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***** A GIRL OF THE PEOPLE

By Mrs. C. N. Williamson ****

Which I did, and got into the car

There was no moon, but the sky's purple curtain was thickly crusted with spangling stars; and as we drove away from the station I could see dark masses of waving tree-branches on either side of the road, and I could smell through the open window the aromatic scent of pines. Here and there a distant light gleamed like a yellow star out of the blackness; but there was no sound anywhere save the roll of our wheels and the ring of our

horses' hoofs on the hard ground.
"Have we a long drive?" I quietly asked, after we had sat in silence for five or ten minutes. "About a quarter of an hour now

not much more. Are you frightened?"

"But you are excited, though you try to keep me from finding it out. Well, you are a brave girl. And I don't think that you will ever regret this evening's

"I hope not," I impassively returned. And we spoke no more. Twice only our road wound. The rest of the way-and it must have been four miles in all—was straight as a Roman road, till at last we came to tall stone gate-posts, set in a high brick wall. We turned in between, and I looked out eagerly, half expecting, after all the precautions for secrecy which had been taken, that I should be requested or more forcibly induced to sit back from the window. But I was

allowed to do as I pleased. We passed a lodge which, however, showed no lights; drove along a winding avenue that ascended for a little, and then abruptly dipped. With this, we came suddenly in sight of a house-a big square building with towers, that was silhouetted against the sky. Most of the windows were dark, but I could see two on the ground floor that shone dimly, and there was a light over the door at which we presently drew up. By the time that the groom had sprung down from his seat to let us out of the carriage the house door was opened, and the illumination from within showed my curious, observant eyes that the livery of coachman and groom was identical with that worn by

the pair who had driven us from the Marble Arch to Waterloo Station. An elderly butler received us with the air of one who awaited an expected event; and as I entered the house l racked my brain to comprehend why I should be feeling as if I had lived through exactly this episode before. I had never visited this house, or any other house like it, as far as I could remember, yet I had the impression of having seen it (not in-a former state of one's experience), but not so very long

We passed through a big conservatory, not too well kept, into a square hall with a high, ornate ceiling supported by round pillars of ugly reddish marble, the walls hung with many lifesized portraits of men and women in the dress of bygone periods. Where had I seen them all? And why did I turn expectantly, searching for a wide staircase with shallow marble steps, to find it in the precise position where I had looked? I began to feel as if I were in a dream. At the foot of the staircase stood a tall grandfather clock with a big white face, very convex. I saw that it was half-past ten.

"Would you like to go immediately to your room?" asked the woman in black, whose bright eyes regarded me with keen attention. "Or---

"I should like the explanation you promised," I interrupted. "You can have that in your room a weil as elsewhere if you choose. Shall

I show you the way there?" I assented, and she led me upstairs Oddly enough, as soon as we had passed out of the great hall, the impression of having known the place faded. The corridors above, dimly lighted, and the bedroom into which I was taken at

last, were all utterly strange, The room was very pretty, and strikingly different from any other part of the house which I had yet seen. The hall downstairs, the corridors, and the glimpses of rooms I had gained here and there, through open doors, suggested antiquity. Nothing was new; everything solid, handsome and old-fashioned. But the room into which I was ushered with the information that it had been prepared for me gave the effect of having been newly decorated; and daintiness was the predominating

feature. The walls were "distempered" in pink; the hangings were of chintzwhite, with trailing roses; and the furniture was all of satiny-textured wood, Over the foot of the bed was thrown ruffly nightdress and a robe de

chambre, so like garments that I had possessed in my palmy days in town that my eyes opened wide in surprise as I gazed at/them. On the dressing-table were flowers, and a medley of pretty silver things, some of which appeared remarkably familiar. There was jewel-case, too, that I seemed to know; but the climax of strangeness was reached when the woman in black threw open the door of a huge, mirrorfronted wardrobe.

