# Audio file – “I think I should have loved you presently”

[27-Track-27.mp3](https://neagov-my.sharepoint.com/personal/travisd_arts_gov/Documents/Transcribed%20Files/27-Track-27.mp3)

Dana Gioia

And now Alyssa Milano reads a very different sort of love poem, “I think I should have loved you presently” by Edna Saint Vincent Millay, a poem about a love affair coming to an end.

Alyssa Milano

I think I should have loved you presently,

And given in earnest words I flung in jest;

And lifted honest eyes for you to see,

And caught your hand against my cheek and breast;

And all my pretty follies flung aside

That won you to me, and beneath your gaze,

Naked of reticence and shorn of pride,

Spread like a chart my little wicked ways.

I, that had been to you, had you remained,

But one more waking from a recurrent dream,

Cherish no less the certain stakes I gained,

And walk your memory’s halls, austere, supreme,

A ghost in marble of a girl you knew

Who would have loved you in a day or two.