

1941

Deirdre and Rachel

Irene Fisher

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Recommended Citation

Fisher, Irene. "Deirdre and Rachel." *New Mexico Quarterly* 11, 4 (1941). <https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/nmq/vol11/iss4/21>

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DEIRDRE AND RACHEL

Jacob served
 Seven long years for Rachel
 And they seemed to him but a few days
 For the love he had to her.

Seven years
 The Sons of Usna served
 Deirdre of the sorrows, whitely beautiful,
 More lovely than the glory of the moon.
 Naisi met a high and comely end
 For love of a white-throated queen
 And Ainnle and Ardan, serving her,
 Died for an old king's thwarted love.

Men will remember
 That Rachel was fair and well favored
 And Jacob loved her.
 Remember the bewildering kiss
 Of Naisi and Deirdre
 When the birds awoke above them.
 Men will remember these
 And sorrow that they are gone.

But Deirdre and Rachel
 Meeting in the place of shades
 Know they live forever
 In the memory of man's desire.

IRENE FISHER

BIG ROCK CANDY MOUNTAINS

My ears like icicles were frozen back
 (Curved, intact) to catch sleep's absolute.

Where the Big Horn keep to the zenith,
 Blue carpet of wind was over the ice.

My ears broke. I tried twice to hold
 My death forever final. I tried twice.

NORMAN MACLEOD