

Two parts as nearly  
as possible

[Ebb and Flow]

6

It came with the tread of a waning moon  
And the wail of an ebbing tide,  
And many a woman has laid her life,  
And many a man has died;  
For life upon life took hold & power,  
Strong in a fate set free,  
Out of the deep into the dark  
One for the years to be.

2

None Between the gleam of a waning moon  
And the tinge of an ebbing tide,  
Chance upon chance of love & death  
Took wing for the world so wide;  
For leaf out of leaf is the way of the hand  
Wave up out of waves of the sea,  
And who shall reckon what lives may live  
In the life that we lead to be?

2

[W. S. Henley]

Ebb and Flow.

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It came with the threat of a waning moon  
And the wail of an ebbing tide,  
But many a woman has lived for less,  
And many a man has died;  
For life upon life took hold and passed,  
Strong in a fate set free,  
Out of the deep, into the dark,  
Out for the years to be.

Between the gleam of a waning moon  
And the song of an ebbing tide,  
Chance upon chance of love and death  
Took wing for the world so wide.  
Leaf out of leaf is the way of the land,  
Wave out of wave of the sea;  
And who shall reckon what lives may live  
In the life that we bade to be?

W. E. Henley.

From the Scots Observer, February 8, 1890.

also in "The Song of the Sword" 1892, p. 49.