

# Another Woman's Territory.

BY ALIEN

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## SYNOPSIS OF PREVIOUS CHAPTERS.

### CHAPTER I.

HOWARD GREY, the novelist, was tramping the West Coast, carrying his swag. To the world he was clever, talented; he hungered for genius. Benighted, he was found by Frank Osmond, and taken to the cottage where he and his sister Caroline lived in retreat. In the course of an argument, Caroline expressed scorn of cheap effect in literature, and Howard affirmed that success meant using every atom of material that comes your way with a definite object in view—self, he used the words, "The world despises nothing but failure. Get branded as a failure, and you are a dog for odd bones." Frank was strangely affected, and retired. Caroline found an opportunity to say, "Mr. Grey, I think you ought to know—my brother was imprisoned for forgery." "Unjustly?" he asked. "No; justly."

### CHAPTER II.

THE next morning Frank accompanied Howard on his journey as far as The Pine Mill. They conversed unreservedly. "Work, man; grind away at something; grind hard. It must be damnable!" was Howard's advice. Frank handed a roll of MS. containing an account of his experiences as a convict to Howard. "Read it and burn it, or do what you like with it!"

### CHAPTER III.

HOWARD read the MS. He was absorbed, fascinated. . . . "It is genius, I envy him!" exclaimed the successful man, "I have missed just this!" Frank, instead of returning home, wandered off through the bush, and, referring to his sister, said, "To chain her life to mine and daily crush her. . . . I will die to her once for all. One wrench, and it will be over." Howard returned to the cottage next morning. On his way he found, on a spot where the grass was beaten down, Frank's cap. He met Caroline looking for her brother. She said: "Frank will not return; I felt that all night. . . . I wish I could know whether he called me from this side of the river or the other! . . . Of one thing I am sure—he has let his hold go of me."

### CHAPTER IV.

HOWARD tried to console Caroline for her loss. She explained that her brother "forged just before his intended eradication," but never told her why, and she considered it dishonorable to ask, and that shame broke his heart. Howard

determines now Frank is dead, as he firmly believes, to make use of the "rough, unpolished gem from his mind's quarry," which had been given him to burn or do as he liked with.

### CHAPTER V.

HOWARD lodged with Sawyer Thomas and his wife Polly at the Pine Mill, and worked hard rewriting and polishing the MS. When it was completed, he called at Caroline's cottage and finds her at the point of death. He had a strong conviction that he could recall her from the dim world, and, succeeding, asked her to become his wife.

### CHAPTER VI.

INTRODUCES the reader to the Little Dustpan, a book shop kept by Ruth Opie, a Cornish spinster who had passed herself off as a widow to protect herself from the indignities levelled at old maidenhood. Frank, with a mongrel dog he calls Pakeha, overtaken in a storm, asked for shelter, and eventually secured lodging with her.

## CHAPTER VII.

### RETURNING BOATS.

THE outward visible sign of Ruth Opie's happiness made itself more manifest every day. She grew younger, gay, busier, smarter. She never sat at night in her shop now, watching folk go by in envy of those who went by two and two. Her jealousy of Pakeha, with other jealousies, was a past tense, for she knew the hour "The Lad's" gratitude and esteem changed to affection. She had taken up a wrong idea she told herself severely.

When she had concluded "He" was not on the face of the earth, this was "He"—made flesh, and in the most exquisite form a woman's ideal of a man can come to her—in the form of a son; with all a lover's tenderness and reverence, but none of his demand. Nothing to undo, no pride to break or keep—no penance.