
CHILD OF DESTINY

honor it as the most sacred gift that life can give him, that he will remain true to his promises, and that God will bless both with an abundance of graces which make for perfection in this life and the next. I have another matter to refer to, and no time seems more opportune than the present. Sister Benita has handed me this casket which I hold in my hand. It was entrusted to her by her brother on his deathbed. When Arthur Gravenor was dying he commissioned her to open the casket and read the enclosed letter to you, Gracia, on your twentieth birthday. That day has now arrived, and to-night your benefactor's desire will be fulfilled, here in the presence of your friends. May God grant that it will bring into your life added happiness!"

Gracia stirred in her chair somewhat frightened. Her cheeks were pale.

"Poor girl!" thought Jerome, noticing her evident uneasiness. "I should have told her beforehand of this."

"See," His Eminence exclaimed, "the letter is addressed thus:

*"To MISS GRACIA GRAVENOR,
To be opened on her twentieth birthday.'"*

Gracia's heart throbbed visibly, her eyes