MARGUERITE'S SECRET

CHAPTER II.

Colonel Compton and family, traveling at leisure in their private carriage, reached the Blue Ridge on the fifth, and Winchester on the seventh day of their journey, and went immediately to the fine old family mansion on the suburbs of the old town, which was comfortably prepared for the occupancy of the proprietor.

Miss De Lancie's elegant house on Loudoun street, under the charge of an exemplary matron, was also ready for the reception of its mistress; but Marguerite yielded to the solicitations of her friend Cornelia, and remained her guest for the present.

Compton Lodge was somewhat older than the town; it was a substantial building of gray sandstone, situated in a fine park, shaded with great forest trees, and enclosed by a stone wall; it had once been a famous hunting seat, where Lord Fairfax, General Morgan, Major Helphinstine and other votaries of St. Hubert "most did congregate"; and even now it was rather noted for its superior breeds of hounds and horses, and for the great fox hunts that were there got up.

Marguerite De Lancie liked the old place upon all these accounts, and sometimes, when the hunting company was very select, she did not hesitate to join their sylvan sports; and scarcely a hunter there, even old Lord Fairfax himself, who still, in his age, pursued with every youthful enthusiasm the pleasures of the chase—acquitted himself better than did this Diana.

But now, in March, the hunting season was over, and if Marguerite De Lancie preferred Compton Lodge to her own house, it was because, after a long winter in Philadelphia—with the monotony of straight streets and red brick walls, and the weariness of crowded rooms—the umbrageous shade of forest trees, the silence and the solitude of nature, with the company of her sole bosom friend, was most welcome.

The second morning after their settlement at home, Colonel Compton's family were seated around the breakfast table, discussing their coffee, buckwheat cakes and broiled venison.

Marguerite's attention was divided between the conversation at the table and the view from the two open windows before her, where rolling waves of green hills, dappled over with the white and pink blossoms of peach and cherry trees, now in full bloom, wooed and refreshed the eye.

Colonel Compton was sipping his coffee and looking over the Winchester Republican, when suddenly he set down his cup and broke into a loud laugh.

All looked up.

"Well, what's the matter?" inquired the comfortable, motherly Mrs. Compton, without ceasing to butter her buckwheat.

"Oh! ha, ha, ha, ha," laughed the colonel.

"That is a very satisfactory reply, upon my word," commented the good woman, covering her cakes with honey.

"Don't—don't—that fellow will be the death of me!"

"Pleasant prospect to laugh at—that," said his wife, twisting a luscious segment of her now well-sauced buckwheat around the fork, preparatory to lifting it to her lips.

"Oh, do let us have the joke, if there is a joke, papa," pleaded Cornelia.

"Hem! well, listen then!" said Colonel Compton, reading:

"Distinguished arrival at McGuire's Hotel. Lord William Daw, the second son of the most noble, the Marquis of Eaglecliff, arrived at this place last evening. His lordship, accompanied by his tutor, the Rev. Henry Murray, is now on a tour of the United States, and visits Winchester for the purpose of becoming acquainted with the history and antiquities of the town!"

"That is exceedingly rich! that will quite do!" commented the colonel, laying down his newspaper, and turning with a comic expression toward Marguerite.

She was looking, by the by, in high beauty, though her morning costume was more picturesque than elegant, and more careless than either, and consisted simply of a dark chintz wrapper, over which, drawn closely over her shoulders, was a scarlet crape shawl, in fine contrast with the lustrous purple sheen of her black hair; one-half of which was rolled in a careless mass at the nape of her neck, and the other dropped in rich ringlets down each side of her glowing, brilliant face.

"Hem! the antiquities of Winchester. I rather expect it is the juvenilities that our young antiquarian is in chase of. Pray, Miss De Lancie, are you one of the antiquities?"

Marguerite curled her proud lip, erected her head and deigned no other reply.

"Unquestionably you also have conquered a title, Marguerite; when you are married, will you place me on your visiting list, Lady William Daw?" asked Cornelia Compton, with an arch glance.

"Cease," said Marguerite, peremptorily; "if I were to be married, which is utterly out of the question, it would not be to a schoolboy, let me assure you."

