

**THE FOUNTAIN OF YOUTH
(LA FLOR DE LA
VIDA): A POETIC
DRAMA IN THREE ACTS**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649337965

The Fountain of Youth (La Flor de la Vida): a poetic drama in three acts by Joaquín Alvarez Quintero & Serafin Alvarez Quintero

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Cover @ 2017

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JOAQUÍN ALVAREZ QUINTERO & SERAFÍN ALVAREZ QUINTERO

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VIDA): A POETIC
DRAMA IN THREE ACTS**

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THE
FOUNTAIN OF YOUTH

(LA FLOR DE LA VIDA)

A Poetic Drama in Three Acts

By

SERAFÍN & JOAQUÍN ÁLVAREZ-QUINTERO

Translated by
SAMUEL N. BAKER



CINCINNATI
STEWART KIDD COMPANY
PUBLISHERS

868
A474.46
67517

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Application for permission to produce *THE FOUNTAIN OF YOUTH*
must be made to the translator, who may be addressed in care of
the publishers, Stewart Kidd Company, Cincinnati, Ohio.

Printed in the United States of America
THE CAXTON PRESS

Gift
D. L. Quirk
6-27-56

CHARACTERS:

AUREA, *daughter of the Duke and Duchess of La
Fontana*

CELLINI, *an innkeeper's son*

THE FOUNTAIN OF YOUTH

ACT ONE

SCENE:

A shady spot in the woods near Solar de la Montaña, a small but noble town in northern Spain. In the background through the trees can be distinguished the sea, on which the afternoon sun is reflected. From the right foreground to the left background a small stream flows over some great rocks which form natural seats. The action takes place at the beginning of the nineteenth century, in the month of May. Behind the scenes Aurea can be heard singing the following song as she approaches.

TIME:

Afternoon.

AUREA (*singing*)

A kind old man
Amidst the crowd
Sang thus to-day:

“Through paths of thorns and flowers,
Through vales of smiles and tears I pass.
The best I cull along the road
And bring to you,
An offering on my way;
For the child a promise,
For the lass a love,
For the man a benediction,
For those beyond a rose.”

THE FOUNTAIN OF YOUTH

(Aurea comes out upon the stage. She is the daughter of the Duke and Duchess of La Fontana, a family of noble lineage, rich land-owners, who, notwithstanding the purity of their escutcheon and the abundance of their wealth, possess in their daughter alone a treasure which is worth more than all their other possessions. Charming, graceful, effervescent, romantic, bubbling over with merriment, spontaneous, ingenuous, and full of good-natured fun; of ready wit, of singular delicacy of feeling, and charmingly self-satisfied: such is Aurea. She is carrying a spray of wild flowers.)

AUREA

How glad I am some kind old man has sung that song. *(Calling out and looking into the wings at the right.)* Don Leandro! Don Leandro, for Heaven's sake, leave those old ants and come and talk with me. Am I not as entertaining as the whole ant-hill? Come, come. He does not answer, he does not even hear me. Truly, he is impossible. *(Resuming her song.)*

“For the child a promise,
For the lass a love.”

Don Leandro, come and see the animal that has come out to look at me, and perhaps to eat me up. Useless! When he is examining an ant, the heavens might fall and he would never notice it. *(Finishing her song.)*

“For the man a benediction,
For those beyond a rose.”