

## CHAPTER XVI—Continued. I awoke me, and said that the baro was taking her ashore, and that the

workshop, where he altered the appearance of the stones, and prepared them ready for sale. The stones were melted in a crucible and put into molds to be sent to agents in Hamburg.

"But that night in Leghorn," I said. "What happened to you?"

"I do not know," was Muriel's reply. "We were both on board together, and standing at the crack of the door watched you sitting at dinner that evening. The last time we saw you was when you went ashore, Captain Woodroffe went ashore, Captain Woodroffe called Horsey and Mack-

Leithrook. It is plain, however, that both myself and Anna were in the room with you at their interest in the matter. I was in the room with you, because the suspicion of the police had at last become too strong for Armdia was therefore secretly enticed there to have a talk with the inquisitive man assassin took to be myself and struck down."

"By whom?"

"By whom?" by Captain, for he was on that night."

"Then by Woodroffe?"

"Yes," said.

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strangest that any woman has ever  
lived to tell.

CHAPTER XVII.

Contains Elma's Story.

Before me stood my love, a slim,  
tragic, rather than figure in a heavy  
dark travelling coat and felt toque,  
her sweet lips parted and a look of be-  
wildered amazement upon her coun-  
tenance.

She gazed beyond into the room where the others had assembled, and then looked at me inquiringly, whereupon I led her forward to where they were, and Muriel fell upon her and kissed her with tears streaming from her eyes.

"I prepared this surprise for you, Mr. Gregg," Muriel said, laughing through her tears of joy. "Ollie learned that she was on her way to London, and I sent him to meet her. The princess has managed magnifi-

And as the freelight fell across it found it incomparable. Yes; and she was afflicted by loss of speech. It was true, yet she was surely inexpressibly sweet and womanly, peerless above all others.

With a deep-drawn sigh she at last finished, and, her head still bowed in an attitude of humiliation, it seemed, she handed what she had written to

you, I should ere this have been on my way to Saghalien, to the tomb to which Oberg had so ingeniously contrived to consign me. Ah! you do not know—you never can know—all that I have suffered ever since I was a girl."

Here the statement broke off, and recommenced as follows:

"In order that you should understand the truth, I had better begin at the beginning. My father was an Eng-

But when you have re-  
solved to be great, abide by yourself,  
do not weakly try to reconcile  
yourself to the world. The heroic  
is the common, not the com-  
mercio. If you would serve  
yourself, because it is fit for you,  
do not take back that for  
others. You find that prudent peo-  
ple commend you. Be true  
to your own act, and congratulate  
yourself on what you have done something  
for the world.

and responsibilities; to inspire  
with a determination to be obedient  
to instruct them in God's plan.

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