

# **LAYS AND LEGENDS**

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Lays and Legends by E. Nesbit

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**E. NESBIT**

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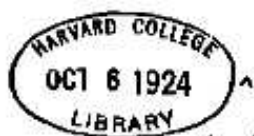
BY

E. NESBIT

LONDON  
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1886

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*George Nichols fund*

TO

TWO WOMEN.

*YOU who bore the pain and care  
Only women have to bear,  
You who staked your life to win  
Life for me, to love you in,  
You who loved me all these years,  
With your kisses, prayers, and tears.—*

*You whose being gave to earth  
All that gives my life its worth,  
You who gave me love and praise  
In the darkest of my days :  
To you both where far you stand,  
See, I reach out heart and hand.*

*Heart that love of you enfolds,  
Hand that this poor nosegay holds :  
If some weeds about it twine,  
Cast them back, for they are mine ;  
All the flowers were set by you,  
And within your garden grew.*





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### *TEKEL*

WHEN on the West broke light from out the East,  
Then from the splendour and the shame of Rome—  
Renouncing wealth and pleasure, game and feast,  
And all the joys of his polluted home,  
Desiring not the gifts his world could give,  
If haply he might save his soul and live—  
Into the desert's heart a man had come.

His God had died for love of him, and he  
For love of God would die to all of these  
Sweet sins he had not known for sins, and be  
Estranged for evermore from rest and ease ;  
His days in penance spent might half atone  
For the iniquity of days bygone,  
And in the desert might his soul find peace.