

**Way I Behaved**

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(Peter Beagle in The Last Unicorn)

When I was a young man, and very well thought of  
There was nought I could ask that the ladies denied.  
I nibbled their hearts like a handful of raisins,  
And I never spoke love, but I knew that I lied.  
    But I said to myself, "Ah, there's none of them knows  
    The secret I shelter, and savor, and save.  
I wait for the one who can see through my seeming  
And I'll know when I love by the way I behave".

The years they passed over like clouds in the heavens,  
The ladies went by me like snow on the wind.  
I charmed and I cheated, deceived and dissembled  
And I sinned, and I sinned and I sinned and I sinned.  
    But I said to myself, "Ah, there's none of them knows  
    There's a part of me pure as the whisk of a wave.  
My love may be late, but she'll find I have been faithful  
And I'll know when I love by the way I behave".

At last came a lady, both knowing and tender  
Who said "You are not at all what they take you to be".  
I betrayed her before she had quite finished speaking,  
And she swallowed cold poison, and jumped in the sea.  
    And I say to myself, when there's time for a word,  
    As I gracefully grow more debauched and depraved.  
"Ah, love may be strong, but a habit is stronger  
And I know how I loved by the way I behaved".

Sings well to The Ashgrove