

1938

Bones and Skin

Opal Shannon

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Recommended Citation

Shannon, Opal. "Bones and Skin." *New Mexico Quarterly* 8, 4 (1938). <https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/nmq/vol8/iss4/10>

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246] *The* NEW MEXICO QUARTERLY

I am feeding birds! And they are *real* gulls. Only this time they do not come from the Baltic Sea, but from the Gulf of Mexico. See where Life has taken me?" . . . Have you ever thought that your little ninny daughter would move this far across the globe? Wasn't it more dangerous to do than to walk with you over Nicolai's Bridge? . . .

However, I am here, and at times weeping too, far more bitterly than I wept then. And there is no one near to take me by the hand. I have to make my journeys all by myself, just as you said. . . .

But I have the memory of you and your sweet grace. And that helps me to move forward almost as well as your hand did, when it led me across the street in those gone by days. . . . And your voice chiming: "Come, come! I won't let you get lost!" is even now echoing about my heart.

Bones and Skin

By OPAL SHANNON

Muscle and sinew were
useful for walking,
for running with the wind
or cleaving the clear
waters of the pool
until this
gracious warmth
sprang beautiful
beneath your hand.

Bones and skin
. . . astonishing magic . . .
ivory thigh curve.