FROM A FLAT HOUSE-TOP

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From a Flat House-top by Charlotte Hardin

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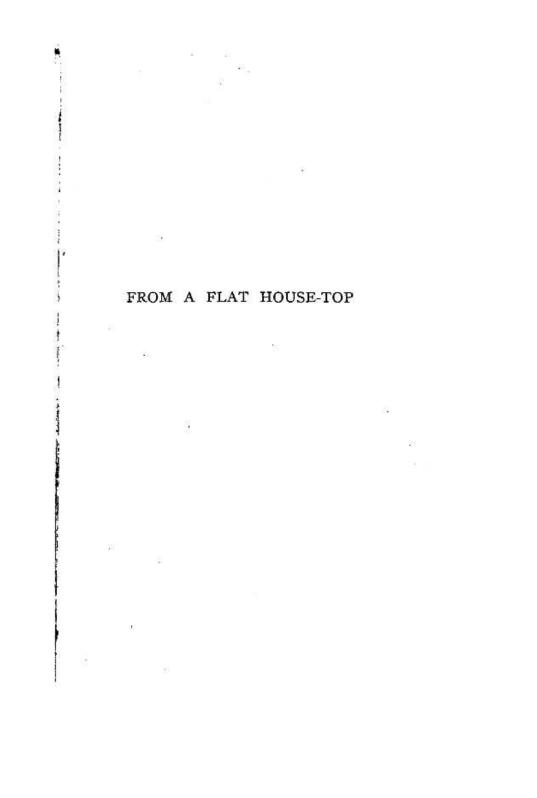
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CHARLOTTE HARDIN

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FROM A FLAT HOUSE-TOP

BY
CHARLOTTE HARDIN



Boston The Four Seas Company 1920 TO My Mother

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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.

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