

Key Plot Points

Elders Brother/first lover/nameless/husband by espousal

- Possibility of child/maintenance/promise of marriage (67-8);
- gives money to M, promises marriage (62-3, 70); is seen as married (77, 75, 80, 432/stone, 91; as contract (94));
- gives moll 500 (98);
- elder “cheats” robin (101; “cheat” called love (103); “can’t lie with M after courted by brother” (113);

Robin/younger brother/first husband by wedding; 60, 100; “incestuous” 102; cannot remarry (108)

Linen Draper; Oxford/ Arrested for debt/flees to France 107; “gentleman” 106 (cf. moll wanting to be “gentlewoman” [51]); amphibious creature, gentleman tradesman (104)

Widow in mint (111); Captain—revenge/project/gossip/reputation/gender asymmetry; Grafitti: 125, 6

Brother: 132; to VA plantation, mad threat 149/153/159; contract 151; his suicide attempt; goes back to England; views marriage with Robin as “incestuous” 102; “transported”/marriage (127)

Bath escapade 157ff; woman of house allows MF to live free (159)/assists her with money 162-3 (bed episode with gentleman); “height of prosperity” (170); he falls sick (173); she disguises self as servant 173;

Gloucester 166; turns tables (from widow/captain project) on others, tables turned on her;

North country/“sister” laid snares for M 183

Gender/double standard: 120, 113, 121 (fear of old maid), graffiti—uses his language; 123; 124; uses gossip to advantage; 197, tables turned on MF by “sister”

Jemy’s story in print (217)

Clerk at Bank (185)—money/trust/estate—marries later, after she suicides (231), he dies (252), she becomes poor again; Banker; after banker, 3 years, turns to theft (governess/mm her catalyst?)—with “bundle” (254)

Governess →fence (261ff); comparison to Moll Cutpurse, learns the trade (266); born a pickpocket/her history (279ff)

Fire/Bed incident (291)

Baronet incident (297ff)

Carried to newgate, emblem of hell (348ff); sees Lancashire husband/jemy 356; transportation instead of death (371)

Resolves issues with mother/brother/son, inherits...

Children: maybe pregnant (70); not (81); two with Robin (102)—“taken off hands” by R’s family; one with Draper, died (108); 3 with brother (136, one dies 140); 1 with Bath gentleman (169), but two others died (175); affection but no maintenance for son (178); with Jemy (218, 219, 233); mother midnight ff; her fears re: child 233; miscarriage, possibility of; “parish impertinences” (441, 438, 227-8); two with Banker (252); bill of fare for lying in (223)—MF gets quotes! (224, how governess gets profit 229); contemplates murdering child (257); voted quick with child to avoid hanging (temporarily) 269,

Key Thematic Issues/Motifs

Law: 437, 147; re: madness: 160, 174; no divorce; Banker—gets “decree” against wife (230); suicides (231, allows him to remarry legally 233) [stone] Stone: Minister marries strangers in inn (244-5) (pre Hardwicke Marriage Act); Jemy turns highwayman (248); Everyone seems corrupt! Crew, officer 276; other pickpocket (278); other MF (271—fire 1); learn that Jemy already a highway man when marries MF (384/5); MF grows “greatest artist” of her time (280)

Money/poverty/necessity

- Necessity=bait (190; vice→necessity (182); spectre of poverty 172
- Women should not be cheap 120, 122, 128
- “money only makes a woman agreeable; whores are handsome” (112)
- Bath gentleman offers money (160)
- Moll haggles for elder brother (66)—ruse for sex
- The condition of a woman without friends, without money (205)
- Poverty the “worst of all snares” (251, 254); avarice keeps MF in business (268)
- Could be executed for theft of almost anything (445)

Marriage/money/exchange

- Divorce: 439, 192
- Graffiti as exchange/flirtation in language (125); negotiation with clerk (190)
- “treaty” (157); language of warfare
- Account (164, 180)
- Lottery (121)
- Interest (94,98)
- “fair proposal” (103)
- Stock, portion (112)
- Market (58) is against our sex (58); state of marriage market (112)
- Offer
- Hand 152; sign/contract 195; marriage as contract, 94
- Avoids a contract with clerk (196)

