

## Maggie Reilly

# "Caitlin's Dream (Summer Birds Are Leaving)"

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What doleful thoughts an absence brings  
When one's so tired from longing  
Thoughts banished in the daylight hours  
At night time come a thronging.

The daily round of village life  
No patience has for grieving.  
The days grow short, the nights are long,  
The summer birds are leaving.

Last night in dreams you were enrobed  
Like Valentino's sheikh  
Haremed girls lay languidly  
On carpets at your feet,

And with each word  
A tiny pearl tripped from your lips and fell  
On desert ground. It rained today,  
The children are all very well.

By boat and plane and camel train  
I journeyed to your side.  
One of your guards asked me my name  
I swore I was your bride,

But unconvinced I had to beg  
For them to let me through.  
The Williams's send their regards.  
Your friends at Browns ask after you.

I took your hand imploringly  
As you lay in that tent  
Seemingly ignoring me,  
Despairing, patience spent.

I roared and screamed  
And shook my fists beneath a desert moon.  
The bills pile up as usual,  
Please send a little money soon.

I cried let's leave this place my love,  
A horse outside is waiting.

I'll carry you across the stream  
From fame and fortune fleeting.

Then a skein of geese flew o'er the house,  
The thunder of their wings  
Awoke me from my dawn dark dreams,  
What doleful thoughts an absence brings

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