

**THE SEVEN WIVES OF
BLUEBEARD & OTHER
MARVELLOUS TALES**

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The Seven Wives of Bluebeard & Other Marvellous Tales by Anatole France & D. B. Stewart

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ANATOLE FRANCE & D. B. STEWART

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MARVELLOUS TALES**

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BLUEBEARD & OTHER
MARVELLOUS TALES +
BY ANATOLE FRANCE

A TRANSLATION BY
D. B. STEWART



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TO THE
MEMBERS

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Library of
THE SEVEN WIVES OF BLUEBEARD

CHAPTER I



THE strangest, the most varied, the most erroneous opinions have been expressed with regard to the famous individual commonly known as Bluebeard. None, perhaps, was less tenable than that which made of this gentleman a personification of the Sun. For this is what a certain school of comparative mythology set itself to do, some forty years ago. It informed the world that the seven wives of Bluebeard were the Dawns, and that his two brothers-in-law were the morning and the evening Twilight, identifying them with the Dioscuri, who delivered Helena when she was rapt away by Theseus. We must remind those readers who may feel tempted to believe this that in 1817 a learned librarian of Agen, Jean-Baptiste Pérés, demonstrated, in a highly plausible manner, that Napoleon had never existed, and that the story of this supposed great captain was nothing but a solar myth. Despite the most ingenious diversions