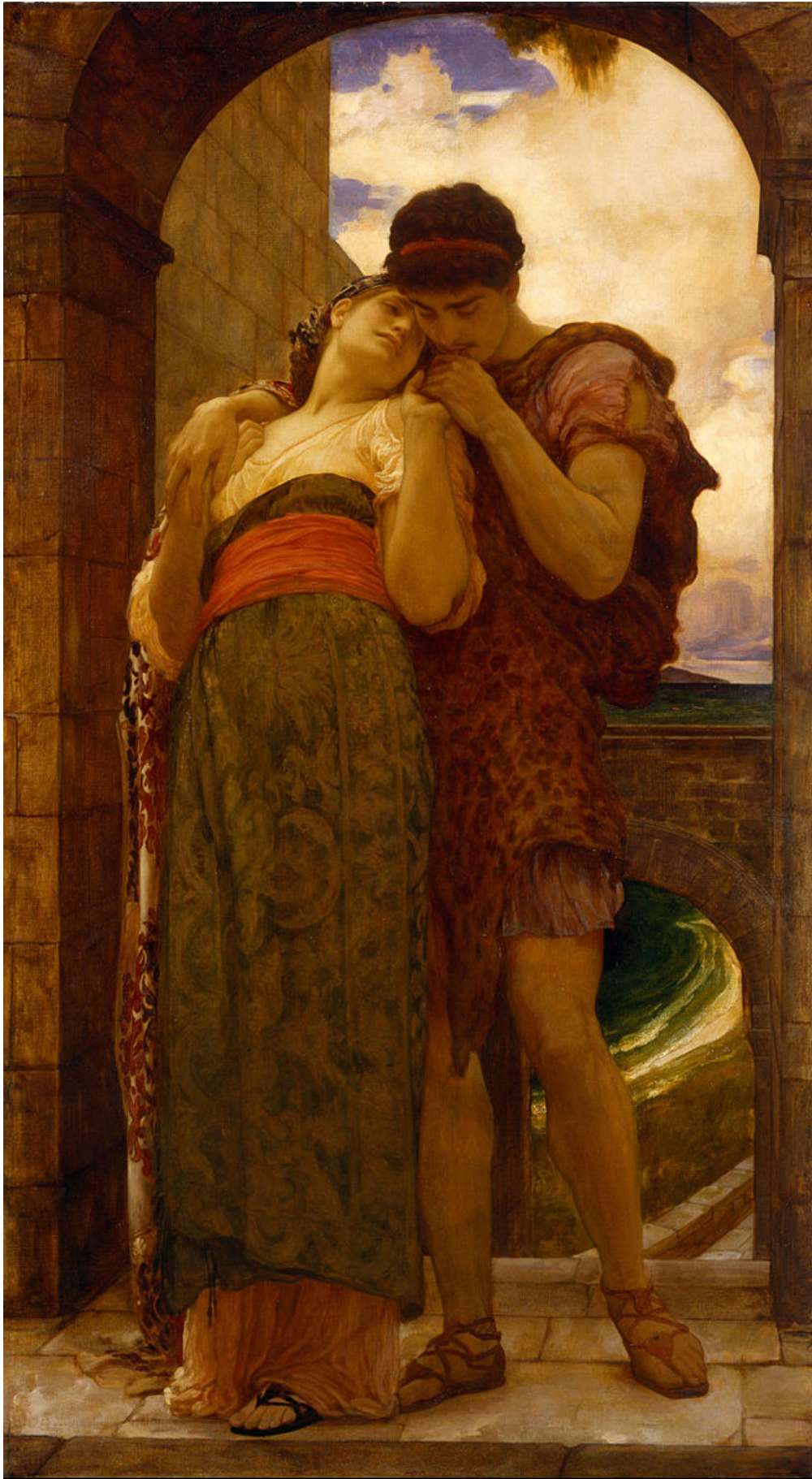


On Married Love

by [Jeffrey Burghauer](#) (June 2019)



Wedded, Frederic Leighton, 1882

for M.C.L.

Standing-swaying burnt & dazed
On the Gulf of Aqaba's
Swelter-fastened southern flange,
God & bodily distress
Twisted all my mind until
I was someone seeing Saint
Valentine's Day solemnized
At the gold Sheldonian.
I remember ivory
Men in tailored formalwear
Passing through those burnished doors
Nameless with their weightless dates—
Slender & exquisitely
Nameless nymphen nonchalant,
Dripping silk from their physiques.
Each admitted in her hand
A specific, long-stemmed rose.

*

Fancy easily supplies

Pseudo-substance of this sort.

No one can anatomize,

Blush-with-pigment, and report

Real Arcadia as well

As they can a throbbing Hell.

Thank you for the quiet We—

The unmappably exact,

Heaven-sent & easefully

Adjective-repellent fact

That instantiates no less

Than a human happiness.

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Jeffrey Burghauer is a teacher in Columbus, OH. He was educated at SUNY-Buffalo and the University of Leeds. He currently studies the five-string banjo with a focus on pre-WWII picking styles. A former artist-in-residence at the Arad Arts Project (Israel), his poems have appeared (or are forthcoming) in *Appalachian Journal*, *Fearsome Critters*, *Iceview*, *Lehrhaus*, and *New English Review*. Jeffrey's book-

length collection, [*Real Poems*](#), is available on Amazon and his website is www.jeffreyburghauser.com.

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