

At the outset, in the ~~Para 1~~ little box, all was
dark,
A small cleft, and did Maria's hands go
gently ?
3 - Stroke the soft fur and leave a fingermark,
+ And made, Mr. Bear take a look - his first, faintly.
5 "Just what I wanted daddy!", she exclaimed -
6 Her parents smiled at that rare phrase
7 She picked him up; down was he never laid,
8 Both foresaw how it'd go on for many days.

~~Para~~

Stanza 1

- 9 Yes, they were together, be it sadness
or joy,
- 10 Every day, each Christmas and Thanksgiving
- 11 And when Maria broke an elbow, Oh
boy!
- 12 ~~Eda~~ Mr. Bear was there, crying and
helping.
- 13 She grew up and her circle of friends
too
- 14 "Of course," she thought "humans are
indeed better!"
- 15 In no time, let's mention, was she
able to bid Mr. Bear adieu,
16. With real-life parties, who chooses
tea-parties, hah, as better?

- 17 With passing years, the organization
of people changed,
- 18 Maria was not a child, yes, no more;
- 19 But there were two quite hard to
be managed,
- 20 And they ^{both} looked like her when she
was four,
- 21 The old laughter and celebrations
had vanished;
- 22 Mr. Bear was now an old relic, who
often saw Maria and sighed,
- ~~23 How to be cared again and be
by her~~
- 23 And sitting under the cobwebs,
he wished
- 24 How to be cared again and be ^{by her}
side!

25 A few more winters, summers
spring and fall,
26 And looks like Mr Bear is baring
for utoo
27 A dustier place in attic: made him
struggle to stand tall
28 There he sat faded and lonely
~~just~~ as just as Maria's blues;
29. Sometimes, she would walk up and
down,
30 Or vaguely ~~to~~ stare at the evening
sky,
31 Read a book or two in the afternoon,
32 And look at her walking stick and
sigh.

33 Her world had become slow
quiet and disturbed yet

34 By people who she was quite
unsure whether to,

35 Call her own, or just someone she
met,

36 Although she allowed them to take
her through.

37 Per chance, ~~that~~ by chance, one day, in
the attic, stepping in,

38 She saw, no doubt in that; a feeble
smile,

39 ~~And Maria said~~ "Oh, how I missed
you," she said, ~~that~~ "Mr. Bear, my kin!"

40 And took him down without
wasting a white.

- 41 That night in the house, two people
walked past her;
- 42 They saw an old lady with a teddy
close to her bosom;
- 43 Whispering in the lowest voice — "forgive
me, Mr. Bear";
- 44 "Look, she has finally lost it, our money,"
- 45 They said, with not the slightest concern
even;
- 46 To be used, to be wasted, and yet
cluttered,
- 47 But, Murray, alas, those words were
received in heaven;
- 48 For all we know; those were the
ones she last uttered!

— Lakshmi J Menon