It is August 1913 in Stratford-on-Avon. I stand at the stage door of the old Memorial Theatre. Looking down into the river I see myself dressed in a black costume of the 15th Century and holding in my arms a large bouquet of big white calla lilies. In a few minutes I shall lay my flowers at Juliet's tomb, cross swords with Romeo and, in the rule of Paris, pass into the records of my beloved profession, humbly taking my place in the history of the Stratford Festivals.

From upstream the river comes to me like a song I must have heard in some other life of a deep longing. Slowly and sweetly it is passing under the bridge bearing on its cool breast two proud white swans. They glide by me, and on downstream past Stratford Church, the burial place of William Shakespeare whom, God rest, has given me this most exquisite moment of realization.

My "call" comes and I go into the theatre and up onto the stage. On a bier, lighted by four tall candles lies Juliet, my first Juliet whom I love with all my heart and to whom I hardly ever speak, except in my part, for fear she shall break my dream. She never did. Even now I never think of her as Dorothy Green but as my first Juliet.

- **One Year Later!** Malvern Wostershire. I am dressed in red and gold. I am standing in Juliet's garden looking up at her as she steps out onto her balcony to commune with me and with the night which is so completely ours, and ours alone, despite the presence of a large audience. Where are you today, my second Juliet? You had a soft and gentle loveliness that I like to remember.

There is a town somewhere in the northern part of England. I can see it clearly in my mind's eye but, for the life of me, I cannot recall its name. However, "what's in a name: a rose by any other name would smell as sweet!" So let it be. It is time to go to the theatre. A deep glow from the setting sun gives this smoky city an illusive loveliness that I am sure reality denies it! I wanted to play Romeo so very.

(Continued on page 61)
Juliet's I Have Known

(Continued from page thirty-two)

much that night. My whole being seemed tuned for the exquisite experience. I was very happy and very excited and very sad. I remember that I wanted to cry and that I did!

This Juliet was my third. I can't remember her name. Perhaps that is the greatest compliment I can pay her. I thought of her as Juliet. She had dark eyes and a very white skin and very dark hair; she was very beautiful. She lived in Verona. What does it matter that she had some other name than Juliet on a programme, that people bought and handled and threw away after the performance was over, only to remember, as I did, that she was Juliet?

* In August 1919—after some soldiering in France I returned to Stratford to play Romeo again. It was to be my first Romeo in Stratford and Joyce Carey was my fourth Juliet. Of all my experiences in the theatre these performances of Romeo and Juliet in August, 1919, were the most complete I have ever known.

Joyce was nineteen at the time, I think—a lovely child whose Juliet had a piquant expectancy about it that I had never met before. We saw a great deal of each other and lived in an atmosphere of the play, walking together on moonlight nights over to Shottery where Shakespeare had courted Ann Hathaway, or we would seek the seclusion of the willow laden river banks or the silent inspiring little streets of Stratford itself. (The whole town, with the exception of ourselves, slept soundly long before midnight!)

* On the afternoon before our first performance, we picked as many flowers as we could carry and walked with them to Shakespeare's grave where

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