

Aweary, Weary Mariana: My Final Look at a Problem Play

The assignment: One last essay for one last LITT Class; Eight pages on Shakespeare's final comedy. Enjoy!

Enjoy? Funny joke, funny man. One last essay and the term is done. One last class and I'm outa here. My finale, and I'm writing about Bill's last funny play.

His last. Was he tired of the form, bored by his craft, resisting ruts of his own splendid design? Maybe he felt too strongly "The needful bits and curbs." Maybe he was just headstrong.

Focus! The book's on the table, but the screen's still blank. Angelo, is he convincing? "O cunning enemy . . . to catch a saint, with saints dost bait thy hook." Not much of a saint.

Angelo is familiar. It's Mariana I really don't get. If Duke Slacker insists Angelo is her husband by pre-contract ~ "To bring you thus

together 'tis no sin" ~ that makes no sense. If there is no sin, then Claudio is free, and there's no play. Is this commentary on the inequities of life? Is Bill damning hypocrisy and weakness? Did he leave this last comedy unfinished? And who is Mariana, really? Why does she agree? Tennyson might have been right: "My life is dreary, / He cometh not," she said; / She said, 'I am weary, weary, / I would that I were dead!" Are we supposed to think she's happy now? How many pages does KT want? "Put not yourself into amazement how these things should be: all difficulties are but easy when they are known." Well sure, when all is known. But I need a break. What time is it? 4:23?

Maybe I'll see what's up at the BASH. Yes, the BASH. Sample the Fieldmarshal's mysteries; enjoy the ambience of upper G-wing; laugh in the face of too much work. And then I'll go to the play. That ought to be worth something when I get back to whatever I'm going to write about to get this darn thing done. Claudio & Juliet, the Duke & Isabella, Lucio & his bawd! And then poor Mariana: "Her worth worth yours," Angelo. O yeah, . . . I need a break.

TAKE THAT BREAK! THE BASH IS FRIDAY THE 17TH, AT 4:30, UPPER G-WING (PLAY AT 7:30)

