

QUEEN

Summer.

OR
The Journey
of the
Lily
&
the Rose

Walter Crane

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or the **T**ourney
of the **L**ily & the **R**ose
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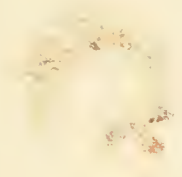


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When Summer on the earth was queen
She held her court in gardens green
Fair hung with tapestry of leaves,
Where threads of gold the sun enweaves
With chequered patterns on the floor
Of velvet lawns the scythe smoothes o'er:
Their waving fans the soft winds spread
Each way to cool Queen Summer's head
The woodland dove made music soft,
And Eros touched his lute full oft.



Round Time's dial thronged the Hours,
Masking in the Masque of Flowers



Like knights and ladies fair be-dight
In silk attire, both red and white.



And as the winds about them played,
And shook the flowers or disarrayed,



A whispered word among them goes
Of how the **Lily** flouts the **Rose**,



Suitors for Summer's favour dear,
To win the crown of all the year -
And how each champion brave would fight
Queen Summer to decide the right.



Then shrill the wind-winged heralds blew;
The lists were set in Summer's view

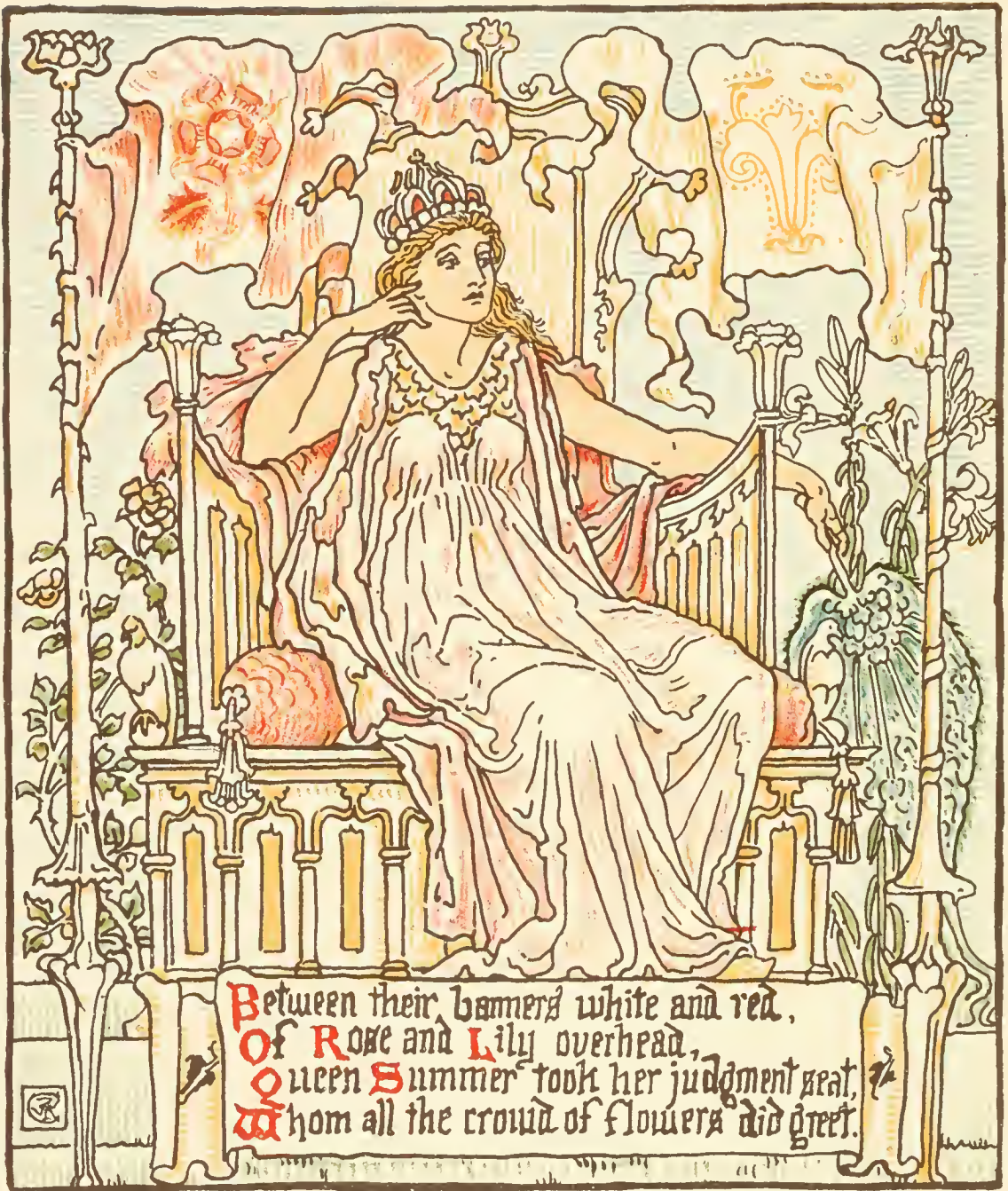


With blazoned shields, & pennons
Of fluttering flag & fleur-de-luce:
spruce



And spread with' broidered hangings
Till all was ready for the fray. gay,





Between their banners white and red,
Of Rose and Lily overhead,
Queen Summer took her judgment seat,
Whom all the croud of flowers did greet.

The silver acorn-trumpets sound
With tongues of gold, & to the ground
The shining champions each did ride,
Their party-colours flaunting wide.





Came first the glowing **R**ose in view,
With crimson pennon fluttering new;
With glittering spines all armed he came,
With lance and shield - a rose aflame;
With tossing crest and mantling free,
On fiery steed, - a sight to see!



Nor long the **L**ily knight delayed ;
In silver armour white arrayed ,
He flashed like light upon the scene ,
A lamp amid the garden green .
Milk-white his horse , & housings fair
With silver lilies shining there .



The summer winds the onset blew :
