

Kisses Upon Sweet Kisses: Reading "I'll Cover You" (*RENT*) as a Reception of Catullus 5

Catullus 5 <sup>1</sup>	<i>Rent</i> , "I'll Cover You" <sup>2</sup>
<p>Vivamus, mea Lesbia, atque amemus, rumoresque senum severiorum omnes unius aestimemus assis! soles occidere et redire possunt; nobis, cum semel occidit brevis lux, nox est perpetua una dormienda. da mi basia mille, deinde centum, dein mille altera, dein secunda centum, deinde usque altera mille, deinde centum; dein, cum milia multa fecerimus, conturbabimus illa, ne sciamus, aut ne quis malus invidere possit, cum tantum sciat esse basiorum.</p>	<p>*(A) Live in my house / I'll be your shelter / just pay me back / with one thousand kisses / Be my lover – I'll cover you.</p> <p>*(C) Open your door / I'll be your tenant / Don't got much baggage / to lay at your feet / but sweet kisses I've got to spare / I'll be there – I'll cover you.</p> <p>I think they meant it / when they said that you can't buy love / now I know you can rent it / a new lease you are, my love, / on life – be my life.</p> <p>Just slip me on / I'll be your blanket / wherever – whatever – I'll be your coat.</p> <p>(A) You'll be my king / and I'll be your castle.</p> <p>(C) No you'll be my queen / and I'll be your moat.</p>
<p>Let us live, my Lesbia, and let us love, And those mutterings of the old-fashioned men, Let us value them all at a single penny! Suns may set and rise again; Yet for us, when once the brief light has set, An eternal night must be slept. Thus give me a thousand kisses, then a hundred, Then another thousand, then a second hundred, Then yet another thousand, then a hundred; Then, when we have made many thousands, We will muddle them, so we will not know (the sum). And so no evil person might envy us, Who would know the number of our kisses.</p>	<p>* I think they meant it / when they said you can't buy love / now I know you can rent it / a new lease you are, my love / on life.</p> <p>* All my life / I've longed to discover / something as true as this is.</p> <p>(C) So, with a thousand sweet kisses / I'll cover you<sup>3</sup> *(A) If you're cold and you're lonely / (C) with a thousand sweet kisses / I'll cover you / *(A) You've got one nickel only / (A) With a thousand sweet kisses / I'll cover you / *(C) When you're worn out and tired / (A) with a thousand sweet kisses / I'll cover you *(C) When your heart has expired.</p>
Key	* Oh lover I'll cover you / (Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah) / Oh lover I'll cover you.
Living & Loving (& Dying)	
In-Group & Out-Group (Us vs. Them)	
Accounting	
Accounting & Loving	

<sup>1</sup> Latin text from Packard Humanities Institute (PHI) Latin Texts, *Catullus*, ed. G.P. Goold, 1983

<sup>2</sup> Lyrics from 1996 libretto; \* marks verses which reappear in "I'll Cover You – Reprise" sung by Collins

<sup>3</sup> Iterations of "with a thousand sweet kisses" sung by members of the company during the "I'll Cover You – Reprise"

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