WILD APPLES

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Wild Apples by Jeanne Robert Foster

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JEANNE ROBERT FOSTER

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BY
JEANNE ROBERT FOSTER
[Julie Ollivier]



BOSTON SHERMAN, FRENCH & COMPANY 1916



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WHEN I AM DEAD

When I am dead,-

Do I wish for beauty remembered for aye as a sunbright gem

To coronal me through all the years with a deathless diadem?

Do I wish my name to be as a Master-Word,

Whispered wherever the awe and terror of power is stirred.

No, none of this,-

Neither beauty nor power,—for the groping hands of men

Will scatter my dust from its quiet place, and recreate me again.

No, only this,-

The sound of my singing voice, far-falling on alien seas,

Telling the strange, wild ways of the heart,— of life's full cup, and the lees,—

Heard at high noon

As a note that compassed the gamut of earth and sky, That ran with the sweeping storm in the vault where the thunders die,— Heard through the dawn,-

In the throat of the brown peewits and sparrows that build in the eaves,

In the hedge flower's bursting bud, and the trembling sound of the leaves.

Heard in the wind,-

With that unutterable sound of passionate breath,

The gasp of a quickened life when love goes down
unto death.

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