

DEAR HEARTS AND GENTLE PEOPLE

**I love those dear hearts and gen-tle peo-ple
Who live in my home-town,**

**Be-cause those dear hearts and gen-tle peo-ple
Will nev-er ev-er let you down.**

**They read the Good Book from “Fri” til Mon-day
That’s how the week-end goes.**

**I’ve got a dream house I’ll build there one day
With pick-et fence and ram-bling rose.**

**I feel so we-come each time that I re-turn
That my hap-py heart keeps laugh-ing like a clown.**

**I love the dear hearts and gen-tle peo-ple
Who live and love in my home-town.**

America's beloved ballad writer Stephen Foster died alone and in poverty, having squandered his magnificent talent (and such money as he made from it) on drink. In the jacket pocket of his shabby suit was found a scrap of paper with the phrase "Dear hearts and gentle people," perhaps the beginning of another imperishable Foster song like "Beautiful Dreamer" or "My Old Kentucky

Home." The words appealed to Bob Hilliard so much when he heard of them in 1949 that he continued the lyrics, and Sammy Fain, who had already won Academy Awards for such tunes as "Love Is a Many-Splendored Thing" and "Secret Love," furnished the music for this song. Dinah Shore and Bing Crosby vied for top honors among a long list of successful recording artists.

Words by Bob Hilliard

Dear hearts & gentle people

Moderately

Music by Sammy Fain

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I love those (They read the)

dear Good hearts Book and from gen "Fri." - tle 'til peo - ple Mon - day

who live in the my week - end town, goes. be - cause those I've got a

dear dream hearts house and I'll gen build - tle there peo - ple one day will with

nev - er ev - er let you down. They read the
pick - et fence and ram - bling rose.

G7
(tacet)

I feel so wel - come each time that I re - turn that my

Em
Em/maj7
Em7
Em6
D
A7
D7
(tacet)

hap - py heart keeps laugh - ing like a clown. I love the

G
G7
C
Cm6

dear hearts and gen - tle peo - ple who

G
Em7
C
D7
G
D7
G7
Cm6
G6add9

live and love in my home - town.

ff