**A girl long forgotten**



Pushing open an old iron gate,

I wandered lonely through.

Rusty hinges moaned their song,

smeared in morning dew.

A gentle breeze tickled my face

as the wind cut and swirled.

And drawn by a whisper, my eyes cast a shadow,

on the grave of a Victorian girl.

Time had ravaged her resting place

and moss clung to stone.

A gentle snail marched along,

cold and all alone.

A wedge of woodlice rented a hole

at the damp, dark bottom.

And twisting weeds covered the name

of a girl long forgotten.

I pulled the strangling weeds aside,

their venom sweetened by flowers.

A startled spider scurried away,

who had silently slept for hours.

Weathered words cried out to me,

tortured by winter’s rage

as I stared at the name of a girl long forgotten,

a child from another age.

I peered at her name, stroking her stone,

her final resting place.

I closed my eyes and recited a prayer,

hoping to see her face.

A quiver of questions mauled my mind,

like a swarm of buzzing bees.

Doors forever closed.

Locks with long lost keys.

Was this girl tall and thin,

with an innocent heart so rare?

Was this girl a buxom lass,

crowned with golden hair?

Was her face a radiant light,

brightening up the earth?

Was her spirit soaked in love,

merriment or mirth?

Did her heart lie undiscovered

or did she fall in love?

Did she marry her childhood sweetheart,

blessed from heaven above?

Did she walk through the hills,

clutching her beloved’s hand?

Or was her love forbidden?

By a cruel father banned?

I wonder where this girl once lived,

all those many moons ago,

stoking up the iron range

to a warm, inviting glow.

I hope she had a happy life

and filled her earthly years

with family, friends and precious love

and not too many tears.

I cut a rose from a bush and placed it on the ground

for a girl long forgotten, whom I had finally found.

I heard a voice calling my name,

a sweet and innocent sound.

I recognised my daughter’s cry,

so I quickly turned around.

*And that’s when I saw her…*

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