

**GREEN LEAVES
FROM
LIFE'S GARDEN**

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Green leaves from life's garden by Lillian Hinman

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LILLIAN HINMAN

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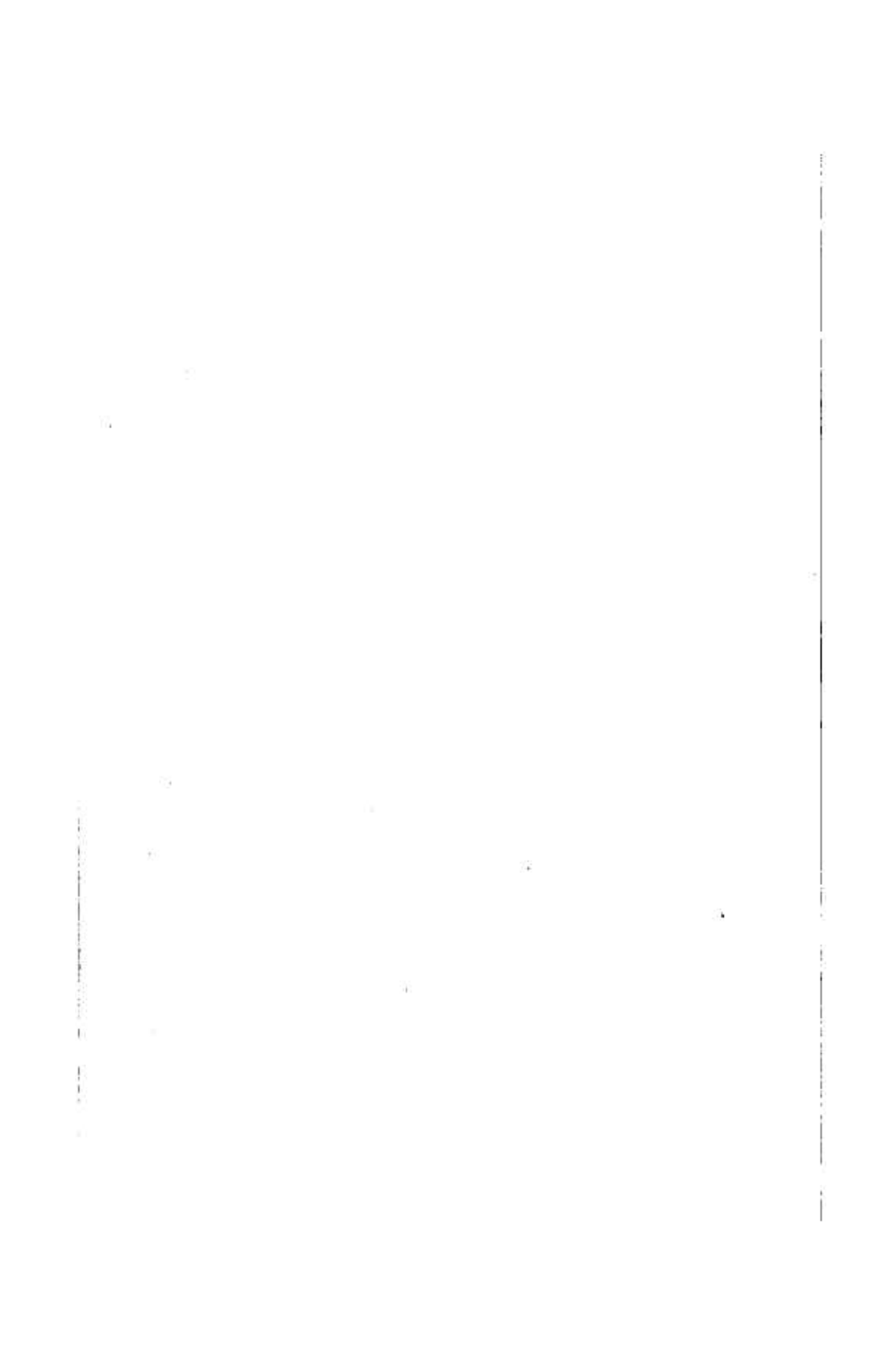
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Lovingly dedicated
to the memory of my two babies
who are now white rosebuds
In the Garden of God



PREFACE

My hammock was swung beneath the shade of two chestnut trees. One, large, full, overhanging with branches that hung low; the other, small and thick, but they mingled their branches together over my head in beautiful confusion.

I faced the body of the large tree, and in the morning as I lay there, I gazed up through the body of the tree which was not too thick to see generous glimpses of blue sky between. How I grew to love that tree; every leaf seemed to be an individual companion. The upper branches that caught the sunshine were filled with light; some leaves glistened like silver, some as they caught the sun's rays gleamed with iridescent color, and seemed as they waved in the breeze to be prismatic in their beauty.

Some were a deep, dark green, dashed here and there with little gold and silver lights; some hung in dense shadows and looked almost black, while others showed the rich beautiful green of the grass, striped with veins of a slightly darker hue, that told of the rich life throbbing within. Some were long, large, and beautifully shaped, some were torn, mangled, and very small; but no matter what their size, shape, or color, each and every leaf on the tree did its own individual work. Not one stopped waving in the breeze because it was torn or small, nor was its work inferior to the largest and most

beautiful leaf on the tree; because each leaf worked according to its strength and power. And no matter how beautiful some looked in the sunshine, or how dark others, they were all *green*; it is only the sunshine that has given them an external beauty.

We are all leaves in the Garden of God. Some of us appear very beautiful when touched by the sunshine of love, health, and prosperity. Some of us seem unlovely when stricken by disease, strained by poverty, saddened by loss, and made lonely without the love that is our God-given right; but if we are the mangled, torn, stunted leaves, we are all *green underneath*.

As the leaf is kept green by the rich sap, which is its life blood flowing through it, so are we kept green by the Divine Light of Love, which is the heritage of us all, rich or poor, beautiful or maimed; and the sunshine of God's smile throws the iridescent colors and makes the only beauty worth having.

While the work of the stunted leaf is as great in its proportion as that of the perfect leaf, if, like the leaf, it has given of its full strength and power.

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