

FOREST FANCIES

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Forest Fancies by Lucy Charlton Kellerhouse

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LUCY CHARLTON KELLERHOUSE

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THE SURPLICE OF SPRING

FOREST FANCIES.

BY
LUCY CHARLTON KELLERHOUSE

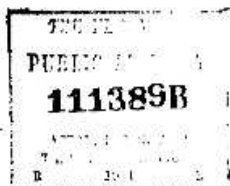
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LOBOL:

**I inscribe to you
these little stories
told me by the trees.**

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"If one wishes to study the life—not the mere structure—of an apple-tree in bloom, he must surrender himself at the start to the bloom and fragrance; for these are not mere external phases of the growth of the tree—they are most delicate and characteristic disclosures of its life."

HAMILTON WRIGHT MABIE.

BEFORE WE ENTER THE FOREST

Come, let us enter the Forest, leaving the world behind. Here the trees will tell us of themselves and their work—what they do for you and for me. The Forest speaks to all who will listen, though every one translates its message in a different way. Four men once entered the forest: a scientist, a pastor, a teacher, and a poet. The scientist brought away a treatise; the pastor, a text; the teacher, a lesson; and the poet, a song. I, too, found my way into the Forest; and all that I heard there I put into words, which took the form of a story.

One day I showed my story to a forester, who loves the wildwoods of our land; and he paused in his busy work to read what the trees had told to me. As these stories are not really mine, but only my interpretation of what the