''Neglected by Covid''

By Jeffrey M. Cohen

Don't look at me with that forlorn stare,
As a lover estranged, devoid of care;
Its been ages, I know, since you moved from your place,
Receiving from me not a glance at your face,
Since I placed you proudly against my arm,
Proudly displaying your looks and charm
As an object of beauty,
The envy of friends—
'*There's one* with panache!'
Was the message sent
To those who appraised me
At every event.

Have I been remiss—
Neglectful at least?
Indifferent to that which
Makes life a feast?
If I have, then the reason,
You deserve to know,
Why, these days, I seem
To have lost my mojo;
Why I've stayed at home,
Not going to work—
Me, who, never,
A chore, would shirk;
Who rose at dawn
To shower and dress;
Working and playing

To excess;

Dressing, ever

To impress!

But now, my beauty,

Things have changed,

With what was ordered

Is now disarranged;

We've been struck by a plague,

Unprecedented;

Unforeseen,

So not prevented;

So potent that inhaling

Another's breath

Could transmit a virus,

Bringing illness or death.

It's a global pandemic—

No country's immune;

As to precautions,

Most are in tune:

Keep your distance

From those nearby;

With prescribed rules of hygiene,

Ensure you comply;

In public places

Always wear a mask;

Wipe down every surface—

A most tiresome task!

Exercise your body;

Take a walk each day;

Work from home if you can,
To keep the virus at bay.

I trust that, by now,
You'll be well able
To understand why,
To my bedside-table,
You've been consigned
With disaffection,
If not, with total
Disconnection.

For, what need was there
For a watch
When I was confined to my home;
Half-dressed, unshaven,
No social life;
No hair-do,
Just a quick comb?

So, now you know
How out of place
A Rolex would have been;
The beauty you indeed possess
By none would have been seen!

But I'm a born optimist,
So this promise I shall give:
This painful pandemic,
We shall all outlive;
And as soon as there's a vaccine

To make us all immune,

I'll wear you on my wrist again,

Morn and eve and noon!

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