



CHAPTER I.

The light from a fire of huge logs which burned in the red fireplace, big enough for the roasting of an ox, fell upon the face and form of a young girl. She stood with her hands loosely clasped, and her eyes fixed dreamily and sadly on the flames and glowing embers, as if lost in thought, but every now and again she raised her head and seemed to listen.

As out of place in this rough hut, wild Australian scenery, as the girl bent and white with age, and in a moment that she had a drop of blood left to shed for him, an ounce of strength left to work for him. It was a noble sentiment, and really very nicely delivered, but somehow it did not produce the effect he had expected. Constance Grahame's cold and reserved expression did not soften in the slightest.

I was an Englishman and I cannot take me in. Do you think I am not grateful that I shall ever forget it? Not while I have a drop of blood left to shed for him, an ounce of strength left to work for him. It was a noble sentiment, and really very nicely delivered, but somehow it did not produce the effect he had expected. Constance Grahame's cold and reserved expression did not soften in the slightest.

CHAPTER II. Fenton held out his hand with the same half-concealed sneer, but the old man drew the paper back. "No, not yet. You shall have them when the discovery is complete. Go now," and he thrust the papers in his breast and waved him away.

my hope. Give me the chance that time will make for me. I love you now as never. I think, man loved before. I will go on loving you while you leave me hope. But she paused and drew a long breath, his eyes fixed on her face—"you should rob me of that hope, if you should marry"—his hands clinched—"let the man who takes my place beware."

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