

**FIDDLER'S LUCK: THE
GAY ADVENTURES OF
A MUSICAL AMATEUR**

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Fiddler's luck: the gay adventures of a musical amateur by Robert Haven Schauffler

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ROBERT HAVEN SCHAUFFLER

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THE GAY ADVENTURES OF
A MUSICAL AMATEUR

BY

ROBERT HAVEN SCHAUFFLER

*Author of "The Musical Amateur," "Scum o' the Earth, and
Other Poems," etc.*



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TO
THE SEVENTY-NINTH DIVISION, A.E.F.
THE MARS HOSPITAL CENTER
AND
MAJORS JOHN McCLELLAN
AND
SAMUEL CRAIG PLUMMER
THIS STORY IS
DEDICATED

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FOREWORD

THE story which follows was told me by a particular friend of mine, in fact, by a brother fiddler errant, during a series of evenings after he came back from the Great War. Now do not be alarmed, gentle reader. It is not a war novel. I shall not give you a single description of how the hero captured seven machine-gun nests single-handed or crawled under the electrified prison fence. If anybody finds more than 2.75 per cent of war stuff in the following pages, let him hastily bang the cover to and write me a threatening letter, and I will take up with the extremely honorable house of Houghton Mifflin the question of giving him his money back. I can't say fairer than that, can I?

As my friend was a brother writer and did not wish his identity discovered by those who knew his style at sight, he decided to tell me the tale and let me deal with it in my own peculiar fashion.

So far as his musical adventures go, I am

FOREWORD

prepared to vouch for their faithfulness, in the main, to fact. But as for the love parts of the story, I shall have to leave the question of their literal verity to be threshed out between my fiddler errant and his Maker. I can only remind the reader what the reviewers of his books sometimes say of him: that he is "a dreamer and an idealist." And who ever saw a vagabond fiddler of that description allowing himself to be shackled by abject slavery to gross fact in telling a love story?

A few paragraphs near the beginning were borrowed from my book, *The Musical Amateur*, and shattered to bits, and then "remoulded nearer to the heart's desire." Chapter XIII originally appeared in the *Outlook*, and eleven of the remaining nineteen chapters, in the *Atlantic Monthly*, but in forms which detached them from the main current of this story, and made them self-supporting and able to fend for themselves in a cold, hard world, as yet unaware of their future context.

R. H. S.

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