

THE
LURE

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wish I could get one on you, Death. "Der's one thing that I'll mention right now. I could fergive ye some things that ye've done, but not this. It's the cowardly way ye snatched Marie away from me, just when it was in my power to give her the desire of her heart.

"Yes, we were as merry as children in the vineyards of old France, where we toiled side by side in the sunshine, and skimmed over the river by moonlight. Her laugh was the tinkle of silver bells, and the look in her eyes as wine to the heart of a sorrowful man.

"But we were poor. I heard of this land of promise, where fortunes were to be had for the picking up. Night and day I dreamed of its wealth, but never thought to leave the old land until Justus Qu'Appelle returned to us with his gold, a hundred thousand francs. How we gazed, wide-eyed, as he told of the riches lying hidden in the mountains of Canada. At last I would hear it no longer. I told Marie that I would sail for Canada and gather up a fortune. Then I would go back home and we would be married. How she did plead with me not to go.

"Joseph, we are poor, but we have each other. Oh, if something should happen and you come to me no more."

"But I was deaf to her pleading.

"No, no, Marie, only wait two, three, maybe five years, then I come back with a hundred thousand francs; then we go to the good Father and take our vows. Then you be my happy bride; you have a beautiful necklace of pearls, and a silken gown. Oui, and we shall own our own little vineyard."

"One morning in June I said adieu to little Marie. I can see her brave smile as she stood in the arbor where we plighted our troth, and wished me a safe and prosperous trip. I can feel the warm caress of her lips. Ah, but the tear in her eye bade me stay; the birds in the trees said 'stay'; the vines in the trellis and the fleur-de-lis by the arbor pleaded with me to remain. I have one of the flowers yet, the one Marie pinned to my coat; and the dew on its petals matched the tear in her

eye. Brave, true little Marie. I felt that I could not leave her.

"Then a laugh broke the spell. I turned and saw Justus. 'Come,' cried he, 'Today we set out for the land where your fortune lies waiting.' My heart said that he spoke not the truth, yet I took up the knapsack and followed him down the roadway. At the bend I turned and waved a last farewell to my sweetheart, my little Marie.

"You'll forget all that across the ocean, Joseph," laughed Justus.

"Idle words, methought. But when we reached this new land with its hurry and rush, and unrest, I could see that his words bore some truth.

"You know the rest of my story—the hard days of labor to repay the money Justus had lent me; how I joined a party of prospectors, and at the end of three weary years had a claim of my own; the days of drilling, and blasting, and mucking, when hopes rose and fell like mercury; the nights when the spell of the mountains drew near. Then the voice of the past awoke; again I talked and laughed, and sang with Marie. By the light of the candle I read her letters, and longed for the day of re-union.

"Fortune came in due course; I struck a pay streak, and sold for my own price. 'Now it's home to Marie,' sang my heart.

"I bought me fine clothes and big presents, and had my ticket to start the next day. But you, sacre! what happened? That night I got a letter edged with black. It told me that you had blasted my life, and taken my little Marie.

"What followed, you know very well. When I came to myself my fortune was gone; it had melted away like snow off a fence on an April day. Once more I set out for the mountains. I've struck some good pay-streaks since then, but I'd give it all, all for one day with my gentle Marie; yes, for one glance from her eye. Marie, Marie, come to me!"

The outstretched arms grew rigid; the rugged features became fixed. Afar in the distance a wolf howled; the cry of a pantler broke weirdly on the night. But the old prospector heard them not.

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When teeth discolor it means that film is present. That slimy film which you feel with your tongue is a stain absorber. When tartar forms it is due to the film. The film clings to the teeth, gets into crevices and stays. Remove that film and teeth will glisten in their natural whiteness.

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