

**A MAN'S  
VENGEANCE  
AND OTHER POEMS**

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A Man's Vengeance and Other Poems by George Barlow

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# A MAN'S VENGEANCE

AND OTHER POEMS

By

GEORGE BARLOW

*Author of "The Triumph of Woman," "The  
Higher Love," "The Pageant  
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## *A MAN'S VENGEANCE*

READ this letter, read it slowly. You'll remember  
as you read

If 'tis written in blood, your action made the heart  
that penned it bleed :

If it throbs and aches with anguish, bear in mind,  
remember too,

That the anguish was your doing, all the soul-pangs  
caused by you.

Take your memory to a moment when we lived as  
closest friends,

I a toiler, you an artist following Art's impassioned  
ends :

I immersed in daily labour, studying law with cob-  
webbed brain ;

You the rather studying woman—studying pleasure,  
shirking pain.

From your shadowy grove of lime-trees, looking  
westward, you could see  
'Mid the blossoms a white blossom in my garden  
close to me  
In the radiant summer evens—one than blossoms  
fairer far,  
Her my wife, my joy, my rainbow, my dim life's  
imperial star.

For she was my heaven of fulness, rapture past all  
utterance deep :  
Her first whisper brought the sunrise, her last kiss  
brought softest sleep.  
Even her slightest laugh was music ; and one knew  
not when she smiled  
If the sun shone through her glances, or an angel  
through a child !

—Yes, you saw her and you loved her ; lusted  
rather, should I say ?  
Felt that here another victim gracious Art set in  
your way :  
Noble Art, so true and tender ! Art who poisons  
countless lives,—  
Looks on women all as models, be they maidens,  
be they wives.