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## CHILD OF DESTINY

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"He is likely busy at the mill. This is the last day of the month, you know, Muriel."

"But I am sure he is not at the mill at this hour. You know, auntie, he went fishing this afternoon with a few of his friends."

"I did not know that," answered Mrs. Hawkins. "By the way, Muriel, have you not noticed that Arthur has been acting strangely of late? He is not the same as he used to be."

"Yes, I have noticed it. The bright smile and cheerful laugh seem to have left him. He always looks so worried. His mind seems to be wrestling with some problem. Only yesterday I found him sitting here in the library gazing into space. He was so absorbed in his thoughts that he did not hear me enter the room. And then I always see such deep lines of sadness in his face. I wonder what can be the matter?"

"I have no idea, Muriel. Do you think he might be worrying over business affairs?"

"I hardly think so. Only last week he told me that everything was running smoothly at the mill."

Presently a light dawned on Mrs. Hawkins' mind, and her thoughts stole swiftly to the mysterious letter which Kitty had handed her but a few minutes before.

"Muriel, come here," she said. "Let us examine this letter. It seems strange that it should have been brought here this evening."