



Universiteit
Leiden
The Netherlands

The Thorn and the Blossom by Theodora Goss

Vasas, A.

Citation

Vasas, A. (2012). The Thorn and the Blossom by Theodora Goss. *Re_*, 1(1), 25-25. Retrieved from <https://hdl.handle.net/1887/30009>

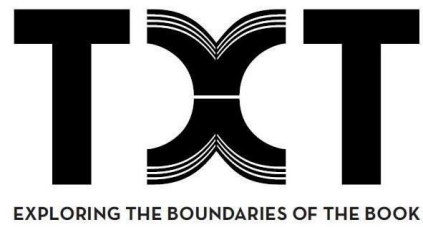
Version: Not Applicable (or Unknown)

License: [Leiden University Non-exclusive license](#)

Downloaded from: <https://hdl.handle.net/1887/30009>

Note: To cite this publication please use the final published version (if applicable).

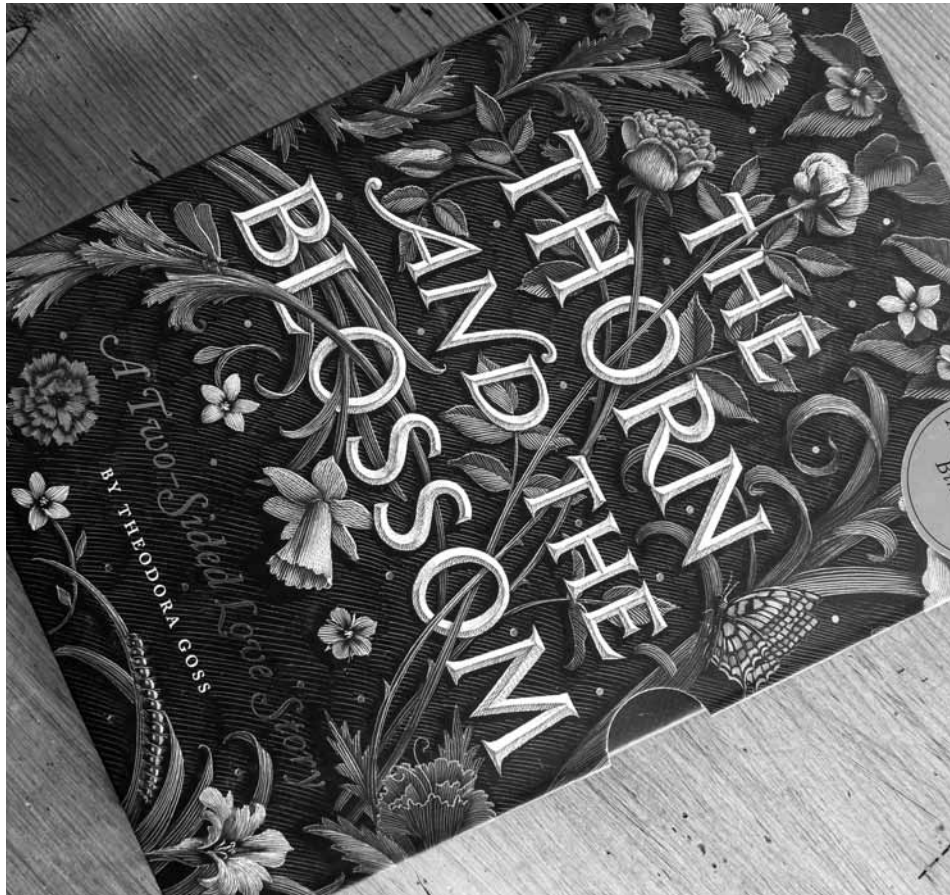
Cover Page



The handle <http://hdl.handle.net/1887/28849> holds the collection of TXT in the Leiden University Repository.

This document has been released under the following Creative Commons license





The Thorn and the Blossom by Theodora Goss

ASHLEY VASAS

This book is a charming read in equally charming packaging – it comes in a pretty box sleeve that protects the accordion-fold novella. I found the book difficult to put down, not from any awkwardness of the accordion pages, but due to the story itself. Which, luckily, is just under 40 pages per side and is easily accomplished in an afternoon. The clever design also serves another purpose, allowing the reader to experience two sides to the same story. When you begin reading *The Thorn and the Blossom* you must make a choice, whether to read Brendan or Evelyn's story first. Upon completing one side of the story, you may begin the other.

The dual tale unfolds with the turn of each accordion page. What could have been a simple romance brings in a bit of fantasy and ties in to the local myth of Clews, that of Elowen and Gawan from Arthurian time. The story is one of star-crossed lovers, to whom the author dedicates the book. Brendan, a graduate student from Cornwall, meets Evelyn, an American abroad to study at Oxford, in the sleepy seaside village of Clews. And so begins a romance that spans years and continents, the two lovers are kept apart through a series of events and life choices, but are always brought back together. It is a sweet story, although

a bit predictable at times, and unfortunately this cannot be blamed on the dual nature of the read.

However, the book makes a beautiful addition to any book lovers' shelf. The design of the book seems to have been very carefully considered, both for aesthetics and for the comfort of reading what could otherwise have been an exercise in dexterity. The book was remarkably easy to handle despite the lack of traditional binding to hold it together.

The author, Theodora Goss, has written several short stories, poems, and essays, but *The Thorn and the Blossom* is her first novella. She is a lecturer in the English Department at Boston University. More information is available on her website: <http://theodoragoss.com/>.

ashley.vasas@gmail.com