malvolio can represent the adversary of these imbibed festivities. The conspirators that aim to humiliate Malvolio, Sir Toby Belch and Sir Andrew Aguecheek, representing the comic revelers. The play was written to be performed at Christmastide and was performed right after its completion in 1602. Shakespeare borrowed some elements of the story from Barnabe Rich's short story entitled Of Apollonius and Silla, which was in turn based on Matteo Bandello's story.

**story of twelfth night by william shakespeare: Twelfth Night by William Shakespeare ( Latest Edition )** William Shakespeare, 2020-12-23 Twelfth Night is the story of Orsino, a nobleman in the kingdom of Illyria. Following a shipwreck Orsino employs Viola, who when abandoned by the shipwreck disguises herself as a man named Cesario. Soon Viola falls in love with Orsino, however Orsino is in love with Lady Olivia who has fallen for Viola, believing her to be a man. Twelfth Night is a classic Shakespearean comedy of mistaken identities.

**story of twelfth night by william shakespeare: Twelfth Night** William Shakespeare, 2018 Twelfth Night is a comedy by William Shakespeare. The play centres on the twins Viola and Sebastian, who are separated in a shipwreck. Viola (who is disguised as a boy) falls in love with Duke Orsino, who in turn is in love with the Countess Olivia. Upon meeting Viola, Countess Olivia falls in love with her thinking she is a man. The play expanded on the musical interludes and riotous disorder expected of the occasion, with plot elements drawn from the short story Of Apollonius and Silla by Barnabe Rich, based on a story by Matteo Bandello. Illyria, the setting of Twelfth Night, is important to the play's romantic atmosphere. Illyria was an ancient region of the Western Balkans

whose coast (the eastern coast of the Adriatic Sea which is the only part of ancient Illyria which is relevant to the play) covered (from north to south) the coasts of modern-day Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Albania. It included the city state of the Republic of Ragusa which has been proposed as the setting. Illyria may have been suggested by the Roman comedy *Menaechmi*, the plot of which also involves twins who are mistaken for each other. Illyria is also referred to as a site of pirates in Shakespeare's earlier play, *Henry VI, Part 2*. The names of most of the characters are Italian but some of the comic characters have English names. Oddly, the Illyrian lady Olivia has an English uncle, Sir Toby Belch. It has been noted that the play's setting also has other English allusions such as Viola's use of *Westward ho!*, a typical cry of 16th-century London boatmen, and also Antonio's recommendation to Sebastian of *The Elephant* as where it is best to lodge in Illyria; *The Elephant* was a pub not far from the Globe Theatre.

**story of twelfth night by william shakespeare: Twelfth Night** William Shakespeare, 2021-05-08 *Twelfth Night, or What You Will* is a romantic comedy by William Shakespeare, believed to have been written around 1601-1602 as a Twelfth Night's entertainment for the close of the Christmas season. The play centres on the twins Viola and Sebastian, who are separated in a shipwreck. Viola (who is disguised as Cesario) falls in love with Duke Orsino, who in turn is in love with Countess Olivia. Upon meeting Viola, Countess Olivia falls in love with her thinking she is a man. The play expanded on the musical interludes and riotous disorder expected of the occasion, with plot elements drawn from the short story *Of Apollonius and Silla* by Barnabe Rich, based on a story by Matteo Bandello. The first recorded public performance was on 2 February 1602, at Candlemas, the formal end of Christmastide in the year's calendar. The play was not published until its inclusion in the 1623 First Folio.

**story of twelfth night by william shakespeare: Twelfth Night** William Shakespeare, 2001-04 I feel that I have spent half my career with one or another Pelican Shakespeare in my back pocket. Convenience, however, is the least important aspect of the new Pelican Shakespeare series. Here is an elegant and clear text for either the study or the rehearsal room, notes where you need them and the distinguished scholarship of the general editors, Stephen Orgel and A. R. Braunmuller who understand that these are plays for performance as well as great texts for contemplation. (Patrick Stewart) The distinguished Pelican Shakespeare series, which has sold more than four million copies, is now completely revised and repackaged. Each volume features: \* Authoritative, reliable texts \* High quality introductions and notes \* New, more readable trade trim size \* An essay on the theatrical world of Shakespeare and essays on Shakespeare's life and the selection of texts

**story of twelfth night by william shakespeare: Twelfth Night - William Shakespeare** William Shakespeare, 2021-06-03 *Twelfth Night, Or What You Will* is a comedy by William Shakespeare, based on the short story *Of Apolonius and Silla* by Barnabe Rich. It is named after the Twelfth Night holiday of the Christmas season. It was written around 1601 and first published in the First Folio in 1623. The main title is believed to be an afterthought, created after John Marston premiered a play titled *What You Will* during the course of the writing.

