

# THE RIVER OF STARS

A Dramatic Poem

by  
Alfred Noyes



**Wetmore Declamation Bureau**

**Box 2695  
Sioux City, IA 51106**

**[www.wetmoredeclamation.com](http://www.wetmoredeclamation.com)  
Email: [speeches@wetmoredeclamation.com](mailto:speeches@wetmoredeclamation.com)**

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A Tale of Niagara.

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The lights of a hundred cities are fed by its midnight power.  
Their wheels are moved by its thunder. But they, too, have their hour.  
The tale of the Indian lovers, a cry from the years that are flown,  
While the river of stars is rolling,  
Rolling away to the darkness  
Abides with the power in the midnight, where love may find its own.

She watched from the Huron tents, till the first star shook in the air.  
The sweet pine scented her fawn-skins, and breathed from her braided hair.  
Her crown was of milk-white blood-root, because of the tryst she would keep,  
Beyond the river of beauty  
That drifted away in the darkness  
Drawing the sunset thro' lilies, with eyes like stars, to the deep.

He watched, like a tall young wood-god, from the red pine that she named;  
But not for the peril behind him, where the eyes of the Mohawks flamed.  
Eagle-plumed he stood. But his heart was hunting afar,  
Where the river of longing whispered—  
And one swift shaft from the darkness  
Felled him, her name in his death-cry, his eyes on the sunset star.

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