

Royalty Recompensed.

CHAPTER XXXIV. home; he was staying at a quiet hotel murder-" -Prince's Mansions were impossible for him under the circumstances- he was going to Africa! Well! Oh, the evening papers, and read every can."

admired and loved so much. The next day he went to Berbeley Square. Lady Pauline came to him with a grave but determined expres-

sion on her face. "She is much better," she said. "I have considered the question from all points of view, and I have decided; that she ought to be told as soon as possible. You may come up now; but

you will be careful, Robert?" Bobby went up to Decima's room. She was propped up by pillows, and looked very white and frail; but she smiled as he entered the room, and

wound her arms round his neck "I am quite well now, Bobby," she said, "and Aunt Pauline thinks I shall be able to go home in a few days. How is father? and do you think you will dass your exam, this time, dear?"

Bobby kissed her, and so hid his hee for a moment. Lady Pauline stood on the other side of the bed, grave and self-possessed.

"Robert has something to tell you, Decie," she said. "Are you sure you are strong enough to bear it? It istad and painful news; but we think It will come better from us, who love you, than in any other way." Decima looked from one to the

"Sad-painful?" she said. Then she tighed. "Yes. Tell me, please, Bob- last boat.

poor lady-poor lady!" she beautied. "I—I saw her portrait. She isn't it?" war his wife! Oh, Bobby!"

And—and at the inquest they tht a verdict of willful murder en't thickly.

"/ sainst /- against Lord Gaunt! kissed!" I'c, could not have done it! I-I know Decima turned upon her. What does he say? Oh-wait a mo- wish I had died with him!" Pauline, you do not believe it?"

not think him guilty!" -tell me it all again! Let me think!" phasis: She put her hand to her brow and

thinking of nothing else for days past. her alone.

which astonished Bobby and Lady den, dear?" said Lady Pauline, as she deal of money, have you not, Peter?" Pauline. "It is impossible I-I know bent over her and kissed her. "We ... "Ye-ss; I'm afraid so. I scarcely Lord Gaunt. He could not have done deemed it best to tell you; better that know. I thought that the loss had

She covered her eyes with her you-" hands for a moment, then she dropped "Yes, yes," said Decima, with a sigh —that it is not so, and that I am still

one think he would have done it!"

"Lord Gaunt- Decie, dear, you'll be brave, won't you? Lady Pauline and I think you ought to hear it from us, not by chance and from strangers." "Yes-yes!" she broke in, with a moan. "Tell me-tell me! It would be cruel to keep it from me. I-I

want to know!" "Gaunt went by the 'Pevensey Cas-Bobby left the house and went tle.' On the morning after-after the

and he bought the special editions of tell me all! I can bear it, indeed I -"And-and" - faltered Bobby-

line of the account of the shipwreck "the vessel was lost It foundered off and "Lord Gaunt's heroic conduct," and his heart was filled with sorrow the coast of Africa-"

for the death of the man whom he had Decima raised herself and looked at him, with something in her eyes which Bobby will never forget while life lasts.

-"And Gaunt- Give her some thing, Lady Pauline, brandy or-or something!" he broke off. But Decima waved a refusal of the

offered glass. "Tell me-tell me everything!" she panted.

Bobby struggled with the choking feeling in his throat. "Gaunt-and-and the captain re-

mained on board after the rest had left, and-and-and Gaunt-" Decima fell back on the pillows, and for a minute or two remained

motionless and speechless; then she opened her eyes, and the hopeless the tears to Lady Pauline's. "And-and he is dead?" came from

Decima's white lips. Bobby bowed his head.

account to you when you are able-" conceive of him as dead.

"Now! now!" she said in a hollow with fixed eyes and bated breath to the journey very well. the statement of one of the passengers who had left the wreck in the of stupor.

against Lord Gaunt," he is just what he would do. Oh—oh, ion which I can not understand, has Decima raised herself on her elbow. wish I had been the little child he difficult to belive that a man of his

for a moment or two-so long that shon tells me that—that Decima has "No, no!" said Lady Pauline; "I do Lady Pauline thought she had faint- broken off her engagement to him. ed, and went to a table for a restora- Is that so?" "Thank you-oh, thank you, aun- tive; but suddenly Decima opened her tie!" said Decima, faintly. "Tell me eyes and said, with feverish em-

"He is not dead! I know it! He is Bobby went over it all again. It feel it! No, he is not dead!" was an easy task, for he had been Presently she asked them to leave tions between us?"

