

Women Beware Women by Thomas Middleton

M/F SmS, SS, R&D, BS, QS

Women beware Women

- Leantio I long to see how my despiser looks,
Now she's come to court. These are her lodgings;
She's simply now advance. I took her out
Of no such window, I remember, first:
That was a great deal lower, and less carved.
- Bianca How now? What silkworm's this, i'th' name of pride?
What, is it he?
- L A bow i' th' ham to your greatness;
You must have now three legs, I take it, must you not?
- B Then I must take another, I shall want else
The service I should have; you have but two there.
- L Y'are richly placed.
- B Methinks y'are wondrous brave, sir.
- L A sumptuous lodging.
- B Y'have an excellent suit there.
- L A chair of velvet.
- B Is your cloak lined through, sir?
- L Y'are very stately here.
- B Faith, something proud, sir.
- L Stay, stay, let's see your cloth-of-silver slippers?
- B Who's your shoemaker? 'Has made you a neat boot.
- L Will you have a pair? The Duke will lend you spurs.
- B Yes, when I ride.
- L 'Tis a brave life you lead.
- B I could ne'er see you in such good clothes
In my time.

L In your time?

B Sure I think, sir,
We both best thrive asunder.

L Y'are a whore.

B Fear nothing, sir.

L An impudent spiteful strumpet.

B Oh sir, you give me thanks for your captainship;
I thought you had forgot all your good manners.

L And to spite thee as much look there, there read,
Vex, gnaw; thou shalt find there I am not love-starved.
The world was never yet so cold, or pitiless,
But there was ever still more charity found out
Than at one proud fool's door; and 'twere hard 'faith
If I could not pass that. Read to thy shame there;
A cheerful and a beauteous benefactor too,
As e'er erected the good works of love.

B [Aside] Lady Livia!
Is't possible? Her worship was my pandress.
She dote, and send and give, and all to him!
Why here's a bawd plagued home. [To L] Y'are simply happy, sir,
Yet I'll not envy you.

L No court-saint, not thou!
You keep some friend of a new fashion;
There's no harm in your devil, he's a suckling;
But he will breed teeth shortly, will he not?

B Take heed you play not then too long with him.

L Yes, and the great one too. I shall find time
To paly a hot religious bout with some of you,
And perhaps drive you and your course of sins
To their eternal kennels. I speak softly now,
'Tis manners in a noble woman's lodgings,
And I well know all my degrees of duty.
But come I to your everlasting parting once,
Thunder shall seem soft music to that tempest.

B 'Twas said last week there would be change of weather,

When the moon hung so, and belike you heard it.

L Why, here's sin made, and ne'er a conscience put to 't;
A monster with all forehead and no eyes.
Why do I talk to thee of sense or virtue,
That art as dark as death? And as much madness
To set light before thee, as to lead blind folks
To see the monuments, which they may smell as soon
As they behold - marry, oftentimes their heads,
For want of light, may feel the hardness of 'em.
So shall thy blind pride my revenge and anger,
That canst not see it now; and it may fall
At such an hour, when thou least seest of all;
So to an ignorance darker than thy womb
I leave thy perjured soul: a plague will come.

B Get you gone first, and then I fear no greater;
Nor thee will I fear long; I'll have this sauciness
Soon banished from these lodgings, and the rooms
Perfumed well after the corrupt air it leaves:
His breath has made me almost sick in troth.
A poor base start-up! Life! Because ' has got
Fair clothes by foul means, comes to rail, and show 'em.