

"VERSES"

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"Verses" by Edna DeFremery

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EDNA DEFREMERY

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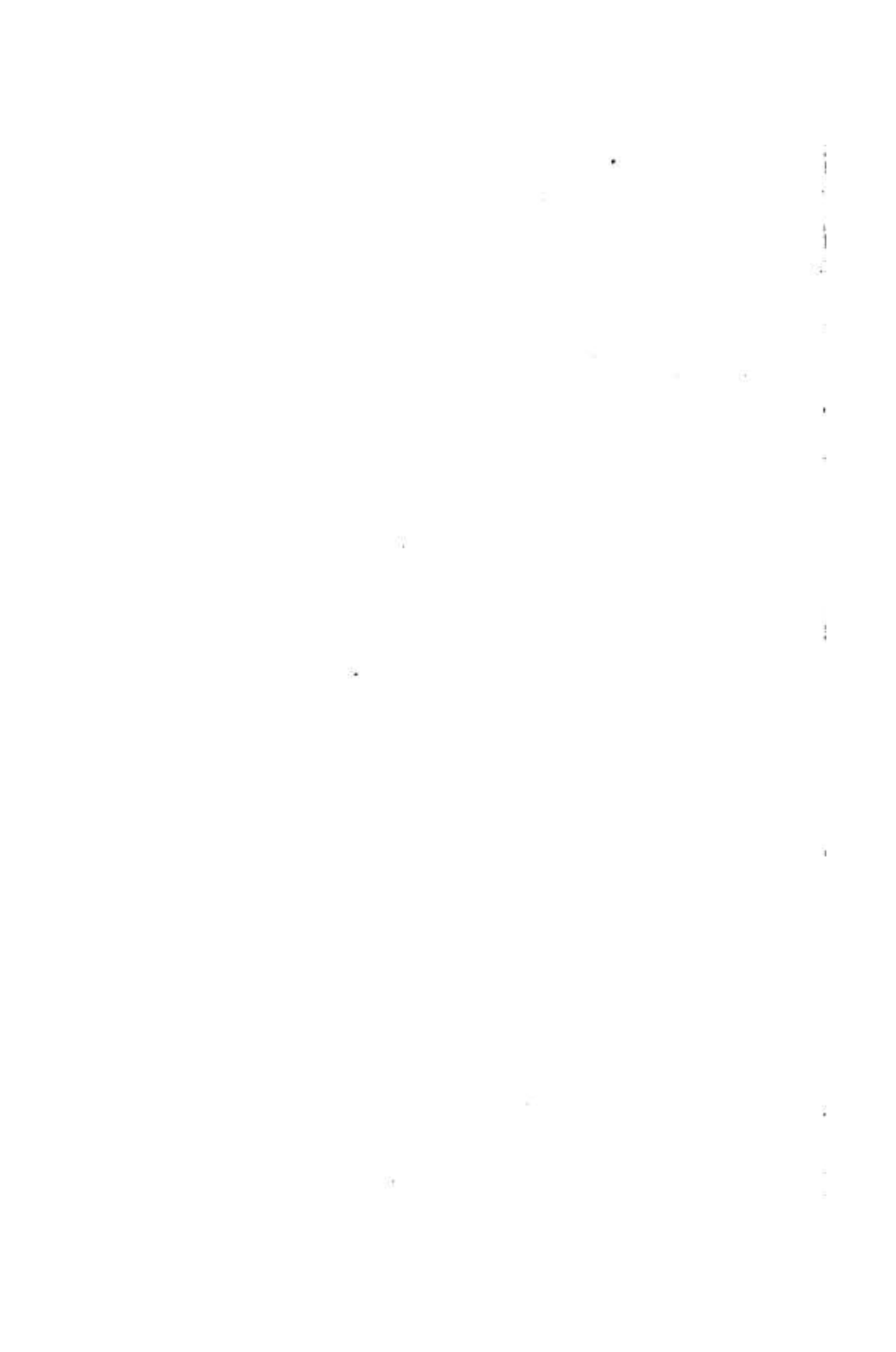
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SPRING

I.

I lived within a city street
Where never lingered sunbeam fleet
Or happy singing bird.
But close outside my window grew
A stunted, sickly tree that knew
Spring's innocence had stirred,
And putting forth a first pale shoot
Of tender green, defied the soot.

II.

My heart had lived in darkness, till
Like Spring upon the window-sill
Love bade me live anew.
So, in gold vapours of the dawn
New life into my heart was born—
New life that was for you.
It flowered on my lips, a word—
All trembling, faint, but still, you heard.

ROME

I.

Noon, and the summer blue Italian skies
Thrilling the hour—
There under sad purple cypress, lies
A white flower.

II.

Bells through the golden air, to prayer calling—
A fountain's voice
Sounds in an antique garden, falling, falling
Its tears, rejoice.

III.

You, that were all to me, living, dying—
Love, hope, and all—
Dear, you are free from earth's sorrow, and
sighing,
But my tears fall.

HOW MANY WAYS

I.

How many ways do I love you, dear?
Tell me, how many leaves there be
Ere the winds set free from the orchard's gold
The million minted leaves that hold
The carvings of eternity—
So many ways do I love you, dear.

II.

How many ways do I love, again?
Tell me, how many tears there are
In a world in chains, of war's bitter pains
Sending its crimson across the main—
And crying up to a burning star
So many ways do I love, again.

A GIFT

I.

A royal gift, you have bestowed on me
Oh my beloved. What my lips may give
In whispered gratitude will ever live
Deep in my heart. Your gift has made me see
Beyond the known, into infinity—
New vision to my eyes that used to grieve
O'er the dull pattern that my hands must
weave
In woof of frieze, upon Life's tapestry.
Now, on my loom, love blossoms like a star
That trembles in illimitable night
Like shining words God whispers from afar—
Your gold thread, for my flax, will now requite
Oh beautiful the fabric, in my sight—
Beyond the power of life, or death to mar.