

1673

THE WILLING MISTRISS

Aphra Behn

Behn, Aphra (1640-1689) - Restoration dramatist, novelist, and poet; she was the first English woman to earn her living as a writer. Behn served as a spy in Antwerp and was imprisoned for a time for debt. *The Willing Mistriss* (1673) - Originally part of the play "The Dutch Lover," produced in 1673, it was published independently in "Poems Upon Several Occasions" in 1684. Opening lines:
Amyntas led me to a Grove, / Where all the Trees did shade us;

WILLING MISTRISS

Amyntas led me to a Grove,
Where all the Trees did shade us;
The Sun it self, though it had Strove,
It could not have betray'd us:

The place secur'd from humane Eyes,
No other fear allows,
But when the Winds that gently rise,
Doe Kiss the yielding Boughs. -

Down there we satt upon the Moss,
And did begin to play
A Thousand Amorous Tricks, to pass
The heat of all the day.

A many Kisses he did give:
And I return'd the same
Which made me willing to receive
That which I dare not name. -

His Charming Eyes no Aid requir'd
To tell their softning Tale;
On her that was already fir'd,
'Twas Easy to prevaile.

He did but Kiss and Clasp me round,
Whilst those his thoughts Exprest:
And lay'd me gently on the Ground;
Ah who can guess the rest?

THE END