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POETRY.

ASK NOT WHY I SHOULD LOVE HER.

Ask not why I should love her,
Look upon these soul-full eyes;
Look while mirth or feeling move her,
And see there how sweetly rise
Thoughts gay and gentle from a breast
Which is of innocence the nest;
Which though each joy were from it shed,
By truth would still be tempted!

See, from those sweet windows peeping,
Emotions tender, bright and pure,
And wonder not the faith I'm keeping,
Every trial can endure!

Wonder not that looks so winning
Still for me new ties are spinning;
Wonder not that hearts so true
Keeps mine from ever changing too.

SHE WAS A WIDOW.

BY CORNELIUS TYNEAR.

She was a very captivating woman, for she had the sweetest smile, and the most innocent looking face I ever saw! She was a small woman, too, and I always was fond of small women. Her eyes, my dear sir, were black, but, unlike some black eyes that you've seen, there was nothing wicked about them. They were regular lamb's eyes, that is, in expression; and, as I said to Grogstar, the first time I saw her:

"That woman is an angel. She can't be anything else with those eyes."

"You're right," said Grogstar; "she is an angel if there ever was one in this world."

"What do you know?"

"Why, my dear fellow I knew her when she was a little girl. She's old Cooglesby's daughter. She married Frogsham, poor fellow."

"Why poor fellow?"

"He's dead, you know."

"Is it possible that young and delicate looking creature is a widow?"

"It's no only possible, but a fact," said Grogstar. "However, she isn't so very young. I believe she is twenty-eight; let me see, you are—"

"Thirty."

"Ah, yes. Well now, my dear Tynear, if you ever think of marrying, I don't know of a woman that would suit you better than Mrs. Frogsham for a wife. Let me introduce you."

"Thank you, I was just going to ask you to present me to the lady."

And that was the way I made the acquaintance of Mrs. Frogsham.

We were stopping at a hotel at Sandy Beach. Mr. Grogstar had a room next to mine, and before I had been in the house three days we were the best of friends; and after he introduced me to my dear Delia, I thought more of him than ever.

I say my dear Delia. Yes our acquaintance ripened into love, and she confessed that I had won her affections; and her confession was made within three weeks of the day that Grogstar introduced me to this lovely creature.

"I was on the evening of a day,
Which we in love had dreamt away,"
as the poet says, that I made my proposal. We were sitting upon an eminence near the sea—I at Delia's feet looking up into her beautiful eyes, she looking oceanward her lamb-like countenance illuminated by one of her child-like smiles.

"Delia," said I, and as usual in such cases, I took her hand—"Delia, you are the only woman that I ever loved—the only woman that can make me supremely happy."

As usual in such cases, she did not withdraw her hand.

"Oh, will you darling?" I urged, after a slight pause, getting ready to press her to my bosom.

"Cornelius," she replied, in her sweet, flute-like voice—"Cornelius, I've been through with this be—before; therefore, I beg you'll excuse me for any seeming lack of enthusiasm; but believe me, Cornelius, I love you very, very dearly."

"And may I call you mine?"

"Yes," she faltered, with such an innocent, child-like smile upon her countenance that I could hardly believe that she was a widow. After escorting my beloved back to the hotel, that night I rushed into Grogstar's room to tell him of my good fortune.

I found him sitting by the open window enjoying the sea-breeze and smoking

"ON WE MOVE INDISSOLUBLY FIRM, GOD AND NATURE BID THE SAME."

in a calm, and meditative manner. He welcomed me with a cheerful smile, and motioned me to take a seat.

But I couldn't sit; I was altogether too full for joy.

"My dear Grogstar," cried I, dancing before him, ecstatically, you behold the happiest man in the world. She is mine.

"Ah you refer, I suppose, to—the widow," said Grogstar, with a look of surprise.

"Yes to my Delia. The young, the artless, the dove-eyed, the innocent and unsophisticated creature—who-by-the-way, Grogstar, I cannot think her as being a widow."

"But she is Tynear. She is a widow. In fact my dear fellow, I suppose that's what makes her seem so artless. So she has—"

She has promised to be mine, Grogstar. I thought there was a tear in my friend's eye, but it may have been caused by the smoke from his pipe. He grasped my hand.

"Tynear," said he, with evident emotion—"Tynear, I congratulate you. She is a jewel. She is one of a thousand. You are a lucky man to win such a woman, but you don't know it. You think you do, but you don't. You imagine that you are happy, but you've no idea how happy you ought to be, under the circumstances! She is a most remarkable woman, Tynear; but I assure you that—she is a widow."

Then Grogstar wiped his eyes, and resumed his pipe.