With level lance each champion flew,



Pressed eager then the gazing' rows :
Some cried "the **L**ily", some, "the **R**ose"
But while the Fate of battle hung,
Again the silver trumpets sung :



And, sudden charging from each side,
Of Roses and of Lilies ride
A host to still maintain the strife
For roses or for lilies' life





Rose favoured knights of maidens true,
Their pennons blushing with each hue
Of Rose-craft, since from wild thorn frail
Their order grew - through dark & pale
Of maiden-bloom to damask deep,
Or Gloire-de-Dijon that doth keep
Enfolded fire within his breast,
Still golden hearted like the rest.



Like a cloud of morn they bore,
Or rosy wave on grassy shore,
That, breaking, dashed the silver spray
They met - the **L**ily-lances play;
In crested legends on that came
Against them - snow & burning flame
Mixing with the crimson flood
Of roses & their fragrant blood,

Whereof the grass undur was rise,
As surged & rolled the floral strife,
With checquered fortune o'er the green,
Until at last up-rose the **Q**ueen:



And caused the zephyr horns to blow
A truce, the victor's crown to show.
But like a garland on the ground
Of roses & of lilies found,
So linked & locked in strife they lay
Each silver stem & clinging spray,



Whe doughty champions could not rise
Before the **Q**ueen to claim her prize.
So to the field of battle down
She stepped, with rose & lily crown
Of silver & of gold fair wrought;
And thus **Q**ueen **S**ummer spake her thought:



And to each warrior thus did say :
Read in the fortune of your fray
Fit emblem sweet of unity ,
Nor **R**ose nor **L**ily plant on high ,
But side by side in equal right ,
And pleasant cheer the **R**ed & **W**hite :



That men & maids be glad to see,
Alway in pleasant company,



Life & **L**ove close linked together,
And strong to bear times wintry weather



Love not consumed in passion's heat
But golden flamed & steadfast, sweet:



Time's snows shall quench not, though
Each spring renews the rosy tide:
they hide?



Each lover in his lady's face
Sees roses blent with lilies' grace :



The poet & the painter praise
This heraldry of summer days;



And every garden sweet that blows
Doth get the Lily by the Rose.



