



# Character of a Mistress

ca. 1550

Music by Julie Laureano



My mis - tress is a shut - tle - cock, com - posed of cork and fea - ther. Each  
My mis - tress is a ten - nis ball, com - posed of cot - ton fine. She's  
My mis - tress is a vir - gi - nal, and lit - tle cost will string her. She's  
My mis - tress is a cun - ny fine, and of the fi - nest skin. But  
My mis - tress is a tin - der box, would I had such a one. Her  
But why should I my mis - tress call a shut - tle - cock or bau - ble, a



bat - tle - dove sits on her deck and bumps her on the lea - ther. But  
of - ten struck a - gainst the wall and ban - ded un - der line. But  
of - ten reared a - gainst the wall for ev - ery - one to fin - ger. But  
if you care to o - pen her, the best part lies with - in. For  
steel en - du - reth many a knock both by the flint and stone. But  
vir - gi - nal, a ten - nis ball, which things are va - ri - a - ble? But



cast her off which way you will, she'll re - coil to a - no - ther still. Fa  
if you would her wish ful - fill, you'd pop her in the ha - zard still. Fa  
if you would your mis - tress please, you'd run di - vi - sion on her keys. Fa  
in her cun - ny bur - row may two tum - blers and a fer - ret play. Fa  
if you stir the tin - der much, the match will fire at the touch. Fa  
to com - mend, I'll say no more: my mis - tress is an er - rant whore. Fa



la la la la la la la la la. Fa la la la la la la la.

## Note:

The term "cunny" in verse 4 is a "misspelling" of the word "cony," which is an Elizabethan term for a rabbit.

Since this verse is a bit cruder than the others, it is often omitted in performance, particularly when children may be present.