

THE OUTCAST

“ ‘The murder.’

“ ‘What murder?’ His voice was very quiet, but very clear.

“ ‘The murder of——’

“ ‘Stop, sir!’ and from his deep eyes leaped a flame like a sudden drawn sword. ‘She never boasted of murder. If you let that word pass your lips I, myself, will swear out a warrant against you for perjury, and prove it on you by every officer that was present that night. She never used that word. Whether there shall have been a murder committed is a secret locked in the bosoms of those twelve men. This young thing here, is at this moment, as free from the crime of murder as you are, and I am an officer of the law appointed by the court to see that she has the protection of the law. She shall have it this day by the help of God.’ He leant over and instinctively put his hand on her shoulder and drew her toward him, and she instinctively or from sheer weakness leant against him. Every one sat up to peer at them. The trial suddenly entered on a new phase. I became