

A WOMAN'S VENGEANCE

BY BERTHA M. CLAY Author of "Between Two Loves," "Which Loved Him Best," "The Wedding Ring," Etc., Etc.

CHAPTER I.

"Esther, you will repeat it some day! Dulcie Levesque is no mean rival, and I know it. You are a man and being a man he is strong enough to be trusted." "You think so?" "I am sure of it." "I hope you may be right, dear; but if he should prove weak enough to be tempted..."

The girl's hand tightened on his sleeve; her heart throbbing warmly under the dainty rose gave a great bound of joy. This man was her idol; she loved him as the "good Lord Heaven." He was, in her eyes, the noblest, the truest, the best of men. To have won his love was the crown of her life, and she often wondered how she had deserved such a gift.

chill, star-light. The level grass before the window was white with hoar frost; the trim privet hedge at the bottom of the lawn looked like a solid wall; beyond it was a dense, gray mist. "For all small mercies make us thankful," Percy ejaculated slipping down on one knee beside her, and laying his hands against her arm. "I did think those two would never settle down comfortably to their little game."

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