

Intermediate Rock

THE PARTY OF TANK

THE LONELY LADY

old men tell us that this is the tower of "The Lone of the Chief brimmed over all at once with love. Lady."

Long, long ago, in the dim days before history, was her reply. mighty Chief ruled the lands of Inchiquin. He was "Nay," said he, "I am seeking my best happiness." but he was still unwed, for never yet had he met asked him. maiden he could love.

was purer and fresher than any other; yet people him. shunned the spot, because it was said that a lad "I yield, Sir Chieftain," she whispered softly. daybreak to drink of the water.

wise men had warned him to beware of such. Ye There is yet time to change your mind." one morning, having been caught in a mist while on But the Chieftain, looking in her eyes, could think

hunting, he was returning to the castle at dawn, and as he rode through the castle-yard, he caught sight of the Lonely Lady.

She was running, and seemed to be in breathless THERE is in Ireland a lake named Inchiquin. The haste. Her little bare feet twinkled like white doves lake was not always there. A eastle once stood when upon the pavement. Ever and anon she glanced now the soft water dimples and dreams. On call back over her shoulder as if in fear; and her bright days, it is said, if we peer through the limpid water green robe fluttered softly in the morning breeze. we may still see the quivering outline of its walls, and Small she was and very full of grace, and the heart

Leaping from his horse, he overtook her ere she Who was she, and how came her tower down there reached the cave, and besought her not to leave him.

you ask. Listen, then, to the story of Inchiquin. "You are seeking grief, though you know it not,"

as brave as a wild boar, and as handsome as a king "Then, are you willing to pay the price?" she

"There is no price too heavy," he made answer. Not far from the tower was a cave, and near the The lady looked at him with bright searching cave was a bubbling well. The water from this well eyes; but as she gazed, her heart melted towards

dwelt within the cave, and came each morning a "But this is the price you must pay-never to bring friend or stranger as guest into our home, for I must For a time the Chief paid no heed to these tale ever be the Lonely Lady. If not, I shall bring woe He knew that this lady must be of fairy birth, and in him I love. Think well," she added wistfully.

of nothing but their beauty.

"With you, I am content," he answered. And that day the Lonely Lady became mistress of fair Inchiquin.

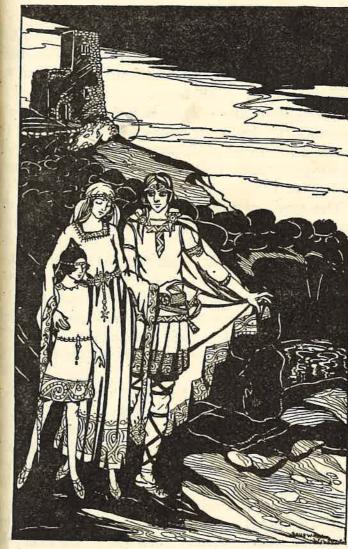
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For many years the Chief and his wife lived in peace and love together. Two children were born to them—a boy and a girl. The boy was tall and hand-some like his father; but the girl was small in stature and she had the bright bird-like glance of the fairy folk

The Chief kept his promise. None came to break bread with him at Inchiquin; nor did they ever go to visit their neighbours. Day followed day, and night succeeded night; but all the days and nights were just the same. The Lonely Lady was as beautiful as ever. Time neither dimmed her eyes nor stole the rose from her cheek. Yet sometimes she seemed afraid lest her lord was weary; and then she would scan his face with a wistful glance, and he would turn away to hide a yawn.

For the Chief of Inchiquin did grow weary at length. He longed to be out in the world of men once more; and one day he found courage to tell her so. There were to be races on the Plain of Kood. The Chief had a fine race-horse, and he said he wished to go there and try his fortune.

The Lady of Inchiquin made no complaint. "Comback alone, if you love me," was all she said; and that night he did as she desired.



"Come back alone, if you love me."

(D1257)

of pride, he rode forth again. Once more he returned But he was too late. Hand in hand, the three retreated, alone; but now he was flushed and restless, and no before him, until they sank like shadows into the well, longer found joy in his home.

Inchiquin."

The long day passed. Again the Chief won the to the knowledge that his tower was doomed. race. Many men flocked round him—some in envy. With all haste he and his comrades rode away. and some in praise.

lord," said one.

"If there be such a lady," sneered another.

swung round swiftly on the speaker.

"My wife," said he, "is the loveliest lady

Ireland."

"Show her to us, and we will believe you," the cried; and, in his anger, the Chief said: "Come!

So they rode in hot haste through the twilight to Inchiquin; and it was not until they reached the gateway that he knew his folly. There, in the court yard, hard by the old fairy well, he saw his wife with her son and daughter by her side. Fair an slim, clad in the strange green garment she had lon since laid aside, she stood and gazed at the stranger and in her bright eyes there was anger as well as grid

His horse had won the race; and next day, full Full of remorse, her husband ran towards her. and were gone.

On the third day he again rode forth. "Farewell But this was not all. While the Chief and his sweet wife!" he cried; but, even as he spoke, he friends stood spellbound with dismay, lo! the waters was in haste to be gone, and he scarcely heard her of the well began silently to overflow. In a swift warning: "Come back alone, if you love me and space the pavement tiles were covered; the water lapped softly over the Chieftain's feet; and he awoke

And they were none to soon: when they looked "The Lady of Inchiquin will be proud of her back, the waters were rising fast, and by the next day's dawn the tower was covered.

Far and wide, over the fields and woods, the waters Then the Chief of Inchiquin was very wroth, and spread, until that pleasant land became the silvery lake of Inchiquin. For the fairy folk are not to be trifled with; and, if a man marry a fairy, he must keep his vows.