

## John Yorke Atlee

### "After The Ball"

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A little maiden climbed an old man's knee,  
Begged for a story, "Do, Uncle, please."  
Why are you single; Why live alone?  
Have you no babies, have you no home?"

"I had a sweetheart, years, years ago:  
Where she is now, pet, you soon will know.  
List to the story, I'll tell it all.  
I believed her faithless, after the Ball."

After the ball is over  
After the break of dawn  
After the dancer's leaving  
After the stars are gone  
Many a heart is aching  
If you could read them all  
Many the hopes that have vanished  
After the ball.

Bright lights were flashing in the grand ballroom  
Softly the music, playing sweet tunes  
There came my sweetheart, my love, my own  
I wished some water, left her alone

When I returned, dear, there stood a man  
Kissing my sweetheart, as lovers can  
Down fell the glass, pet, broken that's all  
Just as my heart was, after the ball

After the ball is over  
After the break of dawn  
After the dancer's leaving  
After the stars are gone  
Many a heart is aching  
If you could read them all  
Many the hopes that have vanished  
After the ball.

Long years have passed, child, I've never wed  
True to my lost love, though she is dead  
She tried to tell me, tried to explain

I would not listen, pleadings were in vain

One day a letter came from that man  
He was her brother, the letter ran  
That's why I'm lonely, not home at all  
I broke her heart, After the ball

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