

**THE ROAD TO
CASTALY, AND
LATER POEMS**

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The road to Castaly, and later poems by Alice Brown

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ALICE BROWN

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TORONTO

THE
ROAD TO CASTALY

AND LATER POEMS

BY

ALICE BROWN

AUTHOR OF "CHILDREN OF EARTH," "THE
PRISONER," ETC.

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1917

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TO
LOUISE IMOGEN GUINEY

THE ROAD TO CASTALY

Sovereigns of the sacred mount
Circled round her silver fount,
Sires of life who song began,
Swiftest heralds, ye who ran
With winged sandals up the way
Where unled the Muses stray:
Hear us! we who haste to ye,
Pensioners of poesy.
Native airs of song ye breathe;
Deathless buds your foreheads wreath;
Yet not wholly are ye blest
Over us, who walk confest
Beggars of the charity
Shuttled 'twixt the earth and sky,
Destined aye to keep the road
Far from that august abode,
Fated ne'er to taste the spring
Set for poet's quickening.
Only born to braid our lays
In the garlanding of praise;
Born to praise the Muses nine,
Praise the One unknown, divine,
Who upon our bosoms set
His unfading amulet:
"Ever seek and never see;
Die uncrowned yet votary."
Fain are we of beechen boughs;
We are they the pine endows
With hot scent of pungent power,
Sealing so the noontide hour.
Bitter bread to us is sweet.
Highway brambles kiss our feet.
Dust yclad, our dreams we sing
Round about the roadside spring.
Nay, not all unblest are we
Wayfarers to Castaly.

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