

came in the night before—and sort of took possession of us, like I think he must do of everything that he wants, no matter what his right. He made out with a big bluff that he'd known me when I sang here that week, and mother was a little bit dazzled by his local consequence and flattered by his great show of interest in our affairs. He said he knew that your father had brought a big share of the money the company had collected here with him, and that he could make him pay us. That's how we came to go with him yesterday. But I'm not with him to-day," she finished, with a quick little smile.

Heiskell nodded, understandingly.

"I suppose he believed that father had the money hidden up here somewhere, like he'd have had it himself. I think that fellow Drumm must have been like Fleming."

"Nothing like him in appearance. He was tall and thin, and he had the most appealing, truthful eyes in the world," said she. "Nature seemed to have designed him to deceive."

The timbers of the derrick at the old well could be seen from where they were now, but for three years or more the undergrowth had been so thick that the dangling drill and the rusting engine had been hidden from passers-by. Ared pointed the derrick out to her.

"That hole is more than half a mile deep," he said, "and it's so well curbed against seepage that it's dry. Father has kept it covered, and the drill