

THE FORSAKEN.

The readers of Edgar Poe will always remember the enthusiasm with which he wrote and spoke about the poetry of "Stella" (Mrs E. A. Lewis), and how, in his excited critique on her writings, he alluded to "The Forsaken" composed by her when she was but fourteen years old, as "the most beautiful ballad of the kind ever written. We have read it," he remarks, "more than twenty times, and always with increasing admiration. It is incomparably beautiful. The essential poetry of the ideas would only be impaired by foreign ornaments."

It hath been said—for all who die
There is a tear:
Some pining, bleeding heart to sigh
Our every bier;
But in that hour of pain and dread
Who will draw near
Around my humble couch and shed
One farewell tear?
Who'd watch life's last departing ray
In deep despair,
And soothe the agonizing on its way
With holy prayer?
What mourner round my bier will come
In words of woe,
And follow me to my lone home—
Sorrow and slow?
When lying on my clayey bed,
In icy sleep,
Who there by pure affection led
Will come and weep;
By the pale moon implant the rose
Upon my breast,
And bid it cheer my dark repose,
My lowly rest?
Could I but know when I am sleeping
Low in the ground,
One faithful heart would then be keeping
Watch all night round,
As if some gem lay shined beneath
That sod's cold gloom,
'T would mitigate the pangs of death,
And light the tomb.
Yes! in that hour if I could feel,
From halls of gloom,
And Beauty's presence one would steal
In secret;
And come and sit and weep by me
In night's dark room,
Oh! I would ask of memory
No other boon:
But ah! a lonelier fate is mine,
A deeper woe:
For all I love in youth's sweet time
I soon must part;
Drawn round me my pale robes of white
In a dark spot
To sleep through death's long dreamless night,
Lone and forgot.

HELENA GRAHAM,

—OR—
THE BRIDE'S SACRIFICE.

CHAPTER VII.

"Well," said old Allie, to her son and heir Evan, as he entered the long, high kitchen of Graham's lodge. "I would just like to ken what Mr. Clinton means. I canna understand these new-fangled young men 'tall. First he comes a courtin' Miss Helena, and just as soon as her back's turned he goes off an' takes up wi' Miss Jessie."

"Tain't no business of yours," said Evan, gruffly. "I should think Mr. Clinton knows what he's about."

"Yes; but I ought to tell Miss Helena 'bout it. If he is her beau he oughtn't to be takin' up with Miss Jessie."

"Better let Miss Helena look after her own beau," replied her dutiful son. "How do you know he's a courtin' Miss Jessie?"

"'Cause I saw them—yes I did—last night, down on the shore. The moon was shinin' as bright as a new pin, an' I took that litter o' kittens down to the shore to drown, when I saw Mr. Clinton a walkin' along with Miss Jessie, and he had his head stooped down, just so!"

"And Aunt Allie ducked her head to illustrate it—'and was whisperin' soft stuff, just as folks do when they're in love."

"Well, what then?" asked Evan, growing interested.

"Well, they come up, an' saw me, an' lor, lor! I just wish you saw the look Mr. Clinton give me. Appeared as if he'd a liked to knocked my head off. But I wasn't afraid, 'deed I wa'n't; so I jos stood still and drapped a courtsey, an' Miss Jessie she got red up to the ro's of her hair. 'Good evenin', sir, an' a young miss, sez I; 'don't be afraid, I only wants to drown these yer little kittens,' sez I, for I thought I might be polite, just as well as not."

"Oh, how are you, Allie?" says Miss Jessie, a laughin' and blashin'. "how is Evan and yer rheumatiz, these times?"

"Thank you, miss," says I, 'they's pretty well, both of them.' And then Mr. Clinton he pulled her arm right through his and marched her off with him; an' then he pitched the kittens right in the water and come home."

"Well, that wasn't much," said the sceptical Evan. "They might be walkin' on the beach, but that ain't by no means courtin'." Mr. Clinton walks with her, 'cause Miss Helena's gone, an' he ain't got nobody else to talk to."

"Just so; but that ain't all," said old Allie. "This very mornin', as I was passin' through the hall, the sittin'-room door was open, and I heard voices talkin' there; so I listened and peered in, an' there was Mr. Clinton, rampin' up and down, a talkin' to hisself."

"Well, that ain't nothin'," said the still contradictory Evan. "I've heard that Fritz talk to hisself when Mrs. Ben sent him out to work; an' he ain't in love with no one."

"But listen, honey, and don't you be puttin' me out so, 'cause it's no respect-ful 'deed it ain't," said old Allie, getting slightly indignant. "As I was sayin', I clapt my ear to the door, an' I heard him sayin' just as plain as nothin' 'tall: 'Oh, enchantin', bewilderin' Jessie! if I had never met you I might yet be happy! Then what did he say that for if he wasn't in love?'"

This last was a settler. Evan felt that his mother had the best of the argument, and unwilling to seem defeated, he went out, leaving the old lady to enjoy her triumph.

Three days had passed since the departure of Helena, and certainly Herbert's conduct seemed to justify old Allie's suspicion. Unable to break the thrall which bound him, wishing, yet unable, to fly from the spell of the enchantress, he lingered still by her side. There was shame, dishonor, sin, in remaining; but, oh, there was death, misery, and desolation in going. All worldly considerations, her unknown birth, her obscure connections, her lowly rank, were swept away like walls of ooze before the fierce torrent of passion that overwhelmed, conquered every other feeling in its impetuous tide.

And she loved him, this angel of beauty, this fairy princess of the isle. He could see it in the quick flush of joy at his approach—the quick, burning glances shot from her beautiful eyes, more quickly averted when they met his—her low, impassioned tones, her bright, beautiful blushes. There was joy, there was rapture in the thought; and yet, unless he forgot honor, vows, all that should have been sacred, what did this love avail?

And so, like a tempest-tossed bark on a tempest-tossed sea, he strove with passion and honor, love and remorse, right and wrong.

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See article in *Cassell's Household Guide*, 176-9m

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