

## Tom T. Hall

### "Secondhanded Flowers"

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I was working in Miami for a day or two  
I decided I'd look up a girl that I once knew  
I bought some flowers and went to see a girl I used to  
know  
The lady at her door said she had married long ago

Times will change and towns will change; there I was  
alone  
And suddenly I wondered, "Would Susie be at home?"  
So with the flowers in my hand, I walked toward her  
gate  
Someone touched me on the arm and said, "You'll  
have to wait."

Then I noticed there were people standing in a line  
And some of them were holding pretty flowers just like  
mine  
They explained that Susie had been in an awful crash  
Doctors said that she had just a little while to last

When I walked into her room, I felt a sense of shame  
But I heard Susie whisper, "I'm awfully glad you came."  
She had been the girl that I had always gone to see  
When someone that I cared for had been untrue to me

I handed her the flowers and she gently kissed my  
hand  
She said, "Don't be embarrassed; you know I  
understand."  
I said, "Goodbye" and as I bent to kiss her fevered  
brow  
I heard her whisper, "Thank you for the second handed  
flowers."

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