

1859

THE WILLOW TREE

Lewis Carroll

Carroll, Lewis (pen name of Charles Lutwidge Dodgson) (1832-1898) - English novelist, poet, photographer, and mathematician, best known for his fantastical childrens' classics. He was a mathematical lecturer at Oxford. *The Willow-Tree* (1859) - One of Lewis Carroll's poems. Opening lines: The morn was bright, the steeds were light, / The wedding guests were gay:...

THE WILLOW TREE

THE morn was bright, the steeds were light, The wedding guests were gay: Young Ellen stood within the wood And watched them pass away.

She scarcely saw the gallant train: The tear-drop dimmed her e'e:

Unheard the maiden did complain Beneath the Willow-Tree.

"Oh, Robin, thou didst love me well, Till, on a bitter day, She came, the Lady Isabel, And stole thy heart away.

My tears are vain: I live again In days that used to be, When I could meet thy welcome feet Beneath the Willow-Tree.

"Oh, Willow gray, I may not stay Till Spring renew thy leaf; But I will hide myself away, And nurse a lonely grief.

It shall not dim Life's joy for him: My tears he shall not see: While he is by, I'll come not nigh My weeping Willow-Tree.

"But when I die, oh, let me lie Beneath thy loving shade, That he may loiter careless by, Where I am lowly laid.

And let the white white marble tell, If he should stoop to see, 'Here lies a maid that loved thee well, Beneath the Willow-Tree.'"

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THE END