

## ***AN ISLAND QUEEN ROMANCE***

**ON A PARK BENCH DOWN BY FALMOUTH HARBOR  
TALKING MOSTLY OF INTEREST IN BOATS  
ON A BRIGHT BALMY DAY IN THE WINTER -  
WARM ENOUGH THAT WE TOOK OFF OUR COATS -**

**MYSELF AND A FRIENDLY OLD STRANGER  
WERE SHARING THE ODD CUP OF WINE  
I GUESS IT WAS PROBABLY ILLEGAL  
BUT IT HELPED US TO GET ALONG FINE**

**WE TALKED ABOUT BOATS AND ABOUT WOMEN  
IN A CASUAL SORT OF A WAY  
WHEN I ASKED IF HE'D EVER HAD FAMILY  
AT FIRST HE HAD NOTHING TO SAY**

**"IS THERE ANYTHING LEFT IN THAT BOTTLE?  
CAN'T TALK MUCH WHEN MY MOUTH IS SO DRY  
IF YOU DON'T MIND I'LL TELL YOU A STORY  
WHEN IT'S OVER I'LL LET YOU ASK 'WHY?'**

**"I GREW UP ON A FARM OUT IN MICHIGAN  
A LITTLE TOWN ON THE U.P.  
HAD A GIRL THAT I LIKED WELL ENOUGH THERE  
BUT I GUESS THAT WE WEREN'T MEANT TO BE. . ."**

**"MY SECOND LOVE STORY'S MORE INTERESTING.  
(BY THE WAY, SON - MY NAME IS EUGENE.)  
I WORKED ON THAT BOAT YOU SEE YONDER. . ."  
"I KNOW HER," I SAID. "ISLAND QUEEN."**

**"I'D COME EAST FOR THE SAKE OF SALT WATER -  
SOMETHING NEW WHEN YOU LIVE ON A LAKE -  
GOT A JOB ON THE 'QUEEN' AS A DECKHAND  
WHILE MY COLLEGE WAS ON SUMMER BREAK**

**"HAD NO GIRLFRIEND THOSE DAYS I COULD SPEAK OF  
- TRUTH BE KNOWN, I WAS PAINFULLY SHY -  
I HAD DATED A COUPLE CAPE COD GIRLS  
BUT I WAS STILL JUST A MICHIGAN GUY**

**"I HAD MORE OR LESS GIVEN UP ROMANCE  
MADE THE BEST OF MY SEA-GOING LIFE  
I WOULD JOKE ANYTIME MY FRIENDS ASKED ME  
THAT 'THE QUEEN' WAS MY REAL SUMMER WIFE!**

## ***AN ISLAND QUEEN ROMANCE***

"ONE TIME ON A TRIP BACK TO FALMOUTH  
THREE MILES OR SO NORTH OF EAST CHOP  
WE COULD FEEL THE BOAT STARTING TO SHUDDER  
AS THE ENGINES BOTH CAME TO A STOP

" 'MAN OVER, PORT SIDE!' " YELLS THE CAPTAIN  
AND I QUICKLY LOOK OVER THE RAIL  
TO SEE SOMEBODY YELLING AND STRUGGLING  
IN THE WAVES AS DAYLIGHT STARTS TO FAIL

"IT WAS CLEAR THAT MY HELP WAS REQUIRED  
OR THE CHANCES WERE GOOD THAT HE'D DROWN  
GRABBED A LIFE RING AND DID A FINE SWAN-DIVE  
FIVE MORE SECONDS AND HE'D HAVE GONE DOWN.

GOT THE SWIMMER'S HOLD ON HIM AND CALMED HIM  
SLIPPED THE LIFE RING SAFE OVER HIS HEAD  
'IF YOU HADN'T JUMPED IN, SON, TO SAVE ME -  
I CAN'T SWIM SO I'D LIKELY BE DEAD!'

"MINUTES LATER WE'RE BACK ABOARD SAFELY  
AS THE LADS ON THE DECK TEND THE LINE  
TWO NURSES WHO WERE TRAVELLING THAT EVENING  
CHECK US OUT AND PRONOUNCED US BOTH FINE

"FROM THE CROWD THEN EMERGED A YOUNG LADY  
WHO IN TEARS AT THE GENTLEMAN'S SIDE  
THANKED ALL WHO HAD HELPED IN HIS RESCUE -  
I FELT MY HEART SWELLING WITH PRIDE

"SUCH A MARVELLOUS DAMSEL TO LOOK AT  
'FAIR AND HANDSOME' JUST LIKE THE OLD SONG  
COULD FALLING IN LOVE BE SO EASY?  
I KNEW MY HEART COULDN'T BE WRONG!