"You won't want for frocks, I hope, while you stay here," she said. And there, in the different compartments, hung the dresses I had left in my boxes at Easel street, even those which on that last miserable day I had sold to the second-hand clothes dealer.
When I stared, speechless, my com

panion drew my attention to a chest of drawers in another part of the room. "Here is plenty of underlinen," she announced. Mechanically I moved near er as she pulled out drawer after draw-er. A fragrance of orris-root and violets came to my nostrils. In one drawer lay folded silk stockings with my monogram, embroidered at the top. In another were petticoats, silk and lace Nothing was strange to me; I had seen, and possessed, every article before.

"This jewel-case may interest you," the woman went on, crossing to the dressing table. "There are no thieves nere"-with a slight emphasis-"so it has not been locked." She raised the lid; I peeped in, and saw the things which had been stolen from me in Easel street.

"Rather like a fairy-tale, isn't it?

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"It is a trick-the strangest trick that was ever played upon me!" I ex-

"At least, it relieves your mind, should think, of any fear that harm is intended you. The-persons who have planned this surprise would hardly have taken so much trouble, you must see, if they had brought you here to murder you."

"There are other evils in the world beside murder," I answered. But my brain felt as if wheels were going round and round inside it. When they stopped turning, was the dim thought in my mind, I might be able to solve this puzzle, but not while they kept whirling round.

"Only good is intended for you," said the woman. "You are a very fortunate girl-or you will be." "I shall certainly go mad, whatever else I am to do," I cried, "if I am not given an explanation of all these mys-

teries. You tempted me with that advertisement. Now I am sure that it was only a bait, and nothing more.' "I told you in the train that, in course of a couple of hours or so, I would explain as far as it was in my power to explain. That I will do now if you will sit down. You are as white

ing on my hands." I sat down on a small sofa at the foot of the bed, and the woman in black ion of a chair not far away took possess watched her in silence, waiting, and presently, with the air of considering

as death, and I don't want you faint-

er words, she began: "I have only been agent in this-last affair. Now that you are in this house, am able to tell you what I could not ell before-there is a 'power behind the throne,' for which I have been acting. That power has been interested in your ovements for some time, and you have done few things that have not een known at headquarters. The power has pulled the wires; you and other -shall I say 'puppets'?--have danced. Always you have danced a little nearer, and a little nearer, to-this. And now all your troubles are over. You

I jumped up from the sofa. "You talk like a mad woman!" I ejaculated We are in real life, not in a play." "The world's a stage; the men and women merely players," she quoted, calmly. "Why do you excite yourself? Why not, now that you've come into haven, do as I said-rest?"

"Who is the 'Power' you talk of?" I demanded, hotly, and scornfully, too, Who are you? What is this house?" "Too many questions at a lime." "Were you the agent of the same employer," I began, "on the night when

you sat in the stalls at the Lyceum Theater and showed me the scar on your arm?" Her face changed slightly. "No." she said. "I was not. Still, even then I did not act for myself, but for anoth-

"You shall tell me for whom you acted then, for whom you acted now!" cried, passionately, stamping my foot. 'I am not a child, but a woman, and I will not be cheated and played with." The woman in black smiled. She had not a pleasant smile. And her big white

teeth looked cruel. "You make me laugh," she drawled. "If you are not a child, you certainly behave like one. You say 'shall' to me. How do you expect to enforce your commands? "At least I can go away," I retorted. "Since you have been at some pains to bring me here, I suppose you would not

"You will not be so foolish as to leave this house when I tell you that it is your own-absolutely your own. The servants are your servants; the very plate on the sideboard in the diningroom is yours; and I may add that it is

well worth having." If I had never seen John Bourke her words might have fallen like seeds or barren ground. But I thought what it would be to have such a house as this for my own; what a different position mine would be-not in his eyes, for I knew him to be as far above mercenary temptations as the sun was above the

OPINIONS OF LEADING PHYSICI

I have used W. T. Strong's Pilekone for external as well as internal piles and get better results than from any other remedy I have used. A. GRA-HAM, M. D., London, Ont.

