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The Romance

Marriage.

CHAPTER XXXII.

the hectic flush grows deeper. "It is hind the costly furs that envelop her hot, very hot. I left my sunshade at as if she had received a chill. home. Why did you leave it, Weston?" stands silent at her side.

"You said, miss-"

"Yes, I remember; I didn't think I interest. should want it. Thank you," to Paula; "I!" says Paula, with a smile. "No, "but how about yourself? If I take it I have never been ill." you will be baked," and a smile that lights up the delicate face as a piece keenly. of Dresden is illuminated by a flash of sunlight, passes over it.

"I like being baked." says Paula, glance. putting up the sunshade. "I never use it. My complexion was irretrievably ruined years and years ago," and she puts the sunshade into the thin, white

"Years and years ago!" retorts the others, and a faint, pleasant mockery their owner. curves her lips, making the face quite eloquent, and conveying the speaker's you?" meaning in an instant, "Then it must have been when you were quite a the maid.

"Yes, when I was quite a child,"

with a distinct gaze of admiration on Paula's face. "It is very kind of you.

"Not at all," says Paula.

There is silence for a moment, durand, with anything but indifference, it better now that I have seen some-

back again at the fresh young face shove her.

Paula stands, struggling against the ascination that has taken hold of her, striving for some commonplace renark and finding none.

At last the silence grows oppres sive, and she says, suddenly, after her

"Ill?" replies the other, and a faint smile curves the delicate lips. "Yes; if D am ill. That is a question that puzzles the doctors. I have been like I am, as you see me, for for how long is it. Weston?"

"Nearly a twelvemonth, miss," says the maid. "But'-emphatically-"you are better, much better now."

"I am better, much better now," repeats the invalid, with a strange smile at Paula—a mocking, yet by no means really; only the doctors will not let white house there," and she points to me walk about, and insist upon my it. being treated like a mummy," and she draws her other arm from under the multitudinous wraps.

Paula notices that the arm-as much of it as is seen-is white and beautiful shaped, though thin, and that a thing like an acacla in the place," says magnificent bracelet, set with dia- the mistress, with a smile. monds, glitters on the wrist; there Paula remembers Acacia Villa; it is are also costly rings half-way up the one of the best houses in the place.

The invalid holds her hand in the "You are very kind," she says, and sun for a moment, then plunges it be-

"Oh quite well." she says, with turning her eyes to the maid, who laugh, "Nouville is working wonders for me. Have you been ill?" and her eyes seek Paula's face with evident

"No? I thought you had been."

Paula colours rather under the keen

"No." she says, with a smile, "excepting the measles and the whooping-cough, I have suffered nothing." with their look of curiosity. "Have you been here long?" says

"A few months," says Paula. "And

"How long it is?" asks the other of

"Ten days, miss," is the prompt, respectful reply.

"Ten days," repeated the invalid. she says, "Is that better? You don't "I have been travelling about. I don't like to say where I haven't been; I

volume in a circulating library." "And do you like Nouville?" asks

"I hated it," said the invalid, with a me which the beautiful invalid has vehemence that makes Paula stare. "I planced indifferently at the beach, hated it until now; but I think I like

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"No," says Paula, "I am living with my sister at Cliff Villa-that little

The invalid nods. And I am lodging at-what is the

name of the place. Weston?" "Acacia Villa, miss."

"Acacia Villa, though there is no

Evidently the pale, blue-eyed invalid in one of the swells, perhaps a young

ly sheltered."

"So the doctors said"-wearily, and with a smile, as if it were a fine jest. "And you live on the cliff? I will be sure and remember. Will you take your sunshade now?"

"No," says Paula; "keep it till you return home. I will send for it."

"Pray, pray do," says Paula, eager ly. "I do not want it, I shouldn't use it. Keep it; it will guard you against the heat, and I will send for it."

"Thank you," says the invalid, still ones above her. "You have been very The blue eyes rest on her face still kind to me. Why, I wonder? You are the first person that has spoken to me since I came. Would you think me your man to take you home?" very rude if I asked your name? My rame is Hamilton-Florence Hamil-

> Paula repeats the name absently, mechanically.

