

A visit to Bath by the last of the New Romantics

I'm tall dark and handsome, I sing, and I laugh
But knew not what would befall me on my visit to Bath.
I came here to ask for fair Jane Austen's hand,
However it didn't turn out as I planned.

At four Sidney Place her father looked at me with a faint weary smile
and said she would not be back for a while.
So I wandered the streets of that beautiful city
And saw a few girls uncommonly pretty.

But when I asked had they seen my beautiful Jane,
They laughed and cried calling her exceedingly plain.
I then went into a disconsolate mood
So walked into an ale house to buy nourishing food.

After five pints of best beer
I unburdened my heart to the landlord who said have no fear.
He said they've more fish out in the sea
Than they land in Bristol docks to eat for your tea.

Then I finished off my ale and mutton pie
And staggered out to Kemp Street to meet passers by.

Whilst at Firth Ehle gentleman's breeches outfitters
My falling and stumbling gave small children the jitters.

Now all of those girls who were chattering and pretty
Were named Jane, Elizabeth, Mary, Lydia and Kitty.

The first kind girl to help me up from the ground
I soon knew as Miss Elizabeth Bennett, as her sisters gathered round.

Rather quickly I began to sober up fast
For I felt I had found my true love at last.

The ladies then took me to their house in Royal Crescent
Where their mother and father were exceedingly pleasant.

When they asked me about the circumstances of my life
I told them I had prospects in Bath but had not got a wife.

They quickly arranged some clean lodgings in the town
And I would visit Mrs Bennet and Elizabeth when pleasant evenings came
around.

My career prospered at Solicitors Goldsmith and Burke
And at their North Parade offices I showed a great capacity for work.

To cut a long story short I took Elizabeth to a German ballet
And during the interval I proposed with a bold sally.

Elizabeth accepted me and we got married that spring

Now we've six bouncing children who play gaily on their swing.
Perhaps young people can learn from the door that shuts in your face
That sometimes it can lead you to a far better place.

T.H.

Michael Curran

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