

Beauty & the Beast Sides

BANK SOLICITOR (detecting the lie)

You'd be amazed the price such "paste" can bring.

Let's have the earrings, too. Though awfully small

Some "paste" is better than no "paste" at all.

They're very pretty but it hardly pays

To deal in tacky jewelry, nowadays.

I'm rushed just now, but soon as I am able

I'll send someone to get that chair and table.

Yes. They're the last two items on my list.

Unless you've thought of something I have missed?

So sorry! There was little I could do,

Your creditors moved twice as fast as you.

Before your ship could dock, officially,

They'd hired boats to take them out to sea.

Knowing your ship and all that there was in it

They couldn't bear to waste one precious minute

In taking what they felt belonged to them.

A dirty, but effective, stratagem.

In one hour's time they had been everywhere.

And like a plague of locust stripped you bare.

Your ship stands empty now and it's for sale.

The price it brings may keep you out of jail.

NARRATOR

Moonlight and a gentle, misty veil.
The perfect setting for a fairy tale.
Here, for an hour, you and I will climb
The silken threads of "Once upon a time"
And we will lure you with our conjurations
If you will lend us your imaginations
With which to weave fantastic tapestries;
The eye to dazzle and heart to please.
Beat drums and let the trumpets bray.
To herald the commencement of our play.

A Merchant, who was wealthy beyond measure
(Whose life was filled with every mundane pleasure)
Came suddenly to ruin, sad to say.
In what seemed but the passing of a day.
Forced to undersell all that he owned,
To pay the Moneylenders what he'd loaned
And lost, he found himself with little more
Than three young daughters and the clothes they
wore .

HAUGHTENSE

But you must realize that this suggestion
For us, at least, is quite out of the question.
What do we know of chickens, pigs and cows,
Of things like chopping wood and pushing plows?

Oh, you think so eh?

Well I think that your brains have blown away.
I also think that you must be advised
Of several points which you have not surmised.
I won't be made to rise before the sun.
That's something chickens do, and I'm not one.
I won't milk cows, it's vulgar and obscene
I won't "slop hogs", whatever that might mean!
I won't weave cloth, or sew, or bake the bread
I won't scrub floors, wash clothes or make a bed.
I've never done such things before, and vow,
I'd rather die than have to do them now.

MERCHANT

You've had your say, permit me to have mine.
This diatribe of yours is asinine.
If I were you I wouldn't take such pride
In a mind so narrow and a mouth so wide.
It's obvious your ego reigns supreme
To spew out selfishness to this extreme.
I've never tanned your bottom, now I rue it,
But tempt me further and I'll hasten to it.
And if I can't pound logic in your head
I will impress the other end instead.
Is that quite clear to both of you?

BEAUTY

Dear God, you art the Father of my soul.
In all this life I have no greater goal
Than pleasing you and being worthy of
Your endless bounty and eternal love.
And, as You have ordained, within my heart,
My earthly father has his rightful part.
My love for him is second unto You.
It is this love which prompts what I must do.
Father in Heaven I pray You will forgive
The forfeit of my lift that he may live.

BEAST

Stand still and contemplate that which you hold.
That which I treasure more than gems or gold.
I save your life and now you steal from me!
Is this your payment for my charity?

I know your thoughts
You plan to bargain with me while you're caught,
And acquiesce to anything I say,
Then break your vow when safely far away .
But I have power greater than you know.
My curse will touch you anywhere you go.
In seven days, if you do not comply
With what you've sworn, you will most surely die
And die most horribly.

Take up that rose. Inhale its scent and be
Again at home, transported instantly.
In one week crush the petals in your hand
And here, before me, once again you'll stand.