

A Maiden of the Night

Did you see it – the heavenly body hanging low in the sky last night?

It was the third and final supermoon of 2019, becoming full at 9:43 p.m., only a few hours after spring made its official debut at 5:58 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time.

The last time the full moon and the spring equinox coincided this closely (four hours apart) was in March 2000, but the last time they occurred on the same date was on March 20, 1981.

Even in this modern scientific age – a period in history when man made footprints on the moon – this great bowl of light stirs the fancy of adults and children alike. Despite all the knowledge that has been acquired, however, the moon continues to be a mysterious spectacle holding remarkable appeal – especially to romantics. What could beat these memories, forged in the shimmering light of the moon ...

- Peering from the bedroom window of a country house across an autumn cornfield, its stalks and shadows forming troops of soldiers advancing into battle.
- Enjoying a wiener roast in the clearing of a dark woodland – the first camping trip of a group of young boys.
- Giggling for frogs on a wide and deep pond.
- Collecting firewood at night, beneath heaven's glow, for the hearth of home.
- Walking home from church along a moonlit lane.
- Plucking apples from the limbs of their tree, illuminated from above.
- Sitting on a front porch, gazing through the leaves of a maple tree at the night light behind them.
- Standing a moon-bathed midnight watch at the fairgrounds, gripping a submachine gun, over a National Guard encampment at Clinton, Tennessee, during the integration struggle there in the late 1950s.
- Drinking in a current of gold, splashed on the calm Caribbean Sea, during a cruise.
- Burning the leaves left from last-year's autumn after twilight, and witnessing the flickering flames vying with moonbeams in a spellbinding competition.

As you can see, I was smitten – again – by this maiden of the night.

– Beecher Hunter