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## Lena

Sandy Spring, Maryland. 1922

A clever yet fickle lover, early spring in the rural Maryland countryside woos winter's frozen heart to bask in the splendor of bright new beginnings. Promising warmth, life, and love, the season's first crocus blooms beckoned Lena, rendering her helpless in their teasing pursuit of her slowly hardening soul.

She loved spring, as she'd loved her handsome young man and the two brown-eyed boys they'd created together. Clinton had come home from the war different, but she was glad he was home. He worked both farms and the shop, and still found the energy to play with his boys at night. Shaw, now three and big brother to the toddling Elliot, had conquered his challenges from premature birth. Elliot was learning to talk and loved trying to keep up with Shaw in all they did. A third child grew within, joining spring's declaration of the proceeding nature of life.