

... need to approach the antelope.

Those busy travelers didn't break their habit before departure. Francisco wasn't ever separated from Gamla and nothing unhappy happened between them.

A very **significant incident** changed everything to the extent that the girl changed her ideal and feelings, and she adopted a completely new attitude of respect towards Francisco.

It so happened that an old black woman called Antonia, who was remotely related to Gamla, caught a horrible infectious disease. It was so vicious that caused a severe disaster in Havana at that time. Death occurred frequently, but it was not just about somebody's death, not perennial weakness of life, not gradually deteriorated **immune system and health**, but a painful and strange death. It was the pain of asphyxia. After **they** caught the disease, they would suddenly feel as if they were haunted by ghosts. ~~A membrane~~ In the beginning the throat grew a membrane. When it developed to the second stage and obstructed the passage between the lung and the windpipe. Unfortunately, it didn't suffocate people to death quickly. It required enough time to find out those who would die and those who would be infectious. Every second was a battle against ~~xxxxxxx~~ the question of gas poisoning, and the battle was measured by time that could last for days. The entire perspiration system completely ~~stopped its function~~ due to unexpected suffocation stopped its function. Like a long and wide wall, air drew in the body and ...

However, for a black man, in addition, a slave, it was hard to <sup>estimate</sup> calculate this heroic self-sacrifice. A black man from Africa hardly had any relatives in Cuba.

From a different perspective that we are reluctant to admit, slavery robbed them of their family. A slave's relative was his love, while his own family was rarely around. Greed and need forced them to separate from each other. Sometimes the daughter was sold to one place, and the mother to another place. Slaves had already become accustomed not to take themselves as proper sons, brothers and even fathers. What horrible sacrilege!

In a meeting room in the public theater of San Diego, ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~  
~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ the **Parliament** of Spain was open.

With that there posted a notice by accident on a newspaper in Havana:

"For sale: a pair of Canadian mares and two slaves, mother and daughter.

The mares can be purchased together or separately as is pleased. The black mother and daughter will be purchased separately." There was even no disguise at all.

Antonia caught the disease of croup and almost certainly **would** be moved into a small room out of the house. She wanted to hire someone to take care of her, but Francisco would not agree, and he said that a hired hand was hardly reliable. **He** bravely offered to attend her at the dangerous sickbed. Not only did he take good care of the patient, but also he used his influence and forced other black people to overcome death ~~xxxxxx~~ out of love for a person. Digging a grave to bury the dead body should not be the last token of memory the living had for the dead.



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*...talked to me. At present, I need to organize things left behind. Very soon I am going to leave this house and leave Havana."*

*Marianna wanted to interrupt him again, but Francisco continued:*

*"There is no point for us to talk anymore.—" He raised his hand to stop her, "—I am leaving no matter what."*

*He went out.*

*Yet he ran into Gamla outside. She didn't announce her arrival, so he didn't see she overheard part of their conversation. She was standing under a shade, with a basket hung on her clasped hands, sobbing quietly.*

*There is no way to describe the ordeal Francisco experienced when he encountered her there.*

*A great revolution occupied his mind completely. ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~  
~~xxxxxx~~ in an astonished and trembling voice possessed by emotion, he asked: "Are you crying?" She was pale and almost stopped breathing. He held her and leaned against the wall in the room.*



... became a solemn man. With that his dignity increased. Seeing what they gained during the war, yet he ~~xx~~ had to suffer ~~xxxx~~ like an imprisoned warrior. He received their admiration like a respectable patriot, **and accepted white men's contracted purchase. In their eyes, this was not completely illegal. It was just his sacrifice.** ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~

We haven't explained why it was possible to establish some harmony between him and Gamla. The feeling was a product of civilization. Francisco grew up in the forest in a strange way.

~~xxxxx~~ **Really, harmony needed to be established. Gamla**

~~had a superior formation. It was impossible just because of her natural skin color to sympathize and to rebel against civilization. To this grave man, all the denial was ~~xxxxx~~ serious. This was to her liking. ~~xxxx~~ to her ~~xxxxxx~~ that formed everything.~~

Sometimes Francisco saw Gamla as if she was a woman picked up out of his own race. ~~xxxxxxxx~~ He denied they were of the same blood. He was ashamed of the similarity they shared. He thought it to be an unpardonable sin: all the beauty possessed by this girl didn't make him believe less that she was carved out of marble. She displayed composure, pride and uncompromising spirit of black people, but her being a mulatto born of black and white parents made him deeply resentful.



