

GREEN DOLPHIN STREET - 1947

When seeing it on TV as a clueless pre-teen,
I came away thinking and believing:

“I could marry anyone, and make it work.”

The street’s name described nothing
in this epic film of the silver screen. . .
so named for a ship, appearing thrice,
which saved the movie’s hero twice.

But what started on that street—
so typical of over-told tales of romance—
took the hero half-way round the world,
where, love-dreams blown apart forever,
he learned the truth: *love is a choice*.

Did I say ‘hero’? Many in the film
portrayed what Hollywood back then
rarely dared admit: *duty trumps romance*.
In three crucial scenes, they bore one witness:
true love chooses to do what’s right.

I found it on VHS, after so many years,
with teens of my own at home, who hated
“those old black & white movies!”
But Green Dolphin Street enthralled them,
re-sowing what had early flourished
in my own young mind: *love is a choice*.

— David L. Hatton, 2/12/2016