

# A LOVER'S COMPLAINT

From off a hill whose concave womb reworded  
 A plaintful story from a sist'ring vale,  
 My spirits t'attend this double voice accorded  
 And down I laid to list the sad-tuned tale,  
 5 Ere long espied a fickle maid full pale,  
 Tearing of papers, breaking rings atwain,  
 Storming her world with sorrow's wind and rain.

Upon her head a plaited hive of straw  
 Which fortified her visage from the sun,  
 10 Whereon the thought might think sometime it saw  
 The carcass of a beauty spent and done,  
 Time had not scythed all that youth begun,  
 Nor youth all quit but, spite of heaven's fell rage,  
 Some beauty peeped through lattice of seared age.

15 Oft did she heave her napkin to her eyne  
 Which on it had conceited characters,  
 Laund'ring the silken figures in the brine  
 That seasoned woe had pelleted in tears  
 And often reading what contents it bears,  
 20 As often shrieking undistinguished woe  
 In clamours of all size, both high and low.

Sometimes her levelled eyes their carriage ride  
 As they did batt'ry to the spheres intend;  
 Sometime diverted their poor balls are tied  
 25 To th'orbèd earth; sometimes they do extend  
 Their view right on, anon their gazes lend  
 To every place at once and, nowhere fixed,  
 The mind and sight distractedly commixed.

Her hair, nor loose nor tied in formal plait,  
 30 Proclaimed in her a careless hand of pride  
 For some, untucked, descended her sheaved hat,  
 Hanging her pale and pined cheek beside,  
 Some in her threaten fillet still did bide,  
 And true to bondage would not break from thence,  
 35 Though slackly braided in loose negligence.

A thousand favours from a maund she drew  
 Of amber, crystal and of beaded jet,  
 Which one by one she in a river threw  
 Upon whose weeping margent she was set,

40 Like usury, applying wet to wet,  
 Or monarch's hands that lets not bounty fall  
 Where want cries some, but where excess begs all.

Of folded schedules had she many a one  
 Which she perused, sighed, tore and gave the flood,  
 45 Cracked many a ring of posied gold and bone  
 Bidding them find their sepulchres in mud,  
 Found yet more letters sadly penned in blood,  
 With sleided silk feat and affectedly  
 Enswathed and sealed to curious secrecy.

50 These often bathed she in her fluxive eyes  
 And often kissed and often gave to tear,  
 Cried, 'O false blood, thou register of lies,  
 What unapproved witness dost thou bear!  
 Ink would have seemed more black and dammed here!'  
 55 This said, in top of rage the lines she rents,  
 Big discontent so breaking their contents.

A reverend man that grazed his cattle nigh —  
 Sometime a blusterer that the ruffle knew  
 Of court, of city, and had let go by  
 60 The swiftest hours, observed as they flew —  
 Towards this afflicted fancy fastly drew  
 And, privileged by age, desires to know  
 In brief the grounds and motives of her woe.

So slides he down upon his grained bat,  
 65 And comely-distant sits he by her side,  
 When he again desires her, being sat,  
 Her grievance with his hearing to divide.  
 If that from him there may be aught applied  
 Which may her suffering ecstasy assuage,  
 70 'Tis promised in the charity of age.

'Father,' she says, 'though in me you behold  
 The injury of many a blasting hour,  
 Let it not tell your judgement I am old:  
 Not age, but sorrow, over me hath power,  
 75 I might as yet have been a spreading flower,  
 Fresh to myself, if I had self-applied  
 Love to myself and to no love beside.

