

**RILEY
LOVE-LYRICS**

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Riley love-lyrics by James Whitcomb Riley

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JAMES WHITCOMB RILEY

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WITH LIFE PICTURES BY
WILLIAM B. DYER



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by

James Whitcomb Riley

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TO THE EFFECT OF LOVE--OR SIDE-BY-SIDE
IN RAPTEST ECSTASY OR SUNDERED WIDE
BY SEAS THAT BEAR NO MESSAGE TO OR FROM
BETWEEN THE LOVED AND LOST OF LONG AGO

*SO were I but a minstrel, deft
At weaving, with the trembling strings
Of my glad harp, the warp and weft
Of rondels such as rapture sings,—
I'd loop my lyre across my breast,
Nor stay me till my knee found rest
In midnight banks of bud and flower
Beneath my lady's lattice-bower.*

*And there, drenched with the teary dew,
I'd woo her with such wondrous art
As well might stanch the songs that ooze
Out of the mockbird's breaking heart;
So light, so tender, and so sweet
Should be the words I would repeat,
Her casement, on my gradual sight,
Would blossom as a lily might.*