

The Country Wife – Audition Pieces

Alithea, Harcourt and Sparkish

Sparkish: Come, dear Madam, for my sake you shall be reconciled to him.

Alithea: For your sake I hate him.

Harcourt: That's something too cruel, madam, to hate me for his sake;

Sparkish: Ay indeed, madam, too, too cruel to me, to hat my friend for my sake.

Alithea: I hate him because he is your enemy; and you ought to hate him too for making love to me, if you love me.

Sparkish: That's a good one, I hate a man for loving you! If he did love you, 'tis but what he can't help; and 'tis your fault not his, if he admires you. I hate a man for being of my opinion; I'll never do it, by the world.

Alithea: Is it for your honour or mine to suffer a man to make love to me, who am to marry you tomorrow?

Sparkish: Is it for your honour or mine, to have me jealous? That he makes love to you is a sign you are handsome, and that I am not jealous, is a sign you are virtuous. That I think is for your honour.

Alithea: Are you not afraid to lose me?

Harcourt: He afraid to lose you, madam! No, no – you may see how the most estimable and most glorious creature in the world is valued by him. Will you not see it?

Sparkish: Right, honest Frank, I have that noble value for her that I cannot be jealous of her.