"If you 'were to be married, which is utterly out of the question,' —why you don't mean to tell us that you have foresworn matrimony, Marguerite? What do you intend to do? Go into a cloister? Nonsense! in nine months you will marry," said Colonel Compton.

"I marry? ha! ha! ha! there must be a great improvement in the stock of men! Where is the unmarried son of Adam that I would deliberately vow to love, honor and obey? Why, I should foreswear myself at the altar! Of all the single men I meet, the refined ones are weak and effeminate, and the strong ones are coarse and brutal! I'll none of them!" said Marguerite, with a shrug of her shoulders.

"Thank you for making my husband a sort of presumptive exception," said Mrs. Compton.

"Will you call upon Lord William, this morning, papa?" inquired Miss Compton.

"My dear, believe me, the opportuniay will scarcely be allowed. His lordship will not stand upon ceremony, I assure you. I expect to hear his name announced every moment."

And then, as in confirmation of Colonel Compton's predictions, a servant entered and handed a card.

"Humph! Where have you shown the gentleman, John?"

"Into the front drawing-room, sir."

The servant bowed and left the room.

"Such a free and easy visitor is not to be treated with formality. It is as I foresaw, ladies! Lord William Daw waits to pay his respects."

At that moment the door was once more opened, and the visitor announced.

Lord William Daw was a pleasing, wholesome, rather than a handsome or distinguished-looking youth — with a short, stout figure, dark eyes and dark hair, a round, rosy face, and white teeth, and an expression full of good-humor, frank and easy among his friends, and disembarrassed among strangers to whom he was indifferent, he was yet timid and bashful as a girl in presence of those whom he admired and honored; how much more so in the society of her —the beautiful and regal woman who had won his young heart's first and deepest worship. With all this the youngster possessed an indomitable will and power of perseverance, which, when aroused, few men, or things, could withstand, and which his messmates at Oxford denominated (your pardon, superfined reader) an "English bull-dogish —hold-on-a-tiveness."

Lord William entered the breakfast-room, smiling and blushing between pleasure and embarrassment.

Colonel Compton arose and advanced, with a cordial smile and extended hand, to welcome him. "Heartily glad to see you, sir! And here are Mrs. Compton, and my daughter Cordelia, and my sweetheart, Marguerite, all waiting to shake hands with you."

The ladies arose, and Lord William, set at ease by this friendly greeting, paid his respects quite pleasingly.

"And now here is a chair and plate ready for you, for we hope that you have not breakfasted,' said the host.

Lord William had breakfasted; but would do so again. So he sat down at the table and spoiled a cup of coffee and a couple of buckwheat cakes without deriving much benefit from either. A lively conversation ensued.

"The history and antiquities of Winchester, sir," said Colonel Compton, with a half-suppressed smile, in reply to a question of the young tourish. "The history is scarcely one hundred years old, and the antiquities consist mainly of some vestiges of the Shawanee's occupancy, and of Washington's march in the old French and Indian war; but the society, sir—the society representing the old respectability of the State may not be unworthy of your attention."

Lord William was sure that the society was most worthy of cultivation, nevertheless, he would like to see those "vestiges" of which his host spoke.

"The ladies will take their usual morning ride within an hour or two, sir, and if you would like to attend them, they will take pleasure in showing you these monuments."

Lord William was again "most happy." And Colonel Compton rang and ordered "Ali" to be brought out saddled for his lordship's use.

Within an hour after rising from the table, the riding party, consisting of Miss Compton, Miss De Lancie, Lord William Daw, and a groom in attendance, set forth. The lions of Winchester and its environs were soon exhausted, and the party returned to Compton Lodge in time for an early dinner.

Lord William Daw sojourned at Winchester, and became a daily visitor at Compton Lodge. Colonel Compton, to break the excessiveness of his visits to one house, introduced him at large among the gentry of the neighborhood. And numerous were the tea, card and cotillion parties got up for the sole purpose of entertaining the young scion of nobility, where it was only necessary to secure Miss De Lancie's presence in order to insure his lordship's dutiful attendance. Mr. Murray chafed and fretted at what he called his pupil's consummate infatuation, and talked of writing home to his father, "the marquis." Marguerite scorned, or seemed to scorn, his lordship's pretensions, until one morning at breakfast, Colonel Compton, half seriously, half jestingly, said:

"Sweetheart, you do not appear to join in the respect universally shown to this young stranger."

