

# Lights and Shadows

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## Born Yesterday (Literature)

Lori Aylsworth

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born an ancient wizened woman  
i spent my childhood crippled  
hobbling through the shadows  
groping with shaking fingers  
for something my cataract-covered eyes couldn't see  
and limped through adolescence  
on aged limbs  
envying my dancing peers their youth  
but happily i and merlin grow younger each year  
and i have shed the dark shroud i was born in  
for the pinks and blues of a child  
thus resurrected  
i run about madly  
trying to make up for all the days spent in darkness  
capturing the delights with fierce joy  
so please  
don't be so quick to laugh  
(cool and collegiate and able to sneer in your security)  
if you should see me singing to the trees  
chasing leaves under a bright autumn sky  
or building snowmen some dark january night  
i am only trying to collect a debt  
long overdue

**born yesterday**  
**Lori Aylsworth**