



2 Cute
+ 2 Be

4 Gotten

Autograph Memories
by
Nancy Runner



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Dedication

Go forth thou little album
I leave thee to thy fate
To love and friendship truly
Thy leaves I dedicate

1883

Introduction:

The first autograph book I found belonged to my mother and contained rhymes written by her friends in the 1930's. Then I found my great aunt Josephine's album from the 1920's and an album belonging to my great grandmother from the 1880's! Friends have also shared autograph verses that they remember from their school days.

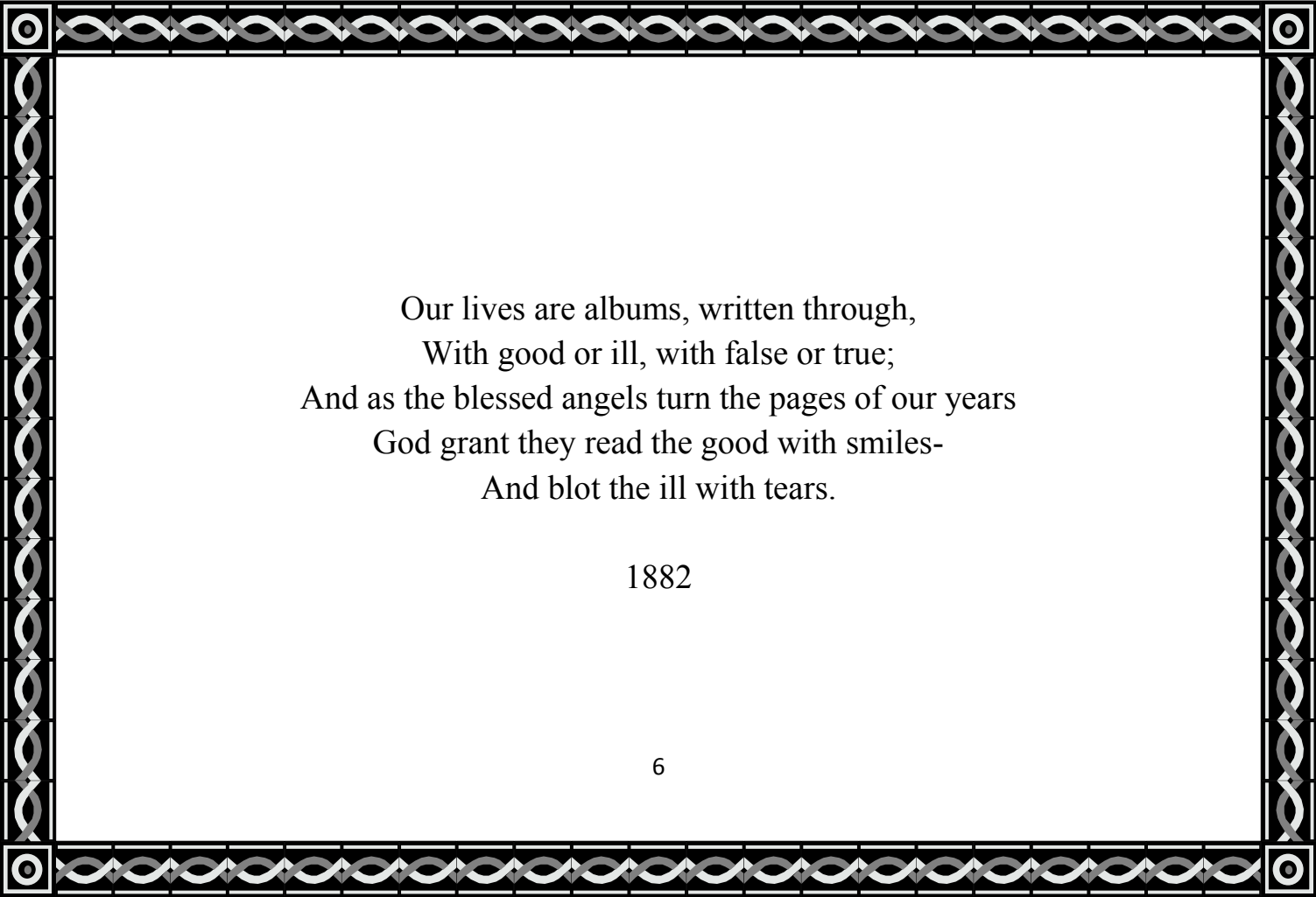
These little poems are a reflection of the times in which their authors lived. For example, the rhymes of the 1880's have a more serious tone. Those authors knew life could be hard and even be cut short. There is more talk about friendship and a reserve about stating romantic feelings in a public forum.

