As You Like It

Epilogue

ROSALIND

It is not the fashion to see the lady the epilogue; but it is no more unhandsome than to see
the lord the prologue. If it be true that good wine needs no bush, 'tis true that a good play
needs no epilogue; yet to good wine they do use good bushes, and good plays prove the
better by the help of good epilogues. What a case am I in then, that am neither a good
epilogue, nor cannot insinuate with you in the behalf of a good play! I am not furnished
like a beggar, therefore to beg will not become me: my way is, to conjure you; and I'll
begin with the women. I charge you, O women! for the love you bear to men, to like as
much of this play as please you: and I charge you, O men! for the love you bear to
women,'as I perceive by your simpering none of you hate them,'that between you and the
women, the play may please. If I were a woman I would kiss as many of you as had
beards that pleased me, complexions that liked me, and breaths that I defied not; and, I
am sure, as many as have good beards, or good faces, or sweet breaths, will, for my kind
offer, when I make curtsy, bid me farewell.