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Topics in Cultural Studies

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Reading 5.5 **Contessa de Dia’s “Cruel Are the pains I’ve suffered” from Lark in the Morning: The Verses of the Troubadours**

Cruel are the pains I’ve suffered

For a certain cavalier

Whom I have had I declare

I love him--- let it be known forever.

But now I see that I was deceived:

When I’m dressed or when I languish

In bed, I suffer a great anguish-

I should have given him my love.

One night I’d like to take my swain

To bed and hug him, wearing no clothes-

I’d give him reason to suppose

He was in heaven, if I deigned

To be his pillow! For I’ve been more

In love with him than Floris was

With Blanchefluer: my mind, my eyes

I give to him; my life, Mon cor.\*

When will I have you in my power,

Dearest friend, charming and good?

Lying with you one night I would

Kiss you so you could feel my ardor.

I want to have you in my husband’s

Place, of that you can rest assured ---

Provided you give your solemn word

That you’ll obey my every command.

**Mon cor means “my heart” and alludes to a popular French romance, Floris et Blanchfleur.**