

1819

THIS LIVING HAND, NOW WARM AND CAPABLE

John Keats

Keats, John (1795-1821) - Widely regarded as the most talented of the English romantic poets, Keats, whose work was poorly received during his lifetime, could not have foreseen his later recognition. Ironically, he wrote for his own epitaph: "Here lies one whose name was writ in water." This living hand now warm and capable (1819) - Written for Fanny Brawne, Keats' fiancée. Opening lines: This living hand, now warm and capable / Of earnest grasping would, if it were cold ...

THIS LIVING HAND

This living hand, now warm and capable
Of earnest grasping, would, if it were cold
And in the icy silence of the tomb,
So haunt thy days and chill thy dreaming nights
That thou wouldst wish thine own heart dry of blood
So in my veins red life might stream again,
And thou be conscience-calm'd- see here it is
I hold it towards you.

THE END