

APPLE BLOSSOMS

A Dramatic Reading

by
Kathryn Kimball



Wetmore Declamation Bureau

**Box 2695
Sioux City, IA 51106**

**www.wetmoredeclamation.com
Email: speeches@wetmoredeclamation.com**

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Springtime blossomed its way through the whole countryside. Along the highways apple trees painted pink and white pictures and sent priceless perfumes with every breeze. Visitors from near and far had come for the annual Apple Blossom Festival. All about was happiness and friendly greetings. The sun of prosperity was shining in radiant splendor upon one of the greatest fruit-producing countries in the world.

In a little cottage at the edge of a great orchard the apple blossoms had penetrated their sweetness. Near a window where the pink and white petals drifted by, a small boy played his violin. As he played his brown eyes shone with the joy of one who loves music. A love which God puts in the heart of a genius.

The boy spoke quietly to a young woman who lay on a bed by the window. A young woman whose frail beauty was marred by pain. "Mother, I love to play! I just want to play and play. I want to play the apple blossoms and I want to play the sunshine." The child slipped down beside his mother and held her hand closely in his. "But, Mother, most of I want to play you."

And he did play her. He played the wistful sweetness of her brown eyes. He played the love she gave him day after day. He played the tired shoulders and the roughened hands. He played a youth which was growing into premature age from burdens too heavy to bear. She drew him down to her once more, and sobbed her heart out.

"Leslie, forgive me for giving up, but I've gone as far as I can. I have poured out all my strength trying to keep us together. And, Baby, I cannot go any farther. I'm too sick. I suffer so--so endlessly. My hands are too tired now. They've done all they can do. I can send you to the Children's Home and I can find a place in a charity hospital."

The little boy sobbed, "Mother, don't go to the hospital. Don't send me away all by myself. I'm too little without you. If you go to the hospital, you'll never, never come back. Please, please, Mother. Try. Try hard to get well. So we can stay together."

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