They received the proposal in the silence of men who heard their sentence of death; but they received it with the still more solemn evidence of their resolution, by throwing away the scabbards of their scimitars.

On the night of parting from her lover, Euphrosyne remained at her window several hours, revolving the enigma of the bride whom her betrothed was to meet; whom he hated, yet whom he must not seem to shun; who was at once rich and poor, young and old, lovely and terrible. Once or twice her quick ear caught the sounds of marching and arms; but at dawn the scene before her lay as tranquil as ever. Rumors, however, had arrived of the approach of the enemy, and long before noon they were confirmed by the sight of the peasantry hurrying with their families and cattle from the frontier. She could no longer rest in the house, and throwing on her veil, walked down to a little projection on the side of the hill, where Carlo, in a moment of his native romance, had piled together some fragments of marble, as a monument of their meetings. On the little altar she found a letter of a few lines, telling her that "duty and honor compelled him to join the troops; that he loved her alone, and that, living or dead, she should be his only bride." An ominous feeling smote her; she placed the letter in her bosom, and returned instantly to her chamber, where she flung herself on the bed, and was found by her mother weeping bitterly. She at length fell into a feverish slumber, and on awaking desired to be dressed in her bridal robes. Remonstrance was useless. She said that Carlo had come, and assured her that he would return exactly at twelve that night and marry her. To soothe her mind she was suffered to put them on; and to this hour, all who saw her in them talk of her singular beauty on that evening. She sat till twilight in her window, alternately sighing and speaking to herself; and they describe her voice and language as of more than mortal sweetness and eloquence.

At nightfall she was awakened from this dangerous indulgence of the heart by her father's return, and she ran down stairs to meet him; but he was in ill humor with what he thought the insult of sending him with his party to watch some Turkish stragglers, who had appeared within a dozen miles of the town, but whom he could not overtake. Of Carlo he knew nothing, but declared that he believed him to be nothing better than an Italian romancer, who had run away to avoid the marriage. Euphrosyne made no answer but tears, which her father, angry as he was, could not resist; he kissed her, and bade her go to rest.

The night was lovely, and after long breathing the air that came sweet and cool from the garden, she lay down, with her eyes fixed on the window which opened toward the mountains. Her mother, alarmed at every symptom of illness in a country where death is frequently so rapid, sat watching by the bed, and moistening her lips with water from time to time. Euphrosyne slept awhile, and then suddenly started up, saying, "He comes! I have seen him!" threw her arms around her mother's neck, and kissed her, and then turned to rest again. The bell was just tolling midnight from the church-towers in Missolonghi, when a broad flash shot up suddenly in the direction of the mountains, illumining the chamber, and covering Euphrosyne with light. She was asleep, but evidently in a dream so happy that her mother would not venture to waken her.

After awhile her sleep seemed to be more profound; the house was hushed, and her mother's eyes grew heavy. She was startled by Kalsandoni coming hastily into the room to inquire who was singing and playing at such time of night,—for the sound of voices and instruments was beginning to be heard around the house. No one could be seen. Her mother was in agony lest so sweet a sleep should be disturbed; and Kalsandoni angrily took up his musket, and rushed to the garden to drive away the intruders.

Still, none were visible; but the sounds continued, swelling into a richer and more entrancing harmony every moment. At last alarm seized the household; they gathered from all