1 **concave womb** i.e. hollow or cave **reworded** echoed 2 **plaintful** grievous, lamenting **sist'ring** neighbouring, sister **vale** dale, valley/place of trouble or sorrow 3 **t'attend** to listen to **accorded** inclined 4 **list** listen to 5 **Ere** before **fickle** fitful, agitated/capricious, changeable **full** extremely 6 **papers** i.e. love letters **atwain** in two 8 **plaited**... **straw** woven straw hat (shaped like a beehive) 10 **thought** imagination 11 **carcass** corpse, ruin **spent and done** consumed and exhausted 13 **all quit** completely gone **fell** fierce, cruel 14 **lattice** suggesting a criss-cross of lines on the face **seared** dried up 15 **heave** lift **napkin** handkerchief **eyne** eyes 16 **conceited characters** ingeniously embroidered images 17 **Laund'ring** washing **silken figures** i.e. the embroidery of silk **brine** salt water 18 **seasoned** matured with time/salted **pelleted** formed into small rounded drops 20 **undistinguished** indistinguishable, inarticulate 21 **size** volume, magnitude 22 **levelled** aimed (like a cannon) **carriage** wheeled support for a cannon 23 **As** as if **batt'ry** bombardment **spheres** i.e. heavens; planets and stars were thought to be contained within concentric hollow spheres 24 **balls** eyeballs/cannonballs 25 **th'orbèd** the round 26 **right on** straight ahead **anon** immediately **lend**...**once** go everywhere 28 **commixed** mingled, confused 29 **nor loose nor** neither loose nor 31 **sheaved** straw 32 **pined** wasted 33 **threaten fillet** ribbon binding her hair **bide** remain 36 **favours** love tokens **maund** wicker basket 39 **margent** margin, edge **set** seated 40 **usury** receiving interest on a loan (i.e. her tears add to the water already in the river) 41 **monarch's**...**all** like a monarch who refuses charity to the needy but amply rewards the wealthy 43 **schedules** notes, letters 44 **flood** river 45 **ring**...**bone** rings of gold and ivory engraved with love mottoes 46 **sepulchres** graves 48 **sleided** separated into strands **feat** elegantly **affectedly** lovingly 49 **Enswathed** wrapped up **curious** careful 50 **fluxive** flowing 51 **gave to tear** went to tear up 53 **unapproved** false 54 **Ink**...**here!** i.e. black ink would have been more appropriate as a colour for the damnably false sentiments in the letter 55 **in top of** at the height of **rents** tears 56 **Big**...**contents** her great rage destroying their contents 57 **reverend** respectable, aged **nigh** nearby 58 **Sometime** formerly **blusterer** swaggerer **ruffle** bustle 59 **let**...**flew** had let his youth fly by, but had learned lessons from it 61 **afflicted fancy** distressed imagination, i.e. the woman **fastly** closely/rapidly 62 **desires** asks 64 **slides**...**bat** he lowers himself with the help of his worn staff 65 **comely-distant** at a seemly distance 67 **divide** share 68 **ought** anything 69 **ecstasy** frenzy 71 **Father** respectful form of address for an old man 72 **blasting** withering 75 **spreading** unfolding