"No!" said Decima, with an energy "You will try and bear your bur- direct way. "You have lost a great you should know it from us who love been recouped or-or-provided for

them and looked from Lady Pauline and a weary movement of the thin liable." hand. "You were right to tell me, "He could not! Besides-would he Aunt Pauline; but-but I want to Lady Pauline. have left his coat? Oh, how can any think. I have not realized it yet. It Bobby, who had entered the room is like one of the dreadful dreams in time to hear the last part of the Bobby held his breath. Lady that came to me when I was iil. I conversation, shook his head gloom-Pauline saturated a pocket handker- want to think—and—oh, if I could ily. chief with eau-de-Cologne and bathed only cry! Aunt Pauline, my heart is Decima's brow. She waved it aside broken! But I will try to bear my burden."

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"I am not going to fairt. I am quite "Pray for strength, dear," whisper-

"I can't pray," she said, miserably and with no irreverence. \"I could

"Yes, Decima. Life and death are in His hands," said Lady Pauline; and she and Bobby left the stricken girl

Decima did not close her eyes; she ould see the figure, which had bee first and foremost in her life, with eyes wide open. And she went over all Lady Pauline and Bobby had told her of the murder and of Gaunt's life and Gaunt's death Net for an instant did the possibil-

ity of his guilt enter her mind Sha knew him-the innermost heart and soul of the man-too well to permit of the faintest touch of doubt as to his innocence. Some other hand had done the deed-whose, mattered very little to Decima at that moment, for all her mind and heart were concentrated upon the fate of the man she had loved-and would love, with all the strength of her woman's soul un-

Not one minute detail of the ship wreck had escaped her, and she pictured Gaunt keeping order in the cabin, standing on the deck with the "Yes," breathed Decima. "He said child in his arms, giving up his place in the last boat to that other man, and then waiting and watching with that calm self-possession, which was Gaunt's birthright, for the end.

And they thought this man, who had given his life for others, capable of murder!

It may have been wicked of him to make her-ah, he had not made her love him! It was wicked to ask her to go away with him, the husband of another woman; but was not some of the blame hers? And how nobly he had atoned!

She tried to picture him lying dead upon some wild shore, and a craving envy of his fate took possession of

her.

"If I had only been there to die with him!" broke from her trembling

"Oh my love—my love! How how shall

The tears came at last to ease her aching heart, and they were running misery and despair in them brought down her face unheaded when Lady Pauline came back to her.

She slept that night and dreamed. She saw Gaunt standing on the deck, watching the last boat leave the ship's "Yes; I am afraid—they all think— side; she saw him with the child in he was lost. He-he behaved like a his arms; but in every vision he was hero. I'll-I'll read the newspaper alive, and her imagination could not CHAPTER XXXV

whisper; and Bobby, as if he could not resist her, drew out the paper and her down to The Woodbines. Lady read the account. Decima listened Pauline went with her, and she bore Three days afterward they took

Her father received them in a kind

"Dear, dear, now-how pale and "You see!" said Bobby, struggling thin she is!" he said to Lady Pauline. Slowly and hesitatingly, with with the choking in his throat. "He "I'm-I'm afraid she has been ill. pauses, he told her of the murder; gave up his place in the boat to the There seems to be nothing but trouand as she listened, her face grew man Jackson. He kept the passen- ble. I don't know whether you know There and her horror expressed itself gers in order, and—and stood by the poor Lord Gaunt—Pauline." He captain till-till-the last! Decie, it stopped and tugged at his hair in a -it is just what Gaunt would do, bewildered way. "Most terrible affair, most terrible ending! I-I scarce She opened her eyes upon him with know the details though Bobby, who appears to have been mixed up in th "Yes; it is like him," she said. "It business in some extraordinary fashhow I wish I had been there! How I been endeavoring to tell me. It is position and culture can have been They could not!" she said. "Murder! "Decie!" murmured Lady Pauline, guilty of a peculiarly brutal murder; but Mr. Mershon is convinced of his that he could not! Where is he? "Yes; I wish I had been there! I guilt-and the verdict of the coroner's inquest-" He stopped and looked ment; my head is burning!-Aunt Then she closed her eyes and was about him helplessly. "And Mr. Mer-

> "Yes," said Lady Pauline. Mr. Deane ruffled his hair again and

edged to the dcor. "I'm-I'm afraid Mr. Mershon feels not dead! If he were, I-I should it rather acutely, You-you know that there have been business rela-

"Yes," said Lady Pauline in her in some way; but Robert tells me that

"I may be able to help you," said

(to be continued.)

Fads and Fashions.

Lace is used for separate blouses. The waist line continues to be low. The draped veil is losing in popu-

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