

“Some Were”

- From Nevada Belle & the Forgotten Women of the West eBook

Some were cleaning women hired at cafe's and rough mine shacks
Others cooked and sewed and kept quiet to cover up their tracks
Young wide eyed girls longed to see the city lights before their fate was set
Behind the doors of town halls and whiskey soaked saloons where
Much was lost on a twenty dollar bet
Life was hard and barren for the new women of the Wild West
Little to eat, few clothes on their back & not much chance to rest
Some learned to read, some didn't know a word to spell
Some married fine and others lived a hard knocks kind of hell
A few were lean and green survivors who fought the desert west and won
Raising cattle & babies, running shops & making a name in
the golden land of the sun
Some were called by the name of Sarah
Some were Minnie Lee or Annie Sue
Some were full Shoshone with raven colored hair against skies of azure blue
Some were thin boned Chinese ladies with skin so soft and fair
Little rights & sleepless nights they lived in shadows high and bare
For their brave and fleeting lives we sing a song of prayer
Bless them dear God, some knew only strife and fear
We honor the forgotten ones this forsaken night
For courage long, those dear women who once
Stood beneath a dark forbidding light

“Indian Maidens”

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Minding summer crops and infants, dressed in leather skins
The dark eyed women took in the strange and unfamiliar
Sight of rough and ready mining men
They stood back in quiet shadows
On the open barren untamed land
While other tribal women worked in makeshift cafe's & tents
For new money laid out hand to hand
The maiden women feared trouble when the dust of gold be found
in early drudging days few pale ladies were seen
In hard knock mining towns
Only when the claims were fully established
Did the Eastern women come around
Across plains by wagons and trains true & western bound
The Indians spoke Shoshone and a few the Paiute tongue
Some mining folk filled their talk with borrowed words
Beneath the fierce and unforgiving sun
The old ways began to fade a bit into the blue faced moon
While the dark eyed women held papooses close
Another desert land exploded into a fiery miner's boom