THE LITTLE DREAM: AN ALLEGORY IN SIX SCENES

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The Little Dream: An Allegory in Six Scenes by John Galsworthy

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JOHN GALSWORTHY

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PLAYS BY JOHN GALSWORTHY

THE SILVER BOX
JOY
STRIFE
JUSTICE
THE LITTLE DREAM

THE LITTLE DREAM AN ALLEGORY IN SIX SCENES

BY JOHN GALSWORTHY

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1911

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CHARACTERS

CHAR.

SELCHEN, a mountain girl

LAMOND, a climber
FELSMAN, a guide

CHARACTERS IN THE DREAM

THE GREAT HORN
THE COW HORN
THE WINE HORN

THE EDELWEISS
THE ALPENBOSE
THE GENTIAN
THE MOUNTAIN DANDELION

VOICES AND FIGURES IN THE DREAM

THE FORM OF WHAT IS MADE COWBELLS MOUNTAIN AIR BY WORK FAR VIEW OF ITALY DEATH BY SLUMBER DISTANT FLUME OF STEAM DEATH BY DROWNING THINGS IN BOOKS FLOWER CHILDREN MOTH CHILDREN GOATHERD THREE DANCING YOUTHS GOAT BOYS THREE DANCING GIRLS GOAT GOD THE FORMS OF WORKERS THE FORMS OF SLEEP



SCENE I

It is just after sunset of an August evening. The scene is a room in a mountain hut, furnished only with a table, benches, and a low broad window seat. Through this window three rocky peaks are seen by the light of a moon, which is slowly whitening the last hues of sunset. An oil lamp is burning. Seelchen, a mountain girl, eighteen years old, is humming a folk-song, and putting away in a cupboard freshly washed soup-bowls and glasses. She is dressed in a tight-fitting black velvet bodice, square-cut at the neck, and partly filled in with a gay handkerchief, coloured rose-pink, blue, and golden, like the alpenrose, the gentian, and the mountain dandclion; alabaster beads, pale as edelweiss, are round her throat; her stiffened, while linen sleeves finish at the elbow; and her full well-worn skirt is of gentian blue. The two thick plaits of her hair are crossed. and turned round her head. As she puts away the last bowl, there is a knock; and LAMOND opens the outer door. He is young, tanned, and good-looking, dressed like a climber, and carries a plaid, a rucksack, and an ice-axe.

LAMOND. Good evening! Seelchen. Good evening, gentle Sir!