EDMUND SPENSER (1552–1599), POET. For a brief biography of Spenser and other selections from the Faerie Queene, as well as selections from The Shepheardes Calender, see the print anthology, pp. 270-82.

THE FAERIE QUEENE

THE THIRD BOOK OF THE FAERIE QUEENE. CONTAINING, THE LEGEND OF BRITOMARTIS. OR OF CHASTITY.

FROM CANTO 1 [THE MALECASTA-CASTLE JOYOUS EPISODE]

[…]

20
At last as nigh out of the wood she came,
    A stately castle far away she spied,
To which her steps directly she did frame.¹
    That castle was most goodly edified,²
And placed for pleasure nigh that forest side:
    But fair before the gate a spacious plain,
Mantled with green, itself did spredden wide,
    On which she saw six knights, that did darraine³
Fierce battle against one, with cruel might and maine.⁴

21
Mainly they all attonce upon him laid,⁵
    And sore beset on every side around,
That nigh he breathless grew, yet nought dismayed,
    Ne ever to them yielded foot of ground
All had he lost much blood through many a wound,⁶
But stoutly dealt his blows, and every way
    To which he turned in his wrathful stound,⁷
Made them recoil, and fly from dread decay,⁸
That none of all the six before, him durst assay.⁹

¹ *frame* direct.
² *edified* constructed, built.
³ *darraine* conduct, wage.
⁴ *might and maine* greatest possible strength or force.
⁵ *Mainly* Mightily, with great force or violence. *attonce* at once, simultaneously.
⁶ *All he had* i.e., even though he had.
⁷ *stound* storm.
⁸ *decay* death.
22
Like dastard curs, that having at a bay\textsuperscript{10}
The salvage beast embossed in weary chase,\textsuperscript{11}
Dare not adventure on the stubborn prey,\textsuperscript{12}
Ne bite before, but roam from place to place,
To get a snatch, when turned is his face.\textsuperscript{13}
In such distress and doubtful jeopardy,\textsuperscript{14}
When Britomart him saw, she ran apace\textsuperscript{15}
Unto his rescue, and with earnest cry,
Bad those same six forbear that single enemy.\textsuperscript{16}

23
But to her cry they list not lenden ear,\textsuperscript{17}
Ne ought the more their mighty strokes surcease,\textsuperscript{18}
But gathering him round about more near,
Their direful rancour rather did increase;
Till that she rushing through the thickest press,
Perforce disparted their compacted gyre,\textsuperscript{19}
And soon compelled to hearken unto peace:
Tho gan she mildly of them to inquire
The cause of their dissention and outrageous ire.

24
Where to that single knight did answer frame:
\begin{quote}
These six would me enforce by odds of might,
To change my lief, and love another dame,\textsuperscript{20}
That death me liefer were than such despight,\textsuperscript{21}
So unto wrong to yield my wrested right;
For I love one, the truest one on ground,\textsuperscript{22}
\end{quote}

\begin{itemize}
\item \textit{assay} test, assault.
\item \textit{dastard curs} cowardly dogs (they attack only because they have strength in numbers). \textit{at a bay} i.e., cornered, so that the hunted animal must turn and fight.
\item \textit{salvage} i.e., savage. \textit{embossed} exhausted.
\item \textit{stubborn} unyielding; ferocious.
\item \textit{snatch} a sudden grab or snap.
\item \textit{doubtful} fearful [because the outcome is very uncertain].
\item \textit{apace} as quickly as possible.
\item \textit{bad} ordered, commanded. \textit{forbear} cease from [attacking]; leave alone.
\item \textit{list not} refused to.
\item \textit{surcease} leave off, stop.
\item \textit{Perforce ... compacted gyre} i.e., Forcibly broke up their concerted attack (one that is imagined as wheeling around the embattled knight in a tight circle).
\item \textit{lief} beloved.
\item \textit{That death me liefer were than such despight} i.e., I would much prefer to die than to commit such a despicable act.
\end{itemize}
Ne list me change; she th’Errant Damsel hight,\(^{23}\)
For whose dear sake full many a bitter stound,\(^{24}\)
I have endu’ed, and tasted many a bloody wound.”\(^{25}\)

25
“Certes,” said she, “then been ye six to blame,
To ween your wrong by force to justify:\(^{26}\)
For knight to leave his lady were great shame,
That faithful is, and better were to die.
All loss is less, and less the infamy,
Than loss of love to him, that loves but one;
Ne may love be compelled by maisterie;\(^{27}\)
For soon as maisterie comes, sweet love anon\(^{28}\)
Taketh his nimble wings, and soon away is gone.”

26
Then spoke one of those six, “There dwelleth here
Within this castle wall a lady fair,
Whose sovereign beauty hath no living peer,
Thereto so bounteous and so debonair,\(^{29}\)
That never any mote with her compare.\(^{30}\)
She hath ordained this law, which we approve,\(^{31}\)
That every knight, which doth this way repair,\(^{32}\)
In case he have no lady, nor no love,
Shall do unto her service never to remove.

27
“But if he have a lady or a love,
Then must he her forgo with foul defame,\(^{33}\)
Or else with us by dint of sword approve\(^{34}\)

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22 *For ... ground*  In Book I, Spenser details the adventures of Redcrosse Knight in the service of the beautiful and virtuous Una, an allegorical figure representing (among other things) Truth and the English Protestant Church. ‘Una’ means ‘one.’

23 *th’Errant Damsel hight*  i.e., the Wandering Damsel called. Lady Una is called this in 2.2.19; she is ‘errant’ in the same way a chivalric knight is errant (i.e., because she is travelling on a quest or adventure), but she is also ‘errant,’ because the Latin root of this word is ‘errare’ which means ‘to wander;’ in Book 1, Una wanders widely to find her lost knight, Redcrosse.

24 *stound*  terrible time.

25 *endu’ed*  endured.

26 *ween*  think.

27 *maisterie*  force. The sentiment is proverbial (Tilley L499).

28 *anon*  immediately, right away.

29 *debonair*  generous with her favours.

30 *mote*  might.

31 *approve*  uphold, enforce.

32 *repair*  come, travel.

33 *foul defame*  terrible infamy or disgrace.
That she is fairer, than our fairest dame,
As did this knight, before ye hither came.”
“Perdie,” said Britomart, “the choice is hard:35
But what reward had he, that overcame?”
“He should advanced be to high regard,”
Said they, “and have our Lady’s love for his reward.

