THE CHARNEL ROSE. SENLIN: A BIOGRAPHY AND OTHER POEMS. [BOSTON-1918]

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The Charnel Rose. Senlin: A Biography and Other Poems. [Boston-1918] by Conrad Aiken

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CONRAD AIKEN

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THE CHARNEL ROSE

By CONRAD AIKEN

THE CHARNEL Rose, and Other Poems

Nocturne of Remembered Spring, and Other Poems

The Jig of Forslin, A Symphony

Turns and Movies, and Other Tales in Verse

Earth Triumphant, and Other Tales in Verse

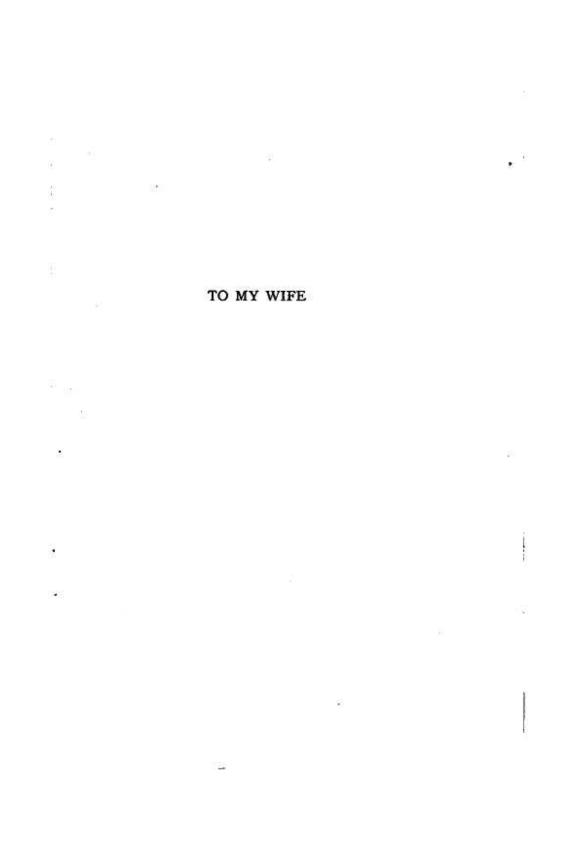
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Boston
The Four Seas Company
1918



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SENLIN: A BIOGRAPHY

[1918]

SENLIN: A BIOGRAPHY

1. His Dark Origins

I.

Senlin sits before us, and we see him . . .

He smokes his pipe before us, and we hear him . . .

Is he small, with reddish hair,

Does he light his pipe with a meditative stare,

And a pointed flame reflected in both eyes?

Is he sad and happy and foolish and wise? . . .

Did no one see him enter the doors of the city,

Looking about him at roofs and trees and skies? . . .

'I stepped from a cloud,' he says, 'as evening fell,

I walked on the sound of a bell;

I ran with winged heels along a gust;

Or is it true that I laughed and sprang from the dust? . . .

Has no one, in a great autumnal forest,
When the wind bares the trees with mournful tone,
Heard the sad horn of Senlin slowly blown? . . .
Has no one, on a mountain in the spring,
Heard Senlin sing?