

As they say, there are always two sides to every story involving lovers, and sometimes even three or four. This poem represents a fictitious but too often real “dialog” between former lovers who don’t really listen to each other. Instead, they talk *at* each other.

The history of this type of dysfunctional non-romantic relationship goes back probably to Adam and Eve. Among the older incarnations are the dueling monolog poems “The Passionate Shepherd to His Love” by Christopher Marlowe and “The Nymph’s Reply to the Shepherd” by Walter Raleigh, which is a response. More recently, we’ve been entertained by Steve Martin and Edie Brickell (together with the Steep Canyon Rangers) in their rendition of the bluegrass song “Pretty Little One.”

Which one is in the right? Who knows?