

The prince, for it was he, stood wonderstruck at her beauty for a time and then approached her and started to speak to her. Surely, though Isobel, no one was ever gifted with such silver speech as he and no one was even quite so handsome. As for the prince, he fell completely and entirely in love with the maid whose innocence and beauty so charmed him. Isobel hearing more footsteps turned to return to her room but not before shyly promising to see the prince again if possible.

Several days later they met again by stealth, and they agreed that at midnight Isobel would escape from the castle run away with the prince, to another kingdom and there they would be married. The return of Isobel's father, who was expected on the next day, made it imperative for the lovers to escape that night. Although Isobel had some compunctions about leaving her father in this manner, she loved the prince so well, although having seen him but twice, that she agreed to his proposal.

That night Isobel escaped from her window by means of sheets tied together, with one end fastened to the bedstead. When at length she reached the ground and her waiting lover, her conscience began to trouble her about the way in which she was leaving her father. The kind had never told his daughter the reason for her imprisonment and so it was easier for the prince to overrule her objections than it would have been had she known what her marriage would cause.

Isobel mounted the prince's horse in front of the prince, who was an expert horseman, and thus they rode along. It was a lovely moonlight night and both enjoyed the journey. To Isobel, especially, it was a new experience and she was happier than she had ever been in her life.

After an hour's journey, in passing through a certain village by the name of Emena, they had the misfortune to meet Isobel's father and his escort returning home. The king suspected an elopement and determined to find out who the lady was, for since Isobel was heavily veiled he did not recognize her. He stopped the prince, who, not daring to disobey, impatiently reined in his horse.

The king asked to see the fact of the prince's companion so that he might, according to the old custom, kiss the