

1889

DOWN BY THE SALLEY GARDENS

(From *Crossways*)

William Butler Yeats

Yeats, William Butler (1865-1939) - Irish poet and dramatist, widely considered one of the greatest English-speaking poets of the 20th century. He was a leader of the Irish Renaissance and later a devoted spiritualist. Yeats received the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1923. *Down by the Salley Gardens* (1889) - Opening lines: Down by the salley gardens my love and I did meet; / She passed the salley gardens with little snow-white feet. ...

DOWN BY THE SALLEY GARDENS

Down by the salley gardens my love and I did meet;
She passed the salley gardens with little snow-white feet.
She bid me take love easy, as the leaves grow on the tree;
But I, being young and foolish, with her would not agree.
In a field by the river my love and I did stand,
And on my leaning shoulder she laid her snow-white hand.
She bid me take life easy, as the grass grows on the weirs;
But I was young and foolish, and now am full of tears.

THE END