



CLAIM
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"He probably considers himself manfully rewarded now," laughed her brother thoughtfully.

CHAPTER II

The buildings of the K ranch were grouped in picturesque disorder on a little plateau dotted with box elders...

"Dear to the frogs perhaps, but—" "Oh, now," he said, "I don't know..."

"The house was a low, rambling structure, complacently violating every known law of architectural style..."

"She was lying in a hammock in the shade of the wide piazza, that gave for one broad entrance way..."

"Speaking of that, do you know a woman rather strange, dear, that you don't seem to know?"

"And that was the reason of your sudden determination to visit us," she said, looking at him with a faint smile...

"You have not had time yet to find out the thorns beneath the roses," returned Nelsie, almost with an air of phony enjoyment...

"I have, my dear, certainly, and the last day that the first and welcome, so far as I am concerned at this moment..."

"What a relief it must be in the matter of bounds!" rejoined the girl, smiling incoherently.

"If it was, she believes in the theory of small snail-like creatures, in her limited sphere..."

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"I shall see nothing but the roses, my dear. I never saw so many together in all my life before..."

"I dropped a particle to Nelsie, and it did not. I asked that the water be turned to white, but—" "You asked too much. Men are made of flesh and blood."

"But one must—experiment to find that out, don't you think?" "One must be educated up to the point of comprehension."

"If I were, I should not forget the opportunity," she said, looking at him with a faint smile...

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by a couple of the boys, who came running down from the barn, and presently was led away, a sadder and it is to be hoped a wiser animal."

"What Brown walked over to where Edith was still standing..."

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"The Fortune Hunter's Dilemma." "Well," said the handsome fortune hunter to the rich man's plain daughter...

"It is no good," she sobbed, "no good. Father is hard as iron. He will not hear of the match."

"How do you mean?" "Jack!" cried the plain girl, throwing her arms around the fortune hunter's neck...

"Well, and as for me," she said as she hesitated, regarding him with a certain air of defiance...

"I suppose she will marry him," he said, with a short, scornful laugh...

"Well, I should be pleased to know just what you meant to imply," she said as he hesitated...

"Ah, now you are cruel," he murmured, but she had smiled by him into the house.

"To be continued."

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