

**1814**

**SHE WALKS IN BEAUTY**

**George Gordon Byron**

**Byron, Lord (George Gordon) (1788-1824) - An English poet whose characters, usually swashbuckling brigands known as "Byronic heroes," are obsessed with past sins. Byron's reputedly wild personal life is as renowned as his work. She Walks in Beauty (1814) - Written after seeing Lady Wilmot Horton dressed in mourning. Opening lines: She walks in beauty, like the night / Of cloudless climes and starry skies; ...**

**SHE WALKS IN BEAUTY**

SHE walks in beauty, like the night  
Of cloudless climes and starry skies;  
And all that's best of dark and bright  
Meet in her aspect and her eyes:  
Thus mellow'd to that tender light  
Which heaven to gaudy day denies.

One shade the more, one ray the less,  
Had half impair'd the nameless grace  
Which waves in every raven tress,  
Or softly lightens o'er her face;  
Where thoughts serenely sweet express  
How pure, how dear their dwelling-place.

And on that cheek, and o'er that brow,  
So soft, so calm, yet eloquent,  
The smiles that win, the tints that glow,  
But tell of days in goodness spent,  
A mind at peace with all below,  
A heart whose love is innocent!

June 12, 1814

**THE END**