

# THE WIDOW WISE

Verses by Paul West ▾ Drawings by W. H. Loomis



1.—Of all Love Pirates who had sought the Widow Wise's hand,  
J. Wiley Gall was qualified full well to lead the band;  
But though he was a clever man and shrewdly played his part,  
The Widow coy distrusted him, and guarded well her heart.

2.—He'd almost given up the game, when, just by chance, he learned  
That she to matters spiritual had recently been turned.  
He found that to a medium she'd wandered once or twice,  
In matters of the heart to gain some solace and advice.

3.—And once, when Wiley had referred to the departed Wise,  
He'd noticed that a tear or two had shimmered in her eyes.  
He thought these matters over, and at last he dreamed a dream.  
"I've got it!" hissed the villain bold—"It is a corking scheme!"

4.—He went and bribed the medium! Said he, "When next she's here  
Materialize old Mr. Wise and make his shade appear.  
Then have him speak of marriage, and in case she asks him 'Who?'  
Put in a word or two for me and I'll take care of you."



5.—"But better still," the Spook-man said, "you do the trick yourself.  
Here in my cabinet you'll find a robe upon the shelf.  
She's coming here this evening, so arrive at half-past eight."  
"I shall," said Wiley with a grin. "Old chap, the scheme is great!"

6.—The Widow came. The lights were dimmed, and, with an eerie light  
A figure from the cabinet strode and fluttered in her sight.  
"I am the late lamented," said the voice of Wiley Gall.  
"I'm here to give you counsel now on matters marital!"

7.—"There is a man who loves you much—and yet you doubt he's true.  
J. Wiley Gall, take my advice, is just the man for you!"  
The Widow gave a little start, but not one word said she;  
And Wiley thought his little plot had worked successfully

8.—Next evening, for proposal primed, he hastened 'round to call;  
But, oh, it was a sad event for poor J. Wiley Gall!  
"Your ghostly role," the Widow said, "I scarce could criticise;  
BUT NEXT TIME TRY TO CHANGE YOUR VOICE," exclaimed the Widow Wise.