

A Woman to Her Lover

1st condition

She doesn't want to be a housewife, a servant

Not to suffer in silence

Do you come to me to bend me to your will
As conqueror to the vanquished
To make of me a bondsman
To bear you children, wearing out my life
In drudgery and silence
No servant will I be
If that be what you ask, O Lover I refuse you!

She doesn't want to have his children

She will not be a servant to her husband

Or if you think to wed with one from heaven sent
Whose every deed and word and wish is golden
A wingless angel who can do no wrong
Go! - I am no doll to dress and sit for feeble worship
If that be what you ask, fool, I refuse you!

3rd condition

She doesn't want to be an object of sexual desires or demands to her husband

Or if you think in me to find
A creature who will have no greater joy
Than to gratify your clamorous desire
My skin soft only for your fond caresses
My body made only for your sense delight
Oh shame, and pity and abasement
Not for you the hand of any awakened woman of our time.

demanding, meaning relationship

alliteration

the repetition of the 's' sound reinforces the sound of sexuality

liberated, enlightened, educated

4th stanza

where she outlines her expectations of an ideal marriage

marriage has ups and downs and they need to face problems together as a team

But Lover, if you ask of me
That I shall be your comrade, friend, and mate
To live and work, to love and die with you,
That so together we may know the purity and height
Of passion, and of joy and sorrow
Then O husband, I am yours forever
And our co-equal love will make the stars to laugh with joy
And we shall have the music of the spheres for bridal march
And to its circling fugue pass on, hand holding hand
Until we reach the very heart of God.

equal not just love

collective pronoun we indicates that she wants them to be a team, a unit. equal rights and responsibility

Christina Walsh

God created us equal there is no gender different. Both genders are equal and we compliment each other.

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