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earth-but in the eyes of his world. And so again I was silenced, if not con-

"I have told you all now that I am permitted to tell," the woman went on, "except my own name. That you may know if you like. It is Leigh-Sintra Leigh. Did you ever hear it before?"
Her eyes pierced mine to find the truth in their depths, as if she doubted the evidence my tongue might give. But I thought for a moment, and then answered that the name was strange to my ears. It was so peculiar that I knew I could not have heard it and

forgotten.
"When am I to hear the rest of this mystery of yours?" I asked, trying to put contempt rather than curiosity in-

my voice.
"Not of mine; of another's. My employer will see you to-morrow, proba-bly in the morning, and I have no doubt the information which you lack

now will be supplied." "But you say you had a different em-ployer at the time you went to the Lyceum?" I objected. "Above all things I wish to know the secret of that night. Why my moth-why Lady Cope was so affected when she saw the scar. Why she went away with you? What happened while she was away? Why the scar like yours on her arm was burnt, and the meaning of the words she tried so hard to make me understand before she died? It was these things which your advertisement in the paper led me to believe that I might expect to have explained."

Always the face of the woman in black changed when I brought up the subject of the heart-shaped scar. She looked away from me, as she had be-fore, while she answered:

"I am not to be held responsible for all that you may have taken for granted from that paragraph," she returned, in the stilted way, without abbreviations, which I had discovered tonight was characteristic of her in speaking. "But my present employer knows as much as I know-at least, as much as I did know until this eveningand will decide how much it is best for you to understand. Can you be patient until to-morrow-since impatienc will advance your interests not at all?"

"Needs must, when certain persons drive," I quoted, recklessly. For I had reflected that the shelter of this mysterious house was better than no shelter for to-night. "I will bid you au revoir, then," said

Sintra Leigh, with a look of relief.

'Will you have supper sent up?" I thanked her stiffly, refusing the offer, and in a moment she was gone.

Hardly had she closed the door when I ran to it, not only turning the key in the lock, but slipping a small bolt into place. Then I went to the windows, raising one and looking out to satisfy myself that it was high above the ground. Last of all, I set to work examining the walls. I had heard of secret ways of entering rooms in old-fashioned country houses, and weary and spent as I was I could not sleep

langer of being disturbed.

until I was certain that there was no

CHAPTER XX. I felt more than ever like a shadowself in a dream, as I prepared for bed and brushed out the heavy waves of my long hair with my own old silverbacked brush. How had the people here managed not only to collect all my belongings from Easel street, but to

retrieve the stolen jewels and the dresses I had sold? I was desperately eager to know everything, but my weary body cried out for rest, and after a delicious bath in the bathroom adjoining my new bedhamber, I had no sooner laid my head on the pillow than I seemed to be sliding down, down steep, grassy banks of

To be Continued.

New Nursery Rhyme. Mamma's in the kitchen Cooking like a floney, Papa's in the counting room Grubbing for the money; Sister's last year's hat must do, With every dent and scar, But brother's on the avenue With a brand new panama.

His Own Estimate. "I regard Winebiddle as a man

thousand." "That's too high. He considers himself one in the Four Hundred."

The Fate of a Wet Place.

once took a picture of a wild and woolly carefully developed it and let it dry, of put it on the window sill-the sun was out that day— But when I had returned that night the

horse had run away! Her Linguistic Accomplishments. "How many languages did she learn at that finishing school?"

"Why, she learned to speak in four, but she can be understood only in one."

Wished to Be Fraux. A man whose ancestors were Esquimaux Remarked, "Do you honestly ever suppaux That the hot wave will end And the weather man send ome ice and some blizzards, with beau-

tiful snaux?".

teen children."

Her Position. Mrs. Parke-What kind of servants do you prefer? Mrs. Lane-I've got beyond that, I'm looking for servants that prefer me

The Vacation Face. That look of vague unrest, Of anxious hesitation, How many, many faces wear, Whose worried owners don't know where To fice for their vacation!

Told the Truth. "He says he comes from a great fam-"That's no lie. He was one of six-

Taken by Storm. He stole a kiss! So quick 'twas done She did not know what he was at He never stole another one; She gave them to him after that

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