



A TREASURY OF SPRING

Poems & Stories for the Season

WINDERMERE PRESS



THIS TREASURY BELONGS TO

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FRONT COVER ARTWORK:

Carnation, Lily, Lily, Rose by John Singer Sargent (1885)



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TABLE OF CONTENTS



SPRING FEVER

<i>Spring</i> by WILLIAM BLAKE	17
<i>Spring</i> by THOMAS NASHE	19
<i>Spring Morning</i> by A. A. MILNE	20
<i>Days Too Short</i> by W. H. DAVIES	22
<i>The River Bank</i> by KENNETH GRAHAME	23

BLUSTERY DAYS

<i>A March Song</i> by NORA HOPPER	43
<i>The Wind</i> by ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON	44
<i>Wind on the Hill</i> by A. A. MILNE	46
<i>Who Has Seen The Wind?</i> by CHRISTINA ROSSETTI	48
<i>The Wind's Visit</i> by EMILY DICKINSON	49
<i>The North Wind and the Sun</i> by AESOP	50

RAIN SHOWERS

<i>Rain</i> by ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON	55
<i>Rain Music</i> by JOSEPH S. COTTER JR.	56
<i>The Rain</i> by W. H. DAVIES	57
<i>April Rain</i> by MATHILDE BLIND	58
<i>Piglet Is Entirely Surrounded by Water</i> by A. A. MILNE	59

BLOOMING FLOWERS

<i>Daffydowndilly</i> by A. A. MILNE	75
<i>Daffodil Time</i> by CLINTON SCOLLARD	76
<i>I wandered lonely as a cloud</i> by WILLIAM WORDSWORTH	77
<i>Country Gardens</i> , TRADITIONAL ENGLISH SONG	74
from <i>Nest Building</i> by FRANCES HODGSON BURNETT	80

SAINT PATRICK'S DAY

<i>Ireland</i> by FLORENCE KELLETT	95
<i>A Piper</i> by SEAMUS O'SULLIVAN	97
<i>The Song of Wandering Aengus</i> by W. B. YEATS	98
<i>An Irish Lullaby</i> by JAMES ROYCE SHANNON	100
<i>The Leprecaun</i> by CLARA LINKLATER THOMSON	102

EASTER

<i>The Lent Lily</i> by A. E. HOUSMAN	109
<i>Loveliest of trees</i> by A. E. HOUSMAN	110
<i>The Little Black Hen</i> by A. A. MILNE	111
<i>Easter Week</i> by CHARLES KINGSLEY	117
<i>On Easter Day</i> by CELIA THAXTER	118

SAINT GEORGE'S DAY

<i>The Englishman</i> by G. K. CHESTERTON	121
<i>The Knight and the Lady</i> , TRADITIONAL ENGLISH RHYME	123
<i>Knight-in-Armour</i> by A. A. MILNE	124
<i>The Deliverers of Their Country</i> by E. NESBIT	125

SHAKESPEARE

<i>Where the bee sucks</i> by WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE	147
<i>Our revels now are ended</i> by WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE	148
<i>If we shadows have offended</i> by WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE	149
<i>The Tempest</i> by E. NESBIT	150

MAYTIDE

<i>Waiting for the May</i> by DENIS FLORENCE MACCARTHY	163
<i>Sweet May</i> by DENIS FLORENCE MACCARTHY	165
<i>May Magic</i> by CLINTON SCOLLARD	167
<i>When Spring Comes Back to England</i> by ALFRED NOYES	169
<i>May and the Poets</i> by LEIGH HUNT	171

Introduction



Introduction

A TREASURY OF SPRING



After months of waiting patiently—or perhaps not so patiently!—spring shakes off the snow and ice of winter and bursts forth with birdsong, budding plants, and buzzing insects. It is nature’s new year, a time of fresh air, fresh starts, and fresh ways of enjoying the natural world around us.

We’ve designed our *Treasury of Spring* to be the perfect literary companion to the season, with poems, stories, and excerpts from longer works that explore all that springtime brings. The treasury is organized into themed sections that follow the course of the season from March through May, so you can read each section when the theme matches what is happening in nature or when a particular holiday comes around. Or, you may prefer to read the whole treasury at the beginning of the season, to help you look forward to what the days and weeks ahead hold in store. Either way, we hope that this treasury will inspire you to reflect on what sets spring apart from other seasons and to make the most of what this time of year offers us.

