

"Yet you said it was by partly her request you were going there now."

"Yes; she expressed a wish to show you the place." A slight flush of pleasure colored the clear face of Drummond. "I don't know what's got into Sybil lately," continued her brother. "I never saw a girl so changed. She used to be the craziest leap-over-the-moon madeap that ever existed; now she is growing as tame as—little Christie."

Drummond's fine eyes were fixed keenly on the frank, open face of Captain Campbell; but nothing was to be read there more than his words contained. With a peculiar smile he turned away and said, carelessly, "And who is this little Christie, to whom you refer?"

"She's the protégée of the old lady on the island—fair as the dream of an opium-eater, enchanting as a houri, and with the voice of an angel."

"Whew! the bold Captain Campbell, the daring descendant of Guy the Fearless, has lost his heart at last!" laughed Willard Drummond.

"Not I," answered Guy, carelessly. "I never yet saw a woman who could touch my heart, and, please heaven, never will."

"Well, here's a wonder—a young man of three-and-twenty, and never in love! Do you expect me to believe such a fable, my good friend?"

"Believe or not, as you will, it is nevertheless true!"

"What! do you mean to say you have never felt the touch of the grande passion—the slightest symptom of that infectious disorder?"

"Pooh! boyish fancies go for nothing. I have now and then felt a queer sensation about the region of my heart at sight of sundry faces at different times; but as for being fatally and incorrigibly in love—never, on my honor!"

"Well, before you reach the age of thirty, you'll have a different story to tell, or I'm mistaken!"

"No; there is no danger, I fancy, unless, indeed," he added, fixing his eyes quizzically on Drummond's handsome face, "I should happen to meet this little enchantress you spoke of awhile ago."

A cloud passed over the brow of his companion; but it cleared away in a moment, as a quick, light footstep was heard approaching, and the next instant, Sybil Campbell,