

Vocabulary: Understanding through Paraphrasing*

1. The jawline, a shade too prominent, entertains the rumor of bufoonery.
2. The smile is one of unwarranted assurance.
3. C. D. Bales runs the local volunteer firehouse with a septet of gentle stooges.
4. One of these is hunky, clunky Chris, who is attracted to a pretty astronomer named Roxanne.
5. C. D. goes big for her but is inhibited by his amiable reserve.
6. It doesn't quite happen, partly because the movie begs for poignance like an orphaned puppy, partly because modern plastic surgery makes the plot anachronistic.
7. C. D. comes aboard as literary adviser and surrogate verbal lover, resulting in a riotous scene of front-porch seduction.
8. Martin's nifty script honors Rostand while skimming off the fat and the play's creepier masochistic undertones.
9. Roxanne creates a pristine, leafy world that's the ideal setting for a fairy tale of misdirected love.
10. Deftly skirting bathos, he achieves real feeling.

*All quotes from movie reviews of Steve Martin's *Roxanne*.