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"I am all right now," said Colonel Stanley, moistening his lips. "You, doctor, will certify that this is a male child born heir to the Stanley estates, and I will attest that he is my son, heir at my death to the diamond from the sky and also heir to the earldom of Stanley at the death of the present earl."

The English lawyer fumbled in his green bag and produced the already drawn up document of attestation. With a firm hand, but giving the colonel a sad but searching glance as he did so, Dr. Lee signed the paper as physician in attendance at the birth. The colonel signed as father of "Arthur Stanley 2d of Stanley hall, Virginia." And then it was the turn of Judge Stanley to sign as next of kin. For a minute he faltered, a look of bitter hatred on his saturnine countenance, and then he affixed his signature and threw down the pen with a bitter curse for what he did. A mocking smile played upon the face of Colonel Stanley. For one brief moment he forgot the flower face of the beloved dead woman upstairs. For one brief moment he forgot the girl child born of their deep love, whose birthright had been taken away in the fulfillment of his hate for his disappointed and chagrined kinsman.

A few brief and stilted farewells and perfunctory congratulations ensued between the still embarrassed English lawyer, Marmaduke Smythe, and the colonel and the doctor. There was some evil brooding in the air, and the aura of hate was felt by the English man of law.

"It is only a veneer of civilization that thinly covers these crude Yankees in these wild parts," said the English lawyer to himself as he awkwardly mounted his horse in the moonlight outside Stanley hall and rode down the darkened lanes behind the gloomy judge. "They jolly well would tomahawk and burn each other at the stake if they had opportunity," he added to himself. "I shall start back to London tomorrow if I can and deuced glad of it!"

Uneventfully three years went their round. The supposititious heir at Stanley hall grew to be a sturdy little boy of handsome appearance, but of violent and ungovernable temper even as a child.

On the little girl, Esther, reared in secrecy in a closed chamber in the great house and ministered to only by the silent and faithful Mammy Lucy, the colonel lavished and outpoured the great and growing love and affection of his invalided and aging years. For already the hand of death was plain upon him and every day he rode to the cross upon the grave of his dead wife and prayed that he might see her face to face and be forgiven in the great tenderness of the love they had borne each other in life, for the wrong he had done their child.

The fear of the colonel that the wild gypsy blood in the putative heir might bring him to courses that would disgrace the Stanley name preyed upon the colonel.

And so the colonel drew up a document, which he securely sealed and placed among his papers. Upon the outside he superscribed it: "To be opened in case my son, Arthur Stanley 2d, ever does anything to disgrace the Stanley name." This document he left by his will in the care of Dr. Henry Lee, should the physician survive him, as his executor. Then, too, the colonel realized that he could not long hope to rear his beloved little daughter like a flower in the dark secretly at Stanley hall. He was arranging with the kindly old widower friend and confidant, Dr. Lee, that little Esther would be secretly delivered to him and the doctor could give out the story it was an orphan relative that he had adopted as his daughter. To this supposed daughter of his dearest friend the colonel proposed to will as much of his means as would have come to a girl openly acknowledged.

Meanwhile the unhappy Hagar had been borne far away by the brutal and ever watchful Matt Harding.

With him a nephew devoted to him, one Luke Lovell, an English gypsy, aided Matt in keeping watch and ward upon Hagar without knowing or asking why. And then Matt Harding fell upon evil courses in his Romany prosperity, and drink made an end to him.

Hagar succeeded to his gypsy wealth and gypsy power. The king was dead; long live the queen! His henchman transferred his allegiance from the dead husband to the living wife.

In the grim household of Judge Lamar Stanley the shadow of cheated hopes and blighted ambition fell heavy upon the family. The proud and grasping wife, the cold and taciturn judge, had one unifying cause in common; that was that death might strike

The Aura of Hate Was Felt by the English Man of Law.

the lives that lay between their only child that he might possess both the diamond from the sky and the English earldom.

Such was the state of affairs when Hagar and her tribe came back to Virginia, three years after the death of the colonel's wife and the substitution of Hagar's child as the heir of Stanley. Leaving her people camped at a distance, Hagar journeyed to the neighborhood of Stanley hall, and there, hidden in the shrubbery, with bursting heart, beheld her son ride forth, the petted and pampered little master of Stanley hall.

Colonel Stanley, with the boy, was riding on his daily pilgrimage to the cross surmounted grave of his dead wife. The road led him past the house of Judge Stanley. Looking from his window after his enemy and the little heir of the Stanleys on his pony beside the colonel, the judge was aware of a gypsy woman who stalked after the colonel and the boy as swiftly and as furtively as an Indian tracker. Seizing his hat, the judge quietly emerged from his house and trailed the gypsy woman.

By the gate of the graveyard Hagar hid panting behind a huge bowlder. She watched so intently the bare headed figure of the colonel praying by the grave of his wife, and she watched still more attentively and with such a hungering heart the little boy upon his pony by the colonel, that she was not aware of the presence of the judge until his strong hand grasped her wrist and his harsh voice hissed in her ear, "Why do you spy upon them?" To the startled Hagar the cruel face of the judge was the face of a well remembered enemy. Her account of justice and retribution with Colonel Stanley was between them alone. She would have no confidence in or dealing with Judge Stanley. For she knew instinctively that if he hated the colonel he equally hated and was prepared to harm the colonel's supposed son, her child.

She did not struggle or attempt to free herself from the grasp of the judge. But as the colonel, with the little boy, rode from the grave toward the gate she slipped down beside the judge and hid with him from the observation of the oncomers, as though she were an accomplice of the colonel's enemy.

Neither would she speak in answer to the judge's rapid fire of questions when the colonel and little Arthur had passed out of sight. She affected a sullen dunabness. And when the judge hailed a passing stockily built man driving a buckboard, the constable of the district, and gave her in charge as a wandering mad woman Hagar would speak no word.

That night, with gross disregard of legal procedure, the judge, alone in his courtroom with his creature, the constable, committed the silent gypsy woman to the county madhouse, with instructions to those in charge, through the constable, that when the seemingly sullen, insane woman spoke or was ready to speak he should be sent for.

(To be continued.)

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