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| **Quote** | **Modern English** | **Comment / Explanation** |
| and her looks went everywhere | She liked whatever she saw and she was always looking everywhere. | This comment suggests that she either liked to look at other men, or that she is not serious enough in the way she behaves as the wife of a Duke |
| She thanked men,—good! but thanked Somehow—I know not how | She thanked other men but in ways I am not sure about. | The Duke resents the fact that she thanks others. He is jealous of her interactions with other people. |
| My gift of a nine-hundred-years-old name | I gave her a gift of a family name which is 900 years old. | This tells us that the Duke thinks his wife ought to value what the marriage has given her. |
| I gave commands; Then all smiles stopped together. | I gave orders and all her smiling stopped. | We must infer that the Duke has either had her killed, or he has sent her away for ever. |
| ’twas not Her husband’s presence only, called that spot Of joy into the Duchess’ cheek | It wasn’t only her husband’s presence which made her blush. | The Duke doesn’t like the idea that anyone else might compliment his wife or do something that would make her blush. |
| Will’t please you sit and look at her? | Why don’t you sit down and look at her? | Here we can infer that the Duke likes to be in control. He is making his guest sit and look at the painting. |
| Will’t please you rise? | Please will you get up now? | Here is more evidence that the Duke likes to be in control. He is making his guest stand and move on. |
| Notice Neptune, though, Taming a sea-horse, thought a rarity | Look at this sculpture of the god of the sea. It is very rare. | The fact he is pointing out another of his art objects suggests he likes to show off his wealth and possessions to his guests. |
| for never read Strangers like you that pictured countenance | Strangers like you don’t get the chance to see the painting. | This is more evidence that he likes to be in control. Only he will draw the curtain and allow others to see. |
| since none puts by The curtain I have drawn for you, but I | I am the only one who can show this painting | He alone controls access to his late wife’s portrait. Even her image is under his jealous guard. |
| and there she stands | See her standing there | This suggests he had her whole figure painted and not just a close up of her face. We could infer that even in death he wants to possess all of her. |
| Oh sir, she smiled, no doubt, Whene’er I passed her; but who passed without Much the same smile? | We would always smile at me, but it was not special: she smiled at everyone she passed in the same way. | This suggests the Duke was jealous of a wife who did not treat him with enough affection. |