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Middleton's *A Chaste Maid in Cheapside*

A Chaste Maid in Cheapside, Thomas Middleton's city comedy, places a love story within a space saturated with moral corruption. Renowned for its prosperous trade in Renaissance England, Cheapside epitomizes the market value that dominates human relationship in the play. This paper explores the cultural significance of Cheapside and the dynamics of sex and marriage at the heart of the city. It discusses the plight of Renaissance women represented in the play—as suppressed daughter, dominating mother, sexual object, and bearer of children.