

## Sarah Dixon, “Aminta’s Dream”

### Description

SARAH DIXON

#### “Aminta’s Dream”

Tir'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 wou'd not let her rest;  
Till the sweet Lark, who dedicates the Prime 5  
To the Disposer of her future Time,  
Had prun'd her Wings, and tow'ring thro' the Air  
Call'd drowsie Mortals to their Morning Prayer.  
With Cloyster'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 lick'd off the pearly Dews,  
Her long extended Lids began to close;  
Gay Fancy then assum'd to play its Part 15  
In every Avenue of Head and Heart;  
In various Trim presented every Wish,  
And the Unhappy dream'd of Happiness:  
A *Group* of inconsistent Figures first  
Address'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 *Brussel's* Lace 25  
A gilded Chariot and a lasting Face:  
Fictitious Joys! how fleet your Motions haste,  
Like flying Shadows just observ'd e're past;  
The hasty Bubbles of a christal Brook,  
Rais'd in a Moment, in a Moment broke. 30  
Loud Acclamations snapt the pleasing Chain,  
And all the Gew-gaws vanish'd from her Brain:  
Her Maid in Tears the fatal Tiding brought,  
*Silvio* had all his Vows and Her'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’s” (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*