

Clive Forrester's Gold

even if I had not been naturally fond of adventures, I should have hesitated at no enterprise, however hazardous, which offered a genuine chance of breaking down the barrier that divided us.

'I think it will suit me exactly,' I said. 'It is the very chance I was looking for.'

I could see that the Baronet was pleased. His eyes fairly sparkled as he answered, 'Bravo! Spoken like a man, Forrester. I can see *you* don't mean to wait for dead men's shoes.'

'I fear there are none worth waiting for, Sir Robert,' I answered lightly. 'But tell me,' I added, 'whether you are willing that Louis should accompany me from Victoria to Klondike.'

'Willing?' he answered, with an amused laugh, 'most certainly, though I doubt it would make very little difference to Master Louis's plans if I were not! Ha! ha! ha!' And he was still laughing as I rose to go. 'When do you think you'll start?' he added abruptly, as we passed into the hall.

I was getting rather desperate, as my chances of seeing Grace were rapidly vanishing, and scarcely thinking what I said, I answered off-hand, 'Oh, to-morrow, or the following day at latest.'