

The Pathetic (False & Real)

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"The Old Curiosity Shop" Chap. IV.

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It happened, that, as she was reading in the old spot by herself one day, the child came running in with his eyes full of tears & after holding her from him, & looking at her eagerly for a moment, clasped his little arms passionately about her neck.

"What now?" said Nell, soothing him. "What is the matter?"

"She is not one yet!" cried the boy, embracing her still more closely, "No, no, Not yet."

She looked at him wonderingly, and putting his hair back from his face, & kissing him, asked what he meant.

"You must not be one, dear Nell," cried the boy. "We can't see them. They never come to play with us, or talk to us. Be what you are, you are better so."

"I do not understand you," said the child, "Tell me what you mean."

"Why, they say," replied the boy, looking up into her face, "that you will be an angel, before the birds sing again. But you won't be, will you? Don't leave us Nell, though the sky is bright. Do not leave us!"

The child dropped her head, and put her hands before her face. "She cannot bear the thought!" cried the boy, weeping through his tears. "You will not go. You know how sorry we should be, dear Nell, tell me that you'll stay among us. Oh! Pray, pray, tell me that you will."

The little creature folded his hands & knelt down at her feet.

"Only look at me, Nell," said the boy, "and tell me that you'll stop and then I shall know that they are wrong, and will cry no more. Won't you say yes, Nell?"

Still the drooping head and hidden face, and the child quite silent - save for her sobs.

"After a time," pursued the boy, trying to draw away her hand, "the kind angels will be glad to think that you are not among them, & that you stayed here to be with us. Well, wait away, to join them; but if he had known how I should miss him in our little bed at night, he never would have left me, I am sure."

But the child could make him no answer, and sobbed as though his heart was bursting.

Why would you go, dear Nell! I know you would not be happy when you heard that we were crying for your loss. They say that Nelly is in Heaven now, & that it's always summer there, and yet I'm sure he grieves when I lie down upon his garden bed, and he cannot turn to kiss me. But if you do go, Nell," said the boy, caressing her, and pressing his face to hers, "be fond of him for my sake. Tell him how I love him still, and how much I loved you; and when I think that you two are together, and are happy, I'll try to bear it, and never give you pain by doing wrong - indeed I never will!"

これは "intellect" = 知性、"sentimental" = 感傷的、"emotion" = 感情、"pathetic" = 悲劇的、"affectation" = 矯情、"We are Seven" = 七人の子、"Lauder, Asop + Rhodope" = ラウダー、アソプ、ロドペ

Chap. LXI, Nell's death "For she is dead..."
"Why don't them lie so idle there, dear Nell" - old man's Nell's death