

**BY OAK AND  
THORN; A RECORD  
OF ENGLISH DAYS**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649202751

By oak and thorn; a record of English days by Alice Brown

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**ALICE BROWN**

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# BY OAK AND THORN

A Record of English Days

BY

ALICE BROWN



7-15-19

BOSTON AND NEW YORK  
HOUGHTON, MIFFLIN AND COMPANY  
The Riverside Press, Cambridge

1897

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*The Riverside Press, Cambridge, Mass., U. S. A.*  
Electrotyped and Printed by H. O. Houghton & Co.

TO  
MY GOOD COMRADES  
WHO  
SHARED THE FOOTPATH WAY







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*" Then follow you, wherever he  
The traveling mountains of the sky,  
Or let the streams in civil mode  
Direct your choice upon a road ;*

*" For one and all, or high or low,  
Will lead you where you wish to go:  
And one and all go night and day  
Over the hills and far away ! "*

ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON.

## BY OAK AND THORN

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### IN PRAISE OF GYPSYING

AND now, with the youth of the year, hath come a strange longing upon the hearts and within the veins of all creatures living, and one born to a climate of unchanging peace would scarcely know what it might portend. For there works a sweet languor and at the same time a quickening within the blood; the spirit is given over to melancholy, and alternately to joyance, and the lips fit themselves easily to snatches of old song. Conscience is dead within us, or, if it speak, it is to fret us, though listlessly, that we stay indoors while the apple is forming within the green of the bud, and while columbines nod bravely, and over-sea the may is whitening well her fairy smock, spread lavishly upon green hedges. "What avails it," we cry, "that we labored all winter within the