Therefore aread, sir, if thou have a love.”36
“Love have I sure,” quoth she, “but lady none;
Yet will I not fro mine own love remove,
Ne to your Lady will I service done,
But wreak your wrongs wrought to this knight alone,37
And prove his cause.” With that her mortal spear
She mightily aventered towards one,38
And down him smote, ere well aware he wear,39
Then to the next she rode, and down the next did bear.

Ne did she stay, till three on ground she laid,
That none of them himself could rear again;
The fourth was by that other knight dismayed,40
All were he weary of his former pain,
That now there do but two of six remain;
Which two did yield, before she did them smite.
“Ah,” said she then, “now may ye all see plain,
That truth is strong, and true love most of might,41
That for his trusty servants doth so strongly fight.”

“Too well we see,” said they, “and prove too well
Our faulty weakness, and your matchless might.
For thy, fair sir, yours be the Damozel,42
Which by her own law to your lot doth light.43
And we your liege men faith unto you plighted.\textsuperscript{44}
So underneath her feet their swords they marred,\textsuperscript{45}
And after her besought, well as they might,
To enter in, and reap the due reward:
She granted, and then in they all together far’d.\textsuperscript{46}

31
Long were it to describe the goodly frame,\textsuperscript{47}
And stately port of Castle Joyous,\textsuperscript{48}
(For so that Castle hight by commune name)\textsuperscript{49}
Where they were entertained with courteous
And comely glee of many gracious
Fair ladies, and of many a gentle knight,
Who through a chamber long and spacious,
Eftsoons them brought unto their Lady’s sight,
That of them cleaped was the \textit{Lady of delight}.\textsuperscript{50}

32
But for to tell the sumptuous array
Of that great chamber, should be labour lost:
For living wit, I ween, cannot display\textsuperscript{51}
The royal riches and exceeding cost,
Of every pillour and of every post;
Which all of purest bullion framed were,\textsuperscript{52}
And with great pearls and precious stones embossed,
That the bright glister of their beams clear
Did sparkle forth great light, and glorious did appear.

33
These stranger knights through passing, forth were led
Into an inner rowme, whose royalty\textsuperscript{53}
And rich purveyance might uneath be red;\textsuperscript{54}

\textsuperscript{44} liegemen vassals or subordinates sworn to serve and protect a superior (here, of course, Britomart, as the winner of the combat). plight pledge, promise.
\textsuperscript{45} marred damaged; perhaps, here, the meaning is more simply that they dishonour their swords by placing them under Britomart’s feet as a mark of their submission to her.
\textsuperscript{46} far’d fared (went).
\textsuperscript{47} frame structure, composition.
\textsuperscript{48} port appearance; perhaps, also, a reference to the demeanour and behaviour of those who inhabit the Castle.
\textsuperscript{49} commune common.
\textsuperscript{50} cleaped called, named. the \textit{Lady of delight} an ironic epithet; her real name, \textit{Malecasta} (stanza 57) means ‘wickedly chaste.’
\textsuperscript{51} ween think, believe, suppose.
\textsuperscript{52} bullion silver or gold.
\textsuperscript{53} rowme room. royalty sumptuousness.
\textsuperscript{54} purveyance appurtenances, furnishings. uneath be red scarcely be recounted.
Mote prince’s place beseem so decked to be.\textsuperscript{55}
Which stately manner when as they did see,
The image of superfluous riotize,\textsuperscript{56}
Exceeding much the state of mean degree,\textsuperscript{57}
They greatly wondered, whence so sumptuous guise\textsuperscript{58}
Might be maintained, and each gan diversely devise.\textsuperscript{59}

34
The walls were round about appareled
   With costly clothes of Arras and of Toure,
In which with cunning hand was pourtrahed\textsuperscript{60}
The love of Venus and her Paramour\textsuperscript{61}
The fair Adonis, turned to a flowre,
A work of rare device, and wondrous wit.\textsuperscript{62}
First did it show the bitter baleful stowre,\textsuperscript{63}
Which her assayed with many a fervent fit,\textsuperscript{64}
When first her tender heart was with his beauty smit.

35
Then with what sleights and sweet allurements she\textsuperscript{65}
Enticed the boy, as well that art she knew,
And wooed him her paramour to be;
Now making girlonds of each flowre that grew,\textsuperscript{66}
To crown his golden locks with honour due;
Now leading him into a secret shade
From his beauperes, and from bright heav’n’s view,\textsuperscript{67}
Where him to sleep she gently would persuade,
Or bathe him in a fountain by some covert glade.

36
And whilst he slept, she over him would spread
   Her mantle, coloured like the starry skies,

\textsuperscript{55} mote ... be i.e., it might become or fitting for (beseem) a prince’s dwelling (place) to be so adorned.
\textsuperscript{56} superfluous riotize unrestrained excess, immoderate extravagance.
\textsuperscript{57} mean moderate. The display seems utterly inappropriate for the Lady’s middling (mean) rank (i.e., she is not noble or royal).
\textsuperscript{58} guise appearance.
\textsuperscript{59} devise come up with an explanation (for); guess.
\textsuperscript{60} pourtrahed portrayed.
\textsuperscript{61} Paramour beloved; sexual partner. See ‘Venus and Adonis,’ Glossary (print anthology).
\textsuperscript{62} device design, plan. wit skill.
\textsuperscript{63} stowre torment, turmoi.
\textsuperscript{64} assayed assaulted, attacked.
\textsuperscript{65} sleights tricks, artifices, subtle strategies.
\textsuperscript{66} girlonds garlands.
\textsuperscript{67} beauperes literally, ‘beautiful peers’ (his friends or comrades).
And her soft arm lay underneath his head,
And with ambrosial kisses bathe his eyes;
And whilst he bathed, with her two crafty spies,
She secretly would search each dainty limb,
And throw into the well sweet rosemaries,
And fragrant violets, and pances trim,
And ever with sweet nectar she did sprinkle him.

37
So did she steal his heedless heart away,
And joyed his love in secret unespied.
But for she saw him bent to cruel play,
To hunt the salvage beast in forest wide,
Dreadful of danger, that mote him betide,
She oft and oft advised him to refrain
From chase of greater beasts, whose brutish pride
Mote breed him scath unawares: but all in vain;
For who can shun the chance, that dest’ny doth ordain?

38
Lo, where beyond he lieth languishing,
Deadly engored of a great wild boar,
And by his side the goddess grovelling
Makes for him endless moan, and evermore
With her soft garment wipes away the gore,
Which stains his snowy skin with hateful hew:
But when she saw no help might him restore,
Him to a dainty flow’r she did transmew,
Which in that cloth was wrought, as if it lively grew.

39
So was that chamber clad in goodly wise,
And round about it many beds were dight,
As whilom was the antique worldes guise.

