

Side 18 Dorinda and Aimwell

Dorinda: Well, well, my lord, you have conquered; your late generous action will, I hope, plead for my easy yielding; though I must own, your lordship had a friend in the fort before.

Aimwell: The sweets of Hybla dwell upon her tongue!

Dorinda: I 'm ready. But first, my lord, one word.—I have a frightful example of a hasty marriage in my own family; when I reflect upon't it shocks me. Pray, my lord, consider a little—

Aimwell: Consider! do you doubt my honour or my love?

Dorinda: Neither: I do believe you just as brave: and were your whole sex drawn out for me to choose, I should not cast a look upon the multitude if you were absent. But, my lord, I'm a woman; paints, concealments may hide a thousand faults in me, therefore know me better first; I hardly dare affirm I know myself in anything except my love.

Aimwell: [Aside] Who could injure such goodness? I find myself unequal to the task of villain; she has gained my soul, and made it honest like her own.— I cannot, cannot hurt her.— [Aloud, kneeling before her] Madam, behold your lover and your proselyte, and judge of my passion by my conversion!—I 'm all a lie, nor will I give a fiction to your arms; I 'm all counterfeit, except my passion.

Dorinda: Forbid it, Heaven! a counterfeit!

Aimwell: I am no lord, but a poor needy man, come with a mean, a scandalous design to prey upon your fortune; but the beauties and the goodness of your mind and person have so won me from myself that, like a trusty servant, I prefer the interest of my mistress to my own.

Dorinda: Sure I have had the dream of some poor mariner, a sleepy image of a welcome port, and wake involved in storms!—Pray, sir, who are you?

Aimwell: Brother to the man whose title I usurped, but a stranger to his honour and his fortune.

Dorinda: Matchless honesty!—Once I was proud, sir, of your wealth and title, but now am prouder that you lack it: now I can show my love was justly levelled, and had no aim but love.— Wait right there. I had a message earlier, and I will show it to you presently.