". . . AFTER THAT THERE WAS HUGE FUSS AND BOTHER  
THEN IT'S ALL PRETTY MUCH OF A BLUR  
I RECALL TYING UP BACK IN FALMOUTH  
HOW I HOPED THAT I'D GET TO SEE HER!

"BUT SHE WAS LOST IN THE CROWD BY THE GANGWAY  
AS OUR BOATLOAD OF FOLKS DISEMBARKED  
I DIDN'T HAVE TIME TO PURSUE HER  
- THEN I SAW WHERE A LIMO WAS PARKED

## ***AN ISLAND QUEEN ROMANCE***

**"IT BELONGED TO THE MAN I HAD RESCUED  
POLITICIAN OF SOME LOCAL FAME  
AND THE GIRL I HAD SEEN WAS HIS GRAND-NIECE  
IN THE HUBBUB I DIDN'T CATCH HER NAME**

**"COAST GUARDSMEN AND TOWN COPS AND STATE COPS  
WERE ON HAND TO ENSURE ALL WAS WELL  
TV CREWS INTERVIEWED FIFTY PEOPLE  
- EVERYONE HAD A STORY TO TELL!**

**"FOR ME IT WAS LOVE WITHOUT QUESTION  
BUT NEW PASSENGERS SOON HAD TO LOAD  
SOON THE PRESS AND THE COPS AND THE LIMO  
HAD DEPARTED DOWN FALMOUTH HEIGHTS ROAD**

**"NOW THE STORY OF COURSE MADE THE NEWS SHOWS  
WITH THE DETAILS, AND MOST OF THEM TRUE  
NO REPORTERS HAD ASKED WHAT MY NAME WAS  
SO I WAS PART OF THE 'VESSEL'S BRAVE CREW'**

**"UNKNOWN GIRL THAT I LOVED SO INTENSELY -  
MAY I HOPE, DEAR, TO FIND OUT YOUR NAME?  
BUT MY RESEARCH CAME UP EMPTY-HANDED  
'RIGHT TO PRIVACY' MOSTLY TO BLAME**

**"THEN I THOUGHT THAT PERHAPS SHE MIGHT CALL ME  
OR MAKE CONTACT BY SOME OTHER WAY  
BUT AS SUMMER MOVED ON, I HEARD NOTHING  
THOUGH I THOUGHT ABOUT HER EVERY DAY**

**"WELL, I TRIPPED ON A CLEAT SHORTLY AFTER  
AND THOROUGHLY MESSED UP MY RIGHT KNEE  
SPENT A WEEK UP IN OLD FALMOUTH HOSPITAL  
BID FAREWELL TO MY FINE DAYS AT SEA**

**"BACK TO SCHOOL THEN AROUND MID-SEPTEMBER  
WITH MY POOR OLD RIGHT LEG IN A CAST  
WHEN YOU'RE LEARNING TO GET ROUND ON CRUTCHES  
SUMMER LOVE IS A THING OF THE PAST!**

**"TIME WENT BY AND I ALMOST FORGOT HER.  
TILL ONE DAY THERE ARRIVED IN THE MAIL  
AN ENVELOPE ADDRESSED IN A FEMININE SCRIPT  
(I'LL CONFESS THAT I MUST HAVE TURNED PALE)**

## ***AN ISLAND QUEEN ROMANCE***

**"I HAD NOT THE LEAST DOUBT WHO HAD SENT IT  
I'M NO PSYCHIC - IT'S HARD TO EXPLAIN  
THOUGH MY NAME WAS MISSPELLED, I FORGAVE HER  
JUST TO THINK I MIGHT SEE HER AGAIN**

**"BUT IMAGINE MY DEEP DISAPPOINTMENT  
NEITHER LETTER NOR NOTE WOULD THERE BE  
JUST ATTACHED TO AN ISLAND QUEEN POSTCARD  
WAS THIS ITEM YOU SHORTLY WILL SEE. . ."**

**FROM HIS POCKET GENE PULLS OUT A WALLET  
FROM THE WALLET WHAT ONCE WAS A CHECK  
OR AT LEAST A BLUE-GREEN PIECE OF PAPER  
FROM THE DAYS THAT PRECEDED HIGH TECH**

**THE WRITING WAS MOSTLY ILLEGIBLE  
AND THE PAPER ALL CRUMPLED AND DAMP  
A TRUST ACCOUNT NAME IN THE CORNER  
AND SIGNED WITH A CHEAP RUBBER STAMP**

**"I'VE KEPT THIS FOR YEARS. IT'S FOR TWENTY-FIVE BUCKS.  
A REMEMBRANCE OF ALL I HOLD DEAR?  
NEVER FOUND OUT HER NAME  
BUT I CAN STILL SEE HER FACE**

**...  
HEY PAL - CAN I BUY YOU A BEER?"**

**- BILL BLACK  
MARCH 2018**

# ***AN ISLAND QUEEN ROMANCE***

