

# **BLISS AND OTHER STORIES**

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Bliss and other stories by Katherine Mansfield

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**KATHERINE MANSFIELD**

**BLISS AND  
OTHER STORIES**



*W. H. R. W.*

# BLISS

AND OTHER STORIES

BY

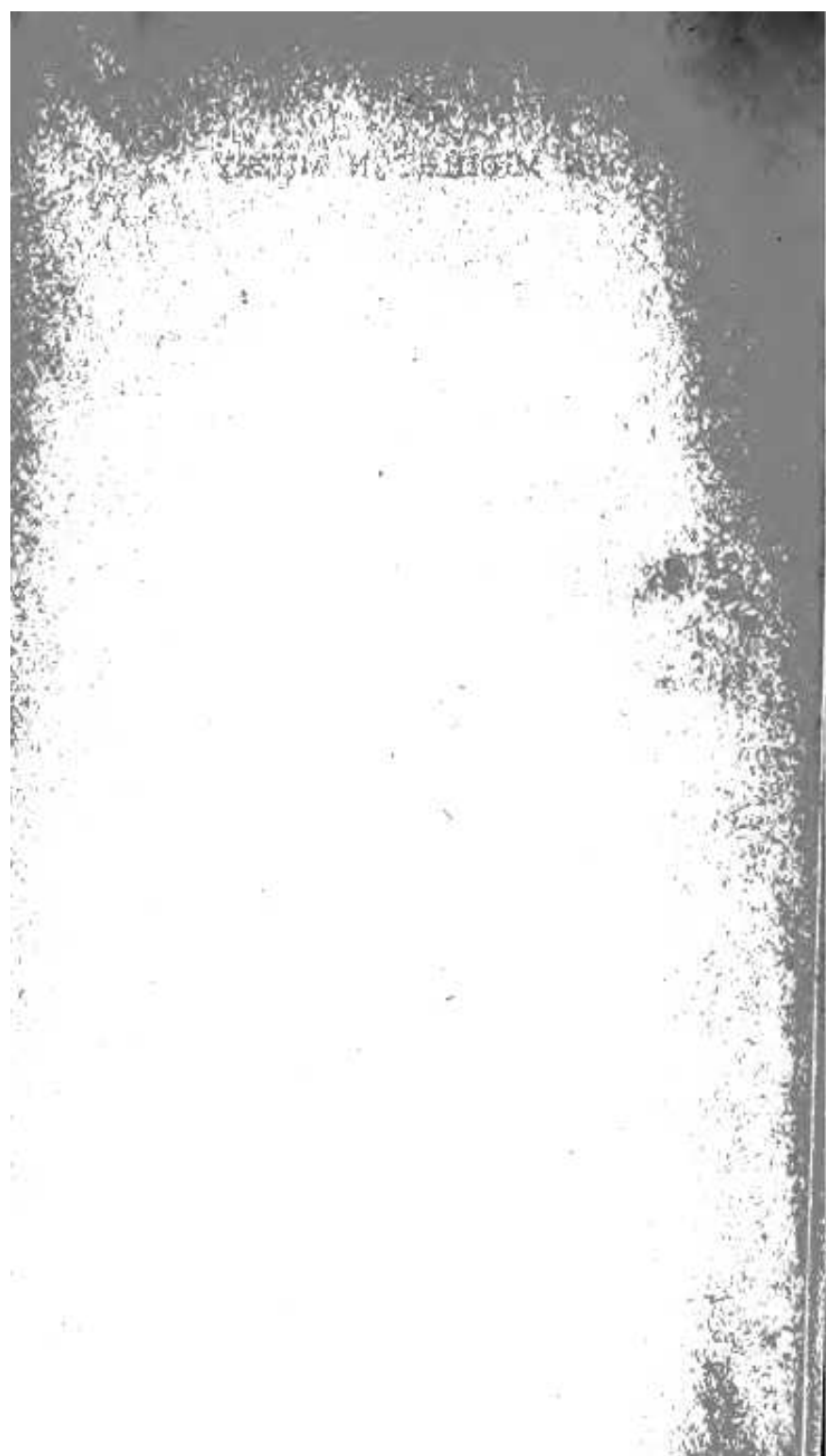
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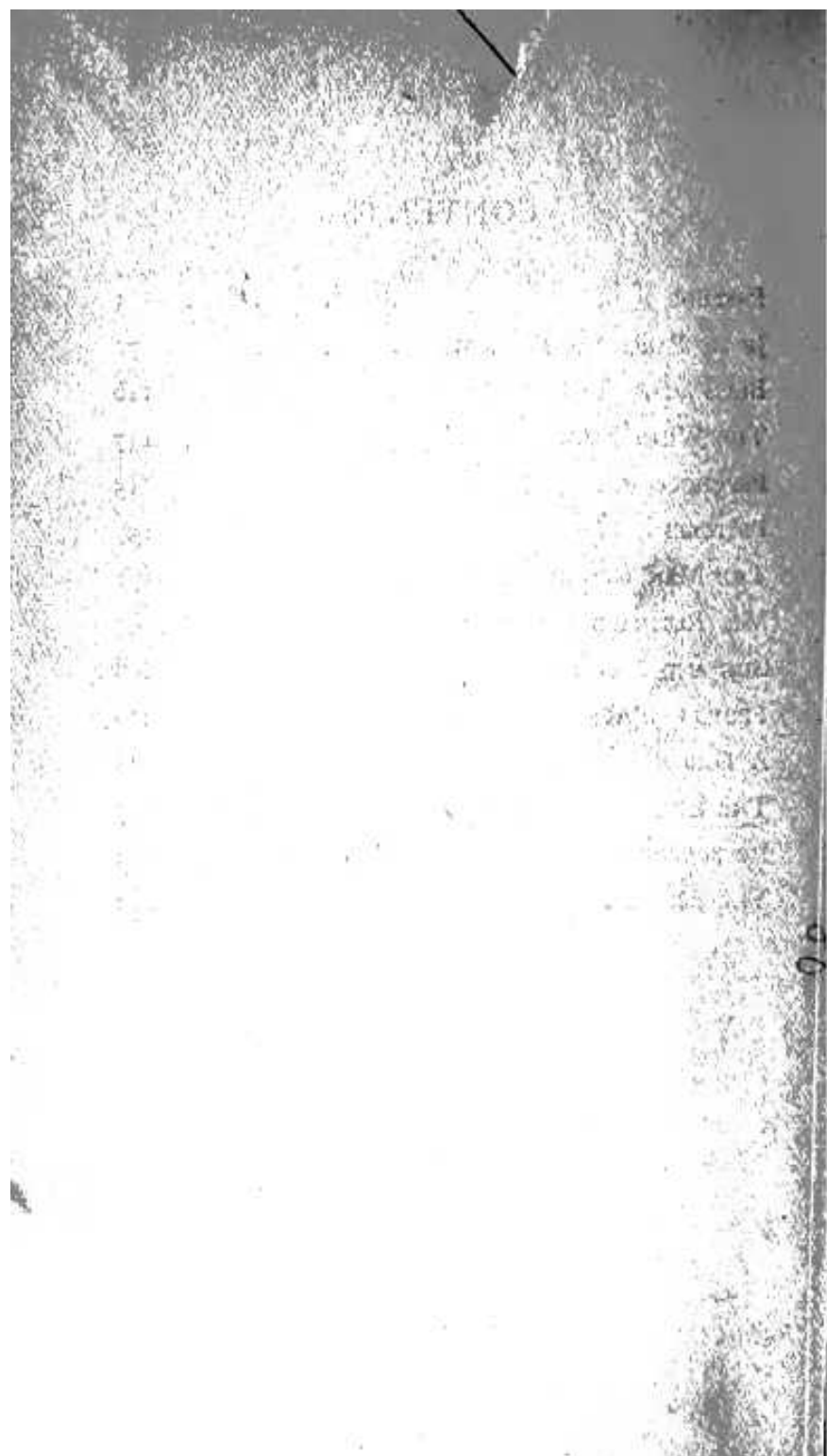
TO  
JOHN MIDDLETON MURRY