"H," said Marguerite, "the young man had any distinguished personal excellence, I should not be backward in recognizing it; but he is at best—Lord William Daw! Now, who is Lord William Daw that I should bow down and worship him!"

"Lord William Daw, my dear, is the second son of the most noble, the Marquis of Eaglecliff, as you have already seen announced with a flourish of editorial trumpets by our title-despising and very consistent democratic newspapers! He is heir presumptive, as I learn from Mr. Murray, rather more than heir presumptive to his father's titles and estates; for it appears that the marquis has been twice married, and that his eldest son, by his first marchioness, derives a very feeble constitution from his mother; and it is not supposed that he will ever marry, or that he will surpive his father; ergo, the hopes of the marquis for reunion rest with his second son, Lord William Daw; finis, that young nobleman's devoirs are not quite beneath the consideration even of a young lady of 'one of the first families of Virginia,' who is besides a belle, a blue, and a freeholder."

"Marguerite, future Marchioness of Eaglecliff, when you are married will your ladyship please to remember one poor Cornelia Compton, who lived in an old country house near Winchester, and once enjoyed your favor?" said Miss Compton.

Marguerite shrugged her shoulders with an expression to the effect that the future succession of the Marquisate of Eaglecliff was a matter of no moment to her.

But, from this time, Marguerite's friends accused her, with uncertain justice, of showing somewhat more favor to the boyish lover, who might one day set the coronet of a marchioness upon her brow. When rallied upon this point, she would reply:

"There are certain qualities which I do like in the young man: he is frank, simple and intelligent, and above all, is perfectly free from affectation, or pretension of any sort. Upon individual worth alone he is entitled to polite consideration."

There was, perhaps, a slight discrepancy between this opinion and one formerly delivered by Miss De Lancie; but let that pass; the last-uttered judgment was probably the most righteous, as and longer experience in the merits of the subject.

Thus—while Lord William Daw prolonged his stay, and Mr. Murray fumed and fretted, the months of April, May and June went by. The first of July the family of Compton Lodge prepared to commence their summer tour among the watering, and other places of resort, They left Winchester about the seventh of the month.

Lord William Daw had not been invited to join their party, nor had he manifested inclination to obtrude himself upon their company, nor did he immediately follow in their train.

Nevertheless, a few days after their establishment at Berkeley Springs, Colonel Compton read in the list of arrivals the names of "Lord William Daw, Rev. Henry Murray, and two servants.'

Enough! The intimacy between the young nobleman and the Comptons was renewed at Berkeley. And soon the devotion of his youthful lordship to the beautiful and gifted Marguerite De Lancie was the theme of every tongue. To escape this notice, Marguerite withdrew from her party, and, attended by her maid and footman, proceeded to join some acquaintances at Saratoga.

In vain! for unluckily Saratoga was as free to one traveller as to another, provided he could pay. And within the same week of Marguerite's settlement at her lodgings, all the manoeuvring mammas and marriageable daughters at the Springs were thrown into a state of excitement and speculation by the sudden appearance among them of a young English nobleman, the heir presumptive of a marquisate.

But alas! it was soon perceived that Lord William had eyes and ears and heart for none other than the dazzling Miss De Lancie, "la Marguerite des Marguerites," as the French Minister had called her.

Miss De Lancie's manner to her boyish worshipper was rather restraining and modifying than repulsing or discouraging. And there were those who did not hesitate to accuse the proud and queenly Marguerite of finshed coquetry.

To avoid this, the lady next joined a party of friends who were going to Niagara.

And of course it was obvious to all that the young English tourist, traveling only for improvement, must see the great Falls. Consequently, upon the day after Miss De Lancie's arrival at the Niagara Hotel, Lord William Daw led her in to dinner. And once more the "infatuation," as they chose to call it, of that young gentleman, became the favorite subject of gossip.

A few weeks spent at the Falls brought the last of September, and Marguerite had promised, upon the first of October, to join her friends, the Comptons, in New York.

When Lord William Daw learned that she was soon to leave, half ashamed, perhaps, of forever following in the train of this disdainful beauty, he terminated his visit and preceded her eastward.

