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E. M. Grove

**The Heir of
Bayneham**

Lady Hutton's Ward.

CHAPTER XIX.

"I cannot remember the witty things he said, but we quite agreed upon many points. He has a very handsome house near the Park."
Miss Lowe looked amiably interested, having nothing particular to say.
"There are times," continued the lady pathetically, "when I feel very lonely. When poor Sir Wilton was alive, he kept me continually amused. Really, to quote and alter the saying of a French king, 'a house without a gentleman is like a garden without flowers!'"

Her companion cordially agreed in this; it was a wonderful flight of imagination for Lady Grahame.
"Mr. Fulton said something about calling to-morrow morning," said her ladyship; "but I do not know whether he will. We were speaking of jewels, and he said he had a very rare and beautiful opal that he would show me, I forget where it was found, but in some strange place. Do you think pale pink or light blue suits me best? I may as well look nice. We must see about a becoming toilet, my dear—something elegant, but not too young."

Lady Grahame was in an unusual state of high spirits. She had called that morning upon one of her many dear and intimate friends. The ladies had gone out shopping together, and during the course of their drive they met Mr. Henderson, who introduced his friend Mr. Fulton to Lady Grahame. Mr. Fulton was, or seemed to be, charmed with her. He offered her more homage, more compliments, and more delicate flattery in one hour than she had ever received before. After he left them, Mrs. Henderson told her how often Mr. Fulton had expressed a wish to know her "elegant and graceful friend, Lady Grahame."

"I think," said Mrs. Henderson, "you made a conquest, Lady Grahame. Mr. Fulton is said to be immensely rich. I never saw any one with such a flow of spirits and eloquence."
"Is he one of the Fultons of Hexham?" asked Lady Grahame.

"I know nothing of his family," was the reply; "Mr. Henderson met him at a banquet given in honor of the Prince Risentour, and he was quite charmed with him. I assure you several ladies of my acquaintance would be proud to make such a conquest."
Lady Grahame was delighted. Not that a lover was a novelty, for her pleasing person and comfortable jointure, had attracted many, but something or other interfered with each of them.

One was too old, another only sought her for her money, a third was too dissipated, a fourth could not disagree over settlements; and in sober earnest Lady Grahame cared for none of them. But she was quite pleased with the homage of this handsome, debonair man, whose careless smiles and words were so full of life and humor, and Lady Grahame returned home in a perfect flutter of spirits.

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spirits, for he had asked permission to call on the morrow to show her the wonderful opal about which he told a strange, interesting story.

The morrow came, and Lady Grahame's maid found it very difficult to please her; but when the toilet was completed she acknowledged it to be a perfect success. Every good point in her figure and face was made the most of, and every defect carefully concealed. Lady Grahame smiled as she gave a long, lingering look at the mirror, Miss Lowe was observed to look unusually tired when the ceremony was over.

It was a bright May day; the windows of the pretty drawing-room were open; the soft, warm breeze was laden with the fragrance of magnonette, Lady Grahame's favorite flower. The blinds were skilfully arranged, so that a beautiful rosy light came from the silken hangings. It was really a pretty picture; and Lucy Grahame, in her effective toilette, was pleasant to look upon.

"I will not read, my dear," she said, when Miss Lowe suggested a book; "it makes me so sleepy and stupid. Give me that purse I am netting; you can read aloud if you choose."

But not one word did Lady Grahame hear; her thoughts were all upon the visitor whose coming she anticipated so anxiously. It was long since a blush of real pleasure had flushed her face, but there was one when she heard a loud and very imperative knock at the door. Her hand almost trembled when she rose to greet her admirer.

As Mr. Fulton stood there in the subdued light of the May sun he looked a handsome man. The careless, debonair expression was still on his face, and the easy, graceful, languid manner had not deserted him. He was the same man that beneath the shade of the woods of Brynmar had wooed Magdalen Hurst to her fate.

There was no trace of that sad, passionate love story in his calm face; no trace of the felon's dock, the convict's cell, or the outlaw's doom. Bland and calm, gay and graceful, he looked like the Stephen Hurst who so many years ago was Lord Hutton's closest friend.

The past was a dead letter to him; it lay buried in his wife's grave. At times the memory of Magdalen Hurst, with her beautiful face and passionate love, came before him, but only to be banished with a contemptuous thought, or a sneering smile at the wondrous love of women which bears all, and even in death hides all memory of wrong. He was not troubled with much of that commodity called heart.

When he thought of Brynmar woods and the beautiful young girl he had wooed there, it was with an impatient shrug at what he called his own folly.

Stephen Hurst ought to have been a gentleman. His father was one of the bravest officers in the English army, and died facing the enemy, leaving his wife and son to lament his loss.

In simple truth Stephen Hurst broke his mother's heart. Her hopes were all centered on him; she sent him to college, depriving herself of everything, that he might have all.

He never did well. His college career was one course of drinking and disorder. He made friends there, for there was some charm about the man that few could resist. His handsome face, and easy, careless manner, his hearty laugh and genuine good spirits, won for him many friends.

