

## **Tony Hightower**

### **"I Loved Annie First"**

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Annie was a gangly little kid of 17  
When first she saw a movie up on the big screen  
Mom & Dad both had to vent their spleen  
When Annie told them of her dream  
She took the classes and she took all the diets  
She learned to cry on cue and learned how to fight  
Went to the theatre every Tuesday night  
Reciting monologues in the moonlight  
But I loved her first  
And in my dreams, we kissed again and again  
I loved her first  
She ignores me now, like she did then  
But I loved her first, nyah nyah nyah nyah, called it  
Annie's friends were skeptical at best  
Seeing her rehearse, they were far from impressed  
Even as she went to take her first screen test  
They hoped it would make her less self-obsessed  
She got her first part in a travelling play  
Away from home, and she preferred it that way  
No one else was around to have their say  
Not that anyone's complaining today  
But I loved her first  
And in my dreams, we kissed again and again  
I loved her first  
She ignores me now, like she did then  
But I loved her first, nyah nyah nyah nyah  
The parts came & went, & still she slogged on  
Till soon the gawky teenager was gone  
The duckling disappeared, replaced by a swan  
A light toward which so many have since been drawn  
I wrote her a letter that I never did mail  
And I still buy her videos when they go on sale  
And all her so-called friends who were so convinced  
she'd fail  
Come over and try to follow her vapor trail.

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