

to our youth, placed a myrtle-wreath on his head, and asked him if he did not remember the robbers who had shaken him down from the tree. On looking closely at her, our friend recognized her—it was no one else than the younger painter, Mr. Guido.

Mr. Leonard now drew the puzzled youth aside (*bei Seite*) and explained (*auseinander setzen*) the situation (*Lage*) of affairs. Miss Flora, he said, pointing to the young lady with the curls, had exchanged hearts with Somebody. Then somebody else came, offering her his heart and demanding hers in return. But Somebody—namely Mr. Leonard himself—would not take back his heart or return hers. Every body cried out at this, so he had to interfere. So one summer night he mounted his horse, lifted the young lady, disguised (*verkleidet*) as [the] painter Guido, on hers, and away they went away to the south, to hide her in one of his solitary castles in Italy, till all the fuss (*Rumor*) and talk should be over. But from the balcony of the inn, while their servant, the collector, slept on guard, Flora espied their pursuers. "Why," exclaimed the Ne'er-do-well, "that must have been the hunch-backed Italian fellow." "To be sure," replied Mr. Leonard, "he was a spy." He then went on to explain that they had sent the collector on alone in the post-chaises already ordered. This had deceived not only their pursuers, but also the people at the castle, who had taken our hero for Miss Flora in disguise. This also explained the letter which he had received there. "And so," concluded Mr. Leonard, "you have helped to play a part (*Rolle*) in a romance, although you perhaps have never read one—and the day after to-morrow the wedding is to take place."

In the meanwhile, the fair and gracious lady, angry and confused at all the talk and jesting, had fled like a deer toward a summer-house at the end of the garden. Her lover saw this and ran quickly after her, arriving nearly at the same time. He gazed steadily at the lovely countess, and at last took heart and seized her little hand, whereupon she drew him towards her, and they embraced each other lovingly.