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Bethany's Daughter

Ernestine Hudlow-Gravley

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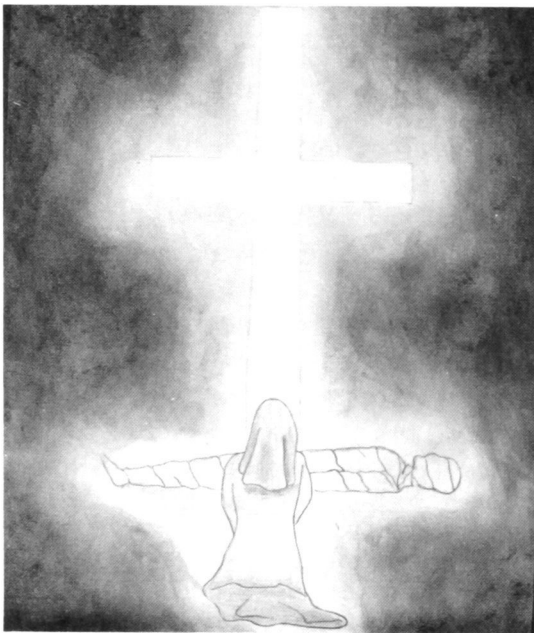
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Bethany's Daughter

—By Ernestine Hudlow-Gravley



(ERNESTINE HUDLOW-GRAVLEY of Shawnee is a full-time free-lance writer. Her works appear in publications as varied as COSMOPOLITAN, THE OZARK MOUNTAINEER, and WESTVIEW. Her column REFLECTIONS appears weekly in a Shawnee newspaper, and she is sought after as a writing-workshop leader.) ❖

When the alabaster box was crushed,
And incense brushed the rancid air
Where Judas cowered dark and hushed
With covetous stare,
Pale Lazarus with lifted head
And Simon cleansed of foul disease,
With Peter, mumbling in his beard,
You had dared displease.
Braving a sister's dark disdain,
Mary, who chose a better part,
Embalming the sharp scent of pain,
By ambrosial art;
Bethany's daughter, did you know,
That though they spat upon his face,
Spittle and thorn-pierced blood would flow
Over a perfumed space?

Designed by Olivia Ortiz