Sarah Dixon, â??Amintaâ??s Dreamâ?•

Description

SARAH DIXON

â??Amintaâ??s Dreamâ?•

Tirâ??d with the Disappointments of the Day,
As on her Bed the Fair *Aminta* lay,
The wild Ideas which her Mind imprest
Still kept their Rounds, and wouâ??d not let her rest;
Till the sweet Lark, who dedicates the Prime
To the Disposer of her future Time,
Had prunâ??d her Wings, and towâ??ring throâ?? the Air
Callâ??d drowsie Mortals to their Morning Prayer.
With Cloysterâ??d Virgins had she Vigils kept,
Aminta now perhaps had sweetly slept;
A Stranger been to Love, and all its Cares,
Fallacious Hopes, inseparable Fears.
Just as the Sun lickâ??d off the pearly Dews,
Her long extended Lids began to close;
Gay Fancy then assumâ??d to play its Part
In every Avenue of Head and Heart;
In various Trim presented every Wish,
And the Unhappy dreamâ??d of Happiness:
A *Group* of inconsistent Figures first
Addressâ??d her Senses, by her Passions nurst:
The stubborn Goddess *Fortune* led the Van,
Smiles in her Face and Trophies in her Hand:
Attractive Riches, dying Lovers Tears,
Obliging Friendships, many happy Years;
Park, Balls, and Operas, and *Brusselâ??s* Lace
A gilded Chariot and a lasting Face:
Fictitious Joys! how fleet your Motions haste,
Like flying Shadows just observâ??d eâ??re past;
The hasty Bubbles of a christal Brook,
Raisâ??d in a Moment, in a Moment broke.
Loud Acclamations snapt the pleasing Chain,
And all the Gew-gaws vanishâ??d from her Brain:
Her Maid in Tears the fatal Tiding brought,
Silvio had all his Vows and Herâ??s forgot;
That Morning married to her favourite Friend,

And here, poor Girl, her Expectations end.

NOTES:

Title *Aminta* The male protagonist in a pastoral play written in 1573 by Torquato Tasso; Dixon has switched the gender of her titular character (*Britannica*).

5 *Prime* â??The time just before sunriseâ?• (*OED*).

15 *Fancy* Poetical imagination (Johnson).

17 *Trim* â??Neatly or smartly made, prepared, or arranged; elegantly or finely arrayedâ?• (*OED*).

21 *Goddess Fortune* Roman goddess of fate, chance, or luck; *Van* â??The foremost portion of, or the foremost position in, a company or train of persons moving, or prepared to move, forwards or onwardsâ?• (*OED*).

25 *Brusselâ??s Lace* Delicate, handmade lace from Flanders (*Britannica*); *Operas* Emended from â??Operaâ??sâ?• (a printerâ??s error).

32 *Gew-gaws* In plural, â??vanitiesâ?• (*OED*).

34 *Silvio* Silvia is the female love interest of Aminta in Tassoâ??s play; Dixon also has switched the gender of this character (*Britannica*).

SOURCE: ***Poems on Several Occasions*** **(Canterbury, 1740), pp. 29-30. [Google Books]**

Edited by Hallie Stark