

**THE JIG OF  
FORSLIN:  
A SYMPHONY**

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The Jig of Forslin: A Symphony by Conrad Aiken

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**CONRAD AIKEN**

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## **THE JIG OF FORSLIN**

*By Conrad Aiken*

**EARTH TRIUMPHANT  
AND OTHER TALES IN VERSE**

**TURNS AND MOVIES  
AND OTHER TALES IN VERSE**

**THE JIG OF FORSLIN  
A SYMPHONY**

# THE JIG OF FORSLIN

*A Symphony*

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CONRAD AIKEN

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*To My Wife*

#### NOTE

Parts of this poem have appeared in *The Poetry Journal*, Boston; *The Century*; and *Others*, New York.

The vampire narrative in Part Four is a free adaptation of the story by Gautier—*La Morte Amoureuse*.



## PREFACE

It has often been said that a book which needs an explanatory preface is a book which has not entirely succeeded. In the present instance, however, whether that is true or not, there are other complications: and for that reason I am glad to run the risk of being told that the book is a failure.

These complications arise from the fact that *The Jig of Forslin* is somewhat new both in method and in structure. It does not conveniently fit in any category, and is therefore liable, like all such works, to be condemned for not being something it was never intended to be. The critics who like to say 'this man is a realist,' or 'this man is a romanticist,' or in some such way to tag an author once and for all, will here find it difficult. For my intention has been to employ all methods, attitudes, slants, each in its proper place, as a necessary and vital part of any such study as this. Consequently, it is possible to pick out portions of this poem to exemplify almost any poetic method or tone. This eclect-