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68 rosemaries  Rosemary is an herb traditionally associated with remembrance; violets and pances (pansies) with love and Venus.
69 joyed  i.e., enjoyed (in sexual terms).
70 play  here, exercise; physical activity.
71 dreadful  fearful.  mought him betide  might befall him.
72 scath  harm, injury.
73 beyond  in another tapestry (hanging somewhat further away).  languishing  fainting (on account of his wound, but also on account of desire).
74 dainty flow’r  the anemone.  transmew  transform.
75 dight  arranged, prepared.
76 worldes  world’s [2 syllables].
Some for untimely ease, some for delight,
As pleased them to use, that use it might:
And all was full of damsels, and of squires,
Dancing and revelling both day and night,
And swimming deep in sensual desires,
And Cupid still amongst them kindled lustful fires.

40
And all the while sweet music did divide
Her looser notes with Lydian harmony, 77
And all the while sweet birds thereto applied
Their dainty lays and dulcet melody,
Ay carolling of love and jollity, 78
That wonder was to hear their trim consort.
Which when those knights beheld, with scornful eye,
They sdeigned such lascivious disport, 79
And loathed the loose demeanure of that wanton sort. 80

41
Thence they were brought to that great lady’s view,
Whom they found sitting on a sumptuous bed,
That glistered all with gold and glorious shew, 81
As the proud Persian queens accustomed: 82
She seemed a woman of great bountihead, 83
And of rare beauty, saving that askaunce 84
Her wanton eyes, ill signs of womanhead, 85
Did roll too highly, and too often glance,
Without regard of grace, or comely amenaunce. 86

42
Long work it were, and needless to devise 87
Their goodly entertainment and great glee:
She caused them be led in courteous wise

---

77 looser too free, wanton.  Lydian harmony a type of ancient Greek music, thought in the Renaissance to be wanton and effeminate.
78 Ay ever, continually.
79 sdeigned disdained.  disport entertainment, conduct.
80 demeanure demeanour.  sort group, company, gathering.
81 shew show.
82 Persian queens There are other evil, seemingly beautiful women in the FQ who are compared to the pagan and luxurious Persians: Duessa (1.2.13) and Lucifera (1.4.7).
83 bountihead generosity, liberality.
84 askaunce sideways (often associated with guile and seductiveness).
85 womanhead womanhood, womanliness.
86 amenaunce conduct, bearing.
87 devise describe, relate.
Into a bowre, disarmed for to be,
And cheared well with wine and spicere.

The Redcrosse Knight was soon disarmed there,
But the brave maid would not disarmed be,
But only vented up her umbriere,
And so did let her goodly visage to appear.

As when fair Cynthia, in darksome night,
Is in a noyous cloud enveloped,
Where she may find the substance thin and light,
Breaks forth her silver beams, and her bright head
Discovers to the world discomfited;
Of the poor traveller, that went astray,
With thousand blessings she is heried;
Such was the beauty and the shining ray,
With which fair Britomart gave light unto the day.

And eke those six, which lately with her fought,
Now were disarmed, and did themselves present
Unto her view, and company unsought;
For they all seemed courteous and gent,
And all six brethren, born of one parent,
Which had them trained in all civility,
And goodly taught to tilt and tournament;
Now were they liegemen to this Lady free,
And her knights service ought, to hold of her in fee.

The first of them by name Gardante hight,
A jolly person, and of comely vew;
The second was Parlante, a bold knight,
And next to him Jocante did ensew;
Basciante did himself most courteous shew;
But fierce Bacchante seemed too fell and keen;
And yet in arms Noctante greater grew:

All were fair knights, and goodly well beseen,
But to fair Britomart they all but shadows been.

46
For she was full of amiable grace,
And manly terror mixed therewithal,
That as the one stirred up affections base,
So th’other did men’s rash desires appal,
And hold them back, that would in error fall;
As he, that hath espied a vermeill Rose,
To which sharp thorns and breres the way forestall
Dare not for dread his hardy hand expose,
But wishing it far off, his idle wish doth lose.

47
Whom when the Lady saw so fair a wight
All ignorant of her contrary sex,
(For she her weened a fresh and lusty knight)
She greatly gan enamoured to wex,
And with vain thoughts her falsed fancy vex:
Her fickle heart conceived hasty fire,
Like sparks of fire, which fall in sclender flex,
That shortly brent into extreme desire,
And ransack’d all her veins with passion entire.

48
Eftssoons she grew to great impatience
And into terms of open outrage brust.

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99 Gardante, Parlante, Jocante, Basciante, Bacchante, Noctante Each of these names refers to a stage in seduction: Gardante (looking lecherously or lustfully upon), leads to Parlante (speaking of love and desire), leads to Jocante (amorous ‘playing’ or ‘toying’) leads to Basciante (kissing) which leads finally to Baccante (sexual arousal) and Nocante (the night-time satisfying of desire).

100 vermeill bright scarlet, vermilion.
101 breres briars.
102 hardy bold, perhaps ‘foolhardy’.
103 wight living creature.
104 weened believed, thought.
105 wex wax, grow.
106 fancy imagination (thought a highly unreliable faculty in the Renaissance).
107 sclender flex weak or vulnerable flax. Flax is a highly combustible plant (lamp wicks were made of it)
108 Eftssoons Afterwards.
109 terms state. outrage intemperance. brust burst.
That plain discovered her incontinence,
Ne recked she, who her meaning did mistrust,\textsuperscript{110}
For she was given all to fleshly lust,
And poured forth in sensual delight,
That all regard of shame she had discust,\textsuperscript{111}
And meet respect of honour put to flight:\textsuperscript{112}
So shameless beauty soon becomes a loathy sight.

49
Fair ladies, that to love captivated are,
And chaste desires do nourish in your mind,
Let not her fault your sweet affections mar,
Ne blot the bounty of all womankind;\textsuperscript{113}
'Mongst thousands good one wanton dame to find:
Amongst the roses grow some wicked weeds;
For this was not to love, but lust inclined;
For love does always bring forth bounteous deeds,\textsuperscript{114}
And in each gentle heart desire of honour breeds.

50
Nought so of love this looser Dame did skill,\textsuperscript{115}
But as a coal to kindle fleshly flame,\textsuperscript{116}
Giving the bridle to her wanton will,
And treading underfoot her honest name:
Such love is hate, and such desire is shame.
Still did she rove at her with crafty glaunce
Of her false eyes, that at her heart did aim,
And told her meaning in her countenaunce;
But Britomart dissembled it with ignoraunce.