- Bargain/sold self (104?)
- “cast up worth” 108; debtor 99;
- Gives money to “mother” (48, 119); not given back to her at “mother’s” death (54)
- Men in mint to marry a woman of means (111)
- Money = virtue (125); self = money 187; MF a saver 171; M “not willing to be without” money 9206)
 - Chastity depends wholly on woman (64, 79); value of honor (70, 79, 98); value (103, 121), woman as money (182)
 - MF herself exchanged; “whore to one, wife to other (70)
 - “I am ruined/undone” (145, 91, 122, 125, 132, 144, 139, 184, 203, 209; elder brother’s money/inheritance; woman’s “virtue”; “ruined and abandoned” (92); both ruined (98); your reputation (98), 270,
 - The condition of a woman without friends, without money (205)
- bill of fare for lying in (223)—MF gets quotes! (224, how governess gets profit 229); credit/trade as moral system (236-7)?
- “exchange life for life” (28x, 290)
- Men as fund (308); stock/trade/“bargains” and “purchases” (320, 337); “business” of love and theft (336)
- Baronet gives MF money (306); sells B’s things back to him (304)
- **keeping track of her public persona and its circulation; control of information: 410**

MFs voice/agency/no/yes (187, 191, 112, 115, 77, 117, 112, 85, 120, 114, 104, 199; no cond. To say no 241, courted me to consent 243, voice/word 249; voice/thief 255; said neither yes or no 363)

- “resolved to be well married or married not at all” (103)
- “a woman should never be kept for a mistress that had money to keep herself” (104)
- MFs conscience (refuses robin 76); 148
- “Arguments” 98, 99 “lively figures” 100
- “like a trout” (19x)
- “a relief to be undone by a man of honor, rather than a scoundrel” (207)
- Power of voice ;“confounded” the captain (117); arguments; calls Jemy and he hears (212, 248-9 MF saves Jemy); No: 119; graffiti exchange (126); gives brother a “mortal wound” with her tongue (142); effect of story on reader (180); warns readers re: desire, gratifying it with pleasures 9171, 179); advice to women (176)
- Governess is “mistress of her tongue” (299)
- M’s literacy (311, 388ff)
- Speaks for self at trial (362)
- “sentence of death pronounced upon me” (363)
- “not mistress of words enough” (365)
- Gives an “abridgement” of history to minister (366)—reprieve (368); gives abridgement to Jemy (377)—“taken for one MF” (377)

- **Readers pleased with story (369)**
- “I consider that this is my story, not his” (380)
- Jemy will “always take your advice” (394); her “direction” (399)

Reputation/appearance (dress/clothes→editor changes “dress” of MFs words)

- “you may see how necessary it is, for all women who expect any thing in the world to preserve the character of their virtue, even when perhaps they may have sacrificed the thing itself” (193)
- “she is not such a nice lady as you take her to be” (226); “contrive my coming on purpose”—appearance of banker’s arrival pleases her (240)
- Baronet’s reputation (297)—has been robbed and set upon by rogues!
- “we should live as new people, in a new world” (383)

Omissions (opening; 102; name 108)

- “eternal silence” (79)
- “forgotten and buried” (98)
- Not real name to Jemy 217; names self MF 108; calls Jemy by first name [stone] 211
- Secret: governess=nobody, silent (232)
- Will never know MF the mother (237); which he does not see (244)
- “what a felicity it is to Mankind...that they cannot see into the Hearts of one another” (243)
- Secrecy for baronet; 301 (everyon’es a rogue!)
- “not to be expressed” (353); “unintelligible, but by those who have experienced it” (351)
- 365
- “women can’t keep secrets”! (407)

Paradoxes/confusing and contradictory marital practices (stone)

