

“Lady Death”

Writer: Loop

I still remember when I met you
remember the days spent at the water’s edge, talking
as you washed the day’s laundry.

You used to smile then
The scent of meadows and summer clinging to you
longing
As if nature itself worshipped you
the stars would sing for you,
Would glimmer on your ombre hair,
glow in your gentle amber eyes
stubborn, yet so fragile,
You were summer, you were the world, you were everything.
and I loved you

“Death,” you called me, and would laugh at the word
“I wish I could leave with you
And walk where the sun can’t reach,” you would say.

“One day,” I said, “everyone will, one day.”
I wish
I could have told you how cold it is
on the other side
how lonely it is
to carry soul after soul
to the beyond

But you shook your head at me
Picking up your basket
“You’re far too solemn,” you laughed
And pressed my cold hand to your warm face
before you went away
silent and graceful as a shadow

one day you did not return
and in years I would forget
but who knew an immortal heart could be so empty?

I remember, decades later, when
I saw
your body
at the bottom of a bridge,
motionless in death
and I held you in my arms as I bore
you up, up, up

to your place in the stars
I held you
as you breathed out the last of the mortal warmth in your dying soul

"You came back for me," you whispered through chapped lips. "You came back."

"I always do," I said.

And even then, you were so beautiful, even
with your aged skin, the crinkles that had
folded around your mouth and eyes
lined your face

And you touched your pale hand to my cheek and sighed against me,
and knew you were home

We've spent centuries together,

journeying the stars

laying mortal souls to rest.

You don't smile like you used to

and we have no words left for each other

and the nights run cold, so cold

but you hold me like

we are the only things in the universe

and I love you