51
Supper was shortly dight and down they sat,\textsuperscript{117}
Where they were served with all sumptuous fare,
Whiles fruitful Ceres, and Lyaeus fat\textsuperscript{118}
Poured out their plenty, without spight or spare:\textsuperscript{119}

\textsuperscript{110} recked cared. mistrust suspect.
\textsuperscript{111} discust discarded, cast off.
\textsuperscript{112} meet fitting, proper.
\textsuperscript{113} bounty virtue.
\textsuperscript{114} bounteous virtuous.
\textsuperscript{115} looser too sexually loose, too licentious or sensual. skill know.
\textsuperscript{116} fleshy flame sexual desire.
\textsuperscript{117} dight ready.
\textsuperscript{118} Ceres the goddess of the harvest, representing here the banquet’s food. Lyaeus Bacchus or Dionysus, god of wine.
\textsuperscript{119} spight or spare grudging or miserliness, frugality, severe economy.
Nought wanted there, that dainty was and rare;\(^{120}\)
And aye the cups their banks did overflow,\(^{121}\)
And aye between the cups, she did prepare
Way to her love, and secret darts did throw;
But Britomart would not such guileful message know.

52
So when they slaked had the fervent heat
Of appetite with meats of every sort,
The Lady did fair Britomart entreat,
Her to disarm, and with delightful sport
To loose her warlike limbs and strong effort,\(^{122}\)
But when she mote not thereunto be won,\(^{123}\)
(For she her sex under that straunge purport\(^{124}\)
Did use to hide, and plain apparaunce shun:)
In plainer wise to tell her grievaunce she begun.

53
And all attonce discovered her desire\(^{125}\)
With sighs, and sobs, and plaints, and piteous grief,
The outward sparks of her in burning fire;
Which spent in vain, at last she told her brief,\(^{126}\)
That but if she did lend her short relief,\(^{127}\)
And do her comfort, she mote algates die.\(^{128}\)
But the chaste Damsel, that had never priefe\(^{129}\)
Of such malengine and fine forgerie,\(^{130}\)
Did easily believe her strong extremity.\(^{131}\)

54
Full easy was for her to have belief,
Who by self-feeling of her feeble sex,
And by long trial of the inward grief,
Wherewith imperious love her heart did vex,\(^{132}\)

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120 dainty choice.
121 aye ever, always, continually.
122 loose often, as here, the word has a double meaning: Malecasta invites Britomart literally to loose or disarm herself, but in doing so Britomart would be surrendering to moral or spiritual looseness. See n115.
123 mote might
124 purport appearance and demeanour.
125 attonce at once. discovered showed, displayed.
126 brief briefly.
127 but if unless.
128 mote algates might otherwise.
129 priefe practical experience
130 malengine and fine forgerie deceit and well-performed deception.
131 extremity intense passion
Could judge what pains do loving hearts perplex. Who means no guile, be guiled soonest shall, And to fair semblance doth light faith annex; The bird, that knows not the false fowler’s call, Into his hidden net full easily doth fall.

For thy, she would not in discourteise wise, Scorn the fair offer of good will professed; For great rebuke it is, love to despise, Or rudely sdeigne a gentle heart’s request; But with fair countenance, as beseemed best, Her entertained; nath’less she inly deemed Her love too light, to woo a wand’ring guest: Which she misconstruing, thereby esteemed That from like inward fire that outward smoke had steemed.

Therewith a while she her flit fancy fed, Till she mote win fit time for her desire, But yet her wound still inward freshly bled, And through her bones the false instilled fire Did spread itself, and venime close inspire. Tho were the tables taken all away, And every knight, and every gentle squire Gan choose his dame with Basciomani gay, With whom he meant to make his sport and courtly play.

Some fell to daunce, some fell to hazardry, Some to make love, some to make merriment.

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132 vex distress, trouble. Britomart loves the knight Artegall whom she has earlier seen in a magic mirror, and for whom she searches throughout much of the FQ.
133 perplex torture, torment.
134 guile deception. be guiled be deceived.
135 semblance appearance.
136 For thy As a result.
137 sdeigne disdain, scorn.
138 steemed i.e., steamed, issued, risen forth.
139 flit fickle, changeable.
140 venime close inspire venom secretly or inwardly breathed.
141 Basciomani from the Italian phrase, bacio le mani, meaning ‘I kiss your hands.’
142 sport amorous activity (extending to sexual intercourse, but including lesser intimate acts, such as kissing and embracing).
143 hazardry gambling, dicing, games of chance.
As diverse wits to divers things apply;  
And all the while fair Malecasta bent
Her crafty engines to her close intent.  
By this th’eternal lamps, wherewith high Jove  
Doth light the lower world, were half yspent,  
And the moist daughters of huge Atlas strove  
Into the Ocean deep to drive their weary drove.  

High time it seemed then for every wight  
Them to betake unto their kindly rest;  
Eftsoons long waxen torches weren light,  
Unto their bowres to guiden every guest;  
Tho when the Britoness saw all the rest,  
Avoided quite, she gan herself despoil,  
And safe commit to her soft feathered nest,  
Where through long watch, and late day’s weary toil,  
She soundly slept, and careful thoughts did quite assoil.  

Now whenaas all the world in silence deep  
Yshrouded was, and every mortal wight  
Was drowned in the depth of deadly sleep,  
Fair Malecasta, whose engrieved spright  
Could find no rest in such perplexed plight,  
Lightly arose out of her weary bed,  
And under the black veil of guilty Night,  
Her with a scarlet mantle cov’rered,  
That was with gold and ermines fair enveloped.

144 make love flirt, court. 
145 Malecasta in a typical Spenserian move, Malecasta’s name is revealed only after her nature has been made plain. See n50. 
146 engines allurements, wiles. 
147 And ... drove The Hyades, five of the daughters of Atlas, the demi-god who bears upon his shoulders the weight of the world; after dying from grief over the death of their brother, Hyas, the five were transformed into stars; the ancients thought that rain always accompanied their rising and setting. 
148 kindly natural (in obedience to the dictates of nature). 
149 the Britoness i.e., Britomart. 
150 avoided departed, retired. despoil disarm (although the word implies the danger that Britomart courts in taking off her arms in Castle Joyeous). 
151 careful full of care or anxiety. assoil release, free [herself] from. 
152 spright spirit. 
153 plight condition, state. 
154 Lightly ‘quickly,’ but also ‘unchastely, with lewd intent’ (cf. n115 and n122). 
155 ermines The ermine was one of Elizabeth I’s emblems of chastity (see ‘The Ermine Portrait’ [1585]), but it was also an emblem of sexual lust and incontinence.
Then panting soft, and trembling every joint,
Her fearful feet towards the bowre she moved;
Where she for secret purpose did appoint
To lodge the warlike maid unwisely loved,
And to her bed approaching, first she proved,\(^\text{156}\)
Whether she slept or waked, with her soft hand
She softly felt, if any member moved,
And lent her wary ear to understand,
If any puff of breath, or sign of sense she fond.\(^\text{157}\)

Which whenas none she fond, with easy shift,\(^\text{158}\)
For fear least her unwares she should abraid,\(^\text{159}\)
Th’embroidered quilt she lightly up did lift,
And by her side herself she softly laid,
Of every finest finger’s touch afraid;
Ne any noise she made, ne word she spake,
But inly sigh’d. At last the royal maid
Out of her quiet slumber did awake,
And changed her weary side, the better ease to take.

