

AMORES I. 11

- Colligere incertos et in ordine ponere crines
 docta neque ancillas inter habenda Nape
 inque ministeriis furtivae cognita noctis
 utilis et dandis ingeniosa notis,
 5 saepe venire ad me dubitantem hortata Corinnam,
 saepe laboranti fida reperta mihi,



- 1 **colligō, -ere, -lēgī, -lectum:** *to gather.*
incertus, -a, -um: *disarranged, not fixed.*
- 2 **docta:** Ovid begins with a compliment to Corinna's maid in an attempt to win her favor and support.
ancillas: placed before the preposition.
neque . . . habenda: note that this participle is negative, i.e., Nape is no common handmaid like others. It is another flattery on Ovid's part.
Napē, -ēs (f.): one of Corinna's personal maids who acts as a go-between for Ovid and his mistress. His flattery continues as he addresses her as more than a simple hairdresser—a conspirator.
- 3 **ministerium, -ī (n.):** *office, duty.*
furtivus, -a, -um: *clandestine, secret.* Although this genitive modifies *noctis*, its placement attracts its meaning also to *ministeriis*.
- 4 **utilis:** predicate adjective with *cognita*. Supply a missing *esse* to join the two.
ingeniōsus, -a, -um: *clever.*
nota, -ae (f.): *a note.*
- 5 **Corinnam:** the first time we have seen Ovid's mistress's name.
- 6 **saepe:** ANAPHORA serving to emphasize Ovid's meaning here as well as to unite the couplet.
laboranti: perhaps meant to recall the activities of both soldiers and lovers as expressed in *Amores* I. 9.
fīdus, -a, -um: *faithful, loyal.*
reperiō, -īre, repperī, repertum: *to find, discover.*

© Bolchazy-Carducci Publishers, Inc.
 www.BOLCHAZY.com

©2016 Bolchazy-Carducci Publishers, Inc. this sample was created
 for Texas Proclamation 2017 adoption preview not for distribution.
 This document will expire May 31, 2017.

- accipe et ad dominam peraratas mane tabellas
 perfer et obstantes sedula pelle moras.
 nec silicium venae nec durum in pectore ferrum
 10 nec tibi simplicitas ordine maior adest;
 credibile est et te sensisse Cupidinis arcus:



- 7 **dominam:** refers to Nape's mistress who is Ovid's as well.
perārō, -āre, -āvī, -ātum: *to plow through, inscribe.*
tabella, -ae (f.): these are the pair of wooden tablets, each half covered on one side with wax, in which Ovid's message was engraved with a writing stylus. The tablets were then tied together with the message concealed in the middle. The METAPHOR from plowing suits since a metal plow furrows through the earth just as the stylus scratches its way through the surface of the wax leaving behind its message. It is also a fine example of Ovid's applying a rather ordinary word to a novel situation.
- 8 **obstō, -āre, -itī, -ātum:** *to stand in the way, block the path.*
sēdulus, -a, -um: *attentive, persistent.*
pelle: the third imperative in two lines and the second in this line emphasizes the haste Ovid feels to communicate with his mistress. The imperatives combined with *obstantes . . . moras* give a graphic image of the poet's urgency.
- 9 **silex, -icis (m.):** *hard rock or stone, flint.*
vēna, -ae (f.): *blood vessel, vein;* the first element in a TRICOLON CRESCENDO.
ferrum, -ī (n.): *iron, steel.*
- 10 **tibi:** dative of possession with a compound of *sum*.
adest: singular verb with multiple subjects: *venae* (9), *ferrum* (9), and *simplicitas* (10).
- 11 **arcus, -ūs (m.):** *a bow.*
Cupidinis arcus: reminiscent of *Amores* I. 9 when Ovid sees himself as a soldier in Cupid's army, as well as of I. 1 when Ovid first feels the sting of Cupid's arrows. In employing the METAPHOR here Ovid includes Nape as a fellow soldier/lover, creating an even closer link with her and garnering yet more favor.

- in me militiae signa tuere tuae.
 si quaeret quid agam, spe noctis vivere dices;
 cetera fert blanda cera notata manu.
 15 dum loquor, hora fugit: vacuae bene redde tabellas,
 verum continuo fac tamen illa legat.
 aspicias oculos mando frontemque legentis:
 et tacito vultu scire futura licet.



