

The BRIDGE *of* SAN LUIS REY

By

THORNTON WILDER

AUTHOR OF "THE CABALA"

Illustrated by

AMY DREVENSTEDT

This book, while produced under
wartime conditions, in full com-
pliance with government regula-
tions for the conservation of paper
and other essential materials, is
COMPLETE AND UNABRIDGED

GROSSET & DUNLAP - *Publishers*

by arrangement with

ALBERT AND CHARLES BONI

The BRIDGE *of*
SAN LUIS REY



The BRIDGE *of* SAN LUIS REY



By

THORNTON WILDER

AUTHOR OF "THE CABALA"

Illustrated by

AMY DREVENSTEDT

 This book, while produced under wartime conditions, in full compliance with government regulations for the conservation of paper and other essential materials, is COMPLETE AND UNABRIDGED 

GROSSET & DUNLAP - *Publishers*

by arrangement with

ALBERT AND CHARLES BONI

Copyright, 1927, by
ALBERT & CHARLES BONI, INC.

MANUFACTURED IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

To My Mother

CONTENTS

| | PAGE |
|--------------------------------------|------|
| PART ONE: PERHAPS AN ACCIDENT | 15 |
| PART TWO: THE MARQUESA DE MONTEMAYOR | 27 |
| PART THREE: ESTEBAN | 89 |
| PART FOUR: UNCLE PIO | 143 |
| PART FIVE: PERHAPS AN INTENTION | 211 |

ILLUSTRATIONS

| | FACING PAGE |
|---------------|--------------|
| FIRST PLATE | Frontispiece |
| SECOND PLATE | 36 |
| THIRD PLATE | 64 |
| FOURTH PLATE | 76 |
| FIFTH PLATE | 90 |
| SIXTH PLATE | 112 |
| SEVENTH PLATE | 148 |
| EIGHTH PLATE | 172 |
| NINTH PLATE | 204 |
| TENTH PLATE | 220 |

PART ONE:
PERHAPS AN ACCIDENT

PART ONE: PERHAPS AN ACCIDENT

ON Friday noon, July the twentieth, 1714, the finest bridge in all Peru broke and precipitated five travellers into the gulf below. This bridge was on the high-road between Lima and Cuzco and hundreds of persons passed over it every day. It had been woven of osier by the Incas more than a century before and visitors to the city were always led out to see it. It was a mere ladder of thin slats swung out over the gorge, with handrails of dried vine. Horses and coaches and chairs had to go down hundreds of feet below and pass over the narrow torrent on rafts, but no one, not even the Viceroy, not even the Archbishop of Lima, had descended with the baggage rather than cross by the famous bridge of San Luis Rey. St. Louis

THE BRIDGE OF SAN LUIS REY

of France himself protected it, by his name and by the little mud church on the further side. The bridge seemed to be among the things that last forever; it was unthinkable that it should break. The moment a Peruvian heard of the accident he signed himself and made a mental calculation as to how recently he had crossed by it and how soon he had intended crossing by it again. People wandered about in a trance-like state, muttering; they had the hallucination of seeing themselves falling into a gulf.

There was a great service in the Cathedral. The bodies of the victims were approximately collected and approximately separated from one another, and there was great searching of hearts in the beautiful city of Lima. Servant girls returned bracelets which they had stolen from their mistresses, and usurers harangued their wives angrily, in defense of usury. Yet it was rather strange that this event should have so impressed the Limeans, for in that country those catas-