

“ ‘No,’ I answered, ‘where and what is it?’

“ ‘Up here at the head of this ravine. It is a deep cave extending far back into the mountain.’

“ At the word ‘cave’ I started. Here was a clue. At last I had stumbled upon the hidden treasure. Already visions of golden wealth floated before my excited eyes and I began dreaming of what its riches would bring me.

Then I heard Cecil continuing:

“ ‘That is where I was the day I was hurt. I had been up there hunting for a spot from which to sketch it.’

“ ‘Let us go up to it. I am really anxious to see it,’ I said, with difficulty suppressing my excitement.

Then as we walked along, I asked:

“ ‘Why do they call it ‘Death’s Gate?’ ”

“ ‘Oh, that is due to an old Indian legend. I believe a young brave and the girl who eloped with him to escape a forced marriage, were sieged to death there. Surely you have heard that story.’

“ ‘Yes, I do believe Wewoka told me something of the sort once.’

“ And then, ashamed of my duplicity, I told Cecil of my hopes and vain searches for the treasure, and assured her that this was the right track. She laughed at my credulity.

“ ‘Do you really believe there was a treasure in the story?’ she asked.

“ ‘Yes, I do, and I shall find it, too,’ I answered resolutely.

“ ‘Here is the place, then,’ she said, stopping at the base of what seemed a solid vine-covered cliff.

“ ‘Where?’ I asked, staring hard before me.

“ ‘Here,’ and with a quick motion she drew back a handful of the vines, disclosing a jagged hole in the rock some six feet high. No wonder I had not noticed it, so cunningly had the hand of nature hid it that it would have taken a more than ordinary observer to detect it.

“ Quickly taking out my clasp-knife, I cut away enough of the vines to make a fairly large entrance. Then I noticed that the stream which we had followed extended far back into the cave until it lost itself in the deep gloom.

“ ‘I am going to explore it,’ I said, after looking into the dark recess a moment. Running to a dead pine near by, I lopped off two pitch knots and split their ends. Then lighting one I stepped