

As it's my birthday, I thought I would send you a poem about being given a present. It was written by DOROTHY PARKER, who was a very funny American writer, who was born in 1893, and died in 1967, just three years before I was born. Some of the sayings that she came up with were: 'Beauty is only skin deep, but ugly goes clean to the bone'; 'Don't look at me in that tone of voice' (a good phrase to use when someone is telling you off!); 'Authors and actors and artists and such - Never knowing nothing, and never know much' (a good thing to remember when celebrities are telling you what to do); 'The cure to boredom is curiosity; there is no cure for curiosity.'



The poem I'm sending you - ONE PERFECT ROSE - is a funny poem. It starts off very serious and grand, but then there's a twist at the end that makes it really funny. I have given you meanings of some of the words or phrases you might not understand at the bottom of the poem.

ONE PERFECT ROSE

A single flower he sent me, since we met,
All tenderly his messenger he chose;
Deep-hearted, pure, with scented dew still wet –
One perfect rose.

I knew the language of the floweret;
'My fragile leaves,' it said, 'his heart enclose.'
Love long has taken for his amulet
One perfect rose.

Why is it no one ever sent me yet
One perfect limousine, do you suppose?
Ah no, it's always just my luck to get
One perfect rose.

'I knew the language of the floweret' - I knew what the flower was saying
'Love long has taken for his amulet' - For a long time, people have put all their love into one perfect rose that they send to someone else
'limousine' - luxury car

It's a funny poem, but with a serious message underneath. Dorothy Parker wrote this poem in 1926, when the United States was becoming more and more obsessed with wealth and getting ahead. And the poem reflects those values - putting getting a luxury car ahead of love. It may be that what we are going through at the moment will reverse that, and people will start valuing love and relationships over money and things. We'll see what happens, as a very great man (not me!) likes to say.

Anyway, here's a clip of Dorothy Parker reading 'One Perfect Rose':
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iMnv1XNpuwM>