The poems of the 1930's include some wry humor and a realization that hearts can be broken.

Humor is an even bigger part of the 1940's and 1950's collection. There is some good advice, too. One rhyme cautions against putting down your feelings "in ink." Perhaps today we would say, "in social media."

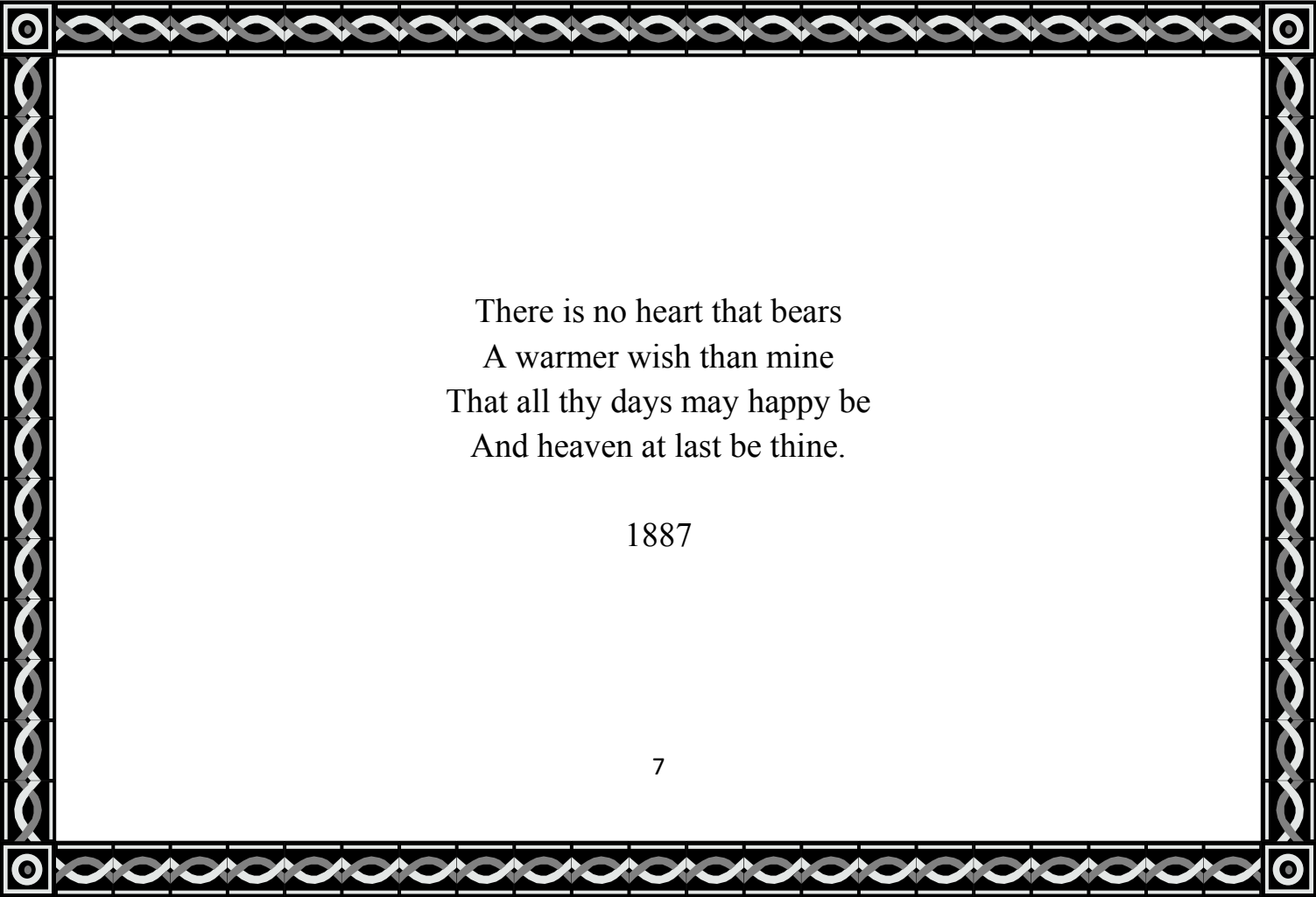


Life




