

John Keats

La Belle Dame sans Merci: A Ballad (1819)

I

Oh what can ail thee, knight-at-arms,
Alone and palely loitering?
The sedge has withered from the lake,
And no birds sing.

II

Oh what can ail thee, knight-at-arms,
So haggard and so woe-begone?
The squirrel's granary is full,
And the harvest's done.

III

I see a lily on thy brow,
With anguish moist and fever-dew,
And on thy cheeks a fading rose
Fast withereth too.

IV

I met a lady in the meads,
Full beautiful - a faery's child,
Her hair was long, her foot was light,
And her eyes were wild.

V

I made a garland for her head,
And bracelets too, and fragrant zone;
She looked at me as she did love,
And made sweet moan.

VI

I set her on my pacing steed,
And nothing else saw all day long,
For sidelong would she bend, and sing
A faery's song.

Frank Dicksee (1903) "... sidelong would she bend, and sing
A faery's song"



Arthur Hughes (1861-1863)

VI

I set her on my
pacing steed,
And nothing else
saw all day long,
For sidelong would
she bend, and
sing
A faery's song.



VII

She found me roots of relish sweet,
And honey wild, and manna-dew,
And sure in language strange she said -
'I love thee true'.

VIII

She took me to her elfin grot,
And there she wept and sighed full sore,
And there I shut her wild wild eyes
With kisses four.

John William Waterhouse (1893)

VIII

She took me to her
elfin grot,
And there she wept
and sighed full
sore,
And there I shut her
wild wild eyes
With kisses four.



Frank Cadogan Cowper (1926)

IX

And there she lulled
me asleep
And there I dreamed
- Ah! woe betide! –
The latest dream I
ever dreamt
On the cold hill side.



X

I saw pale kings and princes too,
Pale warriors, death-pale were they all;
They cried - 'La Belle Dame sans Merci
Hath thee in thrall!'

XI

I saw their starved lips in the gloam,
With horrid warning gaped wide,
And I awoke and found me here,
On the cold hill's side.

XII

And this is why I sojourn here
Alone and palely loitering,
Though the sedge is withered from
the lake,
And no birds sing.