

Poetic Starlight

By Stacy David

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Cover by Tiger Farm Press using author's photo taken in the Louvre in Paris.

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This is the First Edition.

TIGER FARM PRESS  CALIFORNIA

Dedicated to
my readers

Author's other books

Family History

Getting Started with Sun ONE

Scrooge's Christmas

Short Stories

Einstein's Cube

Poetic Starlight

A collection of poem stories

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Foreword

This is a story book narrative of personal letters and poetry.

The first section is the story of Keats writing and growing into a great Romantic poet. I have used a poetic license when writing the story's poems, letters, and quotes. I included works by poets before, during, and after Keats time.

The second section is titled, *Short Poem Stories*. It's about friends, heroes, and travel. Each piece has a storyline introduction to the poetry.

This book format is based on books printed in the 1800's, of which I have more than a few. The images are of engravings from my books, images from Wikipedia, and photos from my travels.

For the curious, the afterword includes a list of the original poems and authors from which I drew inspiration.

Becoming a Poet

*The great beauty of Poetry is,
that it makes everything
every place interesting.*

John Keats, 1819

Poetic Spirit

John Keats had studied and worked to be a surgeon, but instead chose to write poetry. Imagine telling your parents, “Mom, dad, I’m an intern on my way to becoming a doctor.”

They would smile proudly.

“But, I’ve decided to be a poet.”

Ah, the look on their faces. They would be shocked, mystified by your choice.

The Road Less Taken

Two roads diverged in a wood,
I am one traveler, long I stood.
I took the smaller, to be fair,
It was grassy and wanted wear.
Two roads diverged in a wood, and I -
I took the one less traveled by.
Someday in future, ages hence,
This will have made, all the difference.

And now, ages hence, because of his choice we know the name, *John Keats*.

“But why poetry?” you may ask.

“He viewed poetry as the only thing worthy the attention of superior minds,” said Henry Stephens, a medical student roommate of Keats, about Keats. “The greatest men in the world were the Poets, and to rank among them was the chief object of his ambition.”

Poetry is a “friend to soothe the cares of women and men,” Keats wrote.

... Section content ...

Short Poem Stories

4 / Short Poem Stories

... Section content ...

Afterword

Sonnets

Sonnets are 14 lines with various rhyming patterns. I rearranged Keats's sonnets into rhyming pairs, then rewrote most of the lines keeping key words and phrases. When selecting lines from longer poems, I mostly kept to a sonnet's length.

Keats sonnet:

Bright star, would I were stedfast as thou art—
Not in lone splendour hung aloft the night
And watching, with eternal lids apart,
Like nature's patient, sleepless Eremite,
The moving waters at their priestlike task
Of pure ablution round earth's human shores,
Or gazing on the new soft-fallen mask
Of snow upon the mountains and the moors—
No—yet still stedfast, still unchangeable,
Pillow'd upon my fair love's ripening breast,
To feel for ever its soft fall and swell,
Awake for ever in a sweet unrest,
Still, still to hear her tender-taken breath,
And so live ever—or else swoon to death.

My poem, *Starlight*:

Star Bright, would I were as stedfast at night,
I would rise each evening into the sky with delight,
Above the forest canopy of dark green leaves,
After listening to cricket music on warm summer eves,
To glide above valleys and over mountains,
To nourish angel souls in starlight fountains.
For my love I will forever shine bright,
Be her twinkle twinkle little star night light,
To be awake forever in sweet silent rest,
Pillowed upon my fair lover's breast,
To feel it softly fall and gently swell,
To feel always calm, glowing and well.
To lay still and listen to her soothing breath,
To be with her immortal in sweet loving rest.

Poem Credits

I seen the opening quote at Keats House, *The great beauty of poetry. The Road Less Taken*, is a short adaptation of Robert Frost's poem, *The Road Not Taken*.

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Illustration credits

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Reference Books

The Life and Letters of John Keats, By Joanna Richardson, printed by The Folio Society, London 1981.

The John Keats Memorial Volume, Published by John Lane Co., London, 1921. The Keats letters, papers, and other relics reproduced in facsimile from the late Sir Charles Dilke's Bequest to the Corporation of Hampstead.

Letters of Fanny Brawne to Fanny Keats 1820-1824, Oxford University Press, 1936.

Life of John Keats, by William Michael Rossetti, printed by Walter Scott, London 1887.

The Poetical Works of Coleridge, Shelley, and Keats, printed in Paris, 1829.