

one mistress *Page*, gives intelligence of *Ford*'s approach, and by her invention, and *Ford*'s wife's direction, they convey'd me into a buck-basket.

*Ford*. A buck-basket?

*Fal*. Yea, a buck-basket; ramm'd me in with foul shirts and smocks, socks, foul stockings, and greasy napkins; that, master *Brook*, there was the rankest compound of villanous smells that ever offended nostril.

*Ford*. And how long lay you there?

*Fal*. Nay, you shall hear, master *Brook*, what I have suffer'd, to bring this woman to evil for your good. Being thus cramm'd in the basket, a couple of *Ford*'s knaves, his hinds, were call'd forth by their mistress to carry me in the name of foul cloths to *Datchet-lane*; they took me on their shoulders, met the jealous knave their master in the door, who ask'd them once or twice what they had in their basket; I quak'd for fear, lest the lunatick knave would have search'd it; but fate, ordaining he should be a cuckold, held his hand. Well, on went he for a search, and away went I for foul cloths; but mark the sequel, master *Brook*; I suffer'd the pangs of three egregious deaths: first, an intolerable fright, to be detected by a jealous rotten bell-weather; next, to be compass'd like a good bilbo, in the circumference of a peck, hilt to point, heel to head; and then, to be stop'd in, like a strong distillation, with stinking cloths that fretted in their own grease: think of that, a man of my kidney; think of that, that am as subject to heat as butter; a man of continual dissolution and thaw; it was a miracle to 'scape suffocation. And in the height of this bath, when I was more than half stew'd in grease like a *Dutch* dish, to be thrown into the *Thames*, and cool'd glowing hot in that surge, like a horse-shoe; think of that; hissing hot; think of that, master *Brook*.

*Ford*. In good sadness, sir, I am sorry that for my sake you suffer'd all this. My suit is then desperate; you'll undertake her no more?

*Fal*. Master *Brook*, I will be thrown into *Etna* as I have been into *Thames*, ere I will leave her thus. Her husband is this