Our lives are albums, written through,
With good or ill, with false or true;
And as the blessed angels turn the pages of our years
God grant they read the good with smiles-
And blot the ill with tears.

1882



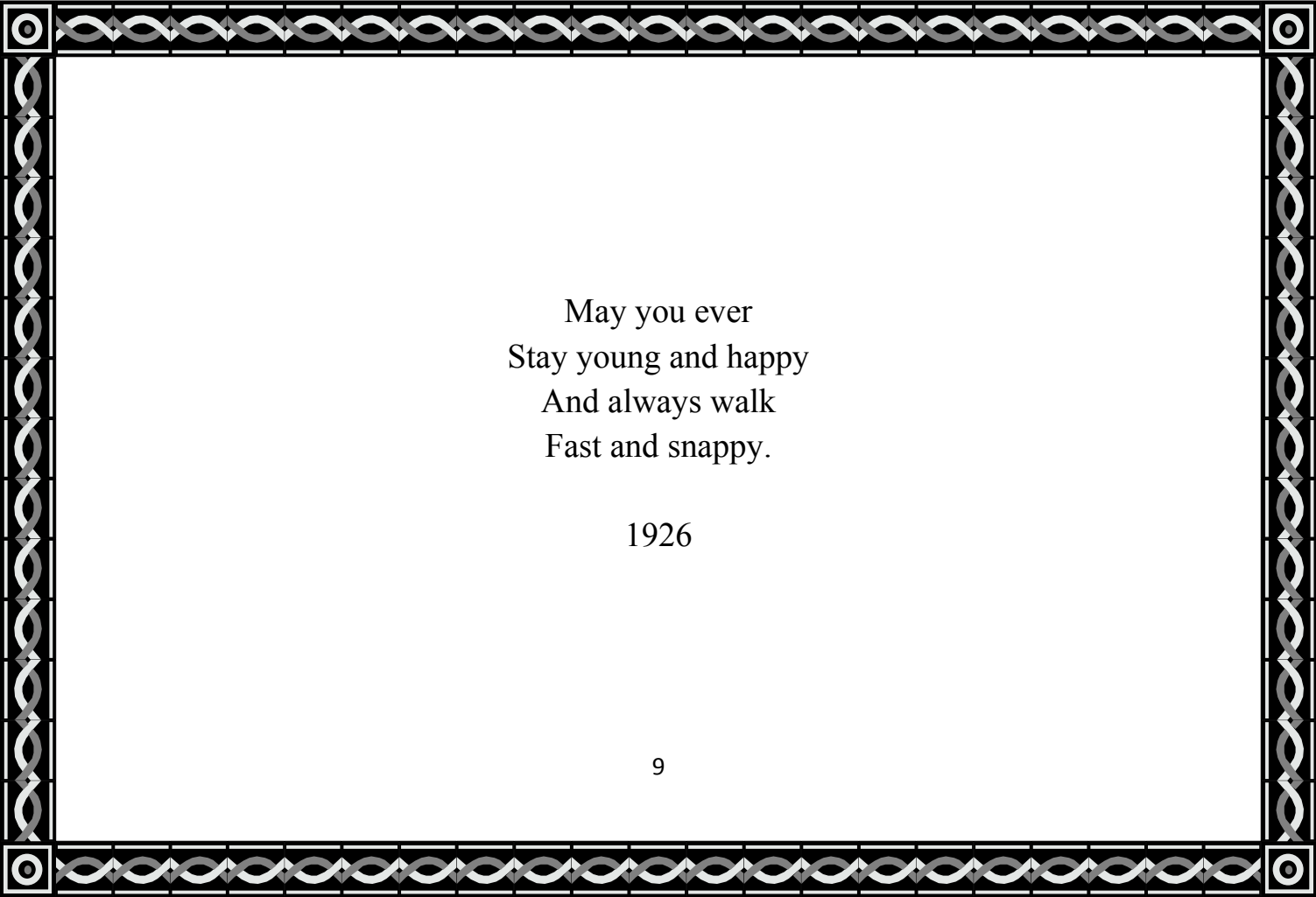
There is no heart that bears
A warmer wish than mine
That all thy days may happy be
And heaven at last be thine.

