



The Mystery

O you! Whoever you are, that journey toward this enchanted city for the first time, let me tell you how happy I count you! There lies before you for your pleasure the spectacle of such singular beauty as no picture can ever show you nor book tell you,—beauty which you shall feel perfectly but once, and regret forever.

Excerpt from *Venetian Life*, published in 1866.

William Dean Howells

of Venice

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