Lord Hutton was one of those who liked him best. When his mother had laid down her life, thankful that its troubles were ended, Stephen Hurst lived for a time on the remnants of the fortune his father had left. He was a successful gambler, always winning, seldom losing; and he continued to associate with a fast set of men, and to live as they did. When he went down with Lord Hutton to Brynmar, Stephen Hurst had nearly come to the end of his purse. Then his downward career was easily accom-

plished. He married one of the prettiest and best girls in Scotland, and broke her heart. He forged the name of one who had once been his friend, and suffered the penalty of his crime. When he left England—a convict—all hope died out of his heart. He never believed it would be possible to retrieve his position.

Although his associates were the vilest of the vile Stephen Hurst did not fall into their ways. They laughed at him and sneered at him for being what they called a fine gentleman; but he kept aloof from them. At first he was sullen in despair, but hope began to whisper of what he might do when he should once more be free. He was only twenty-nine; in ten years he would still be a comparatively young man. He sent for his wife, but when he saw her he hated her, because his sin and her shame had striken the fair beauty of youth from her face. He heard of the wonderful gold fields in California, and when the time of his freedom came he went there, and succeeded beyond his wildest hopes. He amassed a fortune and returned to England, and his first step was to try to get rid of his beautiful, unhappy wife, who still remained where he had left her.

Then he set to work to reconstruct his life. He was not afraid of recognition. Of the fast set he had lived with none remained; Lord Hutton was dead, some were abroad, others had vanished no one knew where.

In seventeen years the world undergoes great changes, and no one could have recognized in the handsome, bearded man, the ex-convict, Stephen Hurst. He took a large house, furnished it magnificently, and made his way in society. He was warmly welcomed there, and no one in London gave better bachelor dinners, or kept a more hospitable house. He had but one trouble—the wife he had learned to hate had discovered him; had met him in the public streets, and had cried out his name. To his relief, some months afterward, there came a letter from her, addressed to him by his newly assumed name, bidding him farewell, as she had not many days longer to live. He then supposed she was dead, and troubled himself about her no more. He was free now to retrieve his mistakes, to make for himself another life, for the past was buried. He thought sometimes with a dull wonder of his child, half curious to know if it were living or dead.

One thing was necessary to secure his position, and that was a good marriage. He did not want money, but connection. He must marry some one who could establish him securely in good society, and secure for him an entree into circles that at present were closed to him. So when he heard of Lady Grahame he knew he had found what he wanted, and set himself to woo and win the pleasant, self-indulgent widow.

"I have been impatiently awaiting the time when you gave me permission to call, Lady Grahame," said Mr. Fulton. "I never found a day and night to long before."

Lady Grahame blushed and smiled. Cool, elegant woman of the world as she was, she did not feel at her ease in the presence of this handsome stranger. He had brought the wonderful opal, and there was plenty of discussion over it. He did not say how it came into his possession, but it had been taken from the treasured gems of some great Indian Rajah. He showed the wondrous gleaming colors, the ever-changing tints, the hidden fire that seemed at times to flash ruby-red from its depths.

(To be continued.)

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3569. Canton crepe or crepe de chine would be attractive for this style, but it is nice also for gingham and other cotton weaves. The skirt is joined to a long waisted underbody. The overblouse, caught up at the sides in soft folds under ribbon trimming or a motif or rosette, is slipped over the dress when worn. One may have both skirt and overblouse in straight or scalloped outline.

This pattern is cut in 4 sizes, 6, 8, 10 and 12 years. A 10 year size requires 2 1/2 yards of 40 inch material.

Pattern mailed to any address on receipt of 10c. in silver or stamps.

4192. Here is a popular version of the "ever comfortable cape style. The collar may be rolled low, with fronts of the cape open, or closed high, as shown in the large view. For general wear, double faced plaid, woolen or velvours would be serviceable. For "dressy" wear, one could choose velvet, satin, fur fabrics, or crepe.

The Pattern is cut in 4 Sizes: Small, 34-36; Medium, 38-40; Large, 42-44; Extra Large, 46-48 inches bust measure. A Medium size requires 4 1/2 yards of 36 inch material.

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A COMFORTABLE CONVENIENT GARMENT.
4024. Corduroy, flannel, Beacon cloth or eiderdown is nice for his style if for a bath robe. If for lounging it will be nice in satin, faille or crepe. The Pattern is cut in 4 Sizes: Small, 34-36; Medium, 38-40; Large, 42-44; and Extra Large, 46-48 inches bust measure. A Medium size requires 4 1/2 yards of 40 inch material. The width at the foot is about 2 yards.

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The Pattern is good for crepe, batiste, voile, and silk also for outing flannel and crepe de chine. It is cut in 6 Sizes: 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, and 12 years. A 6 year size requires 2 1/2 yards of 36 inch material.

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A SMART WRAP FOR DRESS OR UTILITY OCCASIONS.
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A DAINY "PARTY" OR "BEST" FROCK.
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