1887



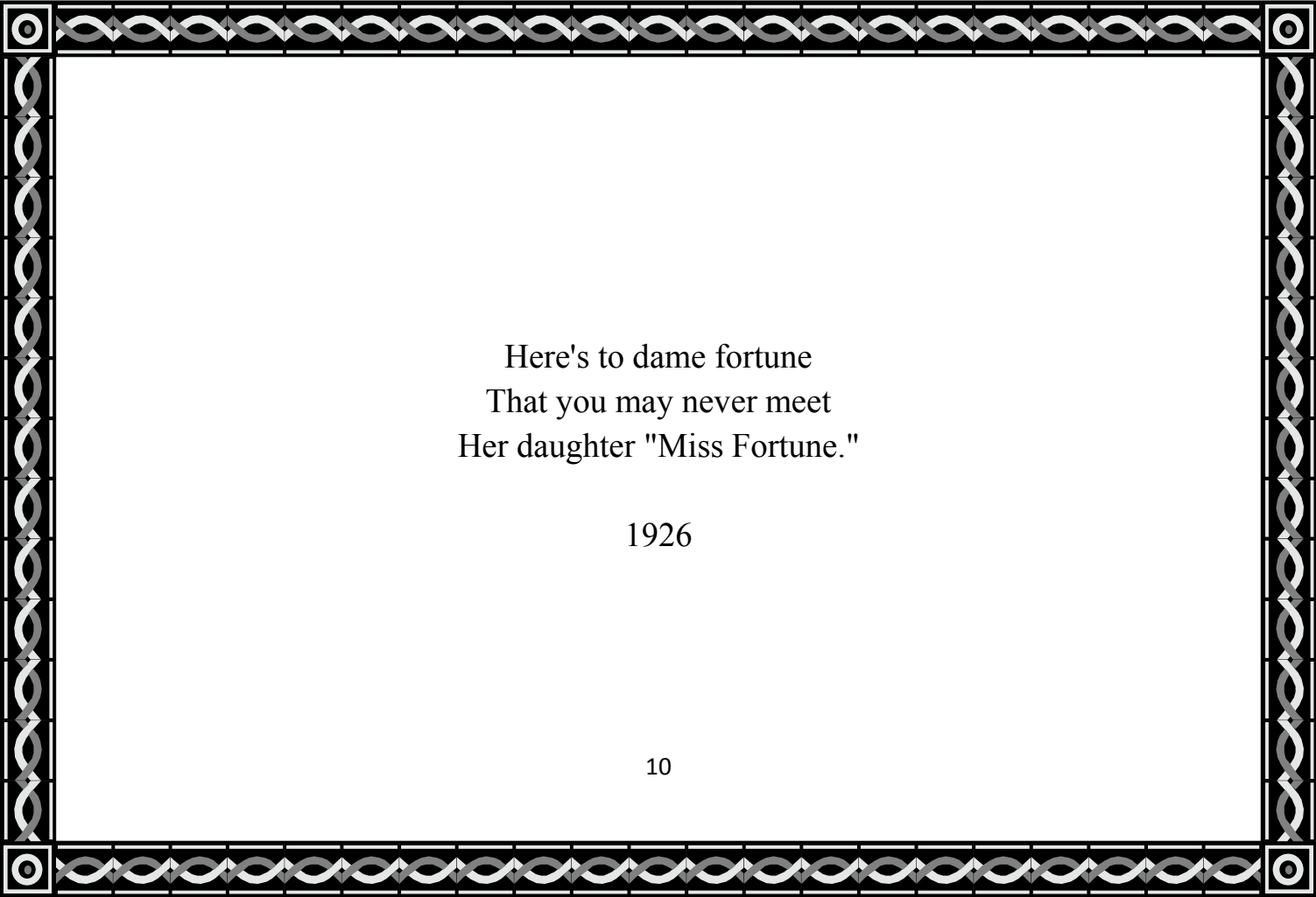
May your pleasures be as deep as dark blue sea
And your sorrows as light as the foam.

