

## The Mountain and the Prospect Train

### [1]

Title page

### [2 - 3]

The old summer mountain blinked awake to the rising of the sun and the valley rose for the day.

She surveyed it all, butterflies and bees jumping blossom to blossom, fish shimmering free in the stream, doves cooing from the tops of the pines.

### [4 - 5]

Suddenly the trees and the brush parted and birds flocked away, something new was coming to the valley.

### [6 - 7]

A train of prospectors barreled in through the thicket.

And they sang, "Gold, gold, gold! Dig until it's found. Brave the cold, bore the ground. Gold gold gold!"

### [8 - 9]

The mountain saw the men; hardened by travel and exhausted. She let them rest in the shelter of her valley.

### [9 - 10]

They drank her water, mined her coal, and tilled her ground for farmland. She liked to share her wealth; they were peaceful men, panning her water and living quietly.

And they sang, "Gold, gold, gold! Dig until it's found. Brave the cold, bore the ground. Gold gold gold!"

### [11 - 12]

In time the prospectors started to dig up the valley, and became greedy when they struck gold.

The waters blackened, the flowers fell, and the sky filled with ash.

### [13 - 14]

"Please be careful," warned the mountain, "our home is hurting."

But the prospectors couldn't hear her over their song.

And they sang, "Gold, gold, gold! Dig until it's found. Brave the cold, bore the ground. Gold gold gold!"

**[15 - 16]**

“Please... listen!”

But the prospectors couldn't hear the mountain's plea over their song. And she cried quietly at the sight of her valley declining even more.

**[17 - 18]**

So the mountain left.

**[19 - 20]**

When the prospectors woke up, they stopped singing their song. The mountain was gone, and they were to blame.

So they tried their best to clean up the valley and awaited her return. But didn't

**[21 - 22]**

They packed their bags and left the valley to find the mountain, leaving all of their heavy gold behind.

They travelled and travelled until finally they found her, crying a lake into a desert.

**[23 - 24]**

“We wanted to take the gold from your valley, and we hurt you trying to find it. We're sorry.” Spoke a prospector.

“We fixed it best we could.” Spoke another.

“Please come home.” Said the last.

**[25 - 26]**

“What about your song?” Asked the mountain, “And your gold?”

“We left it to find you.”

**[27 - 28]**

The mountain smiled. And together they travelled back to the valley.

**[29 - 30]**

The mountain taught them a better way.

**[31 - 32]**

They new home, where they could drink the water and breathe the air and smell the flowers.

And the gold washed away.

“The old summer mountain blinked awake to the rising of the sun and the valley rose for the day.

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Suddenly the trees and the brush parted and birds flocked away, something new was coming to the valley.”

Setting: The Sierra Nevadas, Late 1800s Gold Rush

Inspirations: Boom towns / Mining Camps, other gold rushes (ex. Klondike), “All Gold Canyon” (anything Jack London), environmental destruction of the gold rush

**Beginning:**

The mountain awakes to her home, peaceful, untouched and undisturbed.

Suddenly a train of prospectors come into the valley and set up a mining camp. The mountain is wary but welcomes the travelers who are tired and work hard. She puts up with them taking from her because she sees no problem sharing her wealth.

**Middle:**

Soon she realizes they’re affecting all of the valley. The waters become polluted with charcoal and oil, the flowers stop growing, and the sun can’t shine through the smoke.

The mountain asks the prospectors to leave, but they refuse.

So she get’s up and leaves.

**End:**

When the mountain left, there was no more water for the prospectors to drink, no more animals for the prospectors to eat, no more trees and coal for the prospectors to smelt the gold.

They decided to find her and apologize.