

**WHEN: AND  
OTHER POEMS**

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When: And Other Poems by Elizabeth Brewster

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**ELIZABETH BREWSTER**

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AND OTHER POEMS

ELIZABETH BREWSTER



BOSTON  
RICHARD G. BADGER  
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1911

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## WHEN?

The Spring comes softly, up among the hills,  
The patient earth lies waiting 'neath the snow;  
Then comes a stir, the pulse of new life thrills,  
The snow wreaths fade, warmly the south winds  
    blow,  
And at their kiss the swamps flush rosy red;  
O'er all the trees, upon the hillside steep,  
A tender mist of living green is spread,  
While in the hollows tiny violets peep.  
And, with a note as sweet as water's fall,  
A blue bird tells of coming joy and light;  
Gayly the robins to each other call,  
And over all, the sun shines warm and bright.  
And then, we start, and cry, "Winter has flown"!  
But when the Spring came back, is still to us un-  
    known.

## A NOVEMBER MESSAGE

All day long, o'er field and mountain, dull gray  
clouds came drifting, drifting,  
And the dead leaves floated downward, through the  
still air, soft and slow,  
All the earth lay silent, waiting, in the hush of win-  
ter's coming,  
And the very winds were quiet, too subdued and sad  
to blow.

Suddenly a blue-bird's whistle breaks the dreary,  
hopeless silence,  
And its throbbing, joyous music bears this message  
through the air,  
"He who gives the birds their portion, has the whole  
earth in his keeping,  
After cold, and storm, and struggle, He will send  
the springtime fair."

So, dear heart, though thou art waiting, in the chill  
of pain's dark winter,  
And the dead leaves of thy hopes come floating  
downward, thick and fast.  
Yet thy Father's love surrounds thee, and His hand  
will surely send thee  
The sweet spring of joy and blessing, when thy time  
of storm is past.

## MIZPAH

To one, most dear to me,  
Towards whom, I stretch out loving eager hands.  
Thou soon wilt toss upon the restless sea,  
While I wait here, alone, upon the sands.  
Tempests may sweep across the heaving deep,  
Thick mists across my lonely path may creep.  
May He, who governs both the sea, and land,  
Still guide our paths by His all-loving hand.  
God watch 'twixt thee and me,  
    God shelter thee,  
        At sea.