1888



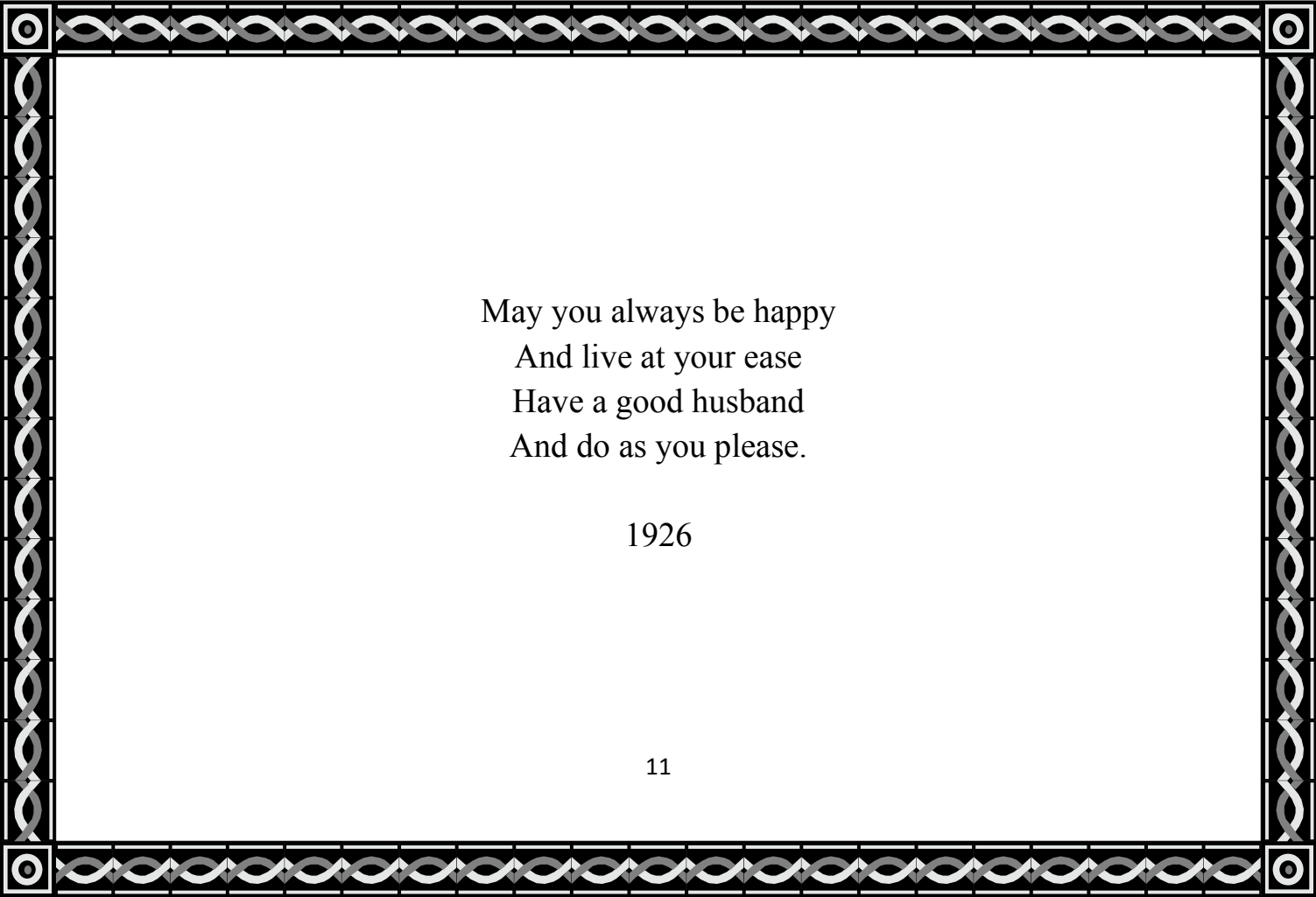
May you ever
Stay young and happy
And always walk
Fast and snappy.

