

**THE SILENT MAID: BEING THE
STORY OF STILLE MÆGTH, HER
STRANGE BEWITCHMENT AND HER
WONDROUS SONG, AND HOW SHE
CAME TO LOVE A MORTAL MAN**

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FREDERIC WERDEN PANGBORN

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The Silent Maid

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MENT AND HER WONDROUS
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BY
FREDERIC WERDEN PANGBORN



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THE SILENT MAID



CHAPTER I

HOW THE SILENT MAID CAME INTO THE STORY

IN the cool, gray twilight of mid-summer evening, that hour of brief calm which frequently comes upon the mountain lands between the setting of the sun and the rising of the night winds, the Baron von Rabenhörst sat at ease before the window of his favourite apartment, and gazed in deep medi-

The Silent Maid

tation out upon the domain that was his own. Far as the eye could view the prospect, even to the uttermost summits of the distant ranges that marked the limits of his possessions, there was nothing upon which another might tread his foot, save by the grace of Rabenhörst, nothing upon which he could not bravely lay his hand and proudly say "'tis mine." The castle in which he dwelt and the lands about it, these, in sooth, had been so long the ancestral home of his family, that there was no certitude even as to the precise period at which they had their beginning, and tradition had long added its charm to the more or less accurate history by which the story of their years had grown.

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J. P. V. M.