

**COLLECTED  
POEMS, 1907-1922**

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Collected Poems, 1907-1922 by John Erskine

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**JOHN ERSKINE**

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POEMS

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BY  
JOHN ERSKINE

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*The Private Life of Helen of Troy*



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*The BOBBS-MERRILL Company*  
*Publishers*



## NOTE

The poems here gathered are those I care to preserve from previous volumes, *Actæon and Other Poems*, 1907, and *The Shadowed Hour*, 1917, together with certain poems that have appeared in magazines during the last fifteen years, and others that are now printed for the first time.

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J. E.

August 1, 1922

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## ACTÆON

Fair bloomed the happy world, fair bloomed the  
May,

But over Lethe came no bloom nor change,  
Only the ancient languor; soft and smooth,  
Save where a slumbrous poppy, nodding low,  
Trailed into ripples, Lethe slipped away;  
And there the dead, fresh from the bright world,  
came,

And drank forgetfulness—one cup for all,  
Whether their crown of life were flower or thorn,  
Their draught of life proved sweet or bitter wine.  
There statesmen, soldiers, leaders of their times,  
Heart-worn with blazing out new paths for truth,  
Drank with their meanest follower, side by side;  
Two lovers there, one with the passionate kiss  
Of sweet lips clinging, one in patient love  
Of those same lips, which never might be his,  
Together drank, and equally forgot;