- 'But woe is me! Too early I attended  
A youthful suit — it was to gain my grace —  
80 O, one by nature's outwards so commended  
That maidens' eyes stuck over all his face.  
Love lacked a dwelling and made him her place  
And when in his fair parts she did abide,  
She was new lodged and newly deified.
- 85 'His browny locks did hang in crooked curls  
And every light occasion of the wind  
Upon his lips their silken parcels hurls.  
What's sweet to do, to do will aptly find:  
Each eye that saw him did enchant the mind,  
90 For on his visage was in little drawn  
What largeness thinks in paradise was sawn.
- 'Small show of man was yet upon his chin,  
His phoenix down began but to appear  
Like unshorn velvet on that termless skin  
95 Whose bare out-bragged the web it seemed to wear.  
Yet showed his visage by that cost more dear,  
And nice affections wavering stood in doubt  
If best were as it was, or best without.
- 'His qualities were beauteous as his form,  
100 For maiden-tongued he was and thereof free;  
Yet if men moved him, was he such a storm  
As oft 'twixt May and April is to see,  
When winds breathe sweet unruly though they be.  
His rudeness so with his authorized youth  
105 Did livery falseness in a pride of truth.
- 'Well could he ride and often men would say,  
"That horse his mettle from his rider takes.  
Proud of subjection, noble by the sway,  
What rounds, what bounds, what course, what stop  
he makes!"  
110 And controversy hence a question takes:  
Whether the horse by him became his deed,  
Or he his manage by th'well-doing steed.
- 'But quickly on this side the verdict went:  
His real habitude gave life and grace  
115 To appertainings and to ornament,  
Accomplished in himself, not in his case:  
All aids, themselves made fairer by their place,  
Came for additions, yet their purposed trim  
Pieced not his grace, but were all graced by him.
- 120 'So on the tip of his subduing tongue  
All kind of arguments and question deep,  
All replication prompt and reason strong,  
For his advantage still did wake and sleep,  
To make the weeper laugh, the laughter weep:  
125 He had the dialect and different skill,  
Catching all passions in his craft of will.
- "That he did in the general bosom reign  
Of young, of old and sexes both enchanted  
To dwell with him in thoughts, or to remain  
130 In personal duty, following where he haunted:  
Consents bewitched, ere he desire have granted,  
And dialogued for him what he would say,  
Asked their own wills and made their wills obey.
- 'Many there were that did his picture get,  
135 To serve their eyes, and in it put their mind  
Like fools that in th'imagination set  
The goodly objects which abroad they find  
Of lands and mansions, theirs in thought assigned,  
And labouring in more pleasures to bestow them  
140 Than the true gouty landlord which doth owe them.
- 'So many have, that never touched his hand,  
Sweetly supposed them mistress of his heart.  
My woeful self, that did in freedom stand,  
And was my own fee-simple, not in part,  
145 What with his art in youth and youth in art,  
Threw my affections in his charmed power,  
Reserved the stalk and gave him all my flower.
- 'Yet did I not, as some my equals did,  
Demand of him, nor being desired yielded.  
Finding myself in honour so forbid,  
150 With safest distance I mine honour shielded.  
Experience for me many bulwarks builded  
Of proofs new-bleeding, which remained the foil  
Of this false jewel and his amorous spoil.
- 155 'But, ah, who ever shunned by precedent  
The destined ill she must herself assay?  
Or forced examples, gainst her own content,  
To put the by-past perils in her way?  
Counsel may stop awhile what will not stay:  
160 For when we rage, advice is often seen  
By blunting us to make our wits more keen.

78 attended listened to 79 suit request/courtship grace favour 80 outwards externals, physical appearance 81 stuck over all were glued to 82 Love the goddess of love, Venus 85 crooked twisted (plays on the sense of 'deceptive') 86 light occasion slight opportunity 87 their...hurls tosses individual curls 88 to...find will readily find a doer 90 little miniature 91 sawn seen 93 phoenix down incomparably soft hair 94 unshorn uncut termless indescribable/youthful 95 bare...wear bare skin was even more beautiful than the downy covering 96 cost adornment/expense dear delightful/expensive 97 nice affections discriminating tastes 100 maiden-tongued softly spoken/modest in speech free innocent/eloquent 101 moved provoked 104 His...truth his roughness, licensed by his youth, dressed up his false nature in a fine show of truth 105 livery dress up pride show 107 mettle temperament, spirit 108 sway rider's control 109 rounds turns (like the other actions described, part of a series of training exercises) bounds leaps course a gallop stop sudden check in the midst of a gallop 110 controversy debate, discussion 111 Whether...deed whether the horse performed so handsomely on account of his rider, or vice versa 112 he the rider manage training and handling of the horse 114 real habitude regal disposition 115 appertainings external embellishments 116 case external circumstances/clothing 117 aids accessories, trappings 118 Came for additions functioned as ornaments purposed trim intended adornment 119 Pieced not did not add to 120 subduing controlling 122 replication reply 123 still...sleep were always at his disposal 125 dialect way of speaking different versatile, adaptable 126 Catching...will capturing all human emotions with skillful ease/ensnaring everyone's passions according to the cunning of his own (sexual) desires 127 That so that 130 haunted frequented 131 Consents...obey everyone so enchanted by him that they agreed to his wishes before he voiced them, having already imagined what he would say and made up their minds to obey (with suggestion of sexual compliance) 135 in...mind invest it with their imaginations, become obsessed with it 137 objects sights abroad out and about 138 theirs...assigned imagining that they own them assigned legally transferred 139 labouring...them taking more pleasure in the task of giving them away than their real gout-ridden owner 142 them themselves to be 144 my own fee-simple in absolute possession of myself (fee-simple is a legal term for the unconditional ownership of property) part part-ownership 146 charmed bewitching 147 flower bloom, beauty/virginity 149 Demand...yielded make demands upon him or immediately agree to sex as soon as he wanted it 152 bulwarks defences, fortifications 153 proofs new-bleeding recent evidence of his actions, i.e. bleeding hearts foil setting 154 spoil plunder, that which is (sexually) spoiled 155 precedent what has gone before 156 assay attempt, try by experience 157 forced...way to hinder her own inclination, urged examples of the dangers others have faced in the past 159 stop awhile delay stay be prevented 160 rage are in a state of high emotion (including sexual desire) 161 wits active mind (may play on the sense of 'genitals') keen sharp, eager