- Happy and unhappy (173)
- A husband and none (108?)
- Wife and no wife (187)
- Woman of fortune without a fortune (156)
- “reasoned me out of my reason” (100)
- MF would see and not see the child, conceal’d and discover’d (236) [i.e. jemy’s child]
- Greatest and worst prize (272)
- Newgate produces criminals (373)

The Mint (108ff)

- Comments on desperation in Mint (109ff);
- takes up name “mrs. Flanders” (108);
- widow and the captain 111

Clothes (mend/laces/clothes 52; 164; fine Holland pawned 107; mother jailed for “borrowing” Holland (44); MFs name (108)—both disguise/identity and item of currency/exchange/value; clothes/lace (246);

“bundle” (254) of child’s bed linen/lace; fabric stolen by hand (259); pickpocket tutoress caught with cambric (268); clothiers and merchants (274); Flanders lace (275); MFs disguises as thief, Changes clothes (310); dresses as man (281-3); wear good clothes to meeting (322)—wins case (324)

Friend: 98, 181, 161; The condition of a woman without friends, without money (205); **Stone on women without friends;** 219 (Banker); minster= (241); x friends (252-3); friend x acquaintance (263); “no recourse, no friend, no confidant” (287); 341; 345, 364; “unless you have good friends, you are no woman for this world” (359); Jemy’s “friend” (385)—grows cool, later; dear friend; governess=all the friends I have in the world (389) 393; friends the Quakers (423, 424, 425)

Masquerade/identity

- Names
- “played part” (127)
- New appearance/new name (122)
- Masquerades as duchess 105)
- “they entertained me not like what I was, but like what they thought I had been, namely, a widow lady of great fortune” (197)
- Lancashire husband (196ff)
- “as like a lady as other folks” (277)
- “grew too well known among the trade” (280); takes on disguises (330, 325)); “called herself flanders, as before” (280, 289); name “so well known” (320)
- Risk of knowing name/identity—impeach to save life (281); “exchange life for life” (28x, 290)
- Changes clothes (310)
- dresses as man (281-3); “Gabriel spencer” (285)
- “mary flanders” (318)
- As widow (311—mistaken!)
- Attorney “made them believe I was a widow of fortune” (321)
- I became another body (357)
- Finds name in dead warrant (364, 367;
- Rumored to give evidence against; disguises self to visit Jemy (375) “do you not know me”?
- “taken for one MF” (377)
- Goods consigned to real name in VA (393)
- **keeping track of her public persona and its circulation**
- Disguises self to visit son by / brother (403ff)—his name = Humphrey (brother/son)

Social critique:

- mint/desperation (109-110)
- Children/poverty/welfare state (44); 234ff; MFs discourse w/MM concerning children (236)
- Marriage market/turn tables (112ff, 181)
- Lottery: 121

- Law: 437, 147
- Everyone seems corrupt! Crew, officer 276; other pickpocket (278)
- “exchange life for life” (28x, 290)
- Usefully applied (297); moral of tale? 343)
- Drink/gambling (334, baronet)
- “not to be expressed” (353); “unintelligible, but by those who have experienced it” (351)
- “unless you have good friends, you are no woman for this world” (359)
- Husband’s indolence (424)

FANTOMINA:

- MF sets self in way to be interpreted as she wishes; 126, 181; reputation/gossip; necessary to maintain public appearances, 124, 193; “give it about that I was a fortune” (181); control of information: even later, keeps what remained with Governess “in reserve” (392)
- Secrecy: 143ff, 146, 264; protects name/lodging (277)
- Experiment (251)
- Why doesn’t man know? 294
- MFs intelligence; “far from ignorant what was needful” (398), **keeping track of her public persona and its circulation**

Mother: governess called mother (401, 234; MF not nursed by own mother (235)

“I understood the game well enough” (334)

Jemy’s story diverting (424) “the wicked parts more diverting”; 384; MF hears her own story (405, 424)

Work: for self vs. servitude; in VA—Women esp. fared well/could work on ship (387)