

# **THE TRAIL OF THE ELK**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649723379

The Trail of the Elk by H. Fonhus

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Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.  
Cover @ 2017

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**H. FONHUS**

**THE TRAIL  
OF THE ELK**



The Trail of the Elk

UNIV. OF  
CALIFORNIA



THE RÉ VALLEY SWEDE

# The Trail of the Elk

*from the Norwegian of H. Fonhus*

*illustrated by Harry "*

*Rountree*



UNIV. OF  
CALIFORNIA

Jonathan Cape  
Eleven Gower Street, London

*First published 1922*

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# The Trail of the Elk





## The Trail of the Elk OF CALIFORNIA

### § 1

**T**HIS is the story of a wizard elk—Rauten, as people called him. He was a human being in animal guise.

The story begins in Ré Valley, which lies like a yawning gap between mountains, long and flat with borders of forests so dark that they look as though part of the blackness of night lingered in them. A river moves sluggishly along the bottom of the valley, making its way slowly and carefully between stretches of light-red sand. It runs northwards, a rare thing in Norway.

There are bogs along the banks of the river, bearing tall, stiff sedge, and when the weather is calm they appear to be bristling. But in sunshine and wind they sway to and fro like undulating carpets of silk. Sometimes a long neck appears, and a crane moves with his measured stride, in which there is peace and contentment. For the crane does not trouble