

CHARACTER BIOGRAPHIES

Helena

The daughter of a physician, she has a lower social status and class to Bertram. After her father's death, she becomes an orphan under the care of the Countess. She has grown up in the same house as Bertram, the Countess's son and is in love with him. She manages to cure the king and, as a reward, claims Bertram as a husband.

Bertram

The Count of Roussillon. An ambitious young man and ward of the King of France. He is horrified when told to marry Helena who he feels is beneath him, He refuses to sleep with her and runs away to France to abandon his unwanted wife and prove himself in battle.

Countess

The Countess of Roussillon and friend to the King of France. Bertram's widowed mother and guardian of Helena. She loves Helena as a daughter and considers her a worthy match for her son.

King

The King of France, friend of the Countess and Bertram's guardian. He has been suffering from an incurable illness. He knew Helena's father and, when she cures him, grants her wish to choose a husband. He scolds Bertram for refusing her and forces him to marry Helena.