

# **A WILD-CAT SCHEME**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649204809

A wild-cat scheme by E. M. Keate

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.  
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

[www.triestepublishing.com](http://www.triestepublishing.com)

**E. M. KEATE**

**A WILD-CAT  
SCHEME**



# A WILD-CAT SCHEME

BY  
E. M. KEATE

AUTHOR OF "A GARDEN OF THE GODS," AND JOINT AUTHOR OF  
"ROYAL PALACES OF ENGLAND."

LONDON  
ALSTON RIVERS, LTD.  
18 YORK BUILDINGS, ADELPHI, W.C.2

*Printed in Great Britain*  
*at the BURLEIGH PRESS, Lewin's Mead, BRISTOL.*

TO  
FOREST FARM  
AND MY FIRST KIND CRITICS





#### AUTHOR'S NOTE

All the circumstances of the story are purely imaginary, including the part about the Arcos Company, except the mention of the police raid on their premises, which is a matter of common knowledge.

**2137158**

"It is *Fear*, oh little Hunter, it is *Fear*!"  
*Rudyard Kipling.*

## CHAPTER I

KATE PARKER came tripping down the front stairs of Greystones House, in the little village of Greystones, in Dorsetshire, feeling light-hearted, although it was only six o'clock, and a cold morning in March.

Kate was not allowed to go down the front stairs at this unhallowed hour. In fact, as under-housemaid, she was never allowed to go down them at all for her own convenience, she was only allowed to sweep and polish them for the upper housemaid's convenience. She and Elsie, the kitchenmaid, took turns to be the first of the household up in the morning, to open the back door in good time, because the cook, Mrs. Crutcher and her husband, the under-gardener, slept in a cottage, on the other side of the stable-yard, and woe betide the luckless wight who had not opened the door before Mrs. Crutcher arrived! Life was not worth living for several days afterwards, because Mrs. Crutcher, though usually a most comfortable woman, when roused, had a sharp tongue and a still sharper eye for minor delinquencies.

The proper routine was to gather up the boots and shoes left on the table at the top of the back stairs, drop them in the boot-boy's lair at the bottom