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## The Vampire

*Madison Julius Cawein*

A lily in a twilight place?  
A moonflow'r in the lonely night?—  
Strange beauty of a woman's face  
Of wildflow'r-white!

The rain that hangs a star's green ray  
Slim on a leaf-point's restlessness,  
Is not so glimmering green and gray  
As was her dress.

I drew her dark hair from her eyes,  
And in their deeps beheld a while  
Such shadowy moonlight as the skies  
Of Hell may smile.

She held her mouth up redly wan,  
And burning cold,—I bent and kissed  
Such rosy snow as some wild dawn  
Makes of a mist.



God shall not take from me that hour,  
When round my neck her white arms clung!  
When 'neath my lips, like some fierce flower,  
Her white throat swung!

Or words she murmured while she leaned!  
Witch-words, she holds me softly by,—  
The spell that binds me to a fiend  
Until I die.

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