

The Girl Beyond the Trail

in both her own when she was sitting beside him, and pressing it now and then to her soft lips.

They had been ten days in the mountains when, one evening, sitting beside him in this way, she said with that adorable and almost childish ingenuousness which he loved in her :

"It will be nice to have Father Roland marry you, Sakewawin." And before he could answer, she added, "I will keep house for you two at The Château."

He had been thinking a great deal about that.

"But if your mother should live down there—among the cities?" he asked.

She shivered a little, and nestled to him.

"I wouldn't like it, Sakewawin—not for long. I love—*this*—the forests, the mountains, the skies." And then suddenly she caught herself, and added quickly, "But anywhere—anywhere—if you are there, Sakewawin!"

"I, too, love the forests, the mountains, and the skies," he whispered. "We will have them with us always, little comrade."

It was the fourteenth day when they descended the eastern slopes of the Divide, and he knew that they were not far from the Kwadocha and the Finley. The fifteenth night they camped where he and "The Butterfly's" lover had built a noonday fire; and this night though it was warm and glorious, with a full moon, the girl was possessed of a desire to have a fire of their own, and she helped to add fuel to it until the flames leaped high up into the shadows of the spruce, and drove them far back with its heat. David was content to sit and smoke his pipe while he watched her flit here and there after still more fuel, now a shadow in the