

Judith Owen

"Albatross"

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The lady comes to the gate dressed in lavender and
leather
Looking North to the sea she finds the weather fine
She hears the steeple bells ringing through the orchard
All the way from town
She watches seagulls fly
Silver on the ocean stitching through the waves
The edges of the sky
Many people wander up the hills
From all around you
Making up your memories and thinking they have
found you
They cover you with veils of wonder as if you were a
bride
Young men holding violets are curious to know if you
have cried
And tell you why
And ask you why
Any way you answer
Lace around the collars of the blouses of the ladies
Flowers from a Spanish friend of the family
The embroid'ry of your life holds you in
And keeps you out but you survive
Imprisoned in your bones
Behind the isinglass windows of your eyes
And in the night the iron wheels rolling through the rain
Down the hills through the long grass to the sea
And in the dark the hard bells ringing with pain
Come away alone
Even now by the gate with you long hair blowing
And the colors of the day that lie along your arms
You must barter your life to make sure you are living
And the crowd that has come
You give them the colors
And the bells and wind and the dream
Will there never be a prince who rides along the sea
and the mountains
Scattering the sand and foam into amethyst fountains
Riding up the hills from the beach in the long summer
grass
Holding the sun in his hands and shattering the

isinglass?

Day and night and day again and people come and go
away forever

While the shining summer sea dances in the glass of
your mirror

While you search the waves for love and your visions
for a sign

The knot of tears around your throat is crystallizing into
your design

And in the night the iron wheels rolling through the rain

Down the hills through the long grass to the sea

And in the dark the hard bells ringing with pain

Come away alone

Come away alone...with me.

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