

# How to Deal with an Enemy

by Maren O. Mitchell

Brace yourself. Pull him close  
 enough to smell his breath. Embrace like a lover,  
 never losing sight of his intentions.  
 He will think you both stupid and naïve—  
 treating him like a good friend  
 oblivious to the harm he can cause.

Better yet, ignore him. He does not exist. Cause  
 him days and nights of torture. He will not close  
 his eyes. Could you have been a friend?  
 He will always question, were you his lover,  
 never in his worst nightmare picturing your naïve  
 and childlike behavior to be your actual intentions.

Or best, learn from his intentions,  
 weigh all your wants against his ways. Cause  
 him to drop you as target. Naïve  
 this may seem, but you will break his heart. Close  
 your mind and reject his choices. Be lover  
 to all the best of your hopes, be friend.

If you turn the other cheek, extend your hand as friend,  
 do not assume that your intentions  
 will not confuse him—into approaching as false lover.  
 Think first. Take care that this choice does not cause  
 you to roast on his spit until you wish your life to close.  
 Do not go down this road if you are naïve.

If you want revenge, write him out of your life. Naïve  
 in his perception, he will be your marionette and befriend  
 your plan. He'll search you out, strive to wiggle close  
 to discover the secret of your devilish intentions,  
 not understanding he is the cause.  
 To do this you must be a hater, not a lover.

If juggled your mind, an enemy can help you to be lover  
 of the self you have been second-guessing, naïve  
 in not trusting yourself. Whatever the cause  
 of your uncertainty, genetic to cultural, be a friend  
 to yourself. Begin to believe in the value of your intentions,  
 no regrets, no energy left when you arrive at close.

A lover of life, don't try to convert enemy to friend.  
 Don't be naïve. Don't try to decipher his intentions.  
 alien to your soul's cause, cradled so very close,