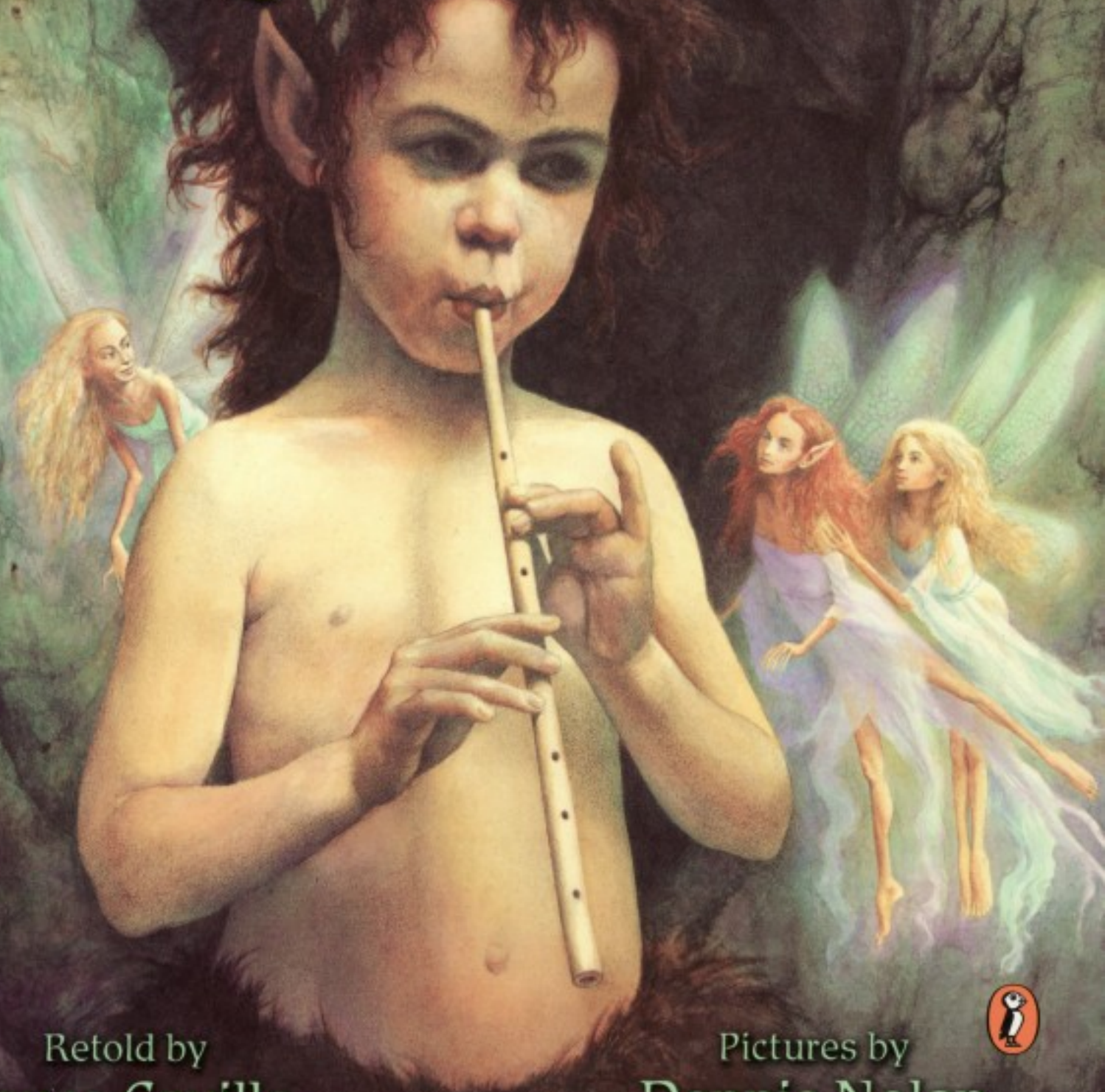


WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE'S

# A Midsummer Night's Dream



Retold by  
**Bruce Coville**

Pictures by  
**Dennis Nolan**



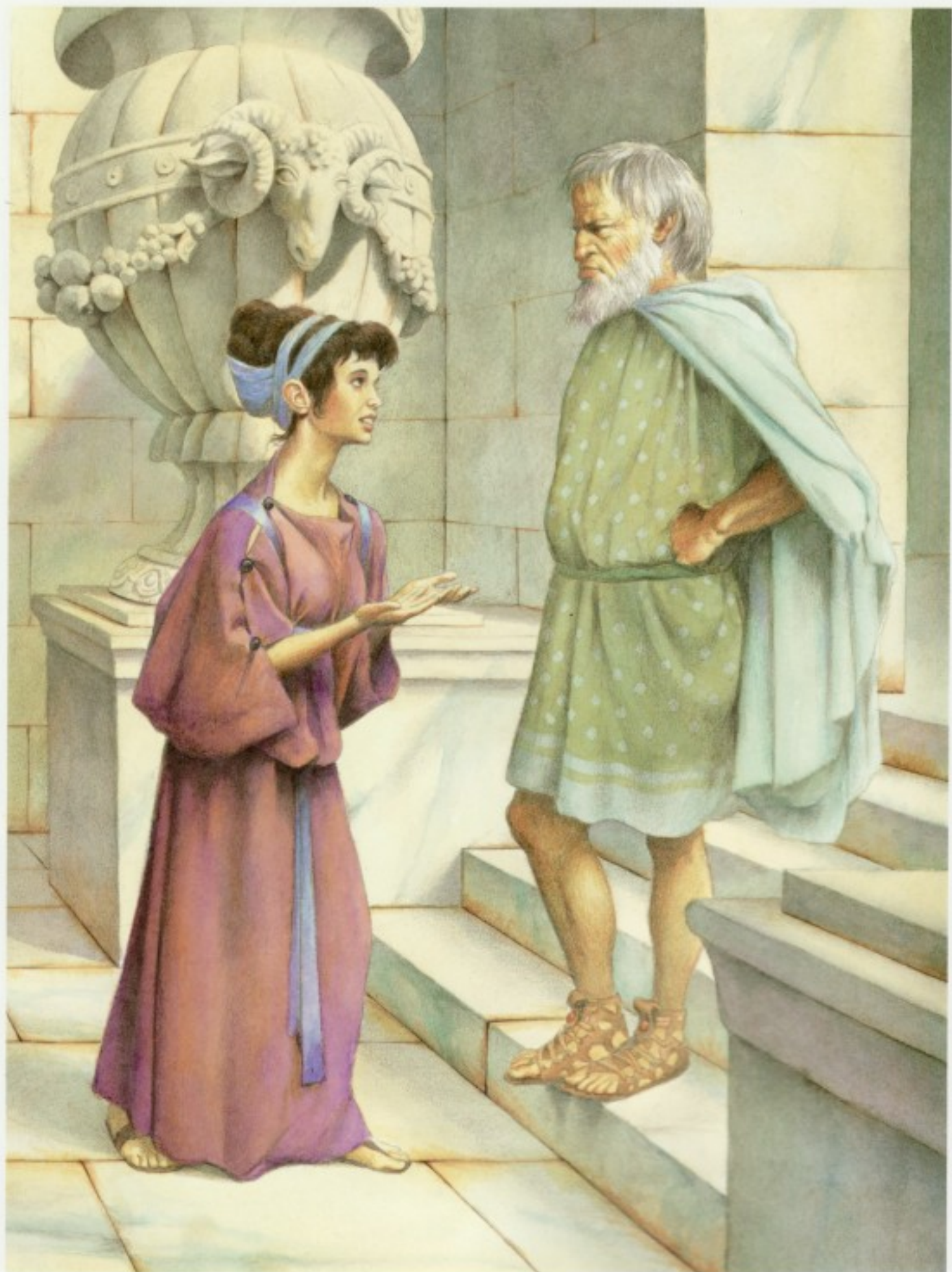




Once in ancient Athens a dark-haired girl named Hermia loved a dreamy poet called Lysander. He loved her as well and the couple had promised to marry. But Hermia's father had other ideas.

"It is my right to choose your husband," he told his daughter, "and I choose Demetrius. He's every bit as noble as your Lysander, and he doesn't have his head in the clouds."







“But Father,” Hermia protested, “I do not love Demetrius. And further, he is changeable as midsummer weather.”

Indeed Hermia spoke the truth. Not long before, Demetrius had pledged his love to Hermia’s best friend, Helena. Now he had cast Helena aside to ask for Hermia’s hand in marriage.

Still, Hermia’s father would not be swayed. “You will marry Demetrius or lose your life.” Sadly for Hermia, he was within his right. For Athens’ law allowed a father to choose his daughter’s husband—or have her put to death if she refused. When Hermia announced she would rather die than marry a man she did not love, her father marched her off to the city’s ruler to demand justice.

Soon to be married himself, Duke Theseus was sympathetic to Hermia’s pleas of love. Yet the only other choice he could offer her was to enter a religious order and live in seclusion, never to see Lysander again.





## Was it all a strange dream?

One night two young couples run into an enchanted forest, in an attempt to escape their problems. But these four humans do not realize that the forest is filled with fairies and hobgoblins who love making mischief. When Oberon, the Fairy King, and his loyal hobgoblin servant, Puck, intervene in human affairs, the fate of these young couples is magically and hilariously transformed. This retelling of William Shakespeare's most beloved comedy is perfect for young children who will love hearing the story read aloud, and for older readers who will find much to treasure.



"Coville gracefully retells this famous comedy. . . Nolan conjures a magical world of Mediterranean-blue skies and gloomy enchanted forests."  
—*Kirkus Reviews*

**Bruce Coville** and **Dennis Nolan** also collaborated on the retelling of William Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*.