



## **The Arabian Shawl (1908)**

**By Katherine Mansfield**

"It is cold outside, you will need a coat--  
What! this old Arabian shawl!  
Bind it about your head and throat,  
These steps... it is dark... my hand... you might fall."

What has happened? What strange, sweet charm  
Lingers about the Arabian shawl...  
Do not tremble so! There can be no harm  
In just remembering--that is all.

"I love you so--I will be your wife,"  
Here, in the dark of the Terrace wall,  
Say it again. Let that other life  
Fold us like the Arabian shawl.

"Do you remember?"... "I quite forget,  
Some childish foolishness, that is all,  
To-night is the first time we have met...  
Let me take off my Arabian shawl!"

