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WEIRD TALES ISSUED 1st OF EACH MONTH

Deserted House

By MARION DOYLE

I thought:

Here are but echoing emptiness and dust,
Silence and mystery, dead dreams of old desires;
But over the foot-marred threshold shadows thrust
Their fingers, groping for the phantom fires
Of a pale moon's light that lies like sunlight spent
Upon the tangled grasses of the lawn;
Here are faint, half-heard whispers, eloquent
Of vanished voices; the phenomenon
Of printless footfalls; on the rotted rafter,
Perched like storm-driven and bewildered birds,
Flutter the shades of long-lost tears and laughter,
Of ruffled, smooth, of gray and irised words:

Hearing the echoed cries of birth and death,
Hearing the muted whisper of old vows,
There is a Something catches at the breath;
Something defies the name—Deserted House.