

Possible Ending #14

After the ballet *Swan Lake*, composed by Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky
Erin Bennett

1.

A stage. Amber light.
Woman beneath pale feathers.
His arrow ready.

2.

Moonrise over lake.
Feathers reveal a princess.
Violin. Flute sighs.

3.

She sees him a prince
In moonlight. Music plays soft.
Shy eyes, careful hands.

4.

He breaks the arrow
(or not. This is important.)
A love promise made.

5.

Crash. Enter Owl-man.
Night broken. Prince sent running.
She, bound by her curse.

6.

A ball. Fine dancers
His eyes drift. Dreaming of her.
Our princess? Look center.

7.

A dancer so like
Her. Dazzles. Our prince entranced.
(Or, he is just man.)

8.

He takes the stranger
In his arms. Her laugh, his mouth.
Look to the window.

9.

Our princess is there.
She cries. Shadows bury her.
Spells break at the sound.

10.

He calls. She is gone.
Dazzling one melts in his hands.
Owl-man laughs and laughs.

11.

(Prince kept the arrow.)
Follows Owl-man to the woods.
We are too hopeful.

12.

Our prince will win her.
Owl-man will be caught. Breath held.
Motion in the trees.

13.

His weapon loosed
Into the mist. But look there.
It is our princess.

14.

He catches her fall.

Red silk flutters from pale breast.

His arrow. Her heart.