

The Country Wife – Audition Pieces

Lady Fidget, Dainty, Squeamish and Horner

Lady Fidget: That we may be sure of our welcome, we have brought our entertainment with us, and are resolved to treat thee, dear toad.

Dainty: And that we may be merry to purpose, have left Sir Jaspar and my old Lady Squeamish quarrelling at home at backgammon.

Squeamish: Therefore, let us make use of our time, lest they should chance to interrupt us.

Lady Fidget: Let us sit then.

Horner: First that you may be private, let me lock this door, and I'll wait upon you presently.

Lady Fidget: No, sir, shut 'em only and your lips for ever, for we must trust you as much as our women.

Horner: You know all vanity's killed in me; I have no occasion for talking.

Lady Fidget: Now Ladies, supposing we had drank each of us our two bottles, let us speak the truth of our hearts.

Dainty and Squeamish: Agreed.

Lady Fidget: By this brimmer, for the truth is nowhere else to be found (*aside to Horner*) Not in thy heart, false man!

Horner: (*aside to Lady Fidget*) You have found me a true man, I 'm sure!

Lady Fidget: (*aside to Horner*) Not every way. – But let us sit and be merry.

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Squeamish: Lovely Brimmer, let me enjoy him first.

Lady Fidget: No, I never part with a gallant till I've tried him. Dear brimmer, that mak'st our husbands short-sighted.

Dainty: And our bashful gallants bold.

Squeamish: And for want of a gallant, the butler lovely in our eyes. Drink, eunuch.

Lady Fidget: Drink thou representative of a husband. Damn a husband!

Dainty: And, as it were a husband, an old keeper.

Squeamish: And an old grandmother