1926



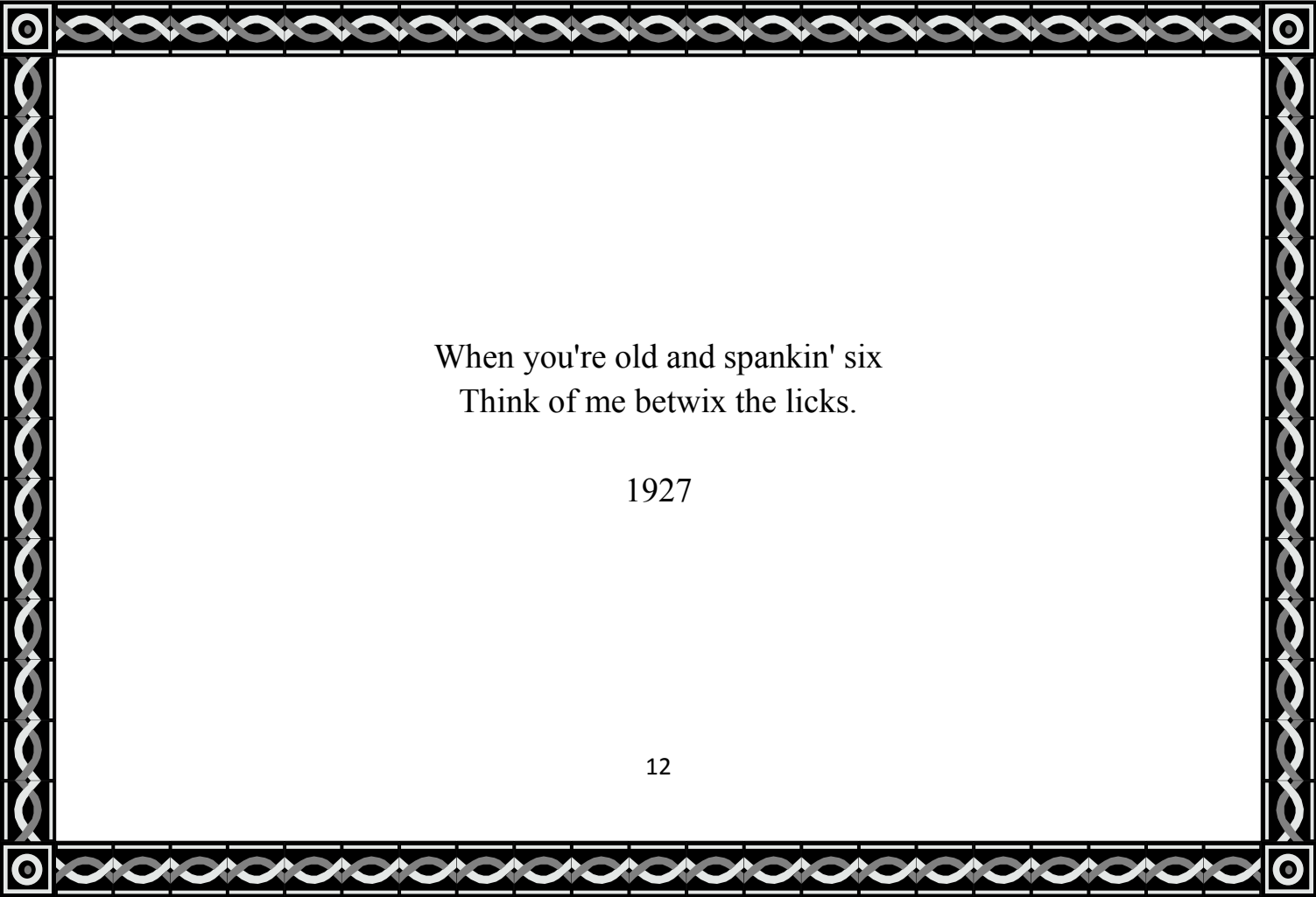
Here's to dame fortune
That you may never meet
Her daughter "Miss Fortune."

