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E. N. HUNT
190 Dundas Street.

A DEAD HEART A Love Story.

"That was what I believed; that was the idea to which I had sacrificed myself; and now, in a fit of anger and passion, purposely I believe to make me miserable, he had told me the truth—told me that the dead sin was the sin of Hubert's father, that the buried wrong was one in which my love had no share. I told me the story of the wicked home; of the noble, generous, kindly man who had taken his own life in his mad despair; of the proud, unhappy mother, who had visited her resentment on her son; of the noble, brave young son who had labored for his daily bread, rather than seek help—told me all in his anger, and then repeated to me the story of the failure of the great bank of 'Fane of Cultures.' Some friend of his had told me that the name was even, Henry Gordon Fane, and I understood why my love shrank from using it.

"He repeated afterwards of having told me, and tried to unsay it; but it was too late. He could never again undo the effect of his words. They made me more and more sure that for I saw that my sacrifice had been in vain; but they made me happier in another, for the vision of my lover's face was clearer to me. My heart was a hero still, without shadow or blame. But from the day he told me, my misery had increased, my unhappiness had been greater than I could bear. I had made a great sacrifice, and to have made it in vain, is the greatest calamity.

"My little baby came, and she brought me some comfort. I called her Berta, that being the nearest name I could find to Hubert. She was a comfort to me. I could talk to her about Hubert; I could tell her, when I showed her the blue sky and the rosy clouds, that someone mamma loved very dearly was waiting for her there. She clapped her little rosy hands and repeated, 'Waiting for you.' 'Ah, yes, my dear love, waiting for me! How my unhappy life will end, I know not; what the future hold for me I know not. But this I know, that in all the lands on the face of the green earth there is no more desolate creature than I, who used to call myself 'Miriam May Dacre'; for I loved my love, with a love so true, so devoted, so entire, so tender, that out of his life no life have I."

These were the written words of her ladyship, as I read them in after years.

CHAPTER XVII.

It was late in the autumn, and still Sir Aleck had not returned. Doria Hope had gone away, and Lady Glen was quite alone. She had few visitors; she spent the greater part of her time in reading and waiting for her heart to be kept by her. She looked so ill. When she was Miriam May Dacre she had a lovely color, like the sweet flush of a wild rose; but now her beautiful face was white as a lily. Perhaps she was lonely, or she was thinking ever of me.

"I had decided to go; the pain was too great for me; I could not bear it now, while my dear lady was so ill. I must wait until the color came back to her face, and the light to her eyes. My instinct always guided me to her. When she was out of the house I seemed to guess always where she was. One night—a soft, dark, dreamy night—something whispered to me that she was in the garden, and I went in noiselessly. There was no sound until I came to the cedar tree; and there I found such passionate weeping, such bitter sobs. I knew then that my lady had left her stately mansion, and sought shelter under the old cedar, that she might weep as she would; and I, who would have shed my heart's blood for her, I who loved her as man

never loved woman before, went away and left her alone.

One dark, dreary, rainy day a messenger came riding in hot haste from Carnarvon with a telegram for my lady. It was taken to her in the morning-room that she had made her own. Without preparation she opened the envelope of the terrible truth it held. She opened it, and, as was usual with her in times of great emotion, became white, and motionless. She sat holding it in her hands, as one before she had held the paper telling of her lover's death; then she rose slowly, and they heard her say:

"They have met face to face at last."

"A great trembling came over her. The words of the telegram were these: 'From Allan Grant, Trevellock Castle, Scotland, to Lady Glen, Atherton Hall, England.—Grieved to say Sir Aleck is dead. He was carrying a pistol suddenly, and killed him instantaneously. Will be with you tomorrow.'

Her ladyship walked to and fro with the telegram in her hand. She could not realize, could not understand the news. She had never thought of his dying, and now he lay dead. She wandered aimlessly through the beautiful rooms; she talked wildly at times, then she fell in a long, deadly faint. While confusion and dismay reigned at the hall.

The terrible news soon spread; and the servants, the laborers, all at work on the estate, gathered at the hall to know if it were true; and we were told how her ladyship had cried out "Face face at last!" and how she lay now, silent and dead to all that was passing. There was real and deep grief, not so much for Sir Aleck himself, as for the young widow and child he had left.

The next day Allan Grant came, and told her ladyship how the accident had happened.

"He brought him home to Carnarvon, to the vault of the Glens. I, the man whom he had robbed and injured, went to his funeral; and when they had lain him in the vault I asked permission to enter. It was given; and, standing by the cold stone under which he who had taken my love from me slept, I bade him goodnight, and forgave him, as I prayed heaven to forgive me."

He had left all his worldly wealth to his wife and child. People praised his generosity, and called him nobly just. The great wealth was settled by no condition; it was hers to do as she would with it.

I shall never forget the day she first appeared amongst us again, with her widow's cap on her golden head, her long crape dress sweeping the ground, rather than seek help—told me all in his anger, and then repeated to me the story of the failure of the great bank of 'Fane of Cultures.' Some friend of his had told me that the name was even, Henry Gordon Fane, and I understood why my love shrank from using it.

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