"It is a very pretty name," she says; "mine is not nearly so pretty. It is Estcourt-Paula Estcourt."

"Paula-Estcourt!" gasps the invalid. "Paula-" and she falls back have been to so many places. The doc- in the chair, the hectic flush flying of Plossie, nurriedly, and—and easipther, gratefully, her blue eyes fixed tors order me about as if I were a from her face, and the sunshade sliply overcome by the heat. It was only ping from her hand.

"Poor girl!" murmurs Paula, "the ly. I am afraid you are sacrificing your- Paula, intensely interested, and yet heat has been too much for her." And marvelling to herself why she should in her gentle pity she bends over the lifts the frail form in her arms.

lies lifeless in the arms of the girl whose life she wrecked and ruined, ner head, with its short, sunny curls lying against Paula's bosom, her white, thin hand, sparkling with costly jewels, lying across Paula's strong

"Poor girl!" she murmurs, her heart beating, the dark eyes filling with tears, "how ill she looks."

"Yes, miss," says Weston, sacly, as she kneels beside the chair and bathes with eau-de-Cologne the white forehead, in which every vain is traced so distinctly, "my mistress is very ill indeed, but she has been worse."

"Does she often faint like this!" asks Paula, standing so as to guard the unconscious form from the curi-

Weston shakes her head.

"No, miss; I have only known her to faint once once before that was at the beginning of her illness; then she broke a bloodvessel. She frightens me dreadfully; my mistress is generally so-so brave and plucky. It is the heat, I suppose. No offence, miss,

"I am very sorry," says Paula, re porsefully. "I had no idea that I was

doing any harm."

gaze that grows intelligent as it falls

shudders—"dreadful! I"—then, as she sin neutralize acidity and give relief at once—no waiting! Buy a box of from her. "Why are you here?" she Pape's Diapepsin now! Don't stay says, with a thrill almost of terror in stomach so you can eat favorite foods her voice. "You have been a long time without causing distress. The cost is ming. Have you come to reproach so little. The benefits so great,

have to reproach only myself for keeping you so long in the sun. Indeed I did not know. Are you better now?" Flossie keeps her blue eyes fixed

intently on the lovely face, with the peach-like bloom and deep, dark eyes softened by render pity: then she sighs, and smiles, and bites her lip. "I beg your pardon," she says; "I

-I did not know you, or what I was talking about. Yes, I am better now. I think I will go home. You have been very kind." And she looks down, but the next instant her eyes seek Paula's in 3 Sizes: 16, 18, and 20 years. Fo as if they were magnetised. "Did you the 18 years size, 5% yards of 44 incl -or did I dream it?-did you tell me your name?"

"Yes," says Paula, nodding with a smile, "I did; you asked me."

frail form; but the actress calls her A pattern of this illustration maffed art to her aid.

went off," she says, with a smile A GOOD OUTFIT FOR THE HOUSElighting up her pale face, and the hectic flush returning to the sunken cheeks, "You called it an ugly name,

A shrewd, almost a suspicious light shone in the keen eyes. "Do you want to get rid of me? No

no, of course, I know you do not; but, indeed, I am quite well now. often faint, do I not, Weston?" eager

Paula's question, remains silent.

on Flossie, hurriedly, "and-and easi-

with a mingled fear and hesitation.

"N-o. I don't remember. Why do you ask?"

Flossie shrugs her shoulders, and breathes a sigh of relief.

"I just asked," she said. "Well, good-bye, I-I can't thank you enough

Paula shakes her head and holds out her hand, moved by a sudden impulse; but the action has a strange effect upon the other. She turns as ment: then she draws her hand from under the furs, and slowly, almost with reluctant fear, puts it into Paula's cool, firm one.

Paula feels the hand burn like a hot coal, and, pressing it gently, puts it back amongst the furs, almost as if it were a child's.

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