## CONTENTS

	PAGE
PRELUDE . . . . .	I
JE NE PARLE PAS FRANÇAIS . . . . .	71
BLISS . . . . .	116
THE WIND BLOWS . . . . .	137
PSYCHOLOGY . . . . .	145
PICTURES . . . . .	157
THE MAN WITHOUT A TEMPERAMENT . . . . .	172
MR. REGINALD PEACOCK'S DAY . . . . .	194
SUN AND MOON . . . . .	208
FEUILLE D'ALBUM . . . . .	218
A DILL PICKLE . . . . .	228
THE LITTLE GOVERNESS . . . . .	239
REVELATIONS . . . . .	262
THE ESCAPE . . . . .	272



## PRELUDE

### I

**T**HERE was not an inch of room for Lottie and Kezia in the buggy. When Pat swung them on top of the luggage they wobbled; the grandmother's lap was full and Linda Burnell could not possibly have held a lump of a child on hers for any distance. Isabel, very superior, was perched beside the new handy-man on the driver's seat. Hold-alls, bags and boxes were piled upon the floor. "These are absolute necessities that I will not let out of my sight for one instant," said Linda Burnell, her voice trembling with fatigue and excitement.

Lottie and Kezia stood on the patch of lawn just inside the gate all ready for the fray in their coats with brass anchor buttons and little round caps with battleship ribbons. Hand in hand, they stared with round solemn eyes first at the absolute necessities and then at their mother.

"We shall simply have to leave them. That is all. We shall simply have to cast them off," said Linda Burnell. A strange little laugh flew from her lips; she leaned back against the buttoned leather cushions and shut her eyes, her lips tremb-