

**THE CHARNEL ROSE.
SENLIN: A
BIOGRAPHY AND OTHER
POEMS. [BOSTON-1918]**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649757671

The Charnel Rose. Senlin: A Biography and Other Poems. [Boston-1918] by Conrad Aiken

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CONRAD AIKEN

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By CONRAD AIKEN

THE CHARNEL ROSE, *and Other Poems*

NOCTURNE OF REMEMBERED SPRING, *and Other Poems*

THE JIG OF FORSLIN, *A Symphony*

URNS AND MOVIES, *and Other Tales in Verse*

EARTH TRIUMPHANT, *and Other Tales in Verse*

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SENLIN: A BIOGRAPHY

AND OTHER POEMS

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CONRAD AIKEN



BOSTON
THE FOUR SEAS COMPANY
1918

TO MY WIFE

CONTENTS

SENLIN: A BIOGRAPHY	11
VARIATIONS: I-XVIII	67
THE CHARNEL ROSE	95

SENLIN: A BIOGRAPHY

[1918]

SENLIN: A BIOGRAPHY

I. His Dark Origins

I.

Senlin sits before us, and we see him . . .
He smokes his pipe before us, and we hear him . . .
Is he small, with reddish hair,
Does he light his pipe with a meditative stare,
And a pointed flame reflected in both eyes?
Is he sad and happy and foolish and wise? . . .
Did no one see him enter the doors of the city,
Looking about him at roofs and trees and skies? . . .
'I stepped from a cloud,' he says, 'as evening fell,
I walked on the sound of a bell;
I ran with winged heels along a gust;
Or is it true that I laughed and sprang from the
dust? . . .
Has no one, in a great autumnal forest,
When the wind bares the trees with mournful tone,
Heard the sad horn of Senlin slowly blown? . . .
Has no one, on a mountain in the spring,
Heard Senlin sing?