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**Down-adown-derry**

**W. de la Mare**

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**Title: Down-adown-derry**

**Author: W. de la Mare**

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## CONTENTS

	PAGE
FAIRIES	
The Fairies Dancing . . . . .	3
Dream-Song . . . . .	4
A-Tishoo . . . . .	7
The Double . . . . .	8
The Unfinished Dream . . . . .	11
The Horn . . . . .	14
The Three Beggars . . . . .	17
The Stranger . . . . .	20
The Ruin . . . . .	23
The Fairy in Winter . . . . .	24
Sleepyhead . . . . .	27
Sam's Three Wishes: or Life's Little Whirligig . . . . .	29
Peak and Puke . . . . .	39
The Changeling . . . . .	41
Lob Lie by the Fire . . . . .	45
Bluebells . . . . .	48
The Honey Robbers . . . . .	51
Berries . . . . .	55
Happy, Happy It Is to Be . . . . .	58
The Midden's Song . . . . .	63
All But Blind . . . . .	64
The Mocking Fairy . . . . .	69
Down-Adown-Derry . . . . .	70

	PAGE
<b>WITCHES AND WITCHCRAFT</b>	
The Hare . . . . .	76
I Saw Three Witches . . . . .	79
The Isle of Lone . . . . .	81
Sunk Lyonesse . . . . .	86
Sleeping Beauty . . . . .	89
Bewitched . . . . .	91
The Enchanted Hill . . . . .	93
The Ride-By-Nights . . . . .	97
Off the Ground . . . . .	99
Sadly, O, Sadly . . . . .	105
The Dwarf . . . . .	109
Longlegs . . . . .	112
The Mermaids . . . . .	116
The Little Creature . . . . .	119
Sam . . . . .	121
The Witch . . . . .	125
The Journey . . . . .	129
As Lucy Went A-Walking . . . . .	134
 <b>THE WORLD OF DREAM</b>	
Beware! . . . . .	140
Some One . . . . .	143
Music . . . . .	147
Haunted . . . . .	149
They Told Me . . . . .	151
The Sunken Garden . . . . .	153
Snow . . . . .	155
The World of Dream . . . . .	159

## CONTENTS

vii

	PAGE
Queen Djenira . . . . .	162
Nightfall . . . . .	165
Cumberland . . . . .	167
The Little Green Orchard . . . . .	171
The Truants . . . . .	173
The Little Salamander . . . . .	177
Voices . . . . .	178
Sorcery . . . . .	181
Melmillo . . . . .	187
The Quiet Enemy . . . . .	188
Mistletoe . . . . .	191
Not I . . . . .	195



# FAIRIES





## DOWN - A DOWN - DERRY

### THE FAIRIES DANCING

I HEARD along the early hills,  
Ere yet the lark was risen up,  
Ere yet the dawn with firelight fills  
The night-dew of the bramble-cup, —  
I heard the fairies in a ring  
Sing as they tripped a lilting round  
Soft as the moon on wavering wing.  
The starlight shook as if with sound,  
As if with echoing, and the stars  
Prankt their bright eyes with trembling gleams  
While red with war the gusty Mars  
Rained upon earth his ruddy beams.  
He shone alone, low down the West,  
While I, behind a hawthorn-bush,  
Watched on the fairies flaxen-tressed  
The fires of the morning flush.  
Till, as a mist, their beauty died,  
Their singing shrill and fainter grew;  
And daylight tremulous and wide  
Flooded the moorland through and through;  
Till Urdon's copper weathercock  
Was reared in golden flame afar,  
And dim from moonlit dreams awoke  
The towers and groves of Arroar.

## DOWN - A DOWN - DERRY

### DREAM-SONG

SUNLIGHT, moonlight,  
Twilight, starlight —  
Gloaming at the close of day,  
And an owl calling,  
Cool dews falling  
In a wood of oak and may.

Lantern-light, taper-light,  
Torchlight, no-light:  
Darkness at the shut of day,  
And lions roaring,  
Their wrath pouring  
In wild waste places far away.

Elf-light, bat-light,  
Touchwood-light and toad-light,  
And the sea a shimmering gloom of grey,  
And a small face smiling  
In a dream's beguiling  
In a world of wonders far away.



