

After being deserted by her returning love Benedick, the sharp and fiery Beatrice goes to live with her uncle Leonato, a respectable casino owner, and his young daughter Hero. Some time later, a biker gang headed by Leonato's old friend Don Pedro arrives at the casino for some much needed rest and relaxation. Among the bikers are Benedick, the young Claudio, as well as Don John, Don Pedro's illegitimate brother. Don John is sullen and bitter, and, along with his cohorts Conrad and Borachio, sets out to make trouble for the others.

On arriving at Leonato's, Claudio quickly falls in love with Hero. Meanwhile, Benedick and Beatrice, less than pleased to see each other again, resume the war of witty insults they have carried on in the past. Claudio and Hero pledge their love to one another and decide to marry. After a party to celebrate their engagement, the lovers and their friends set out to reunite Beatrice and Benedick, who are clearly meant for each other. Their tricks prove successful, and Beatrice and Benedick soon fall secretly in love with each other.

But Don John has decided to disrupt everyone's happiness. He has his companion Borachio seduce Margaret, a casino showgirl, and shows Claudio photos of the encounter. Believing that Hero has been unfaithful to him, the enraged Claudio humiliates Hero by accusing her of adultery on their wedding day and abandoning her at the altar. Hero's stricken family decide to pretend that she has died suddenly of shock and grief and to hide her away while they wait for the truth of her innocence to come to light. In the aftermath of the rejection, Benedick and Beatrice finally confess their love to one another. Beatrice asks Benedick to challenge Claudio, to avenge Hero's honor. Benedick agrees. Meanwhile, the local police force, headed by the bumbling Dogberry, arrest Don John, Borachio, and Conrad, and figure out their scheme. They present Claudio with the proof of Hero's innocence.

Going to her open coffin and believing she is dead, Claudio grieves for Hero. But Hero reveals she is alive and Claudio is overwhelmed with joy. Before they can be married, Benedick proposes to Beatrice. After some of their customary arguing she agrees, and all celebrate the raucous and colorful double wedding.