

## FOREWORD

“. . . an opening strain independent of the main theme but played in the same key and leading up to the movement . . .” Webster

THE SIGHTSEEING BOAT with its quota of expectant passengers slid quietly from the Wofford Hotel docks into Lake Pancoast and north up Indian Creek. With the gaudy oceanfront hotels as a perpetual backdrop, the boat passed the old landmark, the Thomas Pancoast residence. It was not until they went under the Forty-First Street bridge that the barker on the boat began telling about who lived in the fabulous estates and how their millionaire owners made their fortunes. He spoke of the man-made islands and how Carl Fisher, the Fabulous Hoosier, was the first to fill in one of these islands. The boat sped along, up Indian Creek, past LaGorce Island, out into the Bay and through the placid waterways between the four Sunset Islands . . . all made by Carl Fisher. The barker was interesting but when he neared the tower-topped Fisher residence on Biscayne Bay, he waxed enthusiastic.

The afternoon grew pale. The boat returned to the dock and the passengers, young and old, filed off. One person, a lady apparently unaware that the ride was over, remained in her seat. She seemed to be gazing into the distance, beyond the Creek and the towering hotels.

“This is it, lady. This is the end of our trip. Didn’t you enjoy it? Didn’t you like my talk?”

“Yes,” she answered dreamily, “Yes, I enjoyed it all. You told the story very well with only a few mistakes.”