Marriage

- Critics: WD
  - Jardine: Vittoria is a cautionary tale against female independence
  - Luckyj: “rhetorical crossdressing”
  - Hurt: inverted rituals and mock engagement scene

- Critics: WoB
  - Carruthers: “capitalist entrepreneur”
  - Carruthers: “the important spoils [of marriage] for Alisoun are neither children nor sensual gratification but independence”
  - Oberembt: “merchandises sexual favours”
  - Oberembt: “holds her queyte for raunson”

Business transaction

- “That I may bear my beard out of the level/Of my lord’s stirrup” → Flamineo as pander
- “[Camillo] received in dowry with you not one julio” → Monticelso attacking Vittoria
- “goode men […] riche and olde” → Alisoun on her first three husbands
- “I wolde no lenger in the bed abide […] Till he had maad his raunson unto me” → supports C.

Subjugation of women

- “Henceforth I’ll never lie with thee, by this/ This wedding ring” → Brachiano divorcing Isabella, repeated by her exactly
- “This divorce shall be as truly kept/As if in thronged court a thousand ears/Had heard it” → Isabella, supporting Luckyj
- “And to him yaf I al the lond and fee/That evere was me yeven therbifoore” → A to Janekin
- “womman was the los of al mankind” → what Janekin’s book taught
- “the bridel in myn hond” → suggestion otherwise? A winning power off Janekin

Legitimises sex

- “You shall to me at once/Be dukedom, health, wife, children, friends, and all” → Brachiano to Vittoria, vowing his loyalty
- “trewely […] hadde swich dalliance” → A on her flirting with Janekin
- “If I were widwe […] wedde me” → A securing her future with Janekin
- “soutiltee” → trickery by which A wins J
- “mette of him al night” → i.e. ‘dreamt of him all night’, evidence of ‘soutiltee’
- “He hadde a paire/Of legges and of feet so lene and faire/That al myn herte I yaf unto his hoold”

AO4

- The patriarchal culture of the Middle Ages allowed a husband the right to force his wife into a chastity belt, should she offend his honour, or a scold’s bridle, should she talk too much for his liking.
- A husband also had the right to all assets formerly owned by his wife.