Where feeling one close couched by her side,
She lightly lept out of her filed bed,\(^\text{160}\)
And to her weapon ran, in mind to gride\(^\text{161}\)
The loathed leachour. But the Dame half dead\(^\text{162}\)
Through sudden fear and ghastly drierihed,\(^\text{163}\)
Did shriek aloud, that through the house it rong,\(^\text{164}\)
And the whole family therewith adread,
Rashly out of their rouzed couches sprung,\(^\text{165}\)
And to the troubled chamber all in arms did throng.

And those six knights that Lady’s champions,
And eke the Redcrosse Knight ran to the stound,\(^\text{166}\)

\(^{156}\) proved tested.  
\(^{157}\) fond found.  
\(^{158}\) shift motion.  
\(^{159}\) abraid startle, awake.  
\(^{160}\) filed defiled.  
\(^{161}\) gride attack; run-through with a sword.  
\(^{162}\) leachour lecher.  
\(^{163}\) ghastly drierihed unspeakable terror.  
\(^{164}\) rong rung.  
\(^{165}\) Rashly Quickly.  \(\text{spring} \) sprung.
Half armed and half unarmed, with them attons,\textsuperscript{167}
Where when confusedly they came, they found
Their Lady lying on the senseless ground;
On th’other side, they saw the warlike maid
All in her snow-white smock, with locks unbound,\textsuperscript{168}
Threat’ning the point of her avenging blade,
That with so troublous terror they were all dismayed.\textsuperscript{169}

64
About their Lady first they flocked around,
Whom having laid in comfortable couch,
Shortly they reared out of her frozen swound;\textsuperscript{170}
And afterwards they gan with foul reproach
To stir up strife, and troublous contecke broach:\textsuperscript{171}
But by ensample of the last day’s loss,\textsuperscript{172}
None of them rashly durst to her approach,
Ne in so glorious spoil themselves emboss;\textsuperscript{173}
Her succour’d eke the Champion of the Bloody Crosse.\textsuperscript{174}

65
But one of those six knights, Gardante hight,\textsuperscript{175}
Drew out a deadly bow and arrow keen,\textsuperscript{176}
Which forth he sent with felonous despight,\textsuperscript{177}
And fell intent against the virgin sheen:
The mortal steel stayed not, till it was seen
To gore her side, yet was the wound not deep,
But lightly rased her soft silken skin,\textsuperscript{179}
That drops of purple blood thereout did weep,
Which did her lily smock with stains of vermeil steep.\textsuperscript{180}

\textsuperscript{166 stound} uproar, commotion.
\textsuperscript{167 attons} at once.
\textsuperscript{168 smock} undergarment, shift.
\textsuperscript{169 troublous} unsettled, confused.
\textsuperscript{170 swound} fainting fit.
\textsuperscript{171 contecke} strife, conflict. \textit{broach} introduce, begin.
\textsuperscript{172 ensample} example, precedent. \textit{the last day’s loss} i.e., when Britomart and Redcrosse defeated them.
\textsuperscript{173 emboss} decorate (none of the knights dares to combat Britomart and claim her as a spoil or prize of victory).
\textsuperscript{174 Her succoured eke} i.e., she was also aided by. \textit{Champion of the Bloody Crosse} another epithet for Redcrosse Knight.
\textsuperscript{175 Gardante} See n99.
\textsuperscript{176 The bow and arrow} are the traditional weapons of Cupid, the winged god of love, who uses them to afflict his victims with love and desire. The eyes of the lovely mistress are often depicted as shooting arrow-like beams into the lover’s eyes.
\textsuperscript{177 felonous despight} wicked or criminal scorn, rage.
\textsuperscript{178 fell} murderous. \textit{virgin sheen} the shining or lovely virgin.
\textsuperscript{179 rased} scratched.
\textsuperscript{180 vermeil} See n100.
Wherewith enraged she fiercely at them flew,
   And with her flaming sword about her laid,
   That none of them foul mischief could eschew,\textsuperscript{181}
But with her dreadful strokes were all dismayed:
Here, there, and every where about her swayed
Her wrathful steel, that none mote it abide;
And eke the Redcrosse Knight gave her good aid,
Ay joining foot to foot, and side to side,\textsuperscript{182}
That in short space their foes they have quite terrified.

Tho whenas all were put to shameful flight,
The noble Britomartis her arrayed,
And her bright arms about her body dight:\textsuperscript{183}
For nothing would she longer there be stayed,
Where so loose life, and so ungentle trade\textsuperscript{184}
Was used of Knights and Ladies seeming gent:\textsuperscript{185}
So earely ere the gross Earth’s griesy shade\textsuperscript{186}
Was all dispersed out of the firmament,
They took their steeds, and forth upon their journey went.

END OF CANTO 1

From BOOK 3, CANTO 6 [THE GARDEN OF ADONIS]

[The Garden of Adonis is a paradise created by Venus, the goddess of love; there, the beautiful mortal woman Amoret is brought and raised.]

Right in the middest of that Paradise,
   There stood a stately Mount, on whose round top
   A gloomy grove of myrtle trees did rise,\textsuperscript{187}
   Whose shady boughs sharp steel did never lop,

\textsuperscript{181} mischief harm, injury. eschew avoid, escape.
\textsuperscript{182} Ay Ever, Always, Continually.
\textsuperscript{183} dight fastened.
\textsuperscript{184} ungentle trade uncivil or discourteous conduct (unfitting for those of noble or gentle rank).
\textsuperscript{185} gent See n94.
\textsuperscript{186} earely early. griesy shade grey or grim darkness.
\textsuperscript{187} myrtle trees sacred to Venus.
Nor wicked beasts their tender buds did crop,
But like a girlond compassed the hight,
And from their fruitful sides sweet gum did drop,
That all the ground with precious dew bedight, bedight
Threw forth most dainty odours and most sweet delight.

