

# **Landesbibliothek Oldenburg**

## **Digitalisierung von Drucken**

### **Frailties of fashion, or, the adventures of an Irish smock**

interspersed with whimsical anecdotes of a Nankeen pair of breeches

Illustrated with some of the most striking and humorous descriptions in high and low life, that fancy can suggest ...

**London, 1783**

Chap. XXI.

**urn:nbn:de:gbv:45:1-17682**

## C H A P. XXI.

*Mrs. W—ms. returns from Norfolk—  
Renews her acquaintance with Buckram—an agreeable connexion takes place, which is interrupted by a strange accident—She is mistaken by the D. of M. for the Perdita—receives a handsome present, and is taken into keeping.*

**M**R S. W—ms's campaign to Norfolk turned out very different to what she expected; and, upon her return to town, she immediately waited upon Mr. Buckram, who gave her a very friendly reception. He not only furnished her with cash for her present use; but took her a very decent lodging in Bloomsbury, where he constantly visited her. The Nan-  
keen

Keen Breeches were a good deal the worse for wear, as well as their pockets; but she still remained in possession of them, and was unwilling to part with them, as they still fitted her to a nicety—even to a *nick*.

Mrs. W—ms found herself very snug in her new lodgings; and was much inclined to be faithful to Buckram; but an accident, or, rather a happy event happened, that made her alter the disposition of her *mind*: as well as that of her *body*.

Being one night at the play in the upper boxes, to which she had access gratis, after the third act, as she was intimately acquainted with the box-keeper; a rumour spread, that *Perdita* was in that identical box. The resemblance between Mrs. W—ms, and Mrs. R——n, was very great at a distance.

distance. The Duke of M—r, immediately flew to the spot, as he had for some time been, in *imagination*, desperately fond of the *Perdita*. He soon found means to enter into a conversation with Mrs. W—ms, and had so much persuasion, as to induce her to go and sup with him. After this he proposed an amorous retreat to bed—to which, with becoming reluctance, Mrs. W——s consented.

His Grace had his most voluptuous wishes gratified, in the supposed arms of Mrs. R—n. In the morning he took his leave, and left her representative, a five hundred pound note, at the same time making her promise to meet him the next evening at the play, in the same box he had seen her the preceding night.

It

It whimsically happened, that the real *Perdita* was in the same box, Mrs. Siddons playing, and there being no other place for her. His Grace entered and placed himself between them; he viewed Mrs. R—n, he examined Mrs. W—ms, was fascinated; but could not, for some time, distinguish the *copy* from the *original*. However, *original* as it may seem, he preferred the copy; carried her home to a new lodging, which he had prepared for her; and, in a few days presented her with an annuity of 300 l. a year.

Perdita was not made acquainted with the origin and progress of his Grace's mistake, till some time after; when she vowed *revenge* upon Mrs. W—ms, for having supplanted her, as a female impostor, in the Duke of  
M—'s

M—'s affections. As to poor Buckram, he was almost distracted; he did not cut out a coat in any rational form; or *bark* at his door with any harmony, like a *human* salesman, for many weeks: he was for a considerable time besides himself, and less even than the ninth part of a man.

CHAP

## C H A P. XXII.

*The downfall of Perdita—Bon mot of Mrs. W—ms—Mrs. R—n is relieved by Florizel, who entertains her upon her return with reading the Trial of Mrs. Bayntun, and his judicious remarks upon the occasion—That lady's extraordinary and curious confessional letter to her husband.*

SUCH of our readers as have seen the whimsical Farce of *the Duke and no Duke*, will be able to form a tolerable idea of the situation of the real and fictitious Perdita, and the Duke himself; but their ideas must expand greatly to judge of the future consequences.

The Perdita no sooner heard that Mrs. W—ms had a brilliant *vis-a-vis* building for her in Long Acre, than  
she