**story of twelfth night by william shakespeare: Twelfth Night Illustrated** William Shakespeare, 2021-01-12 Named for the twelfth night after Christmas, the end of the Christmas season, *Twelfth Night* plays with love and power. The Countess Olivia, a woman with her own household, attracts Duke (or Count) Orsino.

**story of twelfth night by william shakespeare: Twelfth Night** William Shakespeare, 2019-11-14 *Twelfth Night, or What You Will* is a romantic comedy by William Shakespeare, believed to have been written around 1601-1602 as a Twelfth Night's entertainment for the close of the Christmas season. The play centres on the twins Viola and Sebastian, who are separated in a shipwreck. Viola (who is disguised as Cesario) falls in love with Duke Orsino, who in turn is in love with Countess Olivia. Upon meeting Viola, Countess Olivia falls in love with her thinking she is a man. The play expanded on the musical interludes and riotous disorder expected of the occasion, [1] with plot elements drawn from the short story *Of Apollonius and Silla* by Barnabe Rich, based on a story by Matteo Bandello. The first recorded public performance was on 2 February 1602, at

Candlemas, the formal end of Christmastide in the year's calendar. The play was not published until its inclusion in the 1623 First Folio.

**story of twelfth night by william shakespeare: Twelfth Night** William Shakespeare, 2018-07-06 Twelfth Night, or What You Will is a comedy by William Shakespeare. The play centres on the twins Viola and Sebastian, who are separated in a shipwreck. Viola (who is disguised as Cesario) falls in love with Duke Orsino, who in turn is in love with the Countess Olivia. Upon meeting Viola, Countess Olivia falls in love with her thinking she is a man. The play expanded on the musical interludes and riotous disorder expected of the occasion, with plot elements drawn from the short story Of Apollonius and Silla by Barnabe Rich, based on a story by Matteo Bandello.

**story of twelfth night by william shakespeare: Twelfth Night** William Shakespeare, 2004-02-19 For this updated edition of Twelfth Night, Penny Gay has written a wholly new Introduction to this well-loved Shakespearean comedy. She stresses the play's theatricality, its elaborate linguistic games and its complex use of Ovidian myths. She analyses the play's delicate balance between romance and realism and its exploration of gender, sexuality and identity. In examining the stage history, Professor Gay suggests that contemporary critical theory could have much to offer 21st century directors and actors.

**story of twelfth night by william shakespeare: The Works of William Shakespeare: All's well that ends well ; Twelfth night ; Winter's tale** William Shakespeare, Richard Grant White, 1883

**story of twelfth night by william shakespeare: Twelfth Night By William Shakespeare (Illustrated Edition)** William Shakespeare, 2021-05-10 Twelfth Night, Or What You Will is a comedy by William Shakespeare, based on the short story Of Apolonius and Silla by Barnabe Rich. It is named after the Twelfth Night holiday of the Christmas season. It was written around 1601 and first published in the First Folio in 1623. The main title is believed to be an afterthought, created after John Marston premiered a play titled What You Will during the course of the writing.

**story of twelfth night by william shakespeare: Twelfth Night** William Shakespeare, 2015-07-28 Twelfth Night, or What You Will is a comedy by William Shakespeare, believed to have been written around 1601-02 as a Twelfth Night's entertainment for the close of the Christmas season. The play centres on the twins Viola and Sebastian, who are separated in a shipwreck. Viola (who is disguised as a boy) falls in love with Duke Orsino, who in turn is in love with the Countess Olivia. Upon meeting Viola, Countess Olivia falls in love with her thinking she is a man. The play expanded on the musical interludes and riotous disorder expected of the occasion, with plot elements drawn from the short story Of Apollonius and Silla by Barnabe Rich, based on a story by Matteo Bandello. The first recorded performance was on 2 February 1602, at Candlemas, the formal end of Christmastide in the year's calendar. The play was not published until its inclusion in the 1623 First Folio.

