

**A LOVER'S  
LITANIES,  
AND OTHER POEMS**

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A lover's litanies, and other poems by Eric Mackay

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**ERIC MACKAY**

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PUBLISHERS' NOTE.

*The great popularity of Eric Mackay's "Love Letters of a Violinist" has given rise to a demand for a neat and attractive edition of his other poetical works. Hence the publication of the present volume, which includes many new lyrics not to be found in any other collection, together with the first published portrait of the Author.*

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**First Litany.**

*VIRGO DULCIS.*

## First Litany.

*VIRGO DULCIS.*

—*—*

I.

O THOU refulgent essence of all grace !  
O thou that with the witchery of thy face  
Hast made of me thy servant unto death,  
I pray thee pause, ere, musical of breath,  
And rapt of utterance, thou condemn indeed  
My venturous wooing, and the wanton speed.

With which I greet thee, dear and tender soul !  
From out the fulness of my passion-creed.

II.

I AM so truly thine that nevermore  
Shall man be found, this side the Stygian shore,  
So meek as I, so patient under blame,  
And yet, withal, so minded to proclaim  
His lifelong ardour. For my theme is just :  
A heart enslaved, a smile, a broken trust,  
A soft mirage, a glimpse of fairyland,  
And then the wreck thereof in tears and dust.

## III.

THOU wast not made for murder, yet a glance  
 May murderous prove : and beauty may entrance,  
 More than a siren's or a serpent's eye,  
 And there are moments when a smothered sigh  
 May hint at comfort and a murmured "No"  
 Give signs of "Yes," and Misery's overflow  
 Make tears more precious than we care to tell,  
 Though, one by one, our hopes we must forego.

## IV.

I SHOULD have shunned thee as a man may shun  
 His evil hour. I should have curst the sun  
 That made the day so bright and earth so fair  
 When first we met, delirium through the air  
 Burning like fire ! I should have curst the moon  
 And all the stars that, dream-like, in a swoon  
 Shut out the day,—the loved, the lovely day  
 That came too late and left us all too soon.

## V.

I LOOKED at thee, and lo ! from face to feet,  
 I saw my tyrant, and I felt the beat  
 Of my quick pulse. I knew thee for a queen,  
 And bowed submissive ; and the smile serene  
 Of thy sweet face revealed the soul of thee.  
 For I was wounded as a man may be  
 Whom Eros tricks with words he will not prove ;  
 And all my peace of mind went out from me.