

An Ode for Olivia ♥ January 30, 2016 ♥ by Karen Gifford

I just heard today, your present is delayed
Made by women as gifted as you - living far, far away
And, for whatever the reason, I just can't say
All I know about them is their promise to "Start at Love" each day.

As time passes by and our hair fades to gray
"Starting at Love" seems such a grand way
To celebrate YOU on this, your birthday!

For on this day, some six decades ago,
A wild woman was born with a very gifted soul
In the heartlands of Iowa, where she first learned to sow
Seeds and trees... and knit with the finest of wool
From the farms that surrounded her
And taught her the treasures life holds.

One of those treasures which she still holds so dear
Is the daughter she raised to be bold, have no fear
To seek life's opportunities and not shed a tear
Rather face them with grace, year after year
Though to "start at love," too, while being sincere
For life's a journey not a race, that is quite clear!

And along her own journey, this wild woman I know
Came across her soulmate, in a pool hall, don't ya know!
This tall, handsome man of wit, wisdom and such
Swept you off your feet - seems it didn't take much.

And so began your dance as partners in life,
With family and friends and Maine Coons by your side
From farm girl to parent to executive - what a ride
Thank goodness Dragon Lady Knits has finally come alive!

Which, by the way, is where this ode did begin
With the loss of your knitting gift somewhere in the din
Of who knows where or even what bin!

Alas, though I'm sad we may not see your face
As you open our gift from a very far place
We will be with you tonight in your cozy, warm home
Celebrating this wild woman we are so delighted to know
On her birthday, of course, knitting needles in tow.

We'll have fine wine, cuisine, music and such
Surrounded by family and friends who stay in touch
And as we begin to entertain whatever's next
It will be by "starting at love" and we'll just knit the rest
One stitch at a time, as we enter your gate
And celebrate YOU, dear Olivia - can't wait!

Happy Birthday, Dear Friend!

*With love,
Karen
(and Doug too!)*