

## Idylls in a Kingdom by the Sea

You felt it too; I knew it even then.  
With danger all around and death so near,  
he kissed me... and it took me by surprise.  
I know you felt it, even through my fear.

And it was you I thought of as we fled  
through hollow tunnels, corridors of stone,  
when he thought we were lost and we were not,  
and only I knew we were not alone.

I brought him to a secret door, and asked  
his promise to forget this world Below.  
He offered me another world, Above.  
I thought of you... and then I bade him go.

And so I come into your chamber-room  
a supplicant, to kneel by your chair  
and find you hurt in more than blood and bone,  
and sunk in dark and deepening despair.

I know, Beloved, what you must have felt  
the very instant such a whimsied chance  
conspired with a thief and opportunist  
in the very direst circumstance --

And I can see you feel the awful weight  
of all you think he offers me, Above;  
that by comparison there must be nothing,  
nothing you can give me -- oh, but love! --

He gave me nothing then, that you cannot.  
How can you think that with a stolen kiss  
I could so easily be bought or bartered...  
bound to king of any realm but this?

You felt it. And your waiting stillness now  
betrays your secret; for you knew -- you knew --  
when death was nearest, even as he kissed me,  
I could only wish that it was... you.