

Poor Adele. She looks kind of resigned, doesn't she? It's a shame that she let herself be tricked by Alberon, but at least her plight isn't permanent, as we discover by the end of the chapter. Here, she's portrayed by the lovely [Princess Maria Carolina of Bourbon-Two Sicilies](#)¹ (Below is her original appearance).



In this depiction, Adele is standing in part of the [Cave of Hercules](#) in Morocco.² Her crown is on loan from [Queen Marie of Romania](#).³

The faeries that hail her may look like cherubs, but I couldn't find any faeries online that I liked, and I can't draw what's in my head. So you get [putti](#), half of whom I can identify. The familiar pair in the lower left corner are actually from a larger work, [The Sistine Madonna](#).⁴ The tyke lounging in Adele's dress is one of a trio painted by [Bernardino Luini](#).⁵ The lute player in the lower right corner was painted by [Rosso Fiorentino](#).⁶

I could find very little about the remaining three who, as Adele noted earlier, are whimsically dressed (in novelty boxers that you can find on Amazon). The text of the books they're holding is certainly Latin, but Google can only translate part of it for me: "In the beginning was the Word"; "the book of generations," and "Christ the Son of David." (For balance in the composition, I had to flip the the putto hovering over her left shoulder, so the Latin is backwards in that image.) I found these three images at [this Chinese store](#). Wikimedia Commons [gives credit](#) to a Carl Timoleon von Neff for two of the images, but they look derivative to me—the Latin has been erased from the pages so that the putti are holding up blank books, for some reason. This [Dutch marketplace](#) has one of the cherubs whose book has retained the Latin. But I can find no trace of the originals.

Robin Hardy
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PS. I am claiming no copyright on this illustration.

1. From the Palace of Versailles via Wikimedia Commons
2. The cave is well lit and beautifully photographed by [Diego Delso](#) on Wikimedia Commons.
3. Displayed at the National Museum of Romania; image via Wikimedia Commons
4. Painted by Raphael in 1513
5. Titled *Three Putti Standing Atop Clouds, Gazing Downward in Adoration*
6. It is a surviving fragment from an alterpiece painted by Fiorentino in 1521.