

محاضرة رقم:	
التربية للعلوم الانسانية	الكلية
اللغة الانكليزية	القسم
شعر القرن السادس عشر	المادة
اثانية	المرحلة
2021\2020	السنة الدراسية
الاول	الفصل الدراسي
م. وليد شيحان مصلح	المحاضر
Studying Thomas Wyaat's "The Hind"	عنوان المحاضرة باللغة العربية
An Introduction to 16 th .century English poetry	عنوان المحاضرة باللغة الانكليزية
Adventur in English Literature	المراجع والمصادر

“The Hind” is a poem about unrequited love, but it’s not exactly romantic. The speaker describes pursuing a woman (rumored to be Anne Boleyn, with whom Wyatt had an affair in real life) and uses an extended metaphor to convey the dynamics of their relationship: it's like hunting a deer he can't catch. The poem portrays love as a violent sport, just like hunting. Though “Whoso List to Hunt” can be read as an eloquent expression of devotion, it also hints that such devotion is threatening, even violent, to its object (that is, to the woman being “hunted”).

The poem begins by comparing love to a “hunt.” The male speaker is a hunter (one of several hunters, in fact), while the woman he pursues is compared to a “hind”—a deer. She is the animal being hunted. The speaker portrays himself as exceptionally dedicated to this woman—or, at least, exceptionally dedicated to pursuing her. He has chased her to the point of mental and physical exhaustion. The poem itself constitutes an extended admission of defeat: the speaker admits that he cannot catch the woman, and he challenges other men to try their hand at pursuing her, confident that they will end up as exhausted and dejected as he is. The poem is thus a testament to the depth of the speaker’s love—and the extent of his frustration.

But the extended metaphor he uses betrays something darker in the poem. The reader might pause and imagine what would happen if the speaker were to catch the “hind.” Metaphorically, at least, he would kill her. On the one hand, it is just a metaphor: one imagines that the literal results would be somewhat less violent. But on the other hand, the metaphor still reveals something important about the speaker: he does not quite separate sexuality from violence. He thinks the two are similar enough that one might reasonably be compared to the other. The poem’s expression of devotion is thus thrown in shadow by the terms the speaker uses to express his devotion.

The poem also suggests that the woman he pursues (the “hind”) stands above or apart from the violent sexuality that the speaker describes. In the final lines of the poem, he notes that the words *noli me tangere* are inscribed on a necklace around her neck—“Do not touch me.” This is arguably an allusion to Jesus saying “touch me not” to Mary Magdalene after his resurrection. It casts the woman as something purer--or even holier--than the men pursuing her, beyond their brute and violent physicality. Thus, even as the poem celebrates the speaker’s unrequited love, it expresses a rather frightening vision of that love. And, in the figure of the woman he pursues, it also presents an alternate model of sexuality and love.

