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A Ghost on Earth, Alive

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Gettysburg College
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Author Bio

Nina Li is a senior and an Individual major at Gettysburg College. She hopes to pursue a career in the health professions after graduation.

A GHOST ON EARTH, ALIVE

NINA LI

She came upon the ball that night,
a ghost, on earth, alive.
She dressed in alabaster white;
they hushed when she arrived.

Whispers commenced with her
descent
as down the steps she came.
Unrivaled beauty, heaven sent?
Or truly hell her claim?

“I came upon your ball this night,
sorrow in this heart of mine.
Alas, I seek, an end to plight,
from fate of cruel design.”

To her lament was no reply,
just silence in her midst.
She turned away with tears in eyes,
but turned again at this:

“Oh, sweet madam, to you I give
my vow to set you free.
If fail I do, then please forgive,
but what is it you need?”

“From you I ask a simple thing,
to save me from my fate.
A dance is all you’ll need to win
a victory this date.”

And when the dance began, she cast,
upon the lad, a spell.
Beyond the ballroom doors they passed
into the night from hell.

The man, once brave and chivalrous,
was nothing but a fool.
And by the moon so luminous,
he faced his fate so cruel.

She cried, “Naïve and youthful fool,
you and your silly vows!
To you, I give my fate so cruel
and life is mine for now.”

Into the night the specter traipsed,
now made of flesh and bone.
The man she left with no escape;

*He came upon the ball that night,
a ghost, on earth, alive.
He dressed in alabaster white;
they hushed when he arrived.*