OLD WORLD, NEW WORLD, OTHERWORLD CHALLENGE: Crystal and Pearl

‘You’re looking quite dusty, Crystal. Not getting out much these days?’

*‘You’re losing your bloom, Pearl. Does she have a new favourite now?’*

‘I’ll always be her favourite – but she’s not going out to dances and parties so often anymore.’

*‘She’s getting old, Pearl;that’s why. But I’m still going out with her – sometimes. I remember the Olden Days at the Fairs. People used to line up to consult her, and beg her to read their future in my crystal depths.’*

‘And I remember the garden parties and balls we used to go to. She’d dance all night and we’d greet the dawn together.’

*‘I remember all the interesting stories I heard, and the comfort and hope she promised to the sad and lonely. “Look into the crystal,” she’d say. “With courage and hope – and the willingness to try hard – you will achieve your heart’s desire.”’*

‘Everyone looked at me too. I was always greatly admired. I remember all the gentlemen who took her out and danced with her, and how they’d whisper their promises of love and good fortune ... but she only ever believed one of them.’

*‘That’s because I showed her that he was honest and true, and that he had a loving heart.’*

‘But I was his gift to her; her favourite always.’

*‘It’s not like it used to be in the olden days, Pearl – not for either of us.’*

***‘Will you show me your treasures, Grandma?’***

‘*This is my beautiful pearl, given to me by your grandfather. And this is my magical crystal, given to me by my mother. “Use the crystal wisely,” she told me. “And only ever use it for good.” And so I have, and the crystal has guided me for all my long years here on this earth. And now it is time to hand both my treasures on to you, my beloved granddaughter. May my crystal guide you wisely, and may my precious pearl bring you love and blessings.*

It seems she valued us equally, Crystal.

*And it seems that we’re about to start another new life!*