

CONCLUDED FROM FIRST PAGE.
Stanley, whom he knew when he and Foxcraft walked to Gipsy Josie's side. He was wealthy, and hoped to wed the beauty of the little New England county. As the weeks lengthened into months, he thought often of the prophecy, and believed he would greet Josie by the stone wall, and brand her a sorry fortune-teller.

He had gained Ione's hand, and, he trusted, her heart.

But there was a secret which he had withheld from her with scrupulous tenacity. Let me whisper it in the reader's ear.

Five years prior to the opening of our story, a vessel sailed from Marit, a tiny port in Italy. Paleon Turner and a beautiful Italian girl—his bride—were passengers on that staunch ship, and on the fifth day out, Ione took sick. Her malady, which seemed to baffle the skill of the surgeons, increased, till at last, to all appearances, she died. Paleon Turner seemed overwhelmed with grief. He would not sink his wife into the sea before his eyes, so he dressed her beautifully, and placed her in an open boat. Sailors lowered it over the vessel's side one night, and it drifted away. The next morning it was lost to view, and the wife's great fortune fell to the husband. He reached America, where he encountered George Foxcraft, and the twin became firm friends.

He wondered, as his second wedding-day approached, what had become of Foxcraft. Was he, if living, hastening to Neponset for the purpose of meeting Gipsy Josie? At any rate, the prophecy bid fair to be a misstatement.

The eve of the wedding!

Shadows were throwing their long arms through the forest of the gipsy's prophesy, and the dying leaves were dropping with mournful murmurings to the ground.

Paleon Turner had stolen Ione from among the gathering guests, and stood beneath an aged elm, whose strong branches hung over the road leading to Neponset.

'Something tells me that George is coming,' he said, with pale lips.

'Strange!' replied Ione. 'I've been thinking about him all day. Do you know that I dreamed last night, Paleon?'

'No. Do you believe in dreams, Ione?'

She hesitated, and to please him, said, 'No.'

But he saw that her vision had left its impression on her heart.

'Tell me your dream, dearest. We will then return to the house.'

'I saw a boat lowered over the side of a great ship, Paleon,' she said, and there lay in the boat a beautiful girl dressed in white for the grave. She looked like a corpse, and I thought she was dead, until—'

'Until what, Ione?' interposed Paleon Turner, clutching the girl's arm.

'Until another vessel picked her up, and then she opened her eyes.'

'What a terrible dream! Have you finished?'

'No. Helping to lower the boat into the sea, I saw—'

'Whom, Ione?'

'You.'

'No! no!'

'Yes; and I will pay the debt I owe!' The sentence was couched in a hiss, and Paleon Turner turned to behold a girlish figure spring from the shadow of the elm. A stiletto glittered in the uplifted hand, and Turner sprang aside.

He saved his own breast, but a shriek and the bubbling of blood told him that the steel had stricken Ione.

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depths the angels kept her, that she might eventually become the wife of the man who had loved her long, whom she learned to love with her whole soul. That man was George Foxcraft.

Ione, the Italian wife, suddenly disappeared from Neponset; and a year later, the inmates of the Stanley home received a brief letter signed, 'Ione,' which enclosed an account of the suicide of Paleon Turner in New Orleans.

'I go back to Italy avenged. I have driven him to his death.'

'This was all the letter said. I know not what became of Gipsy Josie; but I do know that there are those who will never forget her prophesy. Ione often relates it to her children.—Star Spangled Banner.

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