

SPENSER FOR CHILDREN

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Spenser for Children by M. H. Towry & Walter Morgan

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M. H. TOWRY & WALTER MORGAN

**SPENSER
FOR CHILDREN**

SPENSER FOR CHILDREN.

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TALE I.



UNA AND THE RED CROSS KNIGHT



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TALE I.

THE HISTORY OF THE KNIGHT OF THE RED CROSS,

CONTAINING HIS ADVENTURES IN THE WANDERING WOOD, THE HOUSE OF FRYDE, AND OTHER PLACES; ALSO HIS ENCOUNTER WITH THE DRAGON OF TARTARY.



IN the distant kingdom of Fairyland stood a splendid city named Cleopolis, built by one of the elfin kings, and surrounded by a golden wall. Here dwelt the graceful and beautiful Queen of the Fairies, Gloriana; and to her court came all noble knights seeking adventures, and all persons in distress, to be delivered from their misfortunes.

Once upon a time there arrived at the palace a royal maiden named Una, the only daughter of a king and queen. She had travelled far, for the kingdom of her parents lay in the distant East, near the Euphrates, and the golden sands of the river Gehon. There had she dwelt happily with her father and mother, until a huge and cruel monster had found its way into their land. It was an enormous

dragon, which had crawled out of a loathsome lake in Tartary, and devoured everything on its way. This horrible and ravenous beast had laid waste all the country, and forced the king and queen to flee for safety into a strong castle with brazen walls. In this fortress they had lived four years, not daring to venture out, lest they should be swallowed up by the dragon, who lay in wait outside. Many knights from all countries had tried to slay the monster, but without success. They had all, one after the other, been conquered and devoured as its prey. At last the princess, full of pity for the unhappy state of the country, managed to leave the castle unperceived by the enemy, and, after a long and toilsome journey, reached the court of Fairyland.

The princess had not remained long in the palace of the fairy queen before a noble and valorous knight undertook the adventure, *The Red Cross knight undertakes to slay the dragon.* in spite of its difficulty and danger. He set forth, guided on the way by the princess, whom he promised to conduct to her father's kingdom.

The knight was mounted on a fiery steed, and well armed at all points. He bore upon his breastplate the sign of a bloody cross, and *They set forth.* the same emblem was marked upon his silver shield. The gentle princess rode beside him upon a snow-white ass. She was attired in a black robe, and her fair countenance was hidden by a long veil. She led beside her, by a string, a little milk-white lamb, which could easily follow her, as she rode but slowly. Far behind there lagged a lazy dwarf, who carried on his back her bag of necessaries.

As they journeyed, the sky suddenly became overcast with clouds, and a storm of rain poured so heavily that they began to look for some shelter. Not far away they spied a shady grove of lofty trees. The branches spread so widely and so thick that they almost hid the light of heaven. Within were