

**LITTLE LOVE  
STORIES OF  
MANHATTAN**

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Little Love Stories of Manhattan by Melville Chater

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**MELVILLE CHATER**

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NOTE.

I wish to acknowledge the courtesy of the *New York Herald*, in the Sunday Supplement of which newspaper eighteen of these tales first appeared.

"Cupid, Highwayman" and "Cupid, Castaway" were published in the *Metropolitan Magazine*, and "Cupid, Motorman" in the *Cosmopolitan Magazine*; and to those periodicals similar acknowledgments are due.

M. C.

W O R 19 FEB 36





TO

A LITTLE BLIND BOY;

The greatest infant prodigy of any age; who levels all ranks, conquers all things, laughs at locksmiths and makes the world go round;

The diminutive globe-trotter who comes at all times, in all places, manners and tongues, unto all sorts and conditions of men;

The only original baby freak (Walk up, walk up!) who appears diversely to spectators as an angel, an imp, a saviour, a tyrant, a sphinx, a nuisance, but to one and all, a fascinating, unique and inexplicable curiosity;

The last and youngest of the graven gods, unto whom rises eternal incense of laughter, sighs, print, scrawl, epic, doggrel, strife, misery and mute self-sacrifice;

The immortal *gamin* who, by day and night, fair and foul, loafs through avenue, street and alley; who is ubiquitously and irrepressibly at home in brown stone and tenement, among grand dames and shop-girls, magnates and fakirs, and throughout every length and height of the city's warring mechanism; who taunting Sir Gladrag all adown the street, pauses to slap Bill Bluejean on the shoulder and bid him be of checr; or breathing behind one hand unto Margnerite, "He loves you!" doth snicker unto Mag from behind the other, "Nothin' doin'!"

The great, little cosmopolite who can say "I love you!" in seventeen thousand dialects;

The child genius of literature, whose plots are bald and whose dialogue is trite; who lacks style, splits infinitives and murders the King's English; yet whose work reflects the eternal freshness of the early earth, and whose merest touch rings with immortality;

To

THE TRUE ROMANECR

these slight imitations of his handiwork are  
admiringly and respectfully inscribed.



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