

CRAIG KURTZ

BEDLAMITE'S FIRST DATE

—A droll from John Fletcher's *Monsieur Thomas* (1639)

THE SUITOR:

Courtly I won't court thee;
nay instead I'll woo ye madly.
I'll start with petticoats and wig
to fright thee if ye give a fig.
I'll serenade ye by moonshine
with out o' tune songs asinine.
I'll bring no flowers that I've picked
but rather padlocks I've out-tricked.
Thou mayst clasp unto thine mams
love notes boasting my flimflams.
I'll recite to ye exquisite rhymes
authored backwards, extolling crimes.
I'll give to thee, to prove my worth,
eructations of noble mirth.

THE SWEETHEART:

Thou will court me with cavorts
and I shall wag ye mad retorts.
Beckon ye to my window,
prepare thyself for quid pro quo.
Towards my boudoir I'll invoke
then touze thee with a scurvy joke.
Upon thy pate I'll break a plate
to show thee how I approbate.
When ye beg for clemency
I'll duplify thine knavery.
Prepare for cudgels and typhoons
and siring heirs of worse buffoons.
If ye thought to outwit love
I'll mate thy madness, shove for shove.