

## ESMERALDA

"Well?" she said in a high, sharp key. "You've been gone long enough! Well?"

I showed her the note. My dear Mrs. DeWynt took one look at it, and then gave forth a sound that in any lesser person could only have been called a snort.

"You'll be telling me next that she's married Tugwell!" she said furiously. And at the words I felt myself turning cold.

Of course, you all know now that she was right. We ourselves did not know it for two days afterward, when, almost simultaneously, came the announcement in the Times and an early morning visit from Mrs. Ted. That erratic lady sailed in just as Mrs. DeWynt and I were discussing the story in the newspaper; and, at first, Mrs. DeWynt was inclined to be very cross, because of Mrs. Ted's part in the affair. But Mrs. Ted has a cajoling way with her.

"Now, Sarah," she said, "don't be ridiculous with me! The girl came