

Clive Forrester's Gold

beloved, and I, not knowing the truth about the telegram, blurted out the truth with startling abruptness.

'You received my wire saying Clive was staying out there,' I said; and as there was no answer, I went on, 'Did you not get my wire telling you that Clive was remaining in Klondike for the present?'

'No, no!' replied my father, while his face turned as white as a sheet. 'We have just received a telegram saying, "Returning to the Dolphin. Clive remaining with us for the present," which seemed rather vague, to say the least of it. Get the telegram, Grace.' Why, bless me, Grace! he stopped short in alarm at the sight of her face. 'Pull yourself together, my dear. Lou has come home. There, that is better,' as the colour slowly returned to her face. Then he began asking questions about the ship and about the discovery of the Dolphin, Captain Watson having just wired to him about its loss.

Grace listened impatiently. All her care was for Clive, and as soon as she thought my father would tolerate it she drew me aside, in order to learn particulars.

I put my arm round her neck, as I answered, 'Don't take it in that way, darling. It was his wish to remain. He is a hero, Grace,