44
And in the thickest covert of that shade,
There was a pleasant arbour, not by art,
But of the trees’ own inclination made,
Which knitting their ranck branches part to part, ranck
With wanton ivy twine entrailed athwart,
And eglantine, and caprifole among, caprifole
Fashioned above within their inmost part,
That neither Phoebus’ beams could through them throng, throng
Nor Aeolus’ sharp blast could work them any wrong.

45
And all about grew every sort of flowre,
To which sad lovers were transformed of yore; of yore
Fresh Hyacinthus, Phoebus’ paramour, Phoebus
And dearest love:
Foolish Narcisse, that likes the wat’ry shore,
Sad Amaranthus, made a flowre but late,
Sad Amaranthus, in whose purple gore
Me seems I see Amintas’ wretched fate,
to whom sweet poets’ verse hath given endless date.

46
There wont fair Venus often to enjoy
Her dear Adonis joyous company,
And reap sweet pleasure of the wanton boy;
There yet, some say, in secret he does lie,
Lapped in flowres and precious spycery, 199
By her hid from the world, and from the skill
Of Stygian Gods, which do her love envy, 200
But she herself, when ever that she will,
Possesseth him, and of his sweetness takes her fill. 201

47
And sooth it seems they say: for he may not 202
For ever die, and ever buried be
In baleful night, where all things are forgot;
All be he subject to mortalitie,
Yet is eterne in mutabilitie,
And by succession made perpetual,
Transformed oft, and changed diverslie:
For him the Father of all forms they call;
Therefore needs mote he live, that living gives to all.

48
There now he liveth in eternal bliss,
Joying his goddess, and of her enjoyed; 203
Ne feareth he henceforth that foe of his,
Which with his cruel tusk him deadly cloyed: 204
For that wild boar, the which him once annoyed, 205
She firmly hath imprisoned for ay, 206
That her sweet love his malice mote avoid,
In a strong rocky cave, which is they say,
Hewen underneath that mount, that none him losen may.

49
There now he lives in everlasting joy,
With many of the gods in company,
Which thither haunt, and with the winged boy 207

as the anemone. In other versions of the tale, Proserpine, goddess of the Underworld, saves Adonis’ life on the condition that he spend half the year with her, and half with Venus. A well-known fertility figure, Adonis is sometimes associated with the god Osiris, particularly in his participation in a constant cycle of death and rebirth.

199 spycery spices.
200 the skill / Of Stygian Gods i.e., the knowledge or awareness of the gods of the Underworld (who would take a dim view, presumably, of Adonis’ state of suspension between life and death).
201 Possesseth him i.e., sexually. takes her fill i.e., of his semen (she is impregnated by Adonis).
202 And ... say i.e., And what they say seems indeed to be true.
203 Joying Enjoying.
204 cloyed pierced, gored.
205 annoyed hurt, injured.
206 for ay forever, eternally.
Sporting himself in safe felicity:
Who when he hath with spoil and cruelty
Ransack'd the world, and in the woeful hearts
Of many wretches set his triumphs hye,²⁰⁸
Thither resorts, and laying his sad darts
Aside, with fair Adonis plays his wanton parts.

50
And his true love fair Psyche with him plays,²⁰⁹
Fair Psyche to him lately reconciled,
After long troubles and unmeet upbraies,²¹⁰
With which his mother Venus her reviled,
And eke himself her cruelly exiled:
But now in steadfast love and happy state
She with him lives, and hath him born a child,
Pleasure, that doth both gods and men aggrate,²¹¹
Pleasure, the daughter of Cupid and Psyche late.²¹²

51
Hither great Venus brought this infant fair,
The younger daughter of Chrysogonee,²¹³
And unto Psyche with great trust and care
Committed her, yfostered to be,
And trained up in true feminitee:²¹⁴
Who no less carefully her tended,²¹⁵
Then her own daughter Pleasure, to whom she
Made her companion, and her lessoned
In all the lore of love, and goodly womanhead.²¹⁶

²⁰⁷ winged boy  Cupid, god of love, son of Venus.
²⁰⁸ hye  high.
²⁰⁹ plays  enjoys sexual intercourse and amorous activity with.
²¹⁰ unmeet upbraids  unfitting rebukes, upbraidings (see n212, below).
²¹¹ aggrate  please.
²¹³ Chrysogonee  the mother of the lovely twin girls, Belphoebe and Amoret. While she sleeps, the nymph Chrysogonee is impregnated by the rays of the Sun; she also gives birth while she is asleep. Adopted and raised by Diana, goddess of chastity and the hunt, Belphoebe is educated in “perfect Maidenhead [i.e., virginity]” (3.6.28); adopted and raised by Venus, goddess of love and desire, Amoret is educated in “goodly womanhead” (3.6.28).
²¹⁴ feminitee  femininity.
²¹⁵ rendered  cared for, looked after.
In which when she to perfect ripeness grew,
Of grace and beauty noble paragone,
She brought her forth into the worldes view,
To be th’ensample of true love alone,
And loadstar of all chaste affections,\textsuperscript{217}
To all fair Ladies, that do live on ground.
To Faery court she came, where many one
Admired her goodly haveour, and found\textsuperscript{218}
His feeble heart wide launched with loves cruel wound.\textsuperscript{219}

But she to none of them her love did cast,
Save to the noble knight Sir Scudamore,
To whom her loving heart she linked fast
In faithful love, t’abide for ever more,
And for his dearest sake endured sore,
Sore trouble of an heinous enemy;
Who her would forced have to have forlore
Her former love, and steadfast loyalty,
As ye may elsewhere read that rueful history.

[...]

From \textit{BOOK 3, CANTO 12 (1590 EDITION)} [\textit{THE JOINING OF SCUDAMOUR AND AMORET}]

[The climactic action of Book 3 concerns the lady Amoret’s imprisonment and torture by the evil enchanter Busirane. Amoret’s beloved, Sir Scudamour, has witnessed the seizing of Amoret from their wedding banquet; he goes in pursuit of his wife, but when he arrives at the house of Busirane he cannot enter: it is surrounded by a wall of fire that he cannot penetrate. Only Britomart alone can breech this barrier, enter the house, defeat Busirane, and return Amoret to the arms of her beloved husband, Scudamour. The following stanzas are from the 1590 edition of \textit{The Faerie Queene}; when the poem appeared in 1596 with an additional three books, these stanzas were deleted and new ones substituted. In the 1590 edition, however, the following stanzas comprised the poem’s final vision of love.]

