

THE WIDOW WISE

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



- 1.—Of all the fickle, faithless flirts who ever winked an eye
There ne'er was one more debonair than handsome Freddy Fly;
And therefore there were murmurings and doubts and troubled sighs
When he began to flit about the heart of Widow Wise.
- 2.—Folks said, "My dear, beware of him; he loves and then he's off!"
"Oh, thank you," said the Widow, but she scoffed a little scoff;
For Freddy Fly, the rascal, had already plied his wiles
And long ere this was basking in the trusting Widow's smiles.
- 3.—Of course the Widow told him of the things her friends had said,
"Flirt!" Freddy cried. "Ah, no, my dear; I love you, 'on the dead!'"
But yet his very earnestness caused doubts to throng her mind
And she resolved some simple way to test his love to find.
- 4.—That very week there came a chance to try his constancy.
The church bazaar was opened and they picked her out to be
A gypsy fortune teller, but the fact she kept concealed
And not one single word of it to Freddy she revealed.



- 5.—Hid in her booth the opening night, the Widow, sly, contrived
To keep an eye on Freddy from the moment he arrived.
He failed to find the Widow and supposed she hadn't come,
And then, I much regret to say, he started "going some."
- 6.—He winked at every girl he met, he flirted everywhere,
And then he spied the Widow, but he failed to know her there.
"Ah, palmist dear," he murmured, "read my love line, I demand!"
And kneeling by the Widow's booth, he offered her his hand.
- 7.—She made pretence to read his palm. "You are engaged," said she.
"What of it," whispered Freddy, "when a girl like you I see!
My love line shows I love you; scan it closely, if you please."
And as she took his hand in hers he gave her hand a squeeze!
- 8.—Smack! smack! Her little hand's withdrawn and smites him on the cheek!
The Widow bursts from her disguise, so mad she scarce can speak.
"What does this mean?" the wretch cries out. Rage glints the Widow's eyes.
"IT MEANS YOUR LOVE LINE'S CUT, THAT'S ALL!" exclaims the Widow Wise.