Pace, then in all my borders be,
Beneath the silvern olive tree. ”



Each rose, each lily's head bent low,
And each one sought his fallen foe:



And careful hands the wounded bore,
With balm and honey to restore;



And trimmed the grass & decked
each seat,
And made all fit for dancer's
feet;



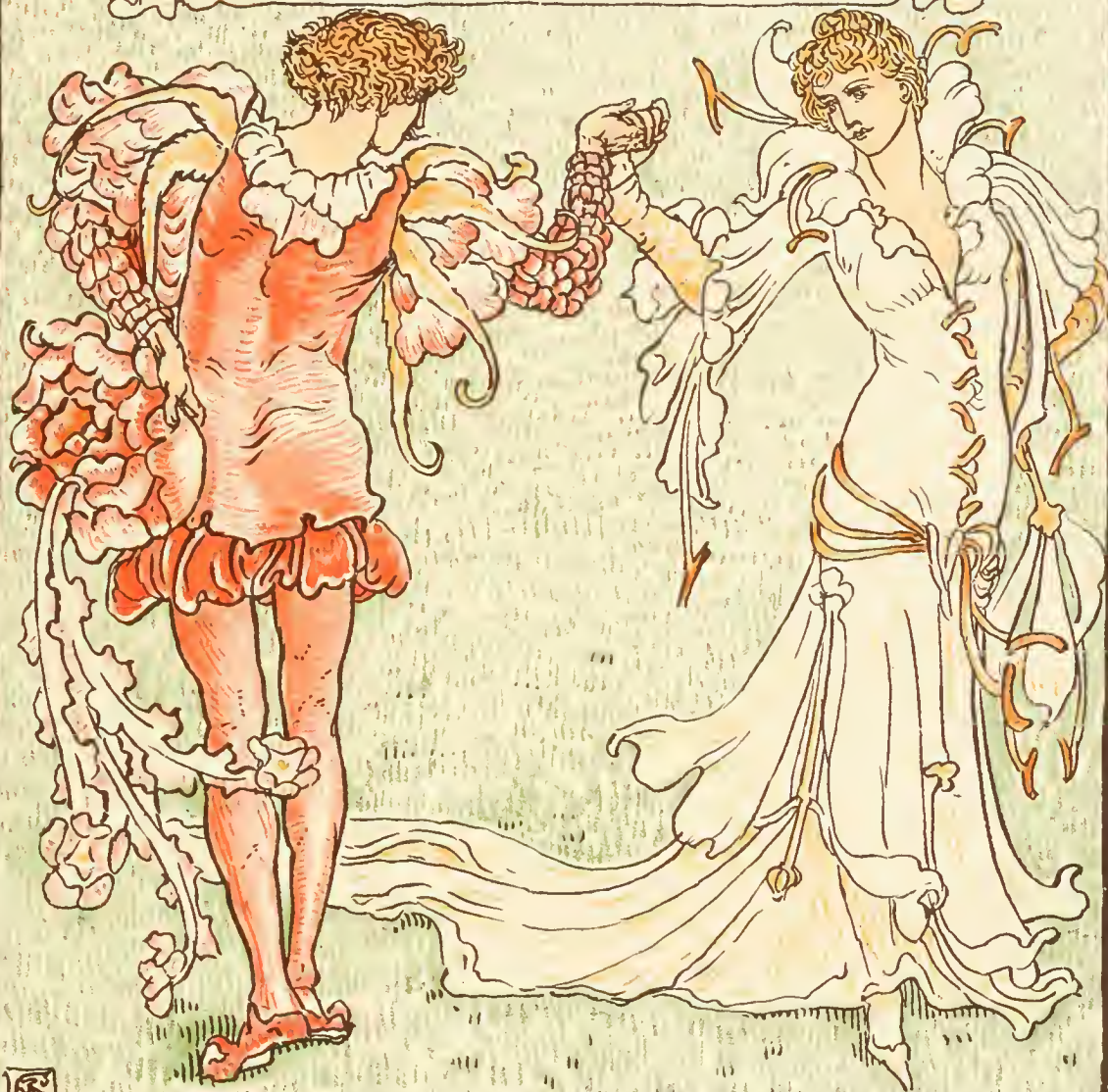
Beneath the summer full-orbed moon,
Ruddy & gold that rose full soon,
Like rose & lily fused in fire,
Ere the sunset's torch expire.



Then forth each knightly lily led
A blushing rosy dame so red ;



For lily hands or hearts denied
The rose-hued warriors erst defied.



Light-footed through the dances' maze,
Quick they moved like winged fays;
As measured music soft did swell,
And echoed deep from hoaky dell,
Till from the leafy forest side,
The sweet-tongued nightingale replied,
Dissolved in streams of silver sound,
Merged in the moonlight, lost & found;
Like the dancers, till in shade,
Of Summer's verdant night they fade.



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