LAST LETTERS FROM THE LIVING DEAD MAN

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Last letters from the living dead man by Elsa Barker

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ELSA BARKER

LAST LETTERS FROM THE LIVING DEAD MAN



BY ELSA BARKER

LETTERS FROM A LIVING DEAD MAN
WAR LETTERS FROM THE LIVING DEAD

SONGS OF A VAGROM ANGEL

LAST LETTERS FROM THE LIVING DEAD MAN

THE SON OF MARY BETHEL

THE FROZEN GRAIL

MAN

THE BOOK OF LOVE

STORIES FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT FOR CHILDREN

LAST LETTERS FROM THE LIVING DEAD MAN

WRITTEN DOWN
BY
ELSA BARKER

WITH AN INTRODUCTION



NEW YORK
MITCHELL KENNERLEY
1919

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INTRODUCTION

THIS book, the third and last of the Living Dead Man series, was written between February, 1917, and February, 1918. Then I lost the ability—or perhaps I should say the inclination—to do automatic writing.

As this third manuscript was shorter than the other two, I had supposed it to be a fragment which would probably never be finished; and it was not until my publisher urged me to issue it as a fragment that I read it all over for the first time and discovered that it was really a complete thing, an organic whole.

"Perhaps," I told myself, surprised and still half-incredulous, "there is a divinity that shapes our ends." For had this book been published when it was written, it would have seemed premature; now the greater part of it is timely as yesterday's editorials.

For the benefit of those who have not read the earlier books of the series, "Letters From a Living Dead Man," 1914, and "War Letters From the Living Dead Man," 1915, I will quote from the Introductions of those books. In the first Introduction I said:

"One night last year in Paris I was strongly impelled to take up a pencil and write, though what I was to write about I had no idea. Yielding to the impulse, my hand was seized as if from the outside, and a remarkable message of a personal nature came, followed by the signature 'X.'