

1948

Allegory for Two Flowers

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Recommended Citation

Doughty, LeGarde S.. "Allegory for Two Flowers." *New Mexico Quarterly* 18, 1 (1948). <https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/nmq/vol18/iss1/5>

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ALLEGORY FOR TWO FLOWERS

I CAMELLIA

Porcelain blooming cool
 As primness through
 Exclusive shop,
 Tinted tinkles drop
 Their sound into
 The eye's dark pool.

Clerk in tailored serge
 Shyly slants
 His vigilance
 To bulbous dowager;
 Tips neurotic verge
 Lest heavy looks from her
 Strike bruin-like about
 To crystal ruin.

II GARDENIA

First, what it is not.
 It is not a compliment
 Forethoughtfully sent
 In a box under screen
 Of green paper with green
 Leaves the greener, having smack
 Of gardener's pot
 Of clear shellac.

This:
 Last hour of week.
 Two shadows writ in scrawl
 Of moon. Nostalgic squeak
 Of old gate hinged in rust.
 Quiet feminine drawl
 Of words as small
 As sand, as languorous as lust.

LE GARDE S. DOUGHTY