

**THE SOLITARY  
SUMMER.  
[NEW YORK-1901]**

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The Solitary Summer. [New York-1901] by Elizabeth von Arnim

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## The Solitary Summer

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# The Solitary Summer

BY THE AUTHOR OF  
"ELIZABETH AND HER GERMAN GARDEN"

*Nature nous a strenués d'une large faculté à nous entretenir à part ; et nous y appelle souvent, pour nous apprendre que nous nous devons en partie à la société, mais en la meilleure partie à nous.*

MONTAIGNE, *Essais*, ii. 18.

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TO  
THE MAN OF WRATH  
WITH  
SOME APOLOGIES  
AND  
MUCH LOVE

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*May*



## MAY

*May 2nd.* — Last night after dinner, when we were in the garden, I said, "I want to be alone for a whole summer, and get to the very dregs of life. I want to be as idle as I can, so that my soul may have time to grow. Nobody shall be invited to stay with me, and if any one calls they will be told that I am out, or away, or sick. I shall spend the months in the garden, and on the plain, and in the forests. I shall watch the things that happen in my garden, and see where I have made mistakes. On wet days I will go into the thickest parts of the forests, where the pine needles are everlastingly dry, and when the sun shines I'll lie on the heath and see how the broom flares against the clouds. I shall be perpetually happy, because there will be no one to worry me. Out there on the plain