

Repent

Did I not tell you you would repent it?  
But you must know  
If fate has willed it  
What shall we do?

But it is you  
Did I not tell you you would repent it?  
But still, that was not of the slightest use  
If you do not help me

If you will swear to me  
Why dost thou hesitate?  
Did I not tell you you would repent it?  
But it is now time to return

What will become of me  
If I only stood at home, I'd be glad  
But what did you say to the church steps as we passed?  
Did I not tell you you would repent it?

## ABOUT THE POEM & AUTHOR

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“Repent” was created from *More Fairy Stories Every Child Should Know*, edited by Kate Douglas Wiggin and Nora Archibald Smith (1907). About the poem and the process of composing it, Maria L. Berg writes:

To create “Repent,” I collected questions, the beginnings of phrases that began with “if,” and phrases that began with “but” from the entire text of *More Fairy Stories Every Child Should Know*. I have been studying the volta and different types of poetic turns, which informed my interest in these kinds of phrases. From reading previous collections of *Heron Tree*, I became interested in putting my found poetry into poetic form and found the quatern worked well with my ideas.

Maria L. Berg’s work has appeared in *Washington’s Best Emerging Poets 2019*, *The Auroras & Blossoms NaPoWriMo Anthology: 2020*, *Five on the Fifth*, *The Evening Theatre*, *Sick Lit Magazine*, and elsewhere. She can be found online at [experiencewriting.com](http://experiencewriting.com).

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