- 12 **mīlītia, -ae (f.):** *military service*.
tueor, -ēri, tuitus: *to observe, watch over, guard*. Here, the imperative singular.
- 13 **quaeret:** assume a missing *ea* as subject.
quid agam: present subjunctive in an indirect question. An idiomatic expression here meaning “how I am doing.”
spēs, -ei (f.): *hope*.
spe noctis: this love affair, like most carried on with married women, occurs under the cover of darkness.
vivere: Ovid here suggests that his very existence is dependent on this love affair.
- 14 **cetera:** scan the line carefully to determine the quantity of all the final *-a*’s in this line heavy with ASSONANCE.
blandus, -a, -um: *charming, seductive*.
cēra, -ae (f.): *wax, beeswax*; but here meaning the letter inscribed in the wax.
- 15 **dum . . . fugit:** a variation on the *carpe diem* theme used by the lover to persuade his mistress to yield to him.
vacuae: dative with *redde* referring to his mistress.
bene: note the correspondence between the meaning of the line and the fast pace created by repeated DACTYLS.
- 16 **verum (conj.):** *but*.
continuō (adv.): *immediately, forthwith, without delay*.
legat: present subjunctive in an indirect command after the imperative *fac* without *ut*.
- 17 **aspicias:** present subjunctive after *mando* without the *ut*, as often in poetry.
mandō, -āre, -āvī, -ātum: *to order, bid*.

© Bolchazy-Carducci Publishers, Inc.
 www.BOLCHAZY.com

©2016 Bolchazy-Carducci Publishers, Inc. this sample was created
 for Texas Proclamation 2017 adoption preview not for distribution.
 This document will expire May 31, 2017.

- 20 nec mora, perlectis rescribat multa iubeto:
 odi, cum late splendida cera vacat.
 comprimat ordinibus versus, oculosque moretur
 margine in extremo littera †rasa† meos.
 quid digitos opus est graphio lassare tenendo?



- 19 **nec mora**: supply *sit* as the verb in this negative purpose clause.
rescribat: present subjunctive in an indirect command with the *ut* omitted.
iubeto: a future imperative. Ovid's fourth command in the last three couplets.
- 20 **ōdī, odisse, ōsum**: *to hate, dislike*.
splendidus, -a, -um: *bright, shining*.
vacō, -āre, -āvī, -ātum: *to be empty, vacant, unfilled*. Note the slow rhythm in the first half of the line created by repeated SPONDEES reflecting the poet's displeasure.
- 21 **comprimō, -ere, -pressī, -pressum**: *to pack closely or densely*. Here, a jussive subjunctive.
versus: these are not necessarily verses of poetry but simply lines of writing. The image contrasts with *splendida cera vacat* (20).
moretur: subject is *littera* (22); another jussive subjunctive. The abrupt change of subject here suggests the eagerness with which the lover addresses Nape.
- 22 **margō, -inis (m.)**: *margin*.
extrēmus, -a, -um: *farthest*.
rādō, -ere, rāsī, -sum: *to rub out or erase; to scratch* but here assumed to mean "inscribed" by the context, although an erasure may suggest a carefully thought-out composition. In either case the poet is suggesting that he wants an extensive reply from his lover. The daggers show that modern editors are uncertain whether *rasa* is the correct reading.
meos: The exaggerated separation of the adjective from its noun lends even more intensity to the lover's eagerness for a response.
- 23 **graphium, -ī (n.)**: *stylus*—a sharp, pointed instrument used for incising letters onto waxed writing tablets.
lassō, -āre, -āvī, -ātum: *to tire, exhaust*.

- hoc habeat scriptum tota tabella “veni.”
 25 non ego victrices lauro redimire tabellas
 nec Veneris media ponere in aede morer.
 subscribam VENERI FIDAS SIBI NASO MINISTRAS
 DEDICAT. AT NUPER VILE FUISTIS ACER.



- 24 **habeat**: a jussive subjunctive.
veni: from first fearing that the wax tablets will return to him empty in line 20, to requesting that Corinna fill them as full as possible with writing in lines 21–22, Ovid at last decides that he would prefer the tablets to return with but one word written on them.
- 25 **victrix, -īcis**: *victorious*.
lauro: this was the plant used to crown victorious generals and it also crowned their dispatches reporting their victories to the Roman Senate.
redimiō, -īre, -īī, -ītum: *to wreath, encircle*.
- 26 **Veneris . . . morer**: Ovid here mimics the custom of triumphant generals who dedicated their laurels to Jupiter in his temple on the Capitoline Hill.
morer: potential subjunctive.
- 27 **sibi**: dative with *fidas* referring to the subject *Naso*.
Naso: Publius Ovidius Naso, nominative.
- 28 **vīlis, -e**: *worthless, common, ordinary*.
fuistis: PERSONIFICATION.
acer, -eris (n.): maple wood.



© Bolchazy-Carducci Publishers, Inc.
 www.BOLCHAZY.com

©2016 Bolchazy-Carducci Publishers, Inc. this sample was created
 for Texas Proclamation 2017 adoption preview not for distribution.
 This document will expire May 31, 2017.