



A short short story:

MOONLIGHT P R O M I S E

By *Avelina N. Noveler*

“THERE’S A moon, Fely. Let’s walk,” I broke in as she gazed at the yellow moon.

“No, thank you,” she smiled.

“You must be crazy. You can’t wait for the man in the moon,” I said jokingly to her and scampered along.

Fely was only eighteen when she began to love the beauty of the moon. Every moonlight night she would stay alone by her window, staring pensively at the moon, oblivious to anything. In her simplicity, Fely was not bad to look at. Any young man would have liked to bring her away from the moon, but there was something inspirational in the moon that she did not long for any company, be it friendly or what not. She was faithful to the moon....

Every passerby would stop and talk with her but she never would give them delight; every serenader would sing to her but she simply ignored their plaintive songs.

“What kind of a woman are you? What kind of a heart do you have?” I asked her one night.

“I simply love the moon and can’t

see any reason to part from it,” she answered back casually.

“I will see about that,” I retorted.

No wonder Fely was the center of talk among her male contemporaries who desired to be in her company. What makes her so much in love with that solemn-faced moon?—everybody asked and wondered. No one seemed to know. Almost a year passed and Fely still could not break away from the moon. She had no friends anymore except the moon. When the moon did not shine, Fely, too, did not shine....

It was September when the Japanese began releasing Filipino prisoners of war from Capas and Fely also began singing “Moon of Desire, Bring Back My Darling”. Everyone who heard her sing the melody commented, “Your man in the moon can never come to you.”

In one of those nights, church bells were heard chiming their old melody, ding-dong, come along.

“I promised to wait. Now we have realized our dreams this moonlight night,” Fely beamed on her friends. She was radiant in her happiness—made more radiant by the silvery moonlight streaks streaming across her face....