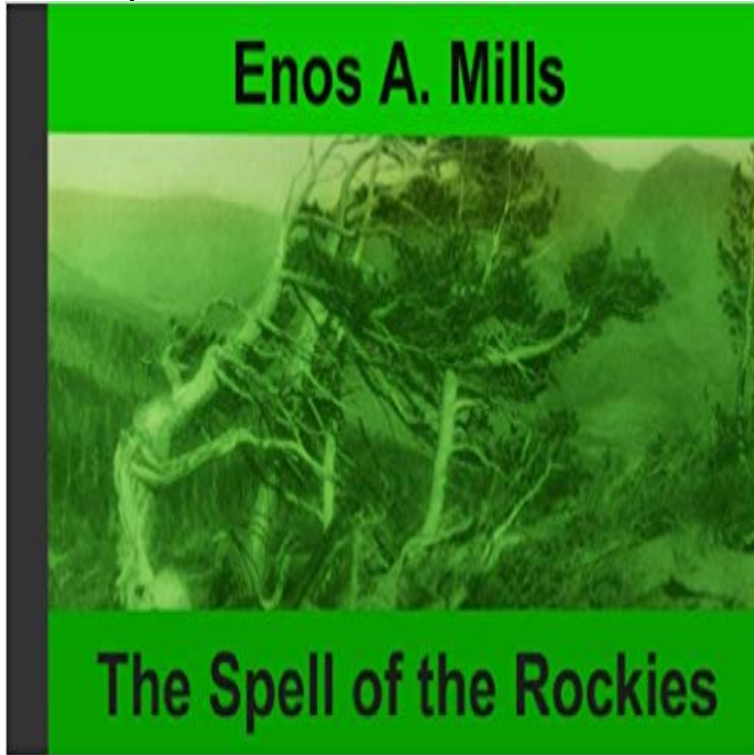


The Spell of the Rockies



Excerpt: Planning to go down the west side, I crossed the table-like top, found, after many trials, a break in the enormous snow-cornice, and [Pg 6] started down the steep slope. It was a dangerous descent, for the rock was steep and smooth as a wall, and was overladen with snow which might slip at any moment. I descended slowly and with great caution, so as not to start the snow, as well as to guard against slipping and losing control of myself. It was like descending a mile of steep, snow-covered barn roof, nothing to lay hold of and omnipresent opportunity for slipping. A short distance below the summit the clouds again were around me and I could see only a short distance. I went sideways, with my long skis, which I had now regained, at right angles to the slope; slowly, a few inches at a time, I eased myself down, planting one ski firmly before I moved the other.

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