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WHEN LIFE IS DONE

Sweetheart, when all the ways are trod,
And green earth fades from view—
When they whose eyes you should look on God
I shall look back to you!

Sweetheart, in your heavenly place
Be given no stifling pain—
Lonely and cold in all its grace
I shall look back to you!

Still shall I breathe the earth-sweet breath,
Though faint from mortal dew,
Dear eyes be long gone—if of death,
Sweetheart, I come to you!

—From the Atlanta Constitution.

The Martins' Masquerade.

BY KATE M. CLEARY.

Author of "A Lady of the Mountains"
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"I wish I knew where you should go to go anywhere," cried Evelyn.

Her aunt's lips closed in the straight and stubborn line which Evelyn knew boded grim determination.

"A masquerade is no place for a child!" she declared grimly.

"A child! Do you know I'm going on eighteen! My mother was married before she was the age I am now, Aunt Augusta."

Miss Mifflin looked up with a frown.

"How often am I to remind you not to call me aunt?" she said in sharp, unpressed vexation. "People hear the you would think I was old enough to be your mother. I'm quite sufficient for me Augusta."

But if I call you Augusta, she pouted, folks will say you are my sister."

Miss Mifflin turned quickly. "Suppose they do! I'm sister to no one's niece! It was only because I was left a helpless baby that my father's dying request was to me. I'm only a few miles from me for you when I come in at dusk."

At dusk Evelyn sat expectantly at the window opposite the door.

"You are an impertinent girl," said Augusta Mifflin. "I'm almost sorry I offered to keep you with me this winter while your parents went abroad!"

"I'm sorry if I was impertinent!" apologized Evelyn, penitently. "I know how you put her face down on the kitten's neck, and tried hard not to cry. She was disappointed and lonely. She was the only child of a rich and wealthy and adoring father. She had always had everything she wanted. When it became necessary for her father to cross the Atlantic to see about an estate which had been left him, he engaged that his wife and daughter should go with him. But it was Evelyn herself who decided it would be perfect to spend the few months of their absence at her mother's old home in the little town of Garvin.

"You've told me so much about it," she said to her mother. "I'm sure that when you had there when you were a girl. The dances, and the sleigh rides, and the skating, and all the lovely times with the young people. I should be contented and happy there. And Aunt Augusta is so fond of children, and has so many of them. I'm sure I'll be perfectly happy there."

She whisked out of the room, got herself into her wraps, and started off to walk away her disappointment. The frozen snow was firm beneath her feet. A glorious sun set the frost-white trees sparkling. The air was crisp and exhilarating. Just as Evelyn turned out of the gate she met James Partridge coming in. A sudden wild hope made her pause and hold out her hand with much cordiality.

"Mr. Partridge you're going to the masquerade, aren't you? Oh, do! It will be such fun! Ask Aunt Agusta to go with you!"

Mr. Partridge was a trifle perplexed by her eagerness, the intensity of her interest. He was a good-natured old chap, and he promised to do as she wished. The audacity of his request almost took Agusta Mifflin's breath. But she was prodigiously flattered. It was a long time since she had been asked to go to a dance. The infections of Mr. Partridge certainly misled somebody. Her scruples vanished in a flurry of excited anticipation. But there was Evelyn.

Yes, on condition my niece knows nothing about it. I am responsible for her while her parents are in Europe."

I was hoping that Miss Evelyn might."

Miss Evelyn, who had come back for a letter she had written and wished to mail, caught the sound of her name, and stood, horrified, on the landing. She had been on the point of leaving the library when Partridge spoke.

Not for the world! Not mind she think that I intend going. I shall just suspend the exercises with my friend, Mme. Spencer. You can meet me at her house, and from there we'll go to the Martins' masquerade. I'll take my costume with me in a satchel. No intended soul shall not know. Will that do?"

"Quite perfectly," said Miss Mifflin, in a manner of supreme satisfaction. "And I shall depend upon you to bring me home at eleven o'clock. Au revoir."

And Evelyn heard a purring chuckle.

The next day Miss Mifflin took a trip to her dressmaker's. During the week and followed she was more deft at all subjects than Evelyn had ever known her to be. And when Saturday night arrived the day of the ball a trickly package arrived. Evelyn, she darted upstairs with it in a manner of supreme secrecy. Her niece took calmly her abominable mien at luncheon that she would have to eat upon the third floor. And she joined her aunt at dinner with a face of such sweetness and docility that Miss Mifflin looked at her in amazement.

"Are you coming?" she asked.

"Dear Mr. Partridge, I hope you're not expecting leaving me."

So delighted to leave the pleasure of your company. See gentleman of [illegible] parish. Good-by."

Such a doleful face!

Half way to the Martins' Miss Mifflin said, with a sigh of relief:

"You are going to behave yourself, I see. I was afraid you were going to make a scene after I thought it was all settled. I'm glad you've come to your senses."

Evelyn's reply was unintelligible. Miss Mifflin thought it was a sob of repentance, and was mollified. Partridge was waiting, and indeed opened the door for him. "So you decided it best to go to Miss Spencer's, he said, as he helped her out of her wraps. "I was afraid you were coming."