'Nor gives it satisfaction to our blood  
That we must curb it upon others' proof;  
To be forbid the sweets that seems so good.  
165 For fear of harms that preach in our behoof.  
O appetite, from judgement stand aloof.  
The one a palate hath that needs will taste,  
Though reason weep and cry, "It is thy last."

'For further I could say, "This man's untrue,  
170 And knew the patterns of his foul beguiling,  
Heard where his plants in others' orchards grew,  
Saw how deceits were gilded in his smiling,  
Knew vows were ever brokers to defiling,  
Thought characters and words merely but art  
175 And bastards of his foul adulterate heart."

'And long upon these terms I held my city,  
Till thus he 'gan besiege me: "Gentle maid,  
Have of my suffering youth some feeling pity  
And be not of my holy vows afraid.  
180 That's to ye sworn to none was ever said:  
For feasts of love I have been called unto,  
Till now did ne'er invite nor never woo.

"All my offences that abroad you see  
Are errors of the blood, none of the mind:  
185 Love made them not. With acture they may be,  
Where neither party is nor true nor kind:  
They sought their shame that so their shame did find  
And so much less of shame in me remains  
By how much of me their reproach contains.

"Among the many that mine eyes have seen,  
Not one whose flame my heart so much as warmed,  
Or my affection put to th'smallest teen,  
Or any of my leasures ever charmed.  
Harm have I done to them, but ne'er was harmed:  
195 Kept hearts in liveries, but mine own was free,  
And reigned, commanding in his monarchy.

"Look here, what tributes wounded fancies sent me  
Of pallid pearls and rubies red as blood,  
Figuring that they their passions likewise lent me  
200 Of grief and blushes, aptly understood  
In bloodless white and the encrimsoned mood,  
Effects of terror and dear modesty,  
Encamped in hearts but fighting outwardly.

"And, lo, behold these talents of their hair,

205 With twisted metal amorously impleached,  
I have received from many a several fair,  
Their kind acceptance weepingly beseeched,  
With th'annexions of fair gems enriched,  
And deep-brained sonnets that did amplify  
210 Each stone's dear nature, worth and quality.

"The diamond — why, 'twas beautiful and hard,  
Whereto his invised properties did tend —  
The deep-green em'rald, in whose fresh regard  
Weak sights their sickly radiance do amend —  
215 The heaven-hued sapphire and the opal blend  
With objects manifold: each several stone,  
With wit well blazoned, smiled or made some moan.

