

# Waterford Girl

by [Paul Martin Freeman](#) (July 2025)



View of Waterford (Willem van der Hagen, 1736)

*for Dee Heffernan*

**She keeps her** feelings quietly to herself  
And makes the cappuccinos with a smile.  
She takes a platter from the cupboard shelf  
And fills the grill and twiddles with the dial.

It's nice to see the worktop neat and tidy  
With sandwiches and salad piled high;  
And then she muses how tomorrow's Friday  
And gives an audible, contented sigh.

Such trivial things provide some consolation  
For being away from Waterford for Dee;  
They're how she bears her lonely separation  
From all she loves across the Irish Sea.

They're how she passes time and finds some pleasure,  
Allowing her relief from all the sadness;  
Then Sundays let her sleep her fill at leisure  
And get away at last from all the madness.

And yet she feels that London is her future:  
It's here she'll see her destiny unfold.  
Perhaps she'll meet a lovely man who'll woo her?  
She doesn't like the thought of growing old.

Then someone interrupts her reverie  
And orders something cheesy from the grill.  
He's got an allergy to celery:  
It turns him blue and makes him deathly ill!

She muses on this terrifying reaction  
Which lets her put aside her usual cares;  
And glad of any momentary distraction,  
She takes a cloth and heads towards the chairs.

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**Paul Martin Freeman's** book of whimsical verse, *A Chocolate Box Menagerie*, is published by New English Review Press and is available [here](#). This poem is from the author's unpublished work, *The Bus Poems: A Tale of the Devil*.

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