

Willie and Dan

My little flower of fifteen caught me napping on the swing.
Dad, she whispered, I need from you, just one more teensy tiny thing.

I worry, she sighed, about my life, and who will share my time in the sand.
How will I know, who I will know ... for all of time as my chosen man?

How will I know ... the better man?

With a subtle smile I took her hand.
Let me tell you about Willie and Dan.

Uncle Willie and Uncle Dan are both very powerful men.
God gave them both the gifts of foundation.

Both Willie and Dan were given heart, character, spirit, and brains, like no others.
But Willie and Dan were sons of different mothers.

Willie and Dan were born to men of the mills.

Willie, given praise.
Dan, given humiliation.

Willie was sent to private school ... while dad worked an extra shift.
Dan was told to walk ... when he was sent at all.

Willie went to college ... on a scholarship.
Dan went to work in the mill.

Willie became educated, then successful by many measures.
Dan became successful, educated by life on his own.

In their late years, Willie and Dan were known as kindly old men.
Sharing their stories, comparing their lives, rocking in identical chairs.

So, my flower, you tell me, who is the better man?

Uncle Willie ... or Uncle Dan?

Unsatisfied, my angel asked ...

How will I know ... if I ... am good enough?

Good enough for either a Willie or a Dan?

I smiled.

My child ...

A good man, like a Willie or a Dan, simply falls in love.

There is no score card.

No criteria.

No qualifications.

A good man chooses a life.

A shallow man chooses a wife.

A good man's love will choose to share it.

A shallow man knows no love.

She smiled.

I knew ...

she knew.

Only a man not good enough ...

would wonder ...

if she were.