

**Classic Poetry Series**

# **Nicholas Brenton**

**- poems -**

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## Passionate Shepherd, The (excerpt)

Who can live in heart so glad  
As the merry country lad?  
Who upon a fair green balk  
May at pleasure sit and walk,  
And amid the azure skies  
See the morning sun arise;  
While he hears in every spring  
How the birds do chirp and sing;  
Or before the hounds in cry  
See the hare go stealing by;  
Or along the shallow brook  
Angling with a baited hook,  
See the fishes leap and play  
In a blessed sunny day;  
Or to hear the partridge call  
Till she have her covey all;  
Or to see the subtle fox,  
How the villain plies the box,  
After feeding on his prey  
How he closely sneaks away  
Through the hedge and down the furrow,  
Till he gets into his burrow;  
Then the bee to gather honey,  
And the little black hair'd coney  
On a bank for sunny place  
With her forefeet wash her face:  
Are not these, with thousands moe  
Than the courts of kings do know,  
The true pleasing-spirits sights  
That may breed true love's delights?

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## **The Passionate Shepherd (excerpt)**

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