

Greville. "Cousin Hugh's company would hardly prove a compensation for the loss of Mount Eden."

"Well, I don't mean to say that I shouldn't feel it a little—for other people's sake as well as my own, Mr. Greville," said Evelyn with a heightened color; "still, I am so happy in other ways that I don't think I should grieve long. I am a bit of a philosopher, as perhaps Captain Philip has told you."

"I am glad to hear that you are, Miss Rayne, for (do you know) I came down here to-day to put your philosophy to the test."

"Indeed!" she said, with an incredulous smile.

"Yes, and I would have you prepare yourself for a shock. I am an old and intimate friend of the Caryll family. I knew your late uncle and his wife well, and stood godfather to their only son, and I have received credible information, Miss Rayne, that your Cousin Hugh is actually alive, and about to lay a claim to his father's property."

"I don't believe it!" exclaimed Jasper Lyle, springing to his feet with an oath.

"You may not believe my statement, sir," said Mr. Greville, turning to him, "but that doesn't excuse your want of manners at the dinner-table; besides, the matter concerns Miss Rayne, and not yourself."

Everybody else had anxiously turned towards the mistress of Mount Eden. She had grown very pale, and her lips twitched nervously, but the first trembling words she uttered, as she laid her hand on that of Captain Philip, were, "I shall not mind, if you still care for me."

"Bravo!" cried Mr. Greville, jumping to his feet. "My dear young lady, forgive me for breaking the news to you so lamely, but your Cousin Hugh has really returned to England, and to prove my words, *there* he sits by your side at the present moment, in the person of your overseer, Captain Philip."

Evelyn turned suddenly to Philip, who was gazing at her with all his eyes. She could not speak. The revolution of feeling was too great for her. But she grew as crimson as she had been white before, and her hand grasped his like a vice.

"*Cousin Hugh!*" at last she murmured incredulously.

"Yes, darling, your Cousin Hugh. You won't love me the less for that, will you, Evelyn?"