\textsuperscript{216} \textit{lore} knowledge. \textit{womanhead} womanhood, womanliness.
\textsuperscript{217} \textit{loadstar} guiding star.
\textsuperscript{218} \textit{haveour} behaviour.
\textsuperscript{219} \textit{wide launched} deeply pierced.
At last she came unto the place, where late
She left Sir Scudamour in great distress,
Twixt dolour and despite half desperate,\(^{220}\)
Of his love’s succour, of his own redress,\(^{221}\)
And of the hardy Britomart’s success:
There on the cold earth him now thrown she found,
In wilful anguish, and dead heaviness\(^{222}\)
And to him called; whose voice’s known sound
Soon as he heard, himself he reared from ground.

There did he see, that most on earth him joyed,
His dearest love, the comfort of his days,
Whose too long absence him had sore annoyed,\(^{223}\)
And wearied his life with dull delays:
Straight he upstarted from the loathed lays,\(^{224}\)
And to her ran with hasty eagerness,
Like as a dear that greedily embayes\(^{225}\)
In the cool soil, after long thirstiness,
Which he in chase endured hath, now nigh breathless.

Lightly he clipt her twixt his armes twain,\(^{226}\)
And streightly did embrace her body bright,\(^{227}\)
Her body, late the prison of sad pain,
Now the sweet lodge of love and dear delight:
But she fair Lady overcommen quight\(^{228}\)
Of huge affection, did in pleasure melt,\(^{229}\)
And in sweet ravishment poured out her spright,\(^{230}\)
No word they spake, nor earthly thing they felt,
But like two senseless stocks in long embracement dwelt.\(^{231}\)

\(^{220}\) _dolour_ sorrow. _despight_ rage.
\(^{221}\) _succour_ rescue. _redress_ remedy or relief from trouble; aid, help.
\(^{222}\) _heaviness_ grief, physical abandonment.
\(^{223}\) _sore annoyed_ terribly wounded.
\(^{224}\) _lays_ ground.
\(^{225}\) _embayes_ bathes, steeps [itself] in.
\(^{226}\) _clipt_ embraced, gathered her up. _armes_ two syllables.
\(^{227}\) _streightly_ tightly, but also ‘immediately.’
\(^{228}\) _quight_ completely.
\(^{229}\) _melt_ experience extreme pleasure, achieve orgasm.
\(^{230}\) _spright_ sprite, spirit, soul.
\(^{231}\) _But … dwelt_ a detail from Ovid’s recounting of the myth of Hermaphroditis and Salmacis (Metamorphosis, 4.375-7). See Glossary, print anthology.
Had ye them seen, ye would have surely thought,
That they had been that fair Hermaphrodite,
Which that rich Roman of white marble wrought,
And in his costly bath caused to be sit.
So seemed those two, as grown together quite,
That Britomart, half envying their bless,
Was much impassioned in her gentle sprite,
And to herself oft wished like happiness,
In vain she wished, that fate n’ould let her yet possess.

Thus do those lovers with sweet countervayle,
Each other of love’s bitter fruit despoil.
But now my team begins to faint and fail,
All woxen weary of their journal toil.
Therefore I will their sweaty yokes assoil
At this same furrow’s end, till a new day:
And ye fair swains, after your long turmoil,
Now cease your work, and at your pleasure play;
Now cease your work; tomorrow is an holy day.

THE FOURTH BOOK OF THE FAERIE QUEENE. CONTAINING THE LEGEND OF CAMBEL AND TELAMOND, OR OF FRIENDSHIP.

FROM BOOK 4, CANTO 1 [BRITOMART’S COMBAT FOR AMORET]

Of lovers’ sad calamities of old,
Full many piteous stories do remain,
But none more piteous ever was ytold,
Than that of Amoret’s heart-binding chain.

---

232 See n231.
233 situate, placed.
234 would not.
235 mutuality (i.e., each reciprocates the other’s loving gestures and actions).
236 plunder, rob.
237 Spenser’s muses are imagined as a team of oxen who have been engaged in toilsome labour.
238 grown. journal daily.
239 set free.
240 lovers (addressing Scudamour and Amoret).
241 holiday.
242 For Amoret’s birth and upbringing, see n213. For her marriage to Scudamour and her imprisonment and torture
And this of Florimell’s unworthy pain:
The dear compassion of whose bitter fit
My softened heart so sorely doth constrain,
That I with tears full oft do pity it,
And oftentimes do wish it never had been writ.

For from the time that Scudamour her bought
In perilous fight, she never joyed day,
A perilous fight when he with force her brought
From twenty Knights, that did him all assay:
Yet fairly well he did them all dismay:
And with great glory both the Shield of Love,
And eke the Lady self he brought away,
Whom having wedded as did him behove,
A new unknowen mischief did from him remove.

For that same vile Enchauntour Busiran,
The very self same day that she was wedded,
Amidst the bridal feast, whilst every man
Surcharged with wine, were heedless and ill headed,
All bent to mirth before the bride was bedded,
Brought in that masque of love which late was showen:
And there the Lady ill of friends besteaded,
By way of sport, as oft in masques is knowned,
Conveyed quite away to living wight unknown.

by Busirane, see the headnote above, p. 21.
243 Florimell another of Spenser’s virtuous, persecuted ladies, Florimell’s story begins in 3.1, where she appears fleeing from a woodman intent on rape, and she continues fleeing from various threats throughout Book 3, before being imprisoned by the god Proteus in an underwater cavern. Rescued by Marinell, she marries him finally in 5.3. unworthy undeserved.
244 of for. fit despairing pangs of grief.
245 constrain affect.
246 bought won, but also ‘redeemed, saved.’
247 For ... assay For Scudamour’s battle to win Amoret, see 4.10.7-10; for his seizure of Amoret from the Temple of Venus, see 4.10.53-57, and print anthology, pp. 278-82. assay assail, assault.
248 fairly well utterly, completely. dismay cow, defeat.
249 For Scudamour’s winning of the Shield of Love, see 4.10.3.
250 behove befit.
251 surcharged having drunk too much, overcome. ill headed drunk, tipsy.
252 masque of love elaborate dramatic entertainment, featuring singing and dancing. The masque of love is presented earlier in 3.12.
253 besteaded supported, accompanied.
254 Busirane takes advantage of the tradition of playfully spiriting away the bride (which apparently might occur in an actual wedding masque) to kidnap Amoret. wight person.
4
Seven months he so her kept in bitter smart, 255
Because his sinful lust she would not serve,
    Until such time as noble Britomart
Released her, that else was like to starve, 256
Through cruel knife that her dear heart did carve. 257
And now she is with her upon the way,
Marching in lovely wise, that could deserve 258
No spot of blame, though spite did oft assay
To blot her with dishonor of so fair a pray. 259