But when the stagecoach containing Miss De Lancie and her party drew up before the city hotel, Lord William, perhaps "to treat resolution," was the first person to step from the piazza and welcome her back.

Colonel Compton and his family were only waiting for Marguerite's arrival to proceed southward. The next day but one was fixed for their departure. But the intervening morning, while the family were alone in their private parlor, Lord William Daw entered, looking grave and troubled.

Colonel Compton arose in some anxiety to welcome him. When he had greeted the ladies and taken a seat he said:

"I have come only to bid you good-by, friends."

"I am sorry to hear that! but you are not going far, or to remain long, I hope,' said Colonel Compton.

"I am going back to England, sir," replied the young man, with a sorrowful glance at Miss De Lancie, who seemed not quite unmoved.

"You astonish us, Lord William. Is this not a sudden resolution?" inquired Mrs. Compton.

(To be continued.)

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MAY LOSE AN EYE.

John Roberts, of Centreville, Injured by Explosion.

Ingersoll, May 29.—Mr. John Rogers, of Centreville, was the victim of an explosion in a stone quarry near there today, and his injuries are of a very serious nature. It is feared that the sight of one eye has been destroyed, while he is also frightfully hurt about the face and arms. When a charge failed to explode Mr. Roberts returned to the rack and removed the fuse, intending to put in a new charge. The cap, however, had remained in the cavity, and when struck by a drill exploded.

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ELOPING PRINCESS WRITES.

Will Not Return Until Consent is Given to Her Marriage.

Vienna, May 29.—Princess Amelie of Fuerstenberg-Koenigshof, who eloped several days ago with Gustav Koezian, the representative of a foreign automobile company, has written to her relatives from Switzerland. She does not say whether she is married. She refuses to return to her home until all opopsition to her marriage with Koezian is withdrawn. It is understood her relatives are not to oppose the marriage if she will return.

Foxhounds Slaughtered.

New York, May 29.— A despatch to the Herald from Boston says: By a vote of the Myopia Hunt Club last night the club's entire pack of draghounds, comprising 52 English foxhounds, were shot to death to-day at the kennels at Hamilton owing to an outbreak of rabies. Not a dog is left at the club grounds.

Man Killed in a Box Factory.

Toronto, May 30.—Struck by the loose end of a whirling shaft, Geo. Andrus, 21 years old, an employee of the Firstbrook Box Company, King street east, received such terrible injuries early yesterday morning that he died shortly after he was taken to the General Hospital.

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White and Creme Japanese silk, nicely tucked, with lace inserted, also embroidery suitable for fancy shirt waists, regularly $2.00 yard, Hurry-out Sale ... 98c yard

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Dressing Jackets, made of the best American print, in kimono style, worth regular $1.25, Monday's sale price ... 75c

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$1.50 Underskirts for 75c

Colored Gingham Underskirts, in pale blue and white, deep circular flounce and finished with frill, worth regular $1.50, Monday's sale price ... 75c

BABY DEPARTMENT

40c Pinafores for 19c

Children's White Nainsook Pinafores, trimmed with embroidery, in sizes 1, 2 and 3, worth regular 40c, Monday's sale price ... 19c

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Children's White Nainsook Underskirts, made with or without waist, skirt made with hemstitched tucks, worth regular 50c, Monday's sale price ... 25c

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Monday's Sale Chances Will Appeal to the Lovers of Pretty Materials

90c Fine Black Voile for ... 59c yard
$1.00 and $1.25 shadow stripe Silk Mohair, black only, for 69c yard
75c Panamas, all colors, black and cream, included for 47c yard
$1.00 black and navy blue Broadcloth Suiting, for Monday 59c yard
50c cream ground Delaine and Mohair Waistings for ... 19c yard

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The Hurry-out Sale in the Curtain and Home Fittting Department strikes in many places of interest to every economical and shrewd housekeeper. Please note that every item advertised below will be found exactly as represented. The reductions are genuine and the goods are positively first class in every respect; and if you read the following list you will find what it means to you:

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Regular $5.50 very large English Marseilles White Quilt, at, each $2.75
Regular $1.50 White Cotton Summer Blankets, at, per pair ... $1.18
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