

Act II

Scene 1

In the nursery of the soon to be new-born.

Enter Hermione, Mamillius, and Ladies. Mamillius is first on riding a hobby horse, wooden sword and wearing an animal mask.

Her. Take the boy to you: he so troubles me,
'Tis past enduring.

First Lady. Come, my gracious Lord,
Shall I be your play-fellow?

Mam. (taking off mask) No, I'll none of you.

First Lady. Why, my sweet Lord?

Mam. You'll kiss me hard, and speak to me as if
I were a baby still. (to second lady) I love you better.
What colour are your eyebrows?

First Lady. Blue, my lord.

Mam. Nay, that's a mock: I have seen a lady's nose
That has been blue, but not her eyebrows.

First Lady. Hark ye,
The queen your mother rounds apace: we shall
Present our services to a fine new prince
One of these days, and then you'd wanton with us,
If we would have you.

Sec. Lady. She is spread of late
Into a goodly bulk: good time encounter her!

Her. What wisdom stirs amongst you? Come, sir, now
I am for you again: 'pray you, sit by us,
And tell 's a tale.

Mam. Merry, or sad, shall't be?

Her. As merry as you will.

Mam. A sad tale's best for winter: I have one
Of sprites and goblins.

Her. Let's have that, good sir.
Come on, sit down, come on, and do your best
To fright me with your sprites: you're powerful at it.

Mam. There was a man-

Her. Nay, come sit down: then on.

Mam. Dwelt by a churchyard: I will tell it softly,
Yond crickets shall not hear it.

Her. Come on then,
And giv't me in mine ear.