

The Jewelled Ball

CHAPTER I.

“**H**ELLO, Grantley—come over and join us for tea.”

The most popular corner of White's Club was taken by a group of three or four scions of fashion, and all simultaneously motioned a welcome to the young Duke as the speaker drew his attention. Herbert Montagu Ellsmere, 4th Duke of Grantley, was still in mourning for his father, who had died less than a year after the decease of his Duchess. Theirs had been an ideal marriage for over twenty-two years, and in their only child were developed the characteristics which had been conspicuous in both the parents. The late Duke's moral courage, sense of justice, and democratic Christianity made him prominent among his fellows. The Duchess shewed the deep and tender feelings she felt for those near and dear to her, without being ashamed