

ESMERALDA

most into the arms of Mr. Willy, who, in turn, beat a quick retreat.

Then my dear patroness, whose given name, as a matter of fact, is Sarah, did the most heroic thing. In the face of disaster to her carefully planned dinner, in the midst of that awful silence, she made a supreme effort, gathered herself together, and advanced upon Miss Esmeralda with a dignified manner.

"I am Mrs. DeWynt," she said with remarkable composure. "I presume you are Esmeralda. And I must really ask you to remove that—that common animal!"

"Oh, but he's not a common animal!" said Esmeralda quickly. "He's quite rare, in fact. You see, he's half coyote and half dog. But if you don't want him of course I'll take him away. Excuse me a minute."

With which she gathered the great ugly creature up in her arms and disappeared. A faint buzz of conversation arose in her wake, but it was fear-