5
Yet should it be a pleasant tale, to tell
    The diverse usage and demeanour daint, 260
That each to other made, as oft befell.
For Amoret right fearful was and faint,
Lest she with blame her honour should attain, 261
That every word did tremble as she spake,
And every look was coy, and wondrous quaint, 262
And every limb that touched her did quake:
Yet could she not but courteous countenance to her make. 263

6
For well she wist, as true it was indeed, 264
    That her life’s Lord and patron of her health 265
Right well deserved as his dueful meed, 266
Her love, her service, and her utmost wealth.
All is his justly, that all freely dealt:
Nathless her honour dearer then her life,
She sought to save, as thing reserved from stealth; 268

255 smart suffering.
256 starve (die).
257 carve, cut.
258 lovely wise i.e., in an affectionate way.
259 her i.e., Britomart. Since Britomart appears to be a man, Amoret’s company could dishonour both. pray prey (i.e., Amoret).
260 diverse usage different ways in which each comported herself towards the other. demeanour daint a conduct or comportment characterized by delicate sensibilities.
261 attain compromise, stain.
262 quaint reserved.
263 countenance demeanour, presentation (of the self).
264 wist knew.
265 her life’s Lord and patron of her health i.e., Britomart (who heals her tortured body in 3. 12.35).
266 dueful meed rightful reward. Traditionally, a rescued damsel in romance owes her rescuer knight whatever sexual favours he demands.
267 death bestowed, gave.
Die had she lever with Enchanter’s knife,269
Than to be false in love, professed a virgin wife.270

7
Thereto her fear was made so much the greater271
Through fine abusion of that Briton maid:272
Who for to hide her feigned sex the better,
And mask her wounded mind, both did and said
Full many things so doubtful to be weighed,
That well she wist not what by them to guess,
For other whiles to her she purpose made273
Of love, and otherwhiles of lustfulness
That much she feared his mind would grow to some excess.

8
His will she feared; for him she surely thought274
To be a man, such as indeed he seemed,
And much the more, by that he lately wrought,
When her from deadly thraldom he redeemed,275
For which no service she too much esteemed,
Yet dread of shame, and doubt of foul dishonour276
Made her not yield so much, as due she deemed.
Yet Britomart attended duly on her,
As well became a knight, and did to her all honour.

9
It so befell one evening, that they came
Unto a castle, lodged there to be,
Where many a knight, and many a lovely dame
Was then assembled, deeds of arms to see:
Amongst all which was none more fair than she,277
That many of them moved to eye her sore.278
The custom of that place was such, that he
Which had no love nor leman there in store,279

268 *steal* theft, seizing.
269 *leve* rather.
270 *virgin wife* Seized at her wedding banquet, Amoret has had no opportunity to consummate her marriage with Scudamour.
271 *thereto* In addition, Moreover.
272 *fine abusion* i.e., excellent deception (Britomart really appears to be a man).
273 *other whiles * ... * otherwhiles* at one time ... at another time.
274 *will* lust, sexual desire.
275 *thraldom* captivity, enslavement.
276 *doubt* fear.
277 *she* i.e., Amoret.
278 *sore* intently.
Should either win him one, or lie without the door.

10
Amongst the rest there was a jolly knight,
Who being asked for his love, avowed
That fairest Amoret was his by right,
And offered that to justify aloud.
The warlike virgin seeing his so proud
And boastful challenge, waxed inly wroth;
But for the present did her anger shroud;
And said, her love to lose she was full loath,
But either he should neither of them have, or both.

11
So forth they went, and both together giusted;
But that same younker soon was overthrown,
And made repent, that he had rashly lusted
For thing unlawful, that was not his own:
Yet since he seemed valiant, though unknown,
She that no less was courteous than stout,
Cast how to salve, that both the custom shown
Were kept, and yet that knight not locked out:
That seemed full hard t’ accord two things so far in doubt.

12
The seneschal was called to deem the right,
Whom she required, that first fair Amoret
Might be to her allowed, as to a knight,
That did her win and free from challenge set:
Which straight to her was yielded without let.
Then since that strange knight’s love from him was quitted,
She claimed that to her self, as lady’s debt,
He as a knight might justly be admitted;
So none should be out shut, sith all of loves were fitted.

279 leman  sweetheart, lover (a synonym for ‘love’).
280 jolly  both ‘handsome’ and ‘amorous’.
281 aloud  publicly.
282 the warlike virgin  i.e., Britomart.
283 waxed  grew.  wroth  wrathful, enraged.
284 giusted  jousted.
285 yonker  young, inexperienced man.
286 doubt  conflict.
287 seneschal  the person who administered justice within a great household.
288 let  any obstacle or qualification.
289 She … debt  i.e., since Britomart has won, she has won the young knight’s love, and thus he can enter the castle and join the others, since he is now technically furnished with a beloved (Britomart herself).
With that her glist’ring helmet she unlaced;
Which doffed, her golden locks, that were up bound
Still in a knot, unto her heels down traced,
And like a silken veil in compass round
About her back and all her body wound;
Like as the shining sky in summer’s night,
What time the days with scorching heat abound,
Is crested all with lines of fi’ry light,
That it prodigious seems in common people’s sight.

Such when those knights and ladies all about
Beheld her, all were with amazement smit,
And every one gan grow in secret doubt
Of this and that, according to each wit:
Some thought that some enchantment feigned it;
Some, that Bellona in that warlike wise
To them appeared, with shield and armour fit;
Some, that it was a mask of strange disguise:
So diversely each one did sundry doubts devise.

But that young knight, which through her gentle deed
Was to that goodly fellowship restored,
Ten thousand thanks did yield her for her meed,
And doubly overcommen, her adored:
So did they all their former strife accord;
And eke fair Amoret now freed from fear,
More frank affection did to her afford,
And to her bed, which she was wont forbear,
Now freely drew, and found right safe assurance there.

Where all that night they of their loves did treat,
And hard adventures twixt themselves alone,
That each the other gan with passion great,
And griefull pity privately bemoan.
The morrow next so soon as Titan shone,
They both uprose, and to their ways them dight:\textsuperscript{296}
Long wandered they, yet never met with none,
That to their wills could them direct aright,
Or to them tidings tell, that mote their hearts’ delight.\textsuperscript{297}

[…]

\textsuperscript{296} \textit{dight} went, directed themselves.
\textsuperscript{297} \textit{mote} might.