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William Eagle Feather Gives Lavinia Burden a New Name

by Robert Cooperman

After she stumbled
into my camp that once,
I tried to forget
she'd sat like an angel by my fire,
her hair gold as sunflowers.
When our eyes locked,
her face turned red as mine.

If I'd spoke my feelings plain
in town, Sheriff would've made
a dancing aspen leaf of me.
But all I could think of
was Widow Burden brushing out
her golden fiddle strands.

So last night I crept up
to her cottage—my heart
pounding like a war drum—
and whispered,
“Hair Filled With Sun,”
her smile bright as daisies
when she took my hand,
and led me to Paradise.

How all this will end
I fear to think,
but even a half-breed
can dream.

