

**FORGE AND
FURNACE:
A NOVEL**

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Forge and Furnace: A Novel by Florence Warden

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FLORENCE WARDEN

**FORGE AND
FURNACE:
A NOVEL**

FORGE AND FURNACE

A NOVEL

BY

Florence Warden *presented by*

Author of *The House on the Marsh*,
A Prince of Darkness, *Scheherazade*

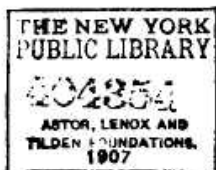
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A LIST OF THE ILLUSTRATIONS

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"Oh, father, don't, don't! You'll hurt him."	<i>Frontispiece.</i>
"Ah, Mr. Cornthwaite, surely there's no sight in the world to beat this."	10
For a moment he stood, saw in hand, looking at her without speaking.	52
"A wedding, sir?" Bram's face clouded with perplexity.	70
An exclamation escaped his lips. She ran panting towards him.	86
With an impulse of indomitable rage she stepped back and flung something in his face,	134
He took off his overcoat and covered her with it very gently,	156
"Oh, Claire, Claire, my little Claire, are you going to die?"	200

FORGE AND FURNACE;

THE ROMANCE OF A SHEFFIELD BLADE.

CHAPTER I.

A PAIR OF BROWN EYES.

THUD, thud. Amidst a shower of hot, yellow sparks the steam hammer came down on the glowing steel, shaking the ground under the feet of the master of the works and his son, who stood just outside the shed. In the full blaze of the August sunshine, which was, however, tempered by such clouds of murky smoke as only Sheffield can boast, old Mr. Cornthwaite, acclimatized for many a year to heat and to coal dust, stood quite unconcerned.

Tall, thin, without an ounce of superfluous flesh on his bones, with a fresh-colored face which seemed to look the younger and the handsomer for the silver whiteness of his hair and of his long, silky moustache, Josiah Cornthwaite's was a figure which would have arrested attention anywhere, but which was especially noticeable for the striking contrast he made to the rough-looking Yorkshiremen at work around him.

Like a swarm of demons on the shores of Styx, they moved about, haggard, gaunt, uncouth figures, silent amidst the roar of the furnaces and the whirr of the wheels, lifting the bars of red-hot steel with long iron rods as easily and unconcernedly as if they had been hot