

# **EL DORADO: A TRAGEDY**

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El Dorado: A Tragedy by Ridgely Torrence

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**RIDGELY TORRENCE**

**EL DORADO:  
A TRAGEDY**



## EL DORADO

# EL DORADO

A TRAGEDY

By

RIDGELY TORRENCE

*"Over the Mountains  
Of the Moon,  
Down the Valley of the Shadow,  
Ride, boldly ride,"  
The shade replied,  
"If you seek for Eldorado!"*

FOR

JOHN LANE · THE BODLEY HEAD  
NEW YORK AND LONDON

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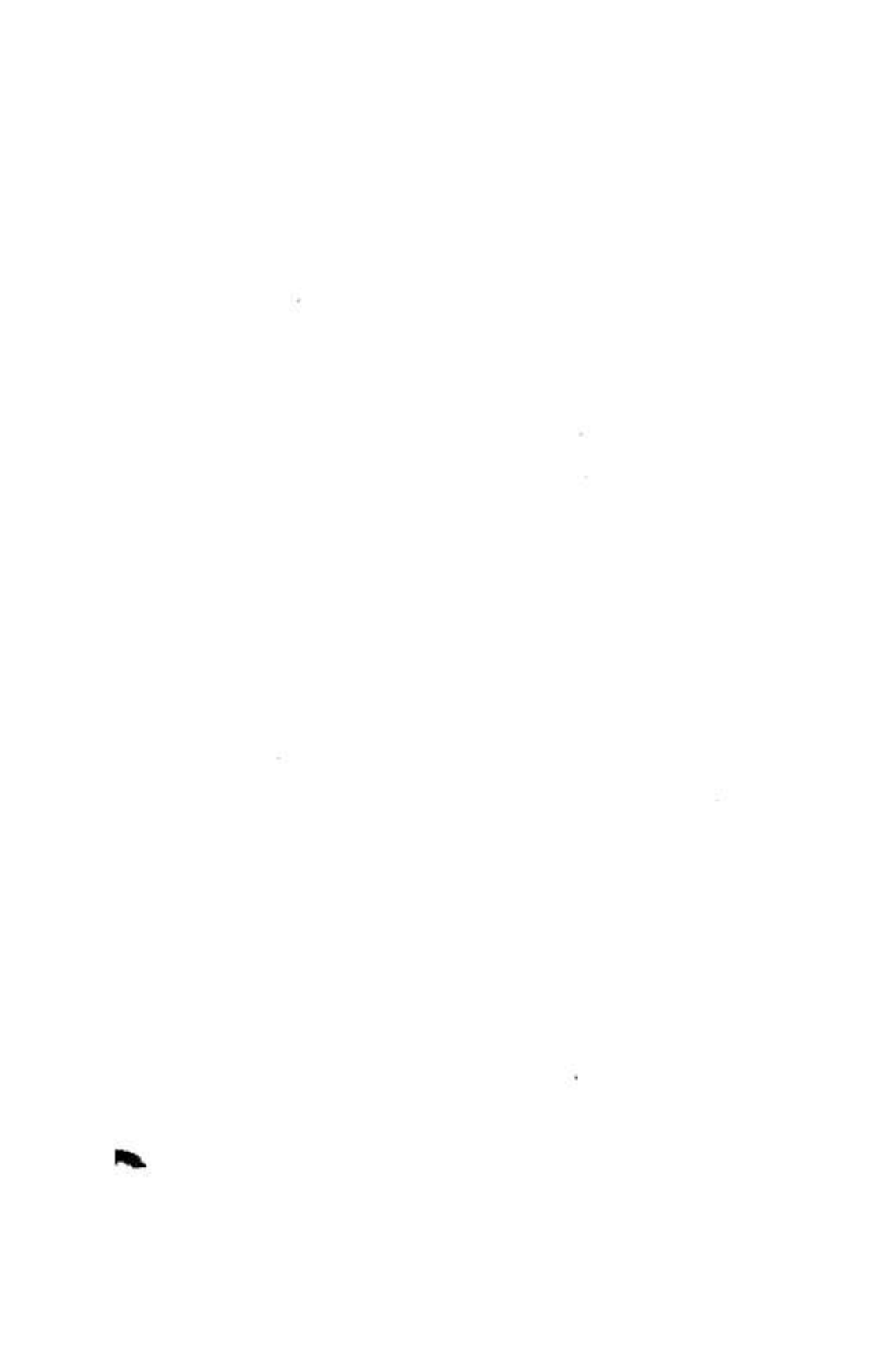
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THE HEINTZEMANN PRESS  
Boston, Mass., U. S. A.

TO  
MY PARENTS





## PROLOGUE

*Enter SHADOW, clothed blackly, having a red dagger and bearing as a shield a great white mask.*

SHADOW. Into this world where Life is born of Light  
I, Shadow, have been sent to bring you peace,  
To make you wise ; within my tragic themes,  
Lost Love, A Sullen Will, Dead Hope and Dread  
You shall find balm, pleasant with secret nard,  
To heal your discontent, for all men know  
That he for whom noon's brightest radiance glows  
Is he who waked and shuddered at midnight.  
O tear-accustomed children of this age  
Look on my stage and weep no more, for now  
I'll summon shapes struck with a grief so black  
That earth seemed fire, the sea a cloud of fear,  
Fate seemed an idiot scrawling on the sand,  
And heaven driven like a little leaf.  
The gold, five-keyed Elizabethan horn  
Shall be for us the soothing instrument.  
Then for the tale's sake I do kneel for help,  
To sky-browed Æschylus who down all the years  
Mourns deeply through a sterner, briefer shell,  
Making men hear the eagle wheel and shriek  
Round the sea rock on which all hope lay bound.  
Aid thou me then, O elemental Greek,  
Plunge in the rose at once her destined thorn ;  
Let not the wind have gradual rise and urge,  
But strike now to the tempest's coil and hiss,  
Show the swift lovers burning to and fro  
With Perth entombed, hearing no sound of earth  
But in the sky a thunder of falling tears.

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