Our springtime frolics begin with **Spring Fever**, a selection of works brimming with excitement and energy at the first signs of returning warmth and light after the long, cold winter. As this season of change so often brings changeable weather, we also

brace for less temperate spells of wind and rain in **Blustery Days** and **Rain Showers**. But even these dreary days bring spots of brightness, for spring showers set our gardens growing with daffodils and other seasonal blossoms like those featured in **Blooming Flowers**.

Our spring festivities also include several holidays, starting with a celebration of Irish literature and culture for the feast of **Saint Patrick**, Ireland's patron saint, on March 17. Next, we anticipate **Easter** with poems for the Easter season from Lent to Holy Week to Easter Sunday itself, with a particular focus on how this season of spiritual renewal is reflected in nature.

Two important English cultural events fall on April 23. The first is the feast day of **Saint George**, the patron Saint of England who is renowned in legend for slaying a dragon and saving a princess—we pay tribute to his day with works about Saint George himself and about knights, ladies, and dragons in general. April 23 is also the birth and death day of the great English poet and playwright **William Shakespeare**, so we've included verse excerpts from two of his plays and a short story adaptation of *The Tempest*.

Finally, we round out the spring with poems for **Maytide**. May was traditionally a time for much merriment in Europe, beginning with May Day celebrations on the first day of the month. Maytide also marked the transition from spring to summer, making this theme the perfect conclusion to our literary journey from springtime's fitful beginnings to its flowery finale.

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Publisher's Note

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The selections in this treasury are all in the public domain, which means that they were originally published at least 95 years before the publication of this treasury. We've selected works for this treasury that we believe have a timeless quality, but there are occasional differences between the language of today and that of a century or more ago. Context clues and any modern dictionary are usually all that are needed to decipher these differences, so all of the works included in this treasury are unaltered from their original sources.

The poem by Emily Dickinson on page 49 is presented as it was first published in 1891 in a collection edited by Dickinson's friends Mabel Tood Loomis and Thomas Wentworth Higginson. However, it is worth noting that Loomis and Higginson replaced much of Dickinson's original formatting with more standard punctuation and gave titles to her untitled poems. Readers may also wish to seek out newer editions of Dickinson's work with her original formatting restored for comparison.

The illustrations included in this treasury are also drawn from the public domain, and were overwhelmingly created specifically for the works they accompany.

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Spring Fever



Spring Morning

A. A. MILNE



Where am I going? I don't quite know.
Down to the stream where the king-cups grow —
Up on the hill where the pine trees blow —
Anywhere, anywhere. *I don't know.*

Where am I going? The clouds sail by,
Little ones, baby ones, over the sky.
Where am I going? The shadows pass,
Little ones, baby ones, over the grass.

If you were a cloud, and sailed up there,
You'd sail on water as blue as air,
And you'd see me here in the fields and say:
"Doesn't the sky look green to-day?"

Where am I going? The high rooks call:
"It's awful fun to be born at all."
Where am I going? The ring-doves coo:
"We do have beautiful things to do."

If you were a bird, and lived on high,
You'd lean on the wind when the wind came by,
You'd say to the wind when it took you away:
"*That's* where I wanted to go to-day!"

Where am I going? I don't quite know.
What does it matter where people go?
Down to the wood where the blue-bells grow –
Anywhere, anywhere. *I* don't know.



Easter



Easter Week

CHARLES KINGSLEY



See the land, her Easter keeping,
Rises as her Maker rose.
Seeds, so long in darkness sleeping,
Burst at last from winter snows.
Earth with heaven above rejoices;
Fields and gardens hail the spring;
Shaughs and woodlands ring with voices,
While the wild birds build and sing.

You, to whom your Maker granted
Powers to those sweet birds unknown,
Use the craft by God implanted;
Use the reason not your own.
Here, while heaven and earth rejoices,
Each his Easter tribute bring—
Work of fingers, chant of voices,
Like the birds who build and sing.