"Lo, all these trophies of affections hot,  
Of pensived and subdued desires the tender,  
220 Nature hath charged me that I heard them not,  
But yield them up where I myself must render,  
That is, to you, my origin and ender:  
For these of force must your oblations be,  
Since I their altar, you enpatron me.

"O then, advance of yours that phraseless hand,  
Whose white weighs down the airy scale of praise,  
Take all these similes to your own command,  
Hallowed with sighs that burning lungs did raise.  
What me, your minister, for you obeys,  
230 Works under you and to your audit comes  
Their distract parcels in combined sums.

"Lo, this device was sent me from a nun,  
Or sister sanctified, of holiest note,  
Which late her noble suit in court did shun,  
235 Whose rarest havings made the blossoms dote,  
For she was sought by spirits of richest coat  
But kept cold distance and did thence remove  
To spend her living in eternal love.

"But, O my sweet, what labour is't to leave  
The thing we have not, mast'ring what not strives,  
Paling the place which did no form receive,  
Playing patient sports in unconstrained gyves?  
She that her fame so to herself contrives,  
The scars of battle scapeth by the flight  
245 And makes her absence valiant, not her might.

"O, pardon me, in that my boast is true:  
The accident which brought me to her eye

162 **blood** sexual desire 163 **proof** evidence, experience 164 **forbod** forbidden **sweets** sexual pleasures 165 **in our behoof** on our behalf, for our benefit 170 **knew** I knew **beguiling** deceit 171 **plants** i.e. illegitimate children **orchards** i.e. wombs/families (the mother having been already married) 173 **brokers** agents, pimps **defiling** sexual defilement, corrupting chastity 174 **characters** and **words** the written and spoken word (i.e. declarations of love) **art** artifice, craft 175 **adulterate** adulterous 180 **That's** that which is 183 **abroad** out in the world 185 **With**...**kind** such actions may be so where neither party is faithful or in love 187 **They**...**find** i.e. they brought their ruin upon themselves 188 **And**...**contains** i.e. and the more they reproach me the less I am to blame 192 **teen** suffering, sorrow 193 **leasures** periods of leisure 195 **liveries** servants' uniforms 197 **wounded fancies** afflicted loves, i.e. abandoned lovers 198 **pallid** pale 199 **Figuring** symbolizing 202 **Effects** manifestations 204 **talents** tokens/treasures 205 **twisted** intricately wrought **impleached** entwined 206 **several fair** different beautiful woman 207 **Their kind acceptance** my gracious acceptance of such tokens 208 **th'annexions** the additions 209 **deep-brained** profound, ingeniously devised 210 **dear** loving/expensive 212 **invised** invisible 213 **in**...**regard** in contemplating the freshness of which 215 **heaven-hued** sky-blue **blend** dazzle/combine/blended (applies to **opal**, a gem that contains many colours) 216 **objects manifold** many other sights/along with many other gems **several** separate 217 **blazoned** described (in the **sonnets**) **smiled**...**moan** i.e. symbolized joy or grief 218 **hot** ardent/lustful 219 **pensived** saddened **tender** offering 223 **force** necessity **oblations** offerings (often religious) 224 **I**...**me** I am the altar on which they were offered and you are my patron saint 225 **phraseless** indescribable 227 **similes** poetic comparisons/the symbolic gems 228 **Hallowed** consecrated, made holy **raise** breath out 229 **What**...**obeys** whatever obeys me, your servant or priest, also obeys you 230 **audit** accounting 231 **distract parcels** separate parts 232 **Lo** look **device** love token 233 **note** reputation 234 **late** recently (before becoming a nun) **her**...**court** the noble courtiers who wooed her 235 **rarest havings** splendid qualities/precious belongings **blossoms** i.e. courtiers in the prime of life **dote** become infatuated 236 **richest coat** highest birth (coat of arms)/finest clothing 237 **cold** aloof/chaste **remove** withdraw 238 **living** lifetime **eternal love** the love of God 239 **what labour is't** i.e. it is not very hard 240 **not strives** offers no resistance 241 **Paling** enclosing, fencing off **the place** i.e. the heart/the body (specifically, the vagina) **form** image, stamp, impression/lover's body (specifically, penis) 242 **Playing**...**gyves** pretending to be patient whilst in voluntary shackles 243 **her**...**contrives** devises a reputation (for virtue) for herself 247 **accident** event

