

Lorrie

OR

Hollow Gold

money, oceans of it. To have enough for a carriage and a pair, and a house in London, to have a dozen boxes of kid gloves, Jovian's very best, laid aside to choose from when one liked. To be able to give dinner parties and have English pines and bee pudding, and a footman behind every other chair, and—oh, I mean disgustingly rich!

"Crash, crash, on the piano." "Greta, I am sorry to say it, but I am the most worldly person in the United Kingdom. I feel that to be rich, really rich, I'd commit any crime short of stealing. That's the worst of it! People in our position in life can't do anything to get money. They cannot beg and to steal they are afraid. There is only one thing we can do—add, add, add, her lovely head on one side, her fingers picking out the notes daintily.

"What's that?" asked Greta, who has been only half listening. "One can't win money, you know. That's don't occur to me until this minute! What ideas I have! No original, aren't they? Hem! Yes, Greta, prepare to receive a solemn announcement."

"Well, dear?" "I intend to marry for money! Wanted a wealthy husband, looks and age of no consequence. The advertiser is young, amiable and domesticated, she does not squint. No one with less than half-a-million need apply. How's that empire?"

"The coffee miss," says the servant, bringing in the tray. "The coffee miss," says the servant, bringing it into the dining-room, but there is only master there, and he is asleep."

"They are out on the lawn," says Greta. "Go and give Jack a call, Lorrie."

"She finishes the march, strums out a bar or two of a song, with one finger, then rises and, going to the window, calls out a loud, ringing voice: 'Jack-o'-o'!"

"Hullo!" cried Jack's voice in response. "C-o-f-f-e-e!"

"Bring it out here—there's a good girl!" come back promptly. "Come and I-e-t-e-h it!" is the prompt retort.

"My dear Lorrie," remonstrates Greta, "you are giving Lord Kendale a fine idea of our family matters."

"Who cares what ideas he gets. If Lord Kendale doesn't like our manners he is perfectly at liberty to—"

"I beg your pardon," says Lord Guy, who has arrived at the door just in time to hear the incomplete sentence, "I've come for the coffee."

"Oh! Has Jack broken his leg?" "No, but he has caught a bat, and is busy securing it in his handkerchief—so I came."

"Oh, pray don't trouble, Lord Kendale, the servant—"

"Lorrie recoils and utters a dismal, 'Oh dear!'"

"I'm sorry; it was my fault. I wasn't looking where I was going. It doesn't matter in the slightest. It can't—with a laugh—'spoil my clothes.'"

"She looks at him under her half-closed, haughty lids. The look which a spoiled child, who is the youngest daughter and a beauty, is permitted to wear."

"Your clothes! I was thinking of my dress!"

"So little coffee remains that it is scarcely worth taking, but Lord Guy smarting under the rebuff, carries the cups to the wall, where Jack is securing his prize."

"A bat? Really? Let me look, Jack! I hope you haven't hurt it! Bring it to the light! Give the handkerchief to me. You'll let it go. I know you will; you are so clumsy! Give it to me, when I tell you to! There—I told you so!" for between the handkerchief's tips opened, and—exit the bat!

"Thought you'd do it," says Jack. "I—I didn't do it, it was you! Do you think that you could catch another?"

"I don't know; but I do know that I'm going to try," says Jack lazily. "Hullo, is this all the coffee?"

"The rest is down the front of my new dress."

"I'm very sorry!" says Lord Guy. "Do you think—approaching her as timidly as only a six-foot man can approach a young and beautiful girl, 'do you think I could wipe it off?' and he produces his handkerchief. He was seeking appealingly."

"No use! It doesn't matter. Coffee is considered good for white camellies."

"I hope it will wash!" he says, solemnly. "Oh, yes, and as it shrinks to half its normal size, it will come in nicely for one of the Sunday-school children."

"What rot! Don't pay any attention to her, Guy! She is only doing it for aggravation! Shall we go in and get some more coffee?"

Lord Guy looks wistfully at the white figure, which has sauntered down to the garden.

"What a beautiful garden first!" Lorrie looks round, but does not come to a halt, which is not encouraging, but Lord Guy gains her side.

"What a beautiful garden you have, Miss Dolores," he says, tamely. "Yes, it's well enough," she says, curtly.

"And—the view, very pretty the view is!" he says, prettily thinking what an idiot he is to be able to find nothing better to say.

"That's well enough, too! If you think this garden pretty, I don't know what you'd say of the Mel-fords', but perhaps you know it?" glancing at him with demure innocence.

"No, I haven't that pleasure."

"No? There it is—ah, you can't see it in this light! That is something like a garden. They keep five gardeners!"

"Yes!"

"We only keep a quarter of one!"

"A quarter of one?"

"Yes, old Goodall, he is coachman, valet, groom and gardener; and sometimes, when we have company, he

comes and drops soup and sauce and spoons down our backs, which he calls waiting at table."

"If we had known you were coming we should have had him to-night. We don't often get a viscount to dinner."

"I don't know why you should chafe so unmercifully, Miss Dolores!" he says, ruefully.

"The Mel-fords have three footmen to wait at table; they have a butler also. They are immensely rich!"

"Are they?" "Yes, immensely! They are very nice people. You ought to know them."

"Ought I?" he says. "Then I will like to." "Do they will be very glad to know you? Ask Jack to introduce you!"

"I-I will," he says, weakly. "You can spill coffee over Diana's dress and it won't matter in the least, she'll be much obliged to you, because it will give her an excuse for getting a new one."

"Is that Miss Mel-ford's name?" he says. "Yes, do you admire it?" "Not much."

"It is a very pretty name."

"Thanks. I know what you are going to say. You like Dolores better. Much obliged." "Shall I tell you what Miss Diana is like?"

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