

FAR-AWAY STORIES

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Far-Away Stories by William J. Locke

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WILLIAM J. LOCKE

**FAR-AWAY
STORIES**

BY THE SAME AUTHOR

IDOLS
JAFFERY
VIVIETTE
SEPTIMUS
DERELICTS
THE USURPER
STELLA MARIS
WHERE LOVE IS
THE ROUGH ROAD
THE RED PLANET
THE WHITE DOVE
SIMON THE JESTER
A STUDY IN SHADOWS
A CHRISTMAS MYSTERY
THE WONDERFUL YEAR
THE FORTUNATE YOUTH
THE BELOVED VAGABOND
AT THE GATE OF SAMARIA
THE GLORY OF CLEMENTINA
THE MORALS OF MARCUS ORBYNE
THE DEMAGOGUE AND LADY PHAYRE
THE JOYOUS ADVENTURES OF ARISTIDE PUJOL

FAR-AWAY STORIES

BY

WILLIAM J. LOCKE

AUTHOR OF "THE ROUGH ROAD," "THE RED PLANET,"
"THE WONDERFUL YEAR," "THE BELOVED VAGABOND," ETC.

L.C.

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LONDON: JOHN LANE, THE BODLEY HEAD
TORONTO: S. B. GUNDY . . MCMXIX

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London
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TO THE READER

DEAR SIR OR MADAM:—

Good wine needs no bush, but a collection of mixed vintages does. And this book is just such a collection. Some of the stories I do not want to remain buried for ever in the museum files of dead magazine-numbers — an author's not unpardonable vanity; others I have resuscitated from the same vaults in the hope that they still may please you.

The title of a volume of short stories is always a difficult matter. It ought to indicate frankly the nature of the book so that the unwary purchaser shall have no grievance (except on the score of merit, which is a different affair altogether) against either author or publisher. In my title I have tried to solve the problem. But why "Far-away?" Well, the stories cover a long stretch of years, and all, save one, were written in calm days far-away from the present convulsion of the world.

Anyhow, no one will buy the book under the impression that it is a novel, and, finding that it isn't, revile me as a cheat. And so I have the pleasure of offering it for your perusal with a clear conscience.

You, Dear Sir or Madam, have given me, this many a year, an indulgence beyond my deserts. Till now, I have had no opportunity of thanking you., I do now with a grateful heart, and to you I dedicate the two stories that I love the best, hoping that they may excuse those for which you may not so much care, and that they may win continuance of that which is to me, both as a writer and as a human being, my most cherished possession, namely, your favourable regard for

Your most humble and obedient Servant to command,

W. J. LOCKE

June, 1919

1. The first part of the document discusses the importance of maintaining accurate records of all transactions and activities. It emphasizes that proper record-keeping is essential for transparency and accountability, particularly in the context of public administration and government operations. The text notes that such records serve as a critical tool for monitoring performance, identifying inefficiencies, and ensuring that resources are used effectively and ethically.

2. The second part of the document outlines the various methods and tools used to collect and analyze data. It highlights the need for standardized procedures to ensure the reliability and consistency of the information gathered. The text also discusses the challenges associated with data collection, such as incomplete reporting and the potential for bias, and offers strategies to mitigate these issues. Furthermore, it touches upon the use of modern technologies, such as data management systems and analytics software, to streamline the process and extract meaningful insights from large volumes of data.

3. The third part of the document focuses on the interpretation and application of the collected data. It stresses that raw data alone is of limited value; it must be carefully analyzed and contextualized to provide a clear picture of the underlying trends and patterns. The text provides guidance on how to identify key indicators and metrics that are most relevant to the specific goals and objectives of the organization. Additionally, it discusses the importance of communicating the findings in a clear and concise manner, using visual aids like charts and graphs to enhance the presentation of the data.

4. The final part of the document discusses the implications of the data for decision-making and policy formulation. It argues that data-driven insights are crucial for making informed choices and developing effective strategies. The text notes that while data provides a solid foundation, it should be used in conjunction with other factors, such as expert judgment and stakeholder input, to ensure that the resulting decisions are well-rounded and practical. The document concludes by emphasizing the ongoing nature of the data collection and analysis process, as it is essential for continuous improvement and adaptation to changing circumstances.

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THE SONG OF LIFE