- Upon the moment did her force subdue  
And now she would the caged cloister fly.
- 250 Religious love put out religion's eye:  
Not to be tempted, would she be immured,  
And now, to tempt all, liberty procured.
- “How mighty then you are! O hear me tell!  
The broken bosoms that to me belong
- 255 Have emptied all their fountains in my well  
And mine I pour your ocean all among:  
I strong o'er them and you o'er me being strong,  
Must for your victory us all congeat  
As compound love to physic your cold breast.
- 260 “My parts had power to charm a sacred nun,  
Who, disciplined, ay, dieted in grace,  
Believed her eyes when they t'assail begun,  
All vows and consecrations giving place.  
O most potential love! Vow, bond, nor space,
- 265 In thee hath neither sting, knot, nor confine,  
For thou art all and all things else are thine.
- “When thou impressest, what are precepts worth  
Of stale example? When thou wilt inflame,  
How coldly those impediments stand forth
- 270 Of wealth, of filial fear, law, kindred, fame!  
Love's arms are peace, gainst rule, gainst sense,  
gainst shame,  
And sweetens, in the suffering pangs it bears,  
The aloes of all forces, shocks and fears.
- “Now all these hearts that do on mine depend,  
275 Feeling it break, with bleeding groans they pine,  
And supplicant their sighs to you extend  
To leave the batt'ry that you make gainst mine,  
Lending soft audience to my sweet design  
And credent soul to that strong-bonded oath
- 280 That shall prefer and undertake my troth.”
- “This said, his watery eyes he did dismount,  
Whose sights till then were levelled on my face:  
Each cheek a river running from a fount  
With brinish current downward flowed apace.
- 285 O, how the channel to the stream gave grace,  
Who glazed with crystal gate the glowing roses  
That flame through water which their hue encloses!
- ‘O father, what a hell of witchcraft lies
- In the small orb of one particular tear.  
290 But with the inundation of the eyes  
What rocky heart to water will not wear?  
What breast so cold that is not warmed here?  
O cleft effect! Cold modesty, hot wrath,  
Both fire from hence and chill extincture hath.
- 295 ‘For lo, his passion, but an art of craft,  
Even there resolved my reason into tears,  
There my white stole of chastity I duffed,  
Shook off my sober guards and civil fears,  
Appear to him as he to me appears,
- 300 All melting, though our drops this difference bore:  
His poisoned me and mine did him restore.
- ‘In him a plenitude of subtle matter,  
Applied to cautels, all strange forms receives,  
Of burning blushes, or of weeping water,
- 305 Or swooning paleness: and he takes and leaves,  
In either's aptness, as it best deceives,  
To blush at speeches rank, to weep at woes,  
Or to turn white and swoon at tragic shows,
- “That not a heart which in his level came  
310 Could scape the hail of his all-hurting aim,  
Showing fair nature is both kind and tame,  
And, veiled in them, did win whom he would maim.  
Against the thing he sought he would exclaim,  
When he most burned in heart-wished luxury,
- 315 He preached pure maid and praised cold chastity.
- “Thus merely with the garment of a grace  
The naked and concealed fiend he covered,  
That th'unexperient gave the tempter place,  
Which like a cherubin above them hovered.
- 320 Who, young and simple, would not be so loved?  
Ay me, I fell, and yet do question make  
What I should do again for such a sake.
- ‘O, that infected moisture of his eye,  
O, that false fire which in his cheek so glowed,  
O, that forced thunder from his heart did fly,
- 325 O, that sad breath his spongy lungs bestowed,  
O, all that borrowed motion seeming owed,  
Would yet again betray the fore-betrayed  
And new pervert a reconciled maid.’

