



# THE WIDOW WISE

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

1—'Twas by Lake Como's waters blue, in quaint Belagio,  
At the Villa Marietta, where it's heav'n on earth, you know,  
Fate brought together, one fair day, beneath those gorgeous skies,  
The poet Dante Dwiggin and our friend the Widow Wise.

2—And from the moment first they met 'twas plain as plain could be  
The Widow's fate would soon be linked with that of Dante D  
For everywhere she turned her steps the poet followed, too,  
Until with sprouting buds of love her heart thrilled through and through

3—She found he had no money, like most others of his craft.  
"I'm rich," she thought, "so what of that?" and at such fancies laughed.  
"The way that he quotes poetry is wealth enough for me.  
I'm certain I'd be happy as the wife of Dante D."

4—And so she craved the moment he upon his knees should bend  
And in his sweet, poetic style put all her doubts to end.  
So when he begged a moonlight stroll beside Lake Como fair  
She answered "Yes, with pleasure!" and prepared to meet him there.

5—The night was still, romantic, and the sky and lake were blue.  
They strolled beside the sandy shore and watched the moon, these two,  
And Dante quoted poetry by reams and miles and feet,  
Until the Widow's bursting heart with love was full, complete.



6—And then the fateful moment came. Upon his knees he fell,  
And in a voice that shook with sighs his tale began to tell.  
And then—there came a strange, weird sound, sweet, loud, low, shrill, strong, frail  
And Dante dropped the Widow's hand and cried, "The nightingale!"

7—"Quite pretty!" said the Widow, "but, as you were saying then"—  
"Ah, yes," he said, "my love!" Alas, the bird began again!  
And Dante, awed to silence, simply stood and listened there,  
While the Widow—was she angry? Was she angry? Yes, for fair!

8—On trilled the bird; its gorgeous song held Dante in its sway.  
The Widow bit her lips awhile and then she went away.  
Next day he sent apologies that met her angry eyes.

"YOU'D BETTER WED YOUR NIGHTINGALE!" replied the Widow Wise.

