

# THE FIREFLY.

On a pleasant, bright June evening they were walking hand in hand in the park. Both were young and beautiful. The girl was leaning her head on his shoulder, he stooping from time to time for the purpose of pressing his warm lips to her light hair, plainly combed over her forehead.

Suddenly in the thicket among the fragrant jasmines a vibrating light appeared, followed by another, then by a third, still clearer, and finally winged, greenish swarms of sparks surrounded them.

"Look! The lightning bugs!"  
"How pretty, mysterious and light!"  
"The are vibrating as an inexplicable word of love, and they are burning as passion breaking its ties."

"Look! This one is hanging upon your forehead; that one is your guiding star."

"And the other above shines greenish, like your eyes when you are cross. I would like, my only one, to make of these stars an aureole about your light head."

A silvery laugh spread itself in the secluded path.

"And it seems to me it is the third act of 'Robert the Devil.' The penitent souls are burning. We were walking in the cemetery."

"No; this is not a cemetery. It is the summit of life and earthly happiness. I love you!" And he stopped in order that in the dark he might read from the light of her shining eyes a cordial answer.

They were much in love with each other faithfully and sincerely.

They went farther, silently, in the mysterious shadows of the walk, but involuntarily the memory of the cemetery, as it were, caused between them a shadow of sorrow and thought, the cloud which, even under the melting influence of the words, "I love you," did not want to disappear. Death is stronger than love, and loneliness deeper than happiness. They went farther, looking at the phosphoric sparks.

The girl suddenly lifted her head and whispered softly:

"Do you know that this moment the reminiscence of a woman whom you have loved once stands between us? Is it not true?"

She divined. She was accustomed to thinking and feeling in harmony with him. At once, by intuition, she came upon the face of a person unknown to her, a stranger of rival thought. He shivered, embraced her more tightly and stood still for awhile.

"Let's go farther," she said.

"Listen. I will tell you all."

"Why, I love you and believe."

"Listen. Between us there is this one last secret, troubling, annoying my mind as a nightmare, and I shall not rid myself of this pale ghost of the far-away past unless I tell you all."

"Did you love her?" she asked, with a nervous vibration of voice.

"She was handsome as a Greek cameo and always smiling as a goddess of happiness. She was curious, proud, passionate, of an artistic nature. She fascinated me, drew me to her, intoxicated me. When she took in her white, cold hands my head, my temples burned, and when she sang in the voice of a siren I felt that my will and strength were falling."

"Did you love her?" asked the girl nervously.

"It seemed to me that her love must be the greatest happiness on earth, and that I would then give my life to guess the conundrum of her deep, black eyes."

"Look," said he, after awhile, as if gathering his thoughts and showing her the lighted, shivering and moving mass in the thicket, "and listen to the reminiscences of the long gone years of my childhood. I was for the first time in the country, and for the first time, on a warm evening, I saw lightning bugs shining with a sharp, greenish light in the dark thicket of the park. Child of the city, excited by unaccustomed sights, I chased the moving light and wished to possess such a star, to look at it while it was near and to take it for my own. A chase was made, and one of the handsomest bugs was tightly shut in glass. Charmed, I took my treasure, placed it in my room near my bed, and in the night I dreamed of a gigantic sun throwing light on all the paths and thickets of the garden."

"In the morning I was awakened by the first rays of dawn. I looked at once in the direction of the glass palace; but, instead of the imprisoned star, there appeared to me—only a miserable black!"

"But she, the woman whom you loved?" asked the girl impatiently.

"She was an enchantress, with the voice of a siren, an artist by blood and flesh, a dark eyed and tempting problem, but only in the twilight of our mysterious love, in the overheated, sick and languid imagination of mind. Her Greek profile and smile of a sphinx needed an unnatural light and sparkling animation, an artificial spur. In the usual surroundings, in the light of day and truth of life, strong and sincere sentiments, sacrifices and pity, she was only a black bug."

He leaned over, and in dumb and warm homage he pressed her hands to his lips.

"You are crying, my dear. Why? Indeed you love and believe?"

She was silent awhile, then answered with a hearty vibration of pity in her voice:

"I pity the dark bug. Perhaps—perhaps it also has a soul!"

Chopras Her Venetian.

"Ma, when I get big I want to work."

"What do you want to do, little daughter?"

"Ma, I want to wrap up car' mels in a candy fat'ry."—Chicago Record-Herald.

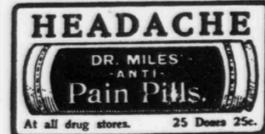
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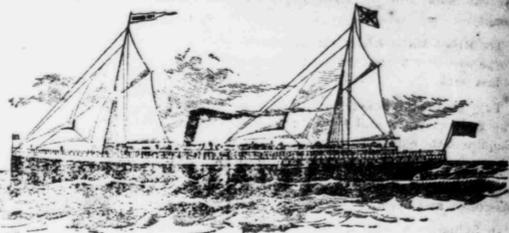


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11:05 pm	10:55 am	Ar. Vaidosa (A. V. & W.)	Lv. Vaidosa (A. V. & W.)	5:20 pm	5:35 am
3:50 am	4:10 pm	Ar. Macon (G. S. & F.)	Lv. Macon (G. S. & F.)	11:30 am	12:45 am
7:25 am	7:35 pm	Ar. Atlanta (C. of G.)	Lv. Atlanta (C. of G.)	8:00 am	9:00 pm
1:00 pm	12:30 am	Ar. Chattanooga (W. & A.)	Lv. Chattanooga (W. & A.)	4:05 am	3:00 pm
5:55 pm	5:35 am	Ar. Nashville (N. C. & St. L.)	Lv. Nashville (N. C. & St. L.)	10:55 pm	9:30 am
3:25 am	7:24 pm	Ar. St. Louis (I. C.)	Lv. St. Louis (I. C.)	8:36 am	10:15 pm
7:25 pm	7:00 am	Lv. Nashville (N. C. & St. L.)	Ar. Nashville (N. C. & St. L.)	8:35 pm	9:05 am
1:47 pm	12:10 pm	Lv. Martin (I. C.)	Ar. Martin (I. C.)	2:55 pm	5:15 am
10:50 am	Ar. Chicago (I. C.)	Lv. Chicago (I. C.)	Ar. Chicago (I. C.)	6:10 pm	6:10 pm
7:30 pm	5:48 am	Lv. Nashville (L. & N.)	Ar. Nashville (L. & N.)	10:42 pm	8:30 am
12:50 am	9:50 am	Ar. Evansville (L. & N.)	Lv. Evansville (L. & N.)	6:35 pm	3:15 am
9:15 am	5:30 pm	Ar. Chicago (C. & E. I.)	Lv. Chicago (C. & E. I.)	11:05 am	7:00 pm

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