
CHILD OF DESTINY

Hawkins. "Dinner has been ready a long time. Come Muriel! come, Arthur!" And she led the way to the dining-room.

"By the way, Arthur," she remarked, "just a minute." She turned and walked over to the table and took up the strange letter. "Someone left this at the door for you this evening," she continued. "I almost forgot to hand it to you."

Arthur looked at the address. He recognized the handwriting at once, and a shadow crept over his handsome face. Quickly he walked over to the light, opened the envelope and eagerly read the contents.

Arthur Gravenor looked the picture of strong, athletic manhood as his eyes scanned the lines hurriedly. He wore a plain tweed suit of gray. His face was clean-shaven, fair complexioned, and, withal, good to look upon. Yet the color was fading quickly from the glowing cheeks. His perfect row of white teeth met for an instant, then he bit his lip. A strange look came into his eyes, and a heavy sigh escaped him. He whispered a few words under his breath, but the two women did not understand him.

Muriel grew frightened.

"What's the matter, Arthur?" she said uneasily. "That letter seems to have brought you distressing news."

"No, no, Muriel. Just as I read it a faint,