

**HORTUS VITAE;
ESSAYS ON THE
GARDENING OF LIFE**

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Hortus vitae; essays on the gardening of life by Vernon Lee

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VERNON LEE

**HORTUS VITAE;
ESSAYS ON THE
GARDENING OF LIFE**

HORTUS VITAE

BY THE SAME AUTHOR

LIMBO ; and Other Essays





GENIUS LOCI. Notes on Places

PENELOPE BRANDLING

ARIADNE IN MANTUA

A Romance in Five Acts

HORTUS VITAE

ESSAYS ON THE GARDENING
OF LIFE    

BY

VERNON LEE

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DEDICATION



TO MADAME TH: BLANC-BENTZON

MAIANO, NEAR FLORENCE,
June 20, 1903.

MY DEAR MADAME BLANC,

The first copy of this little book was, of course, to have been for Gabrielle Delzant. I am fulfilling her wish, I think, in giving it, instead, to you, who were her oldest friend; as I, alas! had time to be only her latest.

She had read nearly all these essays; and, during those weeks of her illness which I spent last autumn in Gascony, she had made me rewrite several among them. She wanted to learn to read English aloud, and it amused her and delighted me that she should do so on my writings. Her French pronunciation gave an odd grace to the sentences; the little hesitation spaced and accentuated their meaning; and I liked what I had written when she read it. The afternoons at Paray's which we spent