

I Care not for These Ladies

Thomas Campion (1567-1620) was an English composer, poet and physician. He wrote many lute songs, a form of music in the late Renaissance consisting of a singer accompanying himself on a lute. One of these lute songs is *I Care not for These Ladies* from the collection of *A Book of Aires* (1601).

I care not for these Ladies
That must be wooed and prayed,
Give me kind Amarillis
The wanton country maid;
Nature art disdaineth,
Her beauty is her own;
For when we court and kiss,
She cries, forsooth, let go;
But when we come where comfort is,
She never will say no.

If I love Amarillis,
She gives me fruit and flowers,
But if we love these Ladies,
We must give golden showers;
Give them gold that sell love,
Give me the nut brown lass,
For when we court and kiss,
She cries, forsooth, let go;
But when we come where comfort is,
She never will say no.

These ladies must have pillows,
And beds by strangers wrought,
Give me a Bower of willows,
Of moss and leaves unbought,
And fresh Amarillis,
With milk and honey fed,
For when we court and kiss,
She cries, forsooth, let go;
But when we come where comfort is,
She never will say no.