

**FROM A FLAT
HOUSE-TOP**

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From a Flat House-top by Charlotte Hardin

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BY

CHARLOTTE HARDIN



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TO
MY MOTHER

Oct 38/1924

The potter slaps the clay upon his wheel; his dreams are true, but his hand has trembled; therefore we have left him bearing clumsy shapes and unlovely outlines.

But come to the shop of the new alchemist; he has there the magic crucible and the undying flame. Gather up the shards of your broken vessels; in each one there lies a golden grain. Out of the broken clay he will retain only what is fine; the fragments will then be shards in truth, and the thread of gold contained in them will be returned to you as a bright elixir. For some there will be but a drop; for others, a goblet full. Some will gulp down their share and go off drunk with dreaming; others will carry the goblets home in their bosoms and sip them secretly in a quiet place. But there will be something for all; each life holds a grain of beauty.

Bring them, then—your outworn loves, your dead passions, your long-past glimpses of peace; the green of old meadows and the echoes of far-off music. They shall be returned to you re-born out of the crucible of the new alchemist.

CONTENTS

	Page
WIND SCENTS	13
CHANSON LOUIS XIII.	15
MUSINGS OF A PRE-RAPHAELITE PAINTER	17
A BENT TWIG SPRINGING UPWARD.	19
THE DARK LOVER	20
THE SINGING SHELL.	21
THE GIVER OF THE GIFT DIVINE	22
WHEN I WENT IN SANDALS	23
PIPPA IN THE FACTORY	24
HONEY FROM AFAR	26
THE FAIRY WOODS	27
SUMMER LOVES	29
A FRAGILE SNATCH OF PASSING SONG	31
ANNE OF GEIERSTEIN	32

CONTENTS

	Page
THE BLAZE	33
I LOST THE COLORS OF THE DAWN	34
THE NIGHT WIND	35
TO THE MOST LOVED	36
HARP MUSIC	37
A FANTASY OF DANCE—AT THE ORPHEUM	39
I WAS THE SMALLEST FAIRY	41
THE HONEY BEE	43
THE LESSER LOVES	45
O SOMEONE IN THE DEEP, DEEP WOOD	46
THE REFUSAL	47
THE SUNBEAM	50
SUBTERRANEAN	51
TOO LONG I SAT AT SPARTAN BOARDS	52
THE CARPET	53
PASSION IN THE BALLET—THE FAVORITE SLAVE	55
CARYATID—RODIN	57
FROM A FLAT HOUSE-TOP	59

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