

You Will Be Sorry

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E. N. HUNT, 190 Dundas Street.

A DEAD HEART

A Love Story.

"Not, not in that sense of the word—never; but I am going to marry the richest man, rich in all I love best." Her sweet lips, as mine as she finished the words, "My heart grew light with a sense of my own great happiness; for she loved me as I loved her, and I was content. The sky and the green earth were filled with new beauty, and my life was a dream! On the following day I had to go to Glen on business, and I met her on the road. She looked up at me with her dark eyes.

"Hubert," she asked, "do you love me as much today as you did yesterday?" I answered her in these beautiful words:

"Since we parted yesterday, I do love thee love, believe, twelve times dearer, twelve hours longer. One dream deeper, one night stronger, One sun surer, one more moment than I loved thee, love, before."

Love her! Heaven help the man who loves a woman as I did her! Three or four days of unutterable happiness followed, and then Sir Alec Glen drove over one morning to the quarry, and, for the first time since I had been employed there, asked to see me. We walked on the heath together.

"I wanted to see you for a few minutes," he said. "Of course, it is no business of mine, and I have no right to interfere; but, for your mother's sake, I must say this. I saw you with a young lady, and to say the least of it, you were on very good terms with each other. One word of warning and I have done. You have no right to think of love or marriage yet; it means suicide for you."

"But you, Sir Alec, have no right whatever to advise me," I replied. "I quite expected you would say something of the kind," he answered, snatching his shoulders; "but remember, I have warned you in all kindness. That girl—I have seen her, Miss Dacre—is a very beautiful girl; she ought to marry well; and it would be selfish to her and cruel to yourself to try to entangle her. I have no more to say."

"Nor have I patience to listen, Sir Alec. I decline to receive your advice, and have the honor to wish you good morning."

There was an evil smile on his handsome face when he went away. Oh, my darling, if I could but have foreseen!

CHAPTER VII.

A few weeks more of happiness that was for me beyond all bliss. I had known so little of love, except that of my father. Of women's love I knew scarcely anything. My mother was not warm-hearted. I had no sisters; no cousins; and I had never had a sweetheart. What this first love was to me I could never tell. Miss Dacre was the ideal of a first love—so beautiful, so pure, so tender, so graceful. We were unutterably happy. Ah, well, heaven was good to give us even this one glimpse of brightness; and then the truth came home to me! I must live no longer in the paradise of my darling's presence. I had to work for my life. My love urged me to do that which no poverty would have driven me to. I wrote to Gen. Leigh who had been an old friend of my father's, and asked him if he could assist me. I told him of my promise to keep my name secret while I lived. He was kinder than I had dared to hope. After long weeks of suspense and anxiety, he presented me with a commission in one of her majesty's cavalry regiments—one of the finest in the service. They were known as the Red Lancers. Gen. Leigh wrote kindly to me. He told me what examinations I should have to pass, and he inclosed a check for a hundred pounds.

"Your father did me a service once," he wrote; "and it is a pleasure to me to repay it to his son. I would do more for you, but I have none of my own. You will have secretaries of distinction ordered to India in September; and there will be. I have reason to believe, some warm work there. I need not say 'do your best.' I know you will. Let this be your first step on the ladder of fame. I shall hope to salute you as Col. Gordon at some day not long distant."

I had attained my heart's desire; but at what a price! I must leave my darling. Ah, but my heart trusted her! She would be true and faithful unto death. She would wait for me, pray for me, love me. Thank God, I was to be loved. I went at once to Lime Cottage with my news. Mr. Dacre shook my hands.

"I congratulate you," he said; "I can see your way to fame, fortune, and Miss Dacre, now!"

Mrs. Dacre looked sadly at me. "My dear," she said, "you had far better have content. You will have to leave us."

I took my darling out among the roses, and told her there. Ah, how

she wept, how she clung to me! Some presentiment of the sorrow to come must have hung over her.

"You are going so far away, Hubert, and you will be gone for long years; how shall I bear it?"

I held her in my arms, and told her that a few years would soon pass. I should write to her by every mail, and would be working for her. I had no other vision than fame, honor, and victory before my eyes.

"If I could go with you, Hubert! I wish the old days of romance were back! How long shall you be away?" "Just so long as I can win the fame and fortune that will make you mine, darling, and if I work very hard, it will not be long. My heart will rest in you; for I know that you will be true as the stars to me."

I needed no assurance how she loved me. The caress of those dear lips, the clinging of those dear arms, the murmur of loving words went with me over the pathless seas. If I had loved her less I could not have been so sure. It was the force of my passionate love, the longing to win her, that sent me from her. My eyes were dim with tears, but I said to her:

"There is no help for it, my darling; you will never be mine. I am going to fight for my wife, and a fight it shall be; for I am determined to win her."

"I wonder," she said, simply, "why we cannot all be rich and happy? If we had money now—either you or I—would not that part of India seem a long way off—over those great seas? And—and, Hubert, soldiers often die there."

"Not such a soldier as I mean to be, darling," I assured her. Ah, better, my sweet, my great love will keep me alive, and bring me back to you. I do not think I could die while my love lived."

Whispered words, sweetest kisses, loving murmurs, and they all went with me into the distant land. I sketched for her a future in which I believed most devotedly myself! I told her that in a few years I had should return with the rank of captain, with a purse of money, with a position that would make any man proud, and should marry her. I told her we should be married in the time of the roses; and the sweet soul brightened at my words. We settled the young and the sanguine settled everything. I was to get leave of absence to come home and take her back with me.

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