

THE MAN WITHOUT A SHADOW

"but—but a little afraid. Are you sure—you with another name than the one I called you by—are you sure, now all the past has come back, that you love me as well as—" then she smiled—" as Simon Barras loved me yesterday? "

"Just as well," I told her, "and in just the same way. I am still your lover, Virginia—just your lover, and—and I, too, am a little afraid."

"As if," she questioned, "as if it couldn't quite be true? As if it might be nothing but a fairy tale? "

I nodded, for I could not speak.

And then she stretched out her arms again, and clasped her hands behind my head.

"Yes, it's true," she said. "You are my husband, and here—here, wherever you are, is my home. Come, shall we go in? "

Here, M. de Villiers, is the task completed that you set for me. Virginia has been waiting all the morning for me to finish. I think she is still there on the lawn where the white peafowl are. I am going to see.

THE END

(1)