

THE DEATH SONG OF CHILIKUI 299

her breast, babbling unutterable things. His frame shuddered in her embrace and lay limp, a bright flood streaming from his gaping chest. She stared at him fixedly. Then her hand stole out to where the knife of D'Zintoo lay loosely in slackened fingers. Springing erect, she stood a moment facing the silent ring of Beavers, and with one swift motion tore open her robe and bared the smooth bronze of her full bosom. Upward flashed the huge blade, scattering a dreadful rain of blood in its ascent, ere it struck downward to a new sheath. "Watch and see a Beaver woman die." She called it loudly, defiantly. Then the cold steel sank to her heart, and she dropped like a stricken deer across the body of Cha-koos.

Chiliquei leaned over and peered down from his high ledge. He could see the ring of men, and could dimly make out something inside the ring. The fight was grimly silent; and not till Mc-e-nin wailed "Cha-koos," did he break the deep reflection of his spirit. But that name was a name he loved, and at the sound of it he called faintly, and no man looked or heard.