

wore! So it has been kept as a treasure most precious. I have sons, but no daughter, except as I have taken thee to my heart. And thou wilt wear the dress, to give me pleasure, and keep it, that thy daughter may wear it after thee. The pearls, also, go with the dress. May they bring thee good fortune!"

I stood there, lost in dreaming! I was startled when Anna spoke to me. I put the Señora's letter inside my bodice, and knelt by Anna's side, to see and touch the wonderful gown, — the sweetest that maiden ever wore, — a plain slip of silk, and an overdress of muslin and lace, but the muslin was priceless stuff, sheer and delicate as gossamer, and the lace of the veil and flounces was a fairy fabric, such as Cinderella's godmother might have evoked from nothingness by the waving of her wand! I had never dreamed that there could be such airy stuff woven by human hands, so rich, so exquisitely fine, so altogether lovely. We touched it as if it were frost-work that would melt under the warmth of our fingers!

As we folded it and laid it away again in the trunk, we came upon a little white velvet handkerchief bag, and in this were the jewels of which the Señora had spoken. There was a necklet of big single pearls, and a long, slender, twisted rope of