The Transylvanian Trilogy: A Passage from Book One, They Were Counted

Author(s): Miklós Bánffy
Subject(s): Literary Texts
Published by: BL Nonprofit Kft
Summary/Abstract: Balint spent the next few days in seeing that he had everything he would need for a winter trip to the mountains. He was fairly well provided, having spent a year in Stockholm where winter sports were beginning to be all the rage, but some things had to be bought. Three days after the Miloths had visited his mother, he caught sight of Adrienne coming out of one of the shops in the main square. Though she was still far away he recognized her at once from her long swinging stride. She was
The first book of the trilogy, They Were Counted, opens in the autumn of 1904. Our hero, the well-intentioned but naive Count Balint Abady, has returned home to Transylvania, then a region of Hungary, after several years abroad in the diplomatic corps. He is on his way to a party and through the window of his carriage, he recognizes many of the other characters whose lives you’ll be following for the next 1,200 pages: his best friend and cousin, Laszlo Gyeroffy, a musician terminally at war with his own worst impulses; Adrienne Miloth, a beautiful woman trapped in an unhappy marriage; Dod

deep in conversation with two young men, Adam Alvinczy and Pityu Kendy, both of whom carried skates slung over their shoulders. In addition Adam carried a picnic basket and another pair of skates while Pityu had a fur rug in one hand and a thermos flask in the other. They were chatting gaily.