## SO HERE THEN ARE DREAMS

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So Here Then are Dreams by Olive Schreiner

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## **OLIVE SCHREINER**

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The Lost Joy



LL day, where the sunlight played on the sea-shore, Life sat.

anore, Litt eat.

All day the soft wind played with her hair,
and the young, young face looked out across
the water. She was waiting—she was waiting;
but she could not tell for what.

Life sat waiting; all day, with the sumlight in her eyes, she sat there, till, grown weary, she laid her head upon her knee and fell asleep, waiting still.

Then a keel grated on the sand, and then a step was on the shore—Life awoke and heard it. A hand was laid upon her, and a great shudder passed through her. She looked up, and saw over her the strange, wide even of Love—and Life now knew for whom shaduer passed through her. One tooled up, and saw over her the strange, wide eyes of Love—and Life now knew for whom she had sat there waiting.

Hind Love drew Life up to him.

And Love drew Life up to him. And of that meeting was born a thing rare and heautiful—Joy, first-Joy was it called. Che sunlight when it shines upon the merry water is not so glass; the rosebuds, when they turn back their lips for the sun's first kiss, are not so ruddy. Its tiny pulses beat quick. It was so warm, so soft! It never spoke, but it laughed & played in the sumshine: and Love and Life rejoiced exceedingly. Neither whispered it to the other, but deep in its own heart each said, "It shall be ours forever."

Chen there came a time—was it after weeks? was it after months? (Love and Life do not measure time)—when the thing was not as it had been.

was not as it had been.

Still it played; still it laughed; still it stained its mouth with purple berries; but sometimes the little hands bung weary, and

the little eyes looked out heavily across the water.

Hind Life and Love dared not look into each other's eyes, dared not say, "What ails our darling?" Each heart whispered to not say, "What ails our darling!" Sach mears whospering itself, "It is nothing, it is nothing, to-morrow it will laugh out itself, "It is nothing, it is nothing, to-morrow it will laugh our clear." But to-morrow and to-morrow came. Chey journeyed on, and the child played beside them, but heavily, more heavily. One day Life and Love lay down to sleep; and when they awoke.

it was gone: only, near them, on the grass, eat a little stranger, with wide-open eyes, very soft and sad. Neither noticed it; but they walked apart, weeping bitterly, "Oh, our Joyl our lost