TORTOISES

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Tortoises by D. H. Lawrence

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D. H. LAWRENCE

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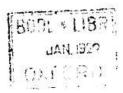


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D. H. LAWRENCE



THOMAS SELTZER
1921



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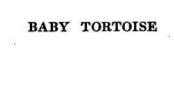
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BABY TORTOISE

You know what it is to be born alone, Baby tortoise!

The first day to heave your feet little by little from the shell,

Not yet awake,

And remain lapsed on earth,

Not quite alive.

A tiny, fragile, half-animate bean.

To open your tiny beak-mouth, that looks as if
it would never open,
Like some iron door;
To lift the upper hawk-beak from the lower base
And reach your skinny little neck
And take your first bite at some dim bit of
herbage,
Alone, small insect,
Tiny bright-eye,
Slow one.