**story of twelfth night by william shakespeare: The Works of William Shakespeare: All's well that ends well; Twelfth night, or, what you will; The winter's tale** William Shakespeare, 1857

**story of twelfth night by william shakespeare: WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE Ultimate Collection: ALL 38 Plays & Complete Poetry** William Shakespeare, 2024-01-12 In William Shakespeare Ultimate Collection: ALL 38 Plays & Complete Poetry, readers are presented with a comprehensive anthology that encapsulates the breadth of Shakespeare's work, spanning from timeless tragedies like Hamlet and Macbeth to enchanting comedies such as A Midsummer Night's Dream and Twelfth Night. The collection showcases Shakespeare's unparalleled command of the English language and his innovative narrative techniques, weaving complex characters and intricate plots that explore themes of love, power, and the human condition. This anthology not only serves as a literary masterpiece but also reflects the Elizabethan era's sociopolitical landscape, illuminating the cultural milieu that shaped his works. William Shakespeare, hailed as one of the greatest playwrights and poets in the English language, was born in 1564 in Stratford-upon-Avon. His experiences as an actor, a member of the Lord Chamberlain's Men, and a playwright in London profoundly influenced his artistic voice, providing him with unique insights into humanity that resonate through his works. Shakespeare's ability to capture the complexities of life and his affinity

for poetic expression have secured his legacy across centuries. This ultimate collection is a must-read for enthusiasts of literature, scholars, and casual readers alike. It offers not only the complete works of Shakespeare in one volume, allowing for exploration of his genius in its entirety, but also serves as a springboard for deeper discussions about the universal themes that continue to resonate with audiences today.

**story of twelfth night by william shakespeare:** Twelfth Night William Shakespeare, 2017-09-02 Set in a topsy-turvy world like a holiday revel, this comedy devises a romantic plot around separated twins, misplaced passions, and mistaken identity. Juxtaposed to it is the satirical story of a self-deluded steward who dreams of becoming Count Malvolio only to receive his comeuppance at the hands of the merrymakers he wishes to suppress. The two plots combine to create a farce touched with melancholy, mixed throughout with seductively beautiful explorations on the themes of love and time, and the play ends, not with laughter, but with a clown's sad song. About William Shakespeare : William Shakespeare (baptised 26 April 1564) was an English poet and playwright, widely regarded as the greatest writer in the English language and the world's pre-eminent dramatist. He is often called England's national poet and the Bard of Avon (or simply The Bard). His surviving works consist of 38 plays, 154 sonnets, two long narrative poems, and several other poems. His plays have been translated into every major living language, and are performed more often than those of any other playwright. Shakespeare was born and raised in Stratford-upon-Avon. Scholars believe that he died on his fifty-second birthday, coinciding with St George's Day. At the age of 18 he married Anne Hathaway, who bore him three children: Susanna, and twins Hamnet and Judith. Between 1585 and 1592 he began a successful career in London as an actor, writer, and part owner of the playing company the Lord Chamberlain's Men, later known as the King's Men. He appears to have retired to Stratford around 1613, where he died three years later. Few records of Shakespeare's private life survive, and there has been considerable speculation about such matters as his sexuality, religious beliefs, and whether the works attributed to him were written by others. The treatment of Malvolio is a little too cruel, Belch and Aguecheek are a little too coarse, and the resolution is a little too abrupt, and so this excellent Shakespearean comedy falls a little short of perfection. Still, the poetry about music and the songs themselves are wonderful, Viola and Orsino are charming, and Feste is the wisest and best of clowns. 4 out of 5 stars to Twelfth Night, a comedy written in 1601 by William Shakespeare. There are more reviews written about Shakespeare than either of us know what to do with, on, over or about. So you're not getting a review from me. What I will say is the following: Love him or not, the man can create brilliant plots and characters. Twins. Mistaken identities. Tomfoolery. Witchcraft. A chain of who's on first when it comes to which character is in love with which other character. Confusion knows no bounds here. But I love it. It's hilarious. If you're not used to Shakespeare's style and rhythm, this wouldn't be the first play of his I'd recommend. Or if you really want to read this one, you might want to watch a film version first, just to get the plot down -- as it's more convoluted than any soap opera out there. And I should know, I've watched nearly all of them. It's got a little bit of everything, but if you can see it happen first, then read it... it'll come across even better as you can concentrate on the words and images that come to mind, rather than trying to comprehend which person is in which disguise when they are talking. I have to imagine he talked to himself a lot when writing this one, adding voices and different character attributes to even be sure he understood what he had going on!

**story of twelfth night by william shakespeare:** Twelfth Night Harold Bloom, 2009 Presents a collection of essays discussing aspects of William Shakespeare's comedy in which shipwrecked Viola disguises herself as a man to serve in Duke Orsino's court.

**story of twelfth night by william shakespeare:** A Life of William Shakespeare Sir Sidney Lee, 1898

**story of twelfth night by william shakespeare:** William Shakespeare's Comedies, Histories, Tragedies and Poems William Shakespeare, 1858

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**Papillion Menu - Copps Pizza Company - Family Style Restaurant** Menu for Copps Pizza Company in Papillion, NE. Explore latest menu with photos and reviews

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