

ELSKET AND OTHER STORIES

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Elsket and Other Stories by Thomas Nelson Page

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THOMAS NELSON PAGE

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BY THOMAS NELSON PAGE

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BY

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NEW YORK

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TO HER MEMORY

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ELSKET.

"The knife hangs loose in the sheath."

— OLD NORSE PROVERB.

I SPENT a month of the summer of 188— in Norway — "Old Norway" — and a friend of mine, Dr. John Robson, who is as great a fisherman as he is a physician, and knows that I love a stream where the trout and I can meet each other alone, and have it out face to face, uninterrupted by any interlopers, did me a favor to which I was indebted for the experience related below. He had been to Norway two years before, and he let me into the secret of an unexplored region between the Nord Fiord and the Romsdal. I cannot give the name of the place, because even now it has not been fully explored, and he bound me by a solemn promise that I would not divulge it to a single soul, actually going to the length of insisting on my adding a formal oath to my affirmation. This I con-