

Final Page

You understand how she does it,
because it has happened so often before.
And you resolve not to be manipulated this time.
After all, the novelist could have chosen
any ending. It didn't have to be this one
where the two of them walk away hand in hand.

But your tears still stain the final page.

And it occurs to you that this
is what always happens when someone
tells you the truth. Especially
when it's a work of fiction.

Steve Bloom
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