

Sarah Dixon, "Aminta's Dream"

Description

SARAH DIXON

Aminta's Dream

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 5  
 To the Disposer of her future Time,  
 Had prunâ€™d her Wings, and tow’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; 10  
 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 15  
 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: 20  
 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 25  
 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. 30

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, 35  
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* The time just before sunrise (OED).

**15** *Fancy* Poetical imagination (Johnson).

**17** *Trim* Neatly or smartly made, prepared, or arranged; elegantly or finely arrayed” (OED).

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

**25** *Brussel*’s Lace Delicate, handmade lace from Flanders (*Britannica*); *Operas* Emended from *Opera* (a printer’s error).

**32** *Gew-gaws* In plural, vanities (OED).

**34** *Silvio* Silvia is the female love interest of Aminta in Tasso’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*