
CHILD OF DESTINY

"Upon receiving the news of Jerome's adoption, I wired Sir Sidney Chelsea, and in time received a reply that the report was true. He had adopted Jerome Lescot, changing his name to Chel'sa."

"Great God," Jerome sobbed. "Then we are sister and brother!"

The news was too much for Gracia. She reeled and staggered and would have fallen to the ground, but Jerome held her fast.

"Poor child!" the Cardinal whispered to himself, his voice overcome with emotion.

"Poor child of destiny!"

After some minutes Gracia regained consciousness. "Have I been dreaming?" she moaned, looking into Jerome's honest face.

"Is it true that we are sister and brother?"

"Yes, dear," he replied in trembling voice.

"It is only too true."

"But what a blessing, my dear children," cheerily spoke the Cardinal, "that you should have discovered the truth in time."

"It is better so," said Jerome. "I am glad this evening has brought an unexpected treasure into my life. If Love has not found a wife for me, thank God she has found my long-lost sister!"

Turning, he embraced Gracia and kissed her. For some minutes the two wept tears of gladness.

Sister Benita came across the room and