

Eveline

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"Eveline! Evvy!" Frank's heart-wrenching pleas rang in my ears over and over as I walked in defeat out of the station. I couldn't bring myself to look into his teary eyes. I held my head in shame as I moved swiftly through the crowd and onto the street to head back home. This walk would be a long one. To make matters worse, the sky darkened, gray clouds parted and a ice-cold downpour of rain drenched me, mixing with my tears of sorrow, humiliation and regret. Why didn't I leave? I thought my love for Frank would surely lead me to a better life. Buenos Aires awaited me, where I would be a happily married woman, a sailor's wife, and everyone would love and honor me as the beautiful, young woman I am. I feel so overwhelmed by the burden that was left upon me since my mother's death. I truly loved and appreciated Frank for his love and support. He gave me such hope and ambition, unlike my father. "Derevaun Seraun! Derevaun Seraun!" The end of pleasure is pain. Those were the last words my mother said to me, after I promised her that I would take care of father and my brothers. Her spirit came over me as I stood in line to board the ship. I prayed and asked God to guide me to my decision and that was it. "Derevaun Seraun!" The end of pleasure is pain. My mother was warning me. The love that I yearned for was temporary and would surely lead me to destruction. How could I betray my promise to her? For a love that had no guarantee? Suddenly, it stopped raining. I wiped my eyes with the sleeve of my wool coat. Today was the day. I will not walk in the shadow of my mother, nor will I let my promise to her go in vain. This very day birthed a new Eveline. I decided in this very moment that this is MY life, and I will be strong and resilient. I will show Miss Gavan, my brother and my father that I am a woman of great pride and I will not let my circumstances defeat me. Today, I will make change.