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Sectional view showing interior of hair culter, showing interior and are misutes after the use the DUPLEX AUTOMATII

The Heart of the Desert

Rhoda sat erect, with flaming face You mean that he's an Indian and

I let him carry me! Katherine!" The mischief in Katherine's brown

eyes grew to laughter.

"I thought that would get a rise out of you, you blessed tenderfoot! What difference does that make? He res cued you from a serious predicament; and more than that he's a fine fellow and one of Jack's dearest friends." Rhoda's delicate face still was

flushed. "An Indian! What did John DeWitt

"Oh!" said Katherine, carelessly,

"he offered to drive Kutle back to the ditch, and he hasn't got home yet. They probably will be very congenial, John being a Harvard man and Kutle a Yale!"

Rhoda's curved lips opened, then closed again. The look of interest

closed again. The look of died from her eyes.
"Well," she said in her usual weary voice, "I think I'll have a glass of the porch. You see I'm being all the trouble to you, Katherine, that I said I would be."

I would be."
"Trouble!" protested Katherine.
"Why. Rhoda Tuttle, if I could just see you with the old light in your eyes. I'd wait on you by inches on my knees. I would, honestly."

Rhoda withbod a this check would.

Rhoda rubbed a thin cheek against e warm hand that still held hers, and the mute thanks said more than

The veranda of the Newman ranchhouse was deep and shaded by green From the hammock where she a delicate figure amid the vivid cushions, Rhoda looked upon a landscape that combined all the perfection of verdure of a northern park with a sense of illimitable breathing space that should have been fairly intoxicat ing to her. Two huge cottonwoods stood beside the porch. Beyond the lawn lay the peach orchard which vied with the bordering alfalfa fields in fragrance and color. The yellow-brown of tree-trunks and the white of fragrance and color. grazing sheep scainst vegetation of richest green were astonishing colors for Rhoda to find in the desert to which she had been exiled, and in the few days since her arrival she had not ceased to wonder at them.

DeWitt crossed the orchard, quick

ening his pace when he saw Rhoda. He was a tall fellow, blond and well built, though not so tall and lithe as

bullt, though not so tall and lithe as Cartwell. His dark blue eyes were disconcertingly clear and direct. "Well, Rhoda dear!" he exclaimed as he hurried up the steps. "It you didn't scare this family! How are you feelies you."

didn't scare this you feeling now?"
you feeling now?"
"I'm all right," Rhoda answered anguidly. "It was good of you all to languidly. "It was good of you all to languidly. "It was good of you all to languidly." bother so about me. been doing all day?"

been doing all day?"
"Over at the ditch with Jack and
Cartwell. Say, Rhoda, the young fellow who rescued you is an Indian!"
DeWitt dropped into a big chair by
the hammock. He watched the girl
hopefully. It was such a long, long
time since she had been interested in
swything." Dut there. But there was no respon-

anything: But there was no respon-sive light in the deep gray eyes. "Katherine told me," she raplied. Then, after a pause, as if she felt it her duty to make conversation. "Did you like him?"

Continued from page 18.)

"I don't know. I was so dizzy I Rhoda. I don't like nizgers or Chinscouldn't see him. He seemed very men or Indians when they get over to dark. Is he a Spaniard?"
"Spaniard! No!" Katherine was "Spaniard! No!" Katherine was rateful enough on their own watching Rhoda's languid eyes half side. However, this Cartwell chap mischievously. "He's part Mescallero, part Pueblo, part Mohave!"

[1] And't know that I'm as grafeful.

"I don't know that I'm as grateful for that as I ought to be," murmured been an easy solution."

Her words

Her words stung DeWitt. He started forward and seized the small thin hands in both his own.

"Rhods, don't!" he pleaded huskfy.
"On't zike up! Don't lose hope! It I could only give you some of my strength! Don't talk so it just about breaks my heart to hear you."

"Eve a since Phods 4th and snawer.

For a time, Rhoda did not answer. She lay wearily watching the eager, pleading face so close to her own. Even in her illness Rhoda was very lovely. The burnished yellow hair softened the thinness of the face that softened the thinness of the face that was like delicately chieled marble. The finely cut nose, the exquisite drooping mouth, the little square chin with its cleft, and the great gray eyes lost none of their beauty through her

weakness.

"John," she said at last, "why won't you look the truth in the face? I never shall get well. I shall die bere instead of in New York, that's re? to only tortures you. And truly it's your realness to me, somehow, I shan't mind golng, much."

DeWill's agroup face, worked but ide.

DeWitt's strong face worked but ais voice was steady.

"I never shall leave you," he said in never shall leave you," he said simply. "You are the one woman in-the world for me. I'd marry you to-morrow if you'd let me." Rhoda shook her head.

"You ought to go away, John, and "You ought to go away, John forget me. You ought to go marry some fine girl and have a home and a family. I'm just a sick wreck."
"Rhoda," and DeWitt's earnest

voice was convincing, "Rhoda, I'd earth for you, just sick you. Why, can't you see that your helplessness and dependence only deepen your hold Who wants a thing as fragile and as lovely as you are to make a home! You pay your way in life just Beauty and sweetness like ours is enough for a woman to give. don't want you to do a thing in the world. Just give yourself to me and let me take care of you. Rhoda, dear, dear heart!"

"I can't marry unless I'm well," insisted Rhoda, "and I never shall be well again. I know that you all thought it was for the best, bringing me down to the desert, but just as-soon as I can manage it without hurt-ing Katherine's and Jack's feelings too much, I'm going back to New York. If you only knew how the big emptiness of this desert country adds to my depression!"

to my depression."
"If you go back to New York," persisted DeWitt. "you are going back
as my wife. I'm sick of seeing you
dependent on hired care. Why, Rhoda deer. Is it nothing to you that, when you haven't a near relative in the world. I would stadly die for you?"
"Oh!" cried the girl, tears of weakness and pity in her eyes, "you know.

that it means everything to me! But I can't marry any one. All I want is just to crawl away and die in peace. just to crawl away and die in peace. I wish that that indian hadn't come upon me so promptly. I'd just have gone to sheen and never wakened."
"Don't! Don't!" cried DeWitt. "I shall pick you up and hold you against all the world, if you say that!"

(Continued next week.)

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enumera the past to Mr. P only thro plishmen told us n had com ticular w in the R drove he that she and on o until two terrible their des in an ox of them were hel and out fants, in for them family w Smith he boy who low, to h dren. Th that some dren, but impossibl. to teach

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