

**THE STORY OF
LITTLE ANGELS.
[NEW YORK]**

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The Story of Little Angels. [New York] by Laura Spencer Portor

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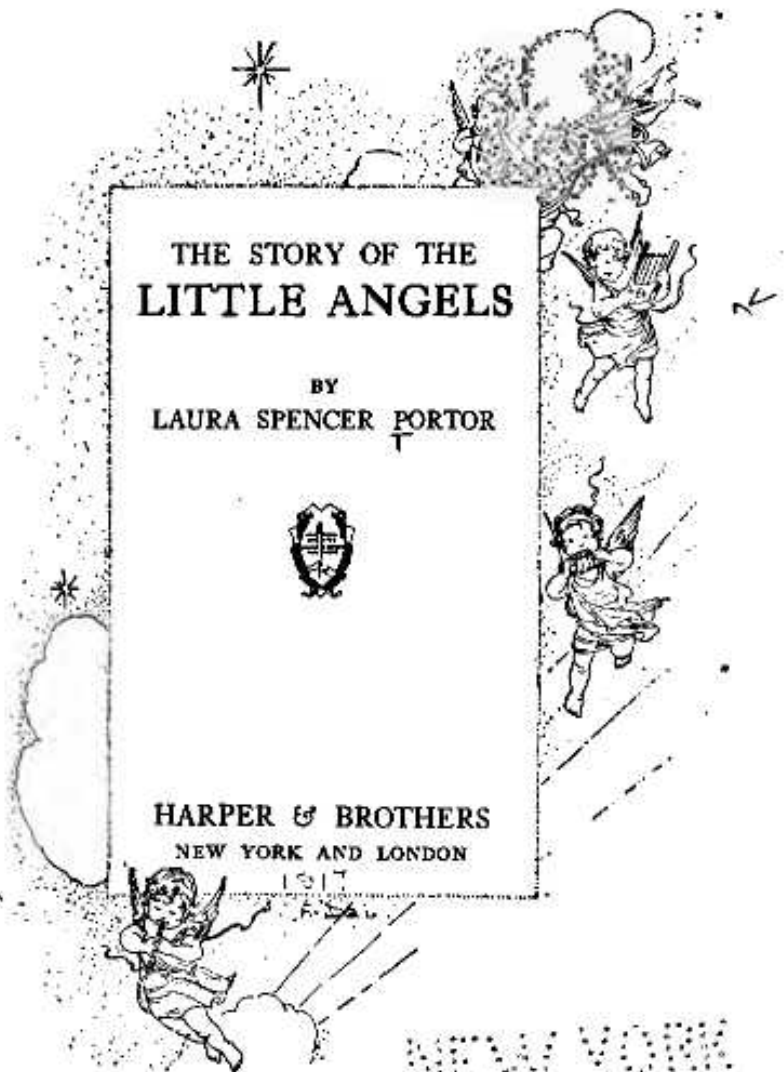
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LAURA SPENCER PORTOR

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BY
LAURA SPENCER PORTOR



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TO
K. P. R.



THOUGH the little angels were not persuaded by what the older angels told them, yet they made an effort to be content. They tuned their little zitherns and zitoles and madolins; and they sang softly their little heavenly songs, and tried to be happy.

*The Story of
The Little Angels*

I

*"And there was a company of the heavenly
host"*

WHEN I speak of the Christmas angels I do not mean the angels of the Nativity who announced Christ's birth to the shepherds. These angels we know well. Most of us have heard

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much of them, for the fame of them has been a long while with us. You have only to think how many times they have been pictured. It seems almost that the painters of old, when they had nothing else to do, must have said, "Come let us paint us the angels who announced Christ's birth to the shepherds." And forthwith they painted them with shining garments and rainbow wings, and white feet gliding over the earth, just escaping the soil of it. Or, if you have not seen these angels as the old masters loved to paint them, perhaps you will have pictured them often to yourself, as they came that night, long ago, over the waiting hills of Bethlehem, their voices sweet like music on the wind, and bringing with them their glad tidings of great joy. But beautiful, beautiful as these are, yet when I speak of the Christmas

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angels it is not these I have in mind, not these.

When I speak of the Christmas angels I mean rather those little angels, the really little angels, who are as many in heaven as little children are many on earth.

Now it chanced that a group of them, playing under the Tree of Life where it grows, and beside the Living Waters where they flow shining and beautiful, heard the grown-up angels talking of a great matter. They heard them talking of the birth of the Little Lord Christ upon earth, and of how the angels themselves were to announce the glad tidings to certain shepherds who lay guarding their flocks on the humble hills of Bethlehem; and of how the grown-up angels were to go with the shepherds, leading them to the place where the Little