

Corbould, Henry, artist. Rape of Lucrece, One justly weeps. Henry Rolls, printmaker, early to mid-19th century. Folger ART File S528y3 no.4 copy 2 (size XS)

This depiction of female solidarity captures the moment when Lucrece's maid discovers her shortly after having made up her mind to take her own life. Not knowing why her mistress is distressed, the poem describes the maid as empathetically sharing in her grief (lines 1235-1239):

One justly weeps; the other takes in hand
No cause but company of her drops' spilling.
Their gentle sex to weep are often willing,
Grieving themselves to guess at others' smarts,
And then they drown their eyes or break their hearts.