"I am glad, my friend, that you approve of my choice, and I hope to see you at the wedding," said I.

"I shall certainly come, my dear sir," returned Grogstar. "I told Delia—Mrs. Frogsham, I should say—that I should expect an invitation to her next wedding, and she promised that I could have one. Is the day appointed?"

"No, but I shall not feel secure in my happiness until it is. Oh, my dear Grogstar, excuse my emotion, but if you had ever loved as I love, you—"

"I have," he interrupted, "I know just what your feelings are. Give them vent. That was all that saved me."

"What! did you ever love a woman?"

"Yes, she was a woman," wailed Grogstar, "and—and she was a widow."

"Did she die?"

"I would be alone, he murmured, laying down his pipe.

"I feel it coming, a feeling of sadness and longing," and as he turned his face toward the sea, I am sure I saw a tear glistening in the moonlight as it trickled down his nose.

"The sight of happiness makes him sad when he thinks of his own sorrows," I said as I quietly left the room.

The next morning there were two arrivals at the Sandy Beach hotel. One was Mr. Bluggs and the other a Mr. Nogglestone, both of London.

When I appeared on the piazza they were both talking with Grogstar. The latter bade me good morning as I passed.

"Is that him?" asked Bluggs in a suppressed voice.

"Fortunate man!" exclaimed Nogglestone, when Grogstar answered in the affirmative.

Did they refer to me? If so, then my friend must have told them that I was Delia's accepted lover. Perhaps they had seen her, and perhaps they were both charmed with her beauty; and poor fellows, how they must have envied me!

I was thinking of this, my bosom swelling with pride and joy, as I quietly smoked my morning cigar, when my beautiful Delia appeared at the door. Grogstar, Bluggs, and Nogglestone raised their hats simultaneously. Delia bowed and smiled—oh, so sweetly! Ah, she was so happy in my love that she could not look coldly upon any one. Then she came forward and took my arm, and we walked down toward the beach.

"You know them, it seems, my dear?" I questioned.

"What, Mr. Bluggs—Mr. Fogglesstone?"

"Yes, sweet."

"Oh, they were old lovers of mine," replied Delia, with that child-like smile; then, noticing that her answer did not seem to increase my happiness, she added "but that isn't my fault, Cornelius. I wasn't to blame for their loving me, I didn't ask them to. I never asked any body to love me but you Cornelius, dear."

"But they can't help it," said I "you are so beautiful and so good. It's a wonder to me that Grogstar never loved you."

"Oh, he did," cried Delia. "He was my third lover!"

"Ha!" I caught her in my arms as we stood on the sandy shore, and pressed her to my bosom.

"Oh, Delia, if you love me, name the day—quick!" I cried—"I would break my heart to lose you; and here you are, surrounded by three of your old lovers, who are undoubtedly waiting to snuff off your many arms at the first favorable opportunity. Name the day, darling, and let it be soon, the suspense will be terrible until I can call you really truly my own. Ah, now, too well I know the cause of Grogstar's emotion, which he vainly tried to conceal, when I told him you had promised to be mine. Name the day."

"Will next Thursday do, Cornelius?" she asked in her musical voice, while a tender blush suffused her beautiful countenance as she timidly raised her dove-like eyes to my face.

"Yes, Thursday will do. I think I can survive a week," I answered.

"We will be married here, then, in my little parlor at the hotel."

"Yes."

"And if you have no objection, I should like to have a few friends present."

"I have already invited Grogstar," said I.

"Yes, and I should like to have Mr. Bluggs and Mr. Nogglestone there."

"Do you think they will be able to hear it, my dear? Won't it be too much for their delicate organizations?"

"They will bear up for my sake," said Delia.

"Then let them come," I answered, turning my eyes toward the hotel. But my surprise and alarm to discover Bluggs, Nogglestone and Grogstar, all seated at the latter's window, each man holding a large telescope in his hands, and each telescope being pointed directly at Mrs. Frogsham and myself.

"Delia," said I as the cold perspiration broke out all around my nose—"Delia, we are watched."

"They always do just so," she answered. "They watched Mr. Frogsham the same way, but they don't mean anything wrong."

"Oh! they don't eh? But I won't trust them, my dear. They may have formed a conspiracy to snatch you from my arms. I don't like the expression of Nogglestone's eyes, and there is a sinister curl to Bluggs' nose. No, let us return to the hotel immediately. Until we are married I shall not feel secure. I hardly dare trust you out of my sight."

"Dear reader, I cannot linger over the next few days—the last of my single life. They were too full of anxiety and vague terror that something awful