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Not to Worry

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The terrace was in utter darkness but at every flash of lightning the harmonious figure of a woman was revealed, illumined by a bluish light.

From the garden came the sound of rain hitting the earth, and the scent of wet roses somewhere in the blackness. Wet rose bushes and wet roses. No telling what was out there.

"Not to worry," she said.

She put a reassuring arm around my shoulders. "No telling what’s out there," I said. "Maybe crocodiles."

"Not to worry."

She put a reassuring arm around my shoulders. I was having a nervous breakdown. Not to worry, she kept repeating with every flash of lightning. Her arms exerted a gentle pressure that I loved. Many women had put their arms around my shoulders.

I turned and buried myself in the woman’s arms, still standing there next to me in the dark. I thought she was a childhood sweetheart. I was having a nervous breakdown. I used to bury myself in Jane Allen’s wonderful girth. Where was that Jane Allen now? If this were really Jane Allen she would be gray headed.

Edna May Oliver scurried through my mind, a flash from my frightened childhood, where the Bride of Frankenstein was born.

I was being held. It was rainy and dark.
I struggled in her arms. The lightning flashed and I saw her face, strong
and tender and affectionate. I gave up the struggle. She patted my head and pushed it down against her bosom.

How bizarre this life is, I thought. What am I doing in this woman’s arms in the rain?

I was feeling sad and lonely and I was crying crocodile tears into her bosom. She didn’t appear to notice. If they had been real crocodiles she would have.

At that moment I became aware that one of them was moving fast through the garden and I heard it slithering up the terrace steps. I broke away in a run.

I ran into a stone pillar. Amidst the stars, I felt her hand in mine, and I grasped it. I followed her into the house.

One of the nurses came up to us. “Where have you been? What have you been doing out there?”

My bodyguard took a swing at her, and laid her out on the floor.

I went to bed. “Not to worry,” I said to myself and fell asleep.