

Deceptive Desire**Megan A. Powell***winner in Sigma Tau Delta's creative writing contest for high school students*

Sweetheart, lover, darling, dear
 Whisper nothings in my ear
 Tell me things to help me sleep
 When, in the darkness, monsters creep.
 Be my Knight in shining shell
 Defeat the demons sent from Hell
 To keep us fearing, keep us tame
 For am I not your dear, sweet dame?
 Protect me for I am too weak
 Too delicate and pale of cheek
 To be able to lift a shining sword
 But, darling dear, I'm growing bored
 Of your smiling face and witless words
 I'd rather converse with twittering birds
 Than linger here in your sad presence
 I'd rather starve with the stinking peasants.
 Oh what a farce, for you to think
 That I would love such a rinky-dink
 Child-like warrior, stupid and vain.
 Your 'valiant deeds' cause me only shame.
 Do you know that old 'witch' you so boldly sought out?
 She was the one that was stopping the drought!
 And that 'demon' you slaughtered? The one with the beard?
 It was only a contest, not evil, you feared.
 For he had a sword and he sought for my hand
 And his wealth and estate were impossibly grand.
 Did you know that I loved him? You probably did.
 That's why his broken body you quite quickly hid.
 I hate you, you fiend! I don't care if you know it!
 I just wish I were stronger so I could but show it!
 Oh but I can. You remember your cup?
 I've filled it with poison. No please, don't get up.
 I'll show myself out since you can't move your body
 Don't worry, I'm sure I'll tell everybody
 That it was oh so sudden, twas nothing I could do
 And I'm sure all the maidens will be sad and mourn you.
 So my darling, still think I am weak?
 Oh, dear, that's right. You're unable to speak.
 Well, anyway sweetheart, I'll be on my way
 So I do hope you'll try and enjoy your short stay.