

SCENE 3:**A South London Street / Outside Nick & Bea's House**

TOWNSPEOPLE *mill about.*

NICK

New idea... new idea... we need a new idea.

NIGEL

I still say we should write our life story – two orphaned brothers, their father lost at sea, whose mother died of a broken heart. How you, at age 14, carried me, your sickly little brother on your back – all the way from Cornwall.

NICK

No. We gotta think bigger! We have to *innovate*. The world is changing. I recently heard about a man who has a toilet that *flushes*.

NIGEL

Really?? He doesn't throw his shit into the street?

NICK

No. He pulls a lever and it gets *whooshed* down a pipe... and then into the street. And that's what we need. Something *new*.

NIGEL

But that's what you're good at – big ideas. I'm really just a poet at heart. You were doing better without me, oh God am I the problem?

NICK

No. Shakespeare is! Why did I ever suggest he become a writer? I was just trying to get him out of our troupe because he was so annoying. Now he's like this giant sun... that... that...

NIGEL

"Shines so bright, no other star is seen."

NICK

See? That's good! Which is why we work together. Now let's get to it.

NIGEL enters Nick's house (which has just moved into place). Before Nick enters,

SHYLOCK steps out from around the corner.

SHYLOCK

~~Nicholas Bottom~~

NICK

~~Shylock! What are you doing at my house?~~