



## EMILY DICKINSON

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1830-1886

### I started Early – Took my Dog – (Fr656, J520)



I started Early – Took my Dog –  
And visited the Sea –  
The Mermaids in the Basement  
Came out to look at me –

5 And Frigates – in the Upper Floor  
Extended Hempten Hands –  
Presuming Me to be a Mouse –  
Aground – upon the Sands –

10 But no Man moved Me – till the Tide  
Went past my simple Shoe –  
And past my Apron – and my Belt  
And past my Boddice – too –

15 And made as He would eat me up –  
As wholly as a Dew  
Upon a Dandelion's Sleeve –  
And then – I started – too –

20 And He – He followed – close behind –  
I felt His Silver Heel  
Upon my Ankle – Then My Shoes  
Would overflow with Pearl –

Until We met the Solid Town –  
No One He seemed to know –  
And bowing – with a Mighty look –  
At me – The Sea withdrew –

c. 1863

