

Let Not Man Put Asunder

anxious to protect his pride from humiliation as well as his heart from needless pain.

Little by little Petrina had shown him that neither need be feared. As winter waned and spring went by he loosed the check upon himself; he came nearer and was welcomed; he paid open court and was not disdained. Now he was in that happy stage in the race for love where his rivals were all behind him, and the goal was well in sight, though the crown was not yet won. He was, in short, just where Petrina's strategy had placed him, and where she had meant for months that he should be.