

ELIZA RITCHIE

INFINITE RICHES

Eliza Ritchie (1856-1933) was born in Halifax, Nova Scotia. She earned a bachelor's degree from Dalhousie University in 1887 and a doctorate from Cornell University in 1889. She briefly taught at Vassar College in Poughkeepsie, New York, and in 1890 she taught at Wellesley College in Wellesley, Massachusetts, where she remained for nearly a decade. In 1889 she returned to Halifax and worked as a lecturer at Dalhousie University, and in 1919 she became the first woman on the Board of Governors. In 1921 she was also a founding member of the Editorial Board of *The Dalhousie Review*, and she remained an active editor and contributor for the rest of her career. The following poem was published in the January 1936 issue and included in the collection *In the Gloaming* (1935).

Within my House of Life from curious eyes
Close hid, and guarded safe from robbers' power,
Is one fair room. Soft silken tapestries,
Faint-tinted, wrought with many a bird and flower,
Hang on its walls. In each recess doth stand
Some marble, warm of tone,—nymph, athlete, faun,—
Which tells its tale of Greece. On either hand
By carven tables are gold caskets borne,
Filled to the brims, which shimmer in the light,
With rubies, opals, gems of every hue.
From out the casement there lie, just in sight,
The distant tops of hills against the blue.
You say my House is common, poor and mean?
Ah! but its Treasury you have not seen!