

CHAPTER LVIII

THE VOICE OF THE BELOVED

FOR a week Simon hung about the village like a murder-haunted ghost; then he disappeared, and some said he had gone to America, but Robin declared that it had been shown to him that the lad had gone to join his parents.

There is little more to tell, and that little is told by Robin, and no one believes him save, indeed, Deborah Awe; for he is very old and full of care. Moreover, since the Second Sight has come upon the old man, the coldness that has long existed between him and the village has intensified.

It is this matter of the second sight that is at the root of the trouble. The gift of dreams, as we already know, had been with Robin from his youth up; but the other and greater gift was bestowed on him, so he solemnly avers, on the afternoon of that Sabbath Day of Dool.

As his story goes, he was on that day sitting in the kitchen, reading the Book.

"How came you reading the Book?" inter-