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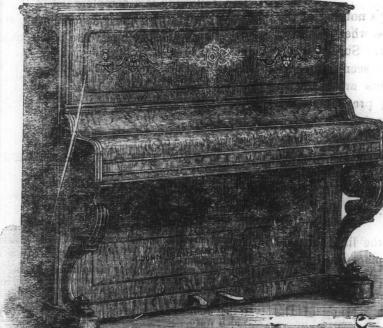
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By the Author of Dora Thorne

CHAPTER XLVIII. (Continued.)

He went in. There was no mistake; on ook at the white, wan face on the pillow, and with a cry that those who heard will never forget, he knelt down by the bedside.

It was a small room, neat and clean, with pretty curtains at the windows. The bed, with its white hangings, stood in a small recess: and there, like a lovely broken lily, lay Lady

Adelaide went up to her, and, bending down rissed the white, unconscious face. The dark eyelashes never stirred, the pale lips did not

' Margarita!' cried Adelaide, Margarita! But no sound reached Lady Rylestone's ears 'She must not die!' cried Lord Rylestone She cannot die! She is my own! Heaver would not surely take her from me! Margarita -my own!' He looked up at Adelaide. 'She told me once that she loved me so dearly that

she believed, if she lay buried, and I called her name above her grave, she should hear me.' Adelaide's thoughts flew back to the ballad of 'Evelyn Hope'-

"You will wake, and remember, and understand." 'She will not die, Adelaide. It seems to me that my great love must keep her alive.'

He clasped his arms round her; he kissed the white eyelids, the white lips. He called her by every endearing name, by every loving word; he kissed her with passionate kisses burning tears falling from his eyes. She must not leave him for his great love's sake-she must come back; and the white face never moved, never changed at the passionate cries.

'You are not in the unknown land yet, my darling,' he said. 'Come back to me, Margarita-come back, or take me with you!'

The dead calm was broken—the passionate cries pierced the dulled brain. There was a quiver of the white evelids, a trembling of her

' Margarita!' he cried again, hardly daring to believe his senses; and then the dark eyes opened slowly, and in them Lord Rylestone saw the dawn of recognition.

'She will live!' he said. 'Adelaide seek

In less than four hours Nettlebank Farm was transformed. Servants, nurses, physicians, and everything that science could suggest, or money could pay for, were there. One of the first physicians in London had been sent for, and after a long and careful watch hy Lady Rylestone's side, he said that there was just the faintest shadow of hope-that it was just possible she might live. Her life hung upon a thread; extreme quiet, extreme care might save her.

He went away, and Adelaide came to the rescue. No hired hands should touch Lord Rylestone's darling-no mercenary care should

'I have promised to love her as though she were my own sister,' she said, ' and I will keep

She sent away the useless crowd. She showed all that woman's noblest nature was capable of. She worked with courage, patience, and determination, doing her best to preserve the life he valued-to save Margarita

'If I could change places with her, and die for her, so as to give her back to you, I would do it,' she said one day to Lord Rylestone and she was quite unconscious what deep love for himself those words betrayed.

CHAPTER XLIX.

ADELAIDE CAMERON had her, reward for all her weary watching of the invalid when one morning Margarita whispered her name, and the wan face with the worn dark eyes looked something more like the Margarita of old. But those dark eyes asked a pitiful question. Adelaide bent over her.

'I did not mean to steal," whispered the

'I know, my darling,' said Adelaide; 'and I know that joy never kills. Your husband is waiting to see you, and he loves you better

And then, as Lord Rylestone entered the life. So, when the spring came round, Lord room, she who had saved, as far as human Rylestone took Margarita to Nice. Previous skill could save, his wife for him, passed out; to leaving England he asked Adelaide to releaving them together alone. | Bt東us: 東京の時に18#8: 中 | 中に上げる

The noonday sun was shining over Nice, the warm sweet air was laden with the breath of flowers, birds were singing melodiously in the trees, the lemon-trees and sweet syringas were in full bloom, there was a sound of music sweet, sad and soft.

A beautiful villa stands on the outskirts of Nice, and on the flower-wreathed balcony there was one of the prettiest and saddest groups that was ever seen. Myrtle and orange flowers | feb28,1w were mixed in picturesque disorder, and over the balcony a vine trailed its green leaves. pretty chair, made expressly for an invalid. was there, and on it sat or half reclined Lady Rylestone. It was not the shadow of the vine that gave the strange expression to her beau tiful face—something darker was brooding over her, and by her side, watching each breath, listening to each word, sat Lord Rylestone. She was looking with pitiful, wistful eyes at him-he might think she was recovering, he might delade himself with hopes as fair as they were false, but she knew.

They were perfectly reconciled. He had been terribly shocked at first at the deficiency n her sense of honor which had led her to do as she had done; but, when he heard the story from her own lips, and knew that it had been all from love of him, he could not retain his anger. Nevertheless his ideal was loweredhe found his beautiful wife more human than he had thought to find her. The story she had told him in the farm-house was so pathetic, so sad—she longed to know the secret of the

been content. I longed to die, but I wo

not kill myself-I was not coward enough for

that. I remember leaving Layston Park, and

deciding that I would walk on until I dropped

then I must die, and I should not have killed

myself; I found myself here in this little farm,

and I thought I would hide myself here until I

'Why, my darling,' he exclaimed, 'how

could you think that money would outweigh

"I cannot tell,' she answered, dreamily.

Allan, the will was my death-warrant; it was

They had talked for some time after that

until at last Allan understood how it had all

happened—she had made herself wretched

over the secret of the will, and had resolved

upon finding it out for his sake alone. She

told him how good and kind Adelaide had been

to her; she told him the whole story of her

doubts and fears. In time, those fears grew

small, and she began to understand the great

broad fact that he cared more for her than for

the wealth of the whole world—that he would

have given all he had-wealth, title, even life

itself-for her love; and with the certainty of

And then, when Lady Rylestone was able

taken to Walton Court. She shuddered as

she was carried past the library door, and

'That is the room where the brightest and

best part of me died,' she whispered; and

though he tried to cheer her, knew it was true.

had lain between two worlds. Clever physicians came to her, and after long con-

sultations it was decided that if she could be

taken to Nice there was just a chance for her

After that, for long months, Lady Rylestone

that knowledge came content.

turned to her husband.

main at Walton Court.

died. You rescued me, Allan.'

'And very stupid,' added Allan.

my love for you?'

very cruel, dear.'

down-I was quite indifferent where or how-

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