1926



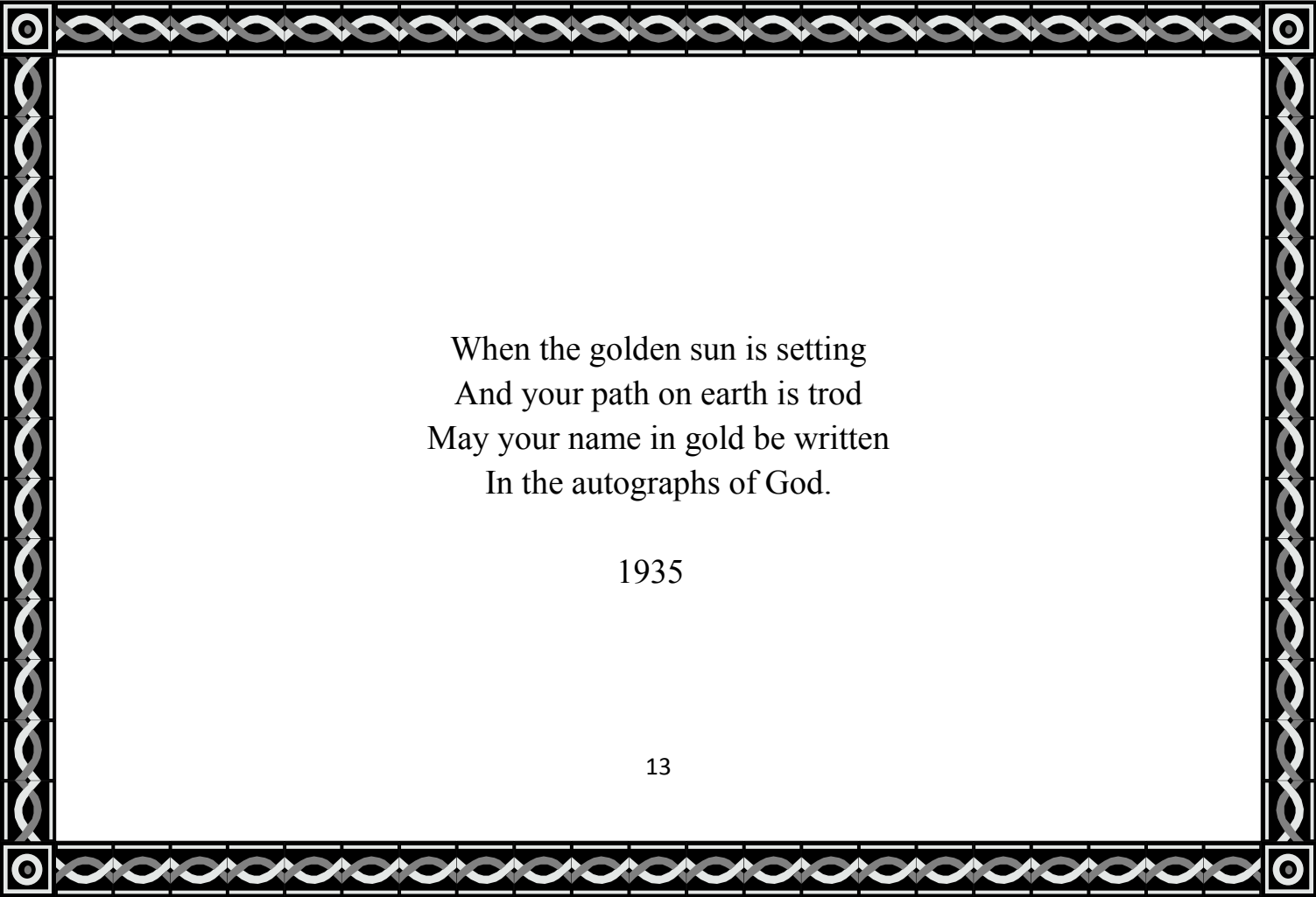
May you always be happy
And live at your ease
Have a good husband
And do as you please.

1926



When you're old and spankin' six
Think of me betwix the licks.

1927



When the golden sun is setting
And your path on earth is trod
May your name in gold be written
In the autographs of God.

1935