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Nota di contenuto	""Cover""; ""Half Title ""; ""Title Page""; ""Copyright Page""; ""Introduction""; ""Table of Contents""; ""List of the principal characters""; ""1. After his Death, a wealthy Libertine's Wife and Child are left to atone for his Sins""; ""2. A forsaken Widow flees from Enemy Hordes and seeks Refuge in the Country. A faithless Servant makes common Cause with Thieves against his Mistress""; ""3. Frightened by a bad Dream, Moon Lady sacrifices her Pearls. The Abbess Pi has an amorous Relationship with a Monk disguised as a Nun""; ""4. Heaven strikes with lightning Speed one of the Robbers loses his Life even before he can enjoy the stolen Treasure""""5. Driven to Despair, the Thief's infuriated Wife admits the Crime and reveals where the stolen Treasure is hidden. A covetous Judge forces his Benefactor's Wife to undergo a penal Examination""; ""6. A white Eyeball looks down upon the forlorn little Boy; no one takes Pity on him. Four Lives are sacrificed to Greed for yellow Gold"" ""7. Hsi Men has to atone as a blind Beggar Boy and loses all his Father's buried Treasures. Lady Ping is born again as a Courtesan and has to suffer for her past Sins. A poor Scholar sends Moon Lady a present of Firewood""""8. Beggar Ying takes Possession of his old Friend's little Son and sells him. In her Hour of Need Moon Lady has the

good Fortune to encounter an erstwhile Maidservant who has remained loyal to her""; ""9. Hsi Men reveals present and past Secrets in a Dream. Councillor Pi becomes infatuated with a virginal Countenance glimpsed behind a silk-embroidered Curtain""

""10. The Grand Mistress of Love combines Business with Wind and Moon Play. The Youth Cash-and-Carry displays his Mettle and tumbles an experienced and a virginal Beauty one after the other""""11. The Fool spends his Money recklessly and buys Nothing but Aversion and Loathing. Cash-and-Carry forestalls him with the beautiful Virgin, but generously wishes him the best of Luck""; ""12. When the guilty Secret is discovered, Cash-and-Carry hatches a cunning Scheme to confound his Adversaries. At Midnight he plucks the luscious Peach and vanishes""

""13. The scurvy Lover breaks Faith for the sake of filthy Lucre. The foolish Maiden keeps her Oath to her unworthy Lover, even unto Death""""14. The careless Coxcomb falls into a Trap in the Course of an Excursion in the Country""; ""15. The Maid Cherry, ever faithful to her erstwhile Mistress, throws herself into the River. Losing all Sense of Shame and Honour, the degenerate Offspring of a noble Family sinks to the Level of a Street Musician and begs for his daily Bread""

""16. Moved by righteous Wrath Councillor Pi makes a formal Charge against Lady Li. This Time all the Grand Mistress's Arts of Witchery fail her""

Sommario/riassunto

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