249 cloister convent 250 Religious love i.e. devotion to me 251 Not ... procured previously she wished to be shut up from temptation, but now, in order to tempt everyone (or try everything), she has procured liberty 255 fountains springs, sources suggestive of 'baptism' 257 strong victorious 258 for due to congeat bring together 259 compound combined 260 parts qualities/physical features 262 they t'assail begun my parts began to attack/her eyes began to assault her with images of me 263 consecrations religious dedications 264 potential powerful 265 sting strength/harsh consequences 266 confine boundary, limit 267 impressescript into (military) service/stamp, make an impression 268 precepts rules, injunctions 270 filial fear a child's fear of disobeying a parent 271 are peace, gainst i.e. subdue the antagonism of 272 pangs may suggest the pains of childbirth (an image that would then be reinforced with a quibble on bears) 273 aloes bitterness 274 forces acts of force 275 shocks clashes of troops 276 bleeding groans each sigh was thought to cost the heart a drop of blood 278 Lending ... troth i.e. giving their support to my courtship of you and trusting the strong vow I make, an oath that shall advance and guarantee my faith 280 troth good faith 281 dismount lower 284 brinish salty 285 apace swiftly 285 channel i.e. cheek 286 Who which (i.e. the stream) 287 gate barrier 289 inundation flood 291 wear be worn down, erode 293 cleft divided 294 wrath ardour, passion 294 extincture extinction 295 art of craft skilful deceit 296 resolved dissolved (plays on the sense of 'determined') 297 stole robe/priest's vestment 298 duffed took off, threw aside 298 guards defences 299 civil fears decorous scruples 302 subtle crafty 303 cautels tricks, crafty devices 304 all ... receives assumes a variety of different forms 305 takes ... deceives chooses between them, depending on which is better able to deceive 307 rank coarse 309 level aim, sights 311 Showing ... tame demonstrating that a good disposition is both kind and compliant (or possibly 'his aim being to) give the appearance of a kind and gentle nature') 312 them i.e. his various pretences, feigned emotions (or possibly 'kindness and gentleness') 313 Against ... exclaim he would denounce what he really wanted 314 luxury lust 316 merely entirely/only 317 grace virtue 318 th'unexperient the inexperienced 319 Which he who cherubin guardian angel 320 simple inexperienced 321 loved provided with a lover 321 fell succumbed sexually 322 such a sake the sake of someone like him 326 spongy i.e. capable of squeezing out sighs 327 motion emotion 328 seeming owed apparently truly his 329 owed owned 328 the fore-betrayed one already betrayed 329 reconciled reformed, repentant

## Textual Notes

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### A LOVER'S COMPLAINT

Q = Quarto text of 1609

Ed = a correction introduced by a later editor

**7 sorrow's** = Ed. Q = sorrowes **14 lattice** = Ed. Q = lattice **37 beaded** = Ed. Q = bedded **51 gave** = Q. Ed = 'gan **80 O, one** = Q (O one). Ed = Of one **102 May** = Q. Ed =

March **118 Came** = Ed. Q = Can **135 in it put** = Q. Ed = put it in **161 wits** = Q. Ed = wills **182 woo** = Ed. Q = vovv **198 pallid** = Q (palyd). Ed = palèd **204 hair** = Ed. Q = heir **228 Hallowed** = Ed. Q = Hollowed **241 Paling** = Ed. Q = Playing **251 immured** = Ed. Q = enur'd **252 procured** = Ed. Q = procure **260 nun** = Ed. Q = Sunne **261 ay** = Ed. Q = I **270 kindred, fame** = Ed. Q = kindred fame **271 peace** = Q. Ed = proof **293 O** = Ed. Q = Or **305 swooning** = Ed. Q = sounding **308 swoon** = Ed. Q = sound