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LELIA'S LAMP

Translated from the French of Louis Kabin.

The valley of Anson, on the road which leads from Lake Meador in the western frontier of Switzerland...

Yet these miners are a strong race of men, brave, hardy, and above all of remarkable beauty...

Francisco Mastilli was the handsomest of the gold-seekers in the valley...

Lelia was scarcely sixteen years of age. She was perfectly beautiful...

One day she was seated, according to her wont, at the end of her father's garden...

Lelia's first impulse was to flee; she seemed to remain and see if the voice would be heard again...

Lelia's life was as calm as the waters of a limpid lake, shadowed by a cloud...

"My name!" said the unknown, "you shall know it soon enough."

"Why to-morrow!" "Because a young man who is protected by my father..."

"I accept the proposition, in my capacity of nearest of kin to the husband that is to be..."

young aspirant of Lelia arrived, to be presented to her with the formalities of the valley...

"My child," said her father to her, with a smile mingled with sadness...

"Every one could tell himself—Poor child to be! The father, alarmed, hastened to put an end to the ceremony..."

Lelia sprang towards him uttering a cry, and would have thrown herself in his arms...

"What does this mean?" demanded Nicoli, angrily.

"How miserable fellow!" "How I repeated the relations, with surprise, anger or contempt..."

"He is right," said another kinsman, "speak Lelia; we will then be able to compel him to depart."

"No!" exclaimed Nicoli. "The insolent fellow! My daughter, presently, check to the future according to the custom of our ancestors..."

"I can stand all from you," he answered the former. "Yet no one has the right to call him a vagabond..."

"That's wonderful well," answered Nicoli. "I accept the proposition, in my capacity of nearest of kin to the husband that is to be..."

anxiety which he forced himself to conceal. "Three thousand francs!"

"Be it as you please," answered Nicoli, with a gesture of pride, mingled with indignation...

The year was verging towards its close and the quantity of gold which Francisco had amassed by his unheeded toil...

"Lelia," cried he, seized by a superstitious terror, on recognizing the features of his young mistress...

"It is well! it is well!" said she to him, "heaven will be kind to us..."

"Hasten, my dear Francisco," murmured she, with an unfeigned cry...

"I cannot keep my promise, and I come to thank you for your fidelity in folding yours. I have lost Lelia. Adieu!"

"I was retiring with death in his heart, when Nicoli addressed him in a voice full of emotion..."

"Pardon me, Francisco, the words which I have spoken to you. I know all that thou has done and..."

"She is not in her room," said a valet, a few moments after.

She was sitting supported against the rock, with one hand on her heart. Her limbs were stiff and frozen...

"The unhappy Nicoli only survived his daughter some months. As for Francisco, no one has ever seen him since that fatal night..."

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