

**"LOVE AND QUIET
LIFE":
SOMERSET IDYLLS**

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"Love and quiet life": Somerset idylls by Walter Raymond

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WALTER RAYMOND

**"LOVE AND QUIET
LIFE":
SOMERSET IDYLLS**

"LOVE AND QUIET LIFE"

Somerset Idylls

BY

WALTER RAYMOND

*Author of "Gentleman Upcott's Daughter" "Young Sam and
Sabina" etc.*

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CHAPTER I

SUTTON TOWN

AT the entrance to the little village of Sutton stands a small square house. At the back lies a Somersetshire moor; and in front a ridge of hills, not high, but suddenly rising steep and abrupt, and crowned with copse, alternating with large patches of gorse. The slope is checkered like a chess-board, with fields, both arable and grass. But for a few gentle undulations, the hill-top lies even against the sky; and the edge of the moor below draws a line as level as the water which formerly lapped the foot of the hill.

The town (for town it was called, although never more than half a score of houses) consisted of one undeviating street, with cottages and small homesteads on either side. Hidden from the moor by dark orchards, its position was indicated by an irregular row of tall poplar trees. In summer-time, a thin film of grey smoke hanging along the hill-side betrayed the presence of this cluster of human habitations. In winter, thatch and gables and a