Elizabeth Carter, â??A Dialogueâ?•

Description

ELIZABETH CARTER

â??A Dialogueâ?•

Says *Body* to *Mind*, â??Tis amazing to see,
Weâ??re so nearly related yet never agree,
But lead a most wrangling strange Sort of a Life,
As great Plagues to each other as Husband and Wife.
The Fault is all yourâ??s, who with flagrant Oppression,
Encroach evâ??ry Day on my lawful Possession.
The best Room in my House you have seizâ??d for your own,
And turnâ??d the whole Tenement quite upside down,
While you hourly call in a disorderly Crew
Of vagabond Rogues, who have nothing to do
But to run in and out, hurry scurry, and keep
Such a horrible uproar, I canâ??t get to sleep.
Thereâ??s my kitchen sometimes is as empty as Sound,
I call for my Servants, not oneâ??s to be found:
They all are sent out on your Ladyshipâ??s Errand,
To fetch some more riotous Guests in, I warrant!
And since Things are growing, I see, worse and worse,
Iâ??m determined to force you to alter your Course.
Poor *Mind*, who hear all with extreme Moderation,
Thought it now Time to speak, and make her Allegation.
â??Tis I, that, methinks, have most Cause to complain,
Who am crampt and confinâ??d like a Slave in a Chain.
I did but step out, on some weighty Affairs,
To visit, last Night, my good Friends in the Stars.
When, before I was got half as high as the Moon,
You dispatchâ??d *Pain* and *Languor* to hurry me down;
Vi & Armis they seizâ??d me, in Midst of my Flight.
And shut me in Caverns as dark as the Night.
â??Twas no more, replyâ??d *Body*, than what you deservâ??d,
While you rambled Abroad, I at Home was half starvâ??d:
And, unless I had closely confinâ??d you in Hold,
You had left me to perish with Hunger and Cold.
Iâ??ve a Friend, answers *Mind*, who, tho slow, is yet fare,
And will rid me, at last, of your insolent Power:
Will knock down at your Mud Walls, the whole Fabric demolishes,
And at once your strong Holds and my Slavâ??ry abolish:
And while in the Dust your dull Ruins decay,

I shall snap off my Chains, and fly freely away.

NOTES:

27 *Vi & Armis* â??With force and arms. Words used in [legal] indictments, etc. to express the charge of a forcible and violent committing any crime or trespassâ?• (T. E. Tomlins, *The Law-dictionary*, vol. VI [1811], p. 351 [Google Books]).

Source: *Poems on Several Occasions,* 3rd edition (London, 1776), pp. 25-27. [Google Books]

Edited by Julia Ruiz