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Weird Tales

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WEIRD TALES ISSUED 1st OF EACH MONTH

Futility

By ROBERT E. HOWARD

Golden goats on a hillside black,
Silken hose on a wharf-side trull,
Naked girl on a silver rack—
What are dreams in a shadowed skull?

I stood at a shrine and Chiron died,
A woman laughed from the bawdy
roofs,
And he burned and lived and rose in his
pride
And shattered the tiles with clanging
hoofs.

I opened a volume dark and rare,
I lit a candle of mystic lore—
Bare feet throbbed on the outer stair
And the candle faltered to the floor.

Ships that sail on a windy sea,
Lovers that take the world to wife,
What doth the harlot hold for me
Who scarce have lifted the veil of Life?