... harm. Her body ~~though still strong~~ might be still strong, but her cheerful innocence had already been covered by life's cruelty and shadow. This woman was a flower growing in winter.

*We may say that in that social system, there couldn't be excessive requirement about a single woman's clothes and adornments, but this would not change certain glories.*

To Madam Josephine, Gamla was a luxurious decoration. **Besides**, she watched her grow up. ~~xxxxx~~ out of the feeling of simple interest she loved her very much. All the love and care surrounded her. In her imagination and judgement, Gamla never regarded herself as a slave. Even sometimes ~~she forgot she was a mulatto daughter~~. In her girlish ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ floating illusions and dreams, she even forgot that she was a mulatto daughter. Her mother died when she was still a baby, and she was free of any restraint at the beginning of her life.

In this family she **lived** as if she was a lady. It was **a fact** she she never participated in social gatherings, but it was also true she only attend the madam alone. Therefore ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ she was treated as if she was a daughter.

Under such **moral and hypocritical circumstances**, we ~~xxxxxx~~ witnessed the beginning of the story.

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*The result and her unforgettable memory should not be all ascribed to the fault of*

*her mother. ~~xxxxxxxxxx~~ There was no exaggeration about her situation or*

*disguise at all. It was an enormous misfortune. ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~*

*In a place where slaves existed, it had no moral support. The law was the law.*

*This is how she looked: a mulatto daughter by a white father, she was delicate and charming.*

*Her beauty would remind us of the mermaid we used to read about in a book;*

*a buxom body, a most gorgeous and elegant woman. ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~*

*~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ That is, her natural beauty*

*was the prettiest thing in the world, like a flower properly pinned in the hair,*

*or radiating rays of the diamond on the crown. Her poetic*

*movements, her gentle smile on the face, her legs more fit for aesthetic appreciation*

*than for walking, and her hands! Even if you hold her hands for only one second,*

*the sensation of one second would make you want to hold them forever.*

*Gamla's purity and charm reside mostly ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ in her looks.*

*She grew up in a comfortable, leisured and carefree environment.*

*Her habitual quietness and gentleness were also so beautiful that no one*

*would say ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ her beauty was not perfect. ~~xxxxxxxx~~*

*Scorching sunshine, freezing coldness, those gentle hands doing*

*hard and clumsy labor and bend down pretty back, ~~xxxxxxxx~~*

*Usually, these would injure youthful gentleness and charming beauty and cause ...*

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Chapter Two

Weep?

Readers would hope to know more about the two main characters we have introduced:  
the mulatto Gamla and the black man Francisco.

Gamla's mother was also a mulatto, and she was a member of Madam Josephine's family. Her father was a white man, **but not a bit** ~~xxx~~ **about their relationship** was known. Who knows? Perhaps she was a sister of Carlos.

We are not so sure, but we don't make it up either. ~~xxx~~ for people who did not have a surname, **this was the only way to indicate the unnatural relationship.** ~~xxxxxx~~ Under slavery system it was quite common. We allow such kind of abstract comments, but we won't emphasize it.

In the previous chapter, we see that slaves were easy to be suspected. Suspicion like that was a commonplace logic: **the slavery system made them mentally unwholesome**, it was believed that that **everything spiritual** in adult slaves were all gone. **They didn't have any noble character.**

**Currently**, some people still **treat** black slaves very strictly. Gamla never had the experience of sitting on her father's laps. She didn't even know his name. She grew up in any dark corner. Her agony had **accompanied her since she was born.** ~~xxxxxxx~~ Her birth was **kept a secret as much as possible.** She was given birth on the floor in a workers lodge. **Even though she was** the daughter of a free man, ever since her birth, she couldn't get from her unknown father any ...

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... a room, she told about how glad she was, because no mistake was found. Forgive him the reason why he couldn't be found for quite a while. She said she would surely tell the madam what he did. And she had been totally wrong. Her pretexts were so stupid that Francisco would not let Marianna see he triggered fear in her behavior. She looked at him gravely in silence. She expected he would flatter her immediately, complain about what they had done to him, and ask for improvement for his treatment.

After Francisco learned about Marianna's rashness he was deeply enraged. Out his typical composed character, he showed no vehemence in his defense. ~~xxxxxxxx~~ told her again and again to express his pleasure to Marianna about her ~~xxxx~~ kindness.

