

SHAKESPEARE LIED (from *How Now, Dow Jones* (1968))

original lyrics by Carolyn Leigh, original music by Elmer Bernstein, adapted by Tom Lehrer

A: *Oh, God, I can't live without him! I'll die!*

B: *Die from love?*

A: *People have.*

B: *Aah! You've been reading too many books. Listen!*

B: Shakespeare lied.

When Juliet died,

Romeo didn't take poison just because he'd lost his bride.

A: What did he do?

B: He got over it.

He went back to Junior High, and he got over it.

And so will you.

You'll get over it.

A: So Romeo got himself a life,

But then, there's Othello, he murdered his wife!

B: But Shakespeare lied.

Othello may have cried,

But he never strangled Desdemona 'cause he thought she lied.

A: What did he do?

B: He got over it.

She found the handkerchief, and he got over it.

And so will you.

You'll get over it.

Just bear in mind that Shakespeare lied.

A: *Okay, how about Cleopatra?*

B: You recall that asp

In Cleopatra's grasp,

Well, she didn't yell "O, Antony" and gasp her final gasp.

A: *You're putting me on!*

B: *No!*

None the worse from it

She even made a stunning snakeskin purse from it.

And as for you ---

A: *I know!*

I'll get over it.

B: You'll get over it,

A: Okay, take Hamlet, he's a better test,

'Cause there was a guy who was *really* depressed.

B: But Shakespeare lied.

When all those people died,

Hamlet didn't just mope around and think of suicide.

A: What did he do?

Don't tell me ---

BOTH: He got over it.

B: *Right!*

He got himself some Prozac and got over it.

And so will you.

You'll get over it.

A: I'll get over it.

B: Love isn't fatal, as a rule,

Forget all that stuff you learned in school,

And bear in mind, whatever you decide

That Shake ----

A: So he made a mistake,

Speare ---

And I'm happy to hear he

BOTH: Lied!