

**MYSTERY; OR, THE  
LADY OF  
THE CASINO**

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Mystery; Or, The Lady of the Casino by David F. Taylor

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**DAVID F. TAYLOR**

**MYSTERY; OR, THE  
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THE CASINO**



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# MYSTERY

OR

## THE LADY OF THE CASINO

BY

DAVID F. TAYLOR

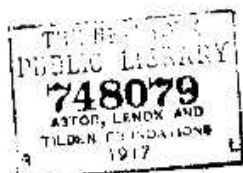


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1916  
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The Gorham Press, Boston, U. S. A.

TO  
THE LOVERS OF FREEDOM AND PEACE

THIS BOOK IS DEDICATED, FOR  
YOUR SYMPATHY AND APPROVAL

BY

D. F. TAYLOR  
"POET OF THE CHAPARRAL"

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# MYSTERY, OR THE LADY OF THE CASINO

## CANTO I

ETERNAL love is not a dull symposer,  
It is a feast that in the soul is wrought,  
It is divine, how can it be a loser,  
Living supremely in sweet silent thought;  
It laughs to scorn the laws of petrification,  
And ever will with failing time prevail.  
The sentient gives but little satisfaction,  
But this eternal thing will never fail;  
I wonder if the eyes that measure time  
Are looking on while I indite this rhyme.

## 2

The dewdrops on the rose appear newborn  
At early dawn, although they fade away.  
They are ambassadors to greet the morn  
That speak of love, and live in memory;  
And so I write of love—a maiden fair,  
A handsome youth, intelligent and wise  
She had the caste and the patrician air  
And he had ways that won the maiden's eyes  
So well they met, so well they stood together  
Like golden links you would not wish to sever.

## 5

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*Mystery*

---

3

I saw them first at Santa Cruz; they walked  
Upon the pier fronting the Casino  
They were quite ardent, earnestly they talked,  
Moving in measured pace, stately and slow,  
And as they passed the crowd would look around  
She was so beautiful, and he forsooth  
So noble looking you hardly could have found  
A finer specimen of noble youth.  
I stood upon the pier, and looked that way  
The evening shadows marked the closing day.

4

I watched them as they slowly walked away  
I saw the sun sink in the sea  
And something spoke so touchingly  
Although they nothing were to me  
And as I mused I saw a face  
From out the semi-darkness come  
A face that was devoid of grace  
A demon face this is the sum  
A man walked past; and if the devil drew  
His likeness, then that picture was in view.

6

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*The Lady of the Casino*

---

5

I marked his form; the shoulders broad  
The thick-set neck, the limbs so strong  
The jerky pace, the steps so odd  
(His side-view showed a nose quite long)  
The marked projection of the chin  
The heavy jaw, the sensual mouth  
The piercing eyes, so filled with sin;  
He stepped quite brisk, and went down south  
I watched, but soon his form was lost to sight  
And vanished in the shadows of the night.

6

That night I had a strange wild dream  
A vision filled with phantasy  
I sat beside a Lethean stream  
It was the morning, and the gray  
And mystic day began to break.  
From out the entrails of a cloud  
A form appeared that did betake  
Angelic habitude, while others stood  
Watching that form with marked intensity  
I saw their eyes filled with malignancy.

7