"Madam and her child Carlos," —he contined, "—many people Suspected me, and I cann't continue to work for him anymore." Marianna made a face to stop him talking. Yet he said "You don't need to worry that maybe somebody knew about this told it to me. Nobody ever mentioned this. It's getting late. Let me wait until tomorrow to tell my lover about his. I don't need another reason to explain why he needs to sell me out. I'll for sure accept what he will do to me. A gentleman is leaving for San Diego, and he wants to take me with him. ~~xxxxxxxx~~ He offers a high price to buy me. Already ...

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*Changes in life—they were the products of wayward and fickle fate*  
*—if ~~xxxxx~~ two persons got together by a lucky chance, they still had to submit*  
*to conventional ideas. Recently, an unbalanced marriage in Havana testified to*  
*it. The girl was the daughter of a wealthy Spanish father and a black*  
*mother. A white guy was tempted by her dowry and proposed to*  
*her. This greedy husband was an official at a certain important institution,*  
*attended a good club, ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ met at a large club.*  
*However, things got busy at Madam Josephine's house. Two or three*  
*friends talked about this with exaggeration and attacked the marriage*  
*fiercely. They didn't stop because Gamla was present. They ~~xxxxx~~ declared that*  
*a wealthy mulatto purchased a white husband and they expressed*  
*their deep contempt. According to their sympathetic mind, racial difference*  
*defined the barrier in unwelcome friendship and love. This was*  
*simply a natural logic to them and to Madam Josephine, and they*  
*didn't intent to insult Gamla at all. They employed all the ~~xxxxxx~~ sardonic*  
*vocabulary to fight against what she had experienced, against power and*  
*hoped Gamla to avoid such kind of things.*

*Gamla keenly felt humiliated and insulted. She didn't hide her*  
*depression and shamefulness. ~~xxx~~ after a long period of self-struggle...*

... air out. ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ flung rapidly in a white airflow.

He was weak. The tremoring membrane was broken down to shrink, so as to let air to breathe in—or rather, let air to seep in—a little air to keep death from descending immediately. But not again.

There was no comparison to the pain ~~xxxxx~~ the patient had to suffer.

The look of his pupils was despairing, ~~xxxxxxxx~~ feeble resistance so clearly displayed on his face. His twitching hands couldn't stop from grasping the throat. ~~xxxx~~ his voice was faint due to thick

phlegm choked in the throat—— ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~

~~xxx~~ almost it alone caused other diseases. Having seen those feverish and delirious patient on the verge of death, he did that relentlessly.

Caught by this disease **the patient must be quarantined**, because it was infectious. Air went through the membrane and became infected.

This happened in just one moment. In order to lessen the pain of the patient, some doctors pressed his lung hard to break the membrane into pieces so that the patient could spit them out and be saved from death.

When this disease invaded one's family members, the power of fear **was not only strong enough to crash the bond of love**, but also in a moment caused the death of both mother and child, husband and wife: the whole family would be gone in a short period of time.

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*Now we have explained their relationship, contacts between Gamna and*

*Francisco increased day by day. Their eyes met more than once.*

*If the carriage passed the lonely country road haunted by bandits,*

*if when the horse broke off the ill-fitted reins and reared in a deep*

*pit, or any emergent stimulation would trigger fear in Gamla.*

*Yet the composed spirit and the sense of assuredness*

*demonstrated by Francisco, all made her feel calm and satisfied.*

*It was impossible for Francisco to be nonchalant to her **reliance** on him.*

*A woman with her fear was ~~xxxxxx~~ dependent on us. **We cannot ignore her or***

*her fear ~~xxxxxx~~ that connected to the holy look, ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~*

*~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ In many occasions, his **extraordinarily** noble*

*character reassured Gamla so that she didn't need to shout for help.*

*"If Francisco were not with us..." Her voice still*

*resonated. In order to rid her of fear, he*

*said "Never mind." Sometimes when he held her hands to cross*

*a rushing stream, or when he held her arms to get*

*off the horse, the cold gap between them was sealed. Her*

*~~hands were soft~~, her soft hands smelled like lily and*

*gently pressed on his neck, Francisco couldn't remain nonchalant*

*anymore. His stubbornly contemptuous attitude **crashed***

*~~xxxxxxxxxx~~ in a moment. The lion felt a vague ...*