



Seamstress and Poet: And Other Verses (Classic Reprint)

By Felicia Ross Johnson

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 Seamstress and Poet
 The tawny, last-year berries of the ash
 Move up and down among their shapely boughs,
 The breezes sound like waves, that curl and dash,
 -Like brooks in clover-fields, where cattle browse.
 Sweet country pictures rise upon my thoughts,
 My feet are hid in leaves, nut-brown and cool;
 And as I sew, a silken-broidered wreath
 Doth grow, from fancy wrought, Of gold-leaf pansies,
 lilies by a pool, And tulips, shining from a riven sheath. Their beauty grows, and yet they are too still;
 No wheat-ear floats and bends before the wind,
 No brimming chalices their odors spill,
 Nor poplar leaf doth show it silver-lined. They lie with lifeless, ruddy lip to lip,
 In the dim sunshine and the citys smoke;
 Unwet with freshening touch of gradual rains,
 Where bird nor bee will sip,
 Nor, doth the sweetbriar, swung by a zephyrs stroke,
 Drop a sweet smell, like myrrh at ancient fanes. And I - well, bread can scarcely be foregone,
 Or I would leave them for a plot of moss,
 Where I could watch to-morrows misty dawn
 From a rills...



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