

little red mouth. They had left the camp far behind them, and the roar of the falls had sunk to a gentle murmur in the distance. Her birch basket was full now, and yielding to the lazy abandon of the summer afternoon, she flung herself upon a patch of sweet fern in the shade of some bushes. The little Wikpa still strayed in search of the ripe berries.

The calm breath of the evening breeze soothed the maiden's wounded spirit. To such happiness as hers what mattered the gibes of envious women?

Her dreaming eyes were fixed on the fast darkening river but they saw only a vision of her splendid young lover. Suddenly she sprang to her knees, silently and cautiously. She had caught sight of a dark moving shadow, close under the wooded shore. Yes!—it was—a canoe—two! ah! here was a third; *war canoes!* She could from her shelter see the flash of the setting sun on their weapons, and the gleam of the paint on their faces! They paddled arrogantly, in the insolence of strength, hardly using concealment. Her heart seemed to stop but her brain worked rapidly. *Iroquois!* the dreaded foe had found them at last! Across her memory flashed the half obliterated horrors of her childhood. She thought with lightning speed of the unsuspecting camp—the women who so lately had hurled the hated name in her face—the little children, the helpless old men. They would burn, slay and destroy them! Ah! it was well Ku-sa-wa-ga was away—but would it avail? No! the cunning Iroquois would conceal themselves—would await the return of the unsuspecting hunting party! ah! what could she do?

With fascinated eyes she watched the canoes. Something was happening: the leader had paused and the other two canoes shot up beside his. Instantly her brain grasped the reason. *They were not sure of their way!* The increasing speed of the current, the increasing noise of the falls made them uneasy. Into her mind came a sudden, daring resolve. For her, it meant death, but she would try it—she would save Ku-sa-wa-ga.

She called softly to the child. The little one, trained to instant obedience, turned.