

A QUEEN UNCROWNED

THE STORY IN THE LONE INN.

CHAPTER XXII.

splendid grays. The whole subject of strange, questioning look. conversation was "Lelia," as Lord As Lord George introduced her made her legions of admirers keep a high-bred lady. long distance off—her haughty independence, that made the friendship of the high and titled no act of condepied fixed his eyes on her face with a look fever of impatience that he took his scension, but a simple courtesy to an st once so puzzled, so searching, and equal-her free, frank, impulsive so full of a strange recognition, that the theater, ways-her splendid acting; in short, as she looked up and caught his in-Lelia-Lelia was the theme until the voluntary stare, she crimsoned again, -a perfect jam from pit to ceiling. carriage drew up in front of the Tre- and half turned away

had half-reluciantly compiled. There ship's face struck me as being so famcalled their last parting. How would "Yes, sir. I have often thought she ceased—a dead hush followed—the she meet him? How could be con- strikingly resembled that Spanish curtain slowly arose, furied to the too? He half regretted he had come at all: but it was too late to draw was scarlet. back or regret now. Lord George, with Augusta on his arm, was al- Lord George. ready in the drawing-room, where Norma, Mrs. Tremain, and her daughbows and smiles, and friendly words of welcome from the lady of the

so bright and happy, laid her hand in her dutimacy with Lelia, the actress. his so promptly, that all his confu-sion passed away. She started violently as she saw who accompanied im, and turned upon him a look of

Half an hour after saw them en My American relatives," he said, route, dashing along behind two in a low tone, surprised by her

George related anecdote after anec. Mr. De Vere and his daughter, she lieve she would die of eestasy if my dots of her-her kindness to the bowed, while the blood mounted to Lord of Ferneciffe offered her his poor-her princely donations to her temple. Very strange, though hand, heart, and name to-morrow!" churches and charitable institutions— Disbrowe, lost in wonder at this her fierce, indomitable pride, that schoolgirl blush of the calm, graceful,

Lord George had insisted on their Vere, hastily, becoming conscious of smiles wreathing rosy lips, and a That voice! There never was but one all coming with him, and Disbrowe his rudeness; "but, really, your lady-dreamy odor of perfume all around. such voice in the world! was a quick flutter of his pulses at iliar. Alfred, does Lady Austrey re- English noblesse were there, and all same moment, broke a wild cry of the thought of meeting Norma again, mind you of any one you ever saw waiting breathlessly for the curtain "Jacquetta!"

"A young Spaniard I met in New ress!"

freely, looked in his eyes with a smile would throw a light on the subject of

"Perliquely handsome."

"And ladylike?" "Extremely ladylike."

ill. Would you like her to do so? Me! Why, what possible interest an it have for me!" She looked up with the queen

nile, but said nothing. "Do you suppose I will fall in love fith her?" he could not help asking,

oked by her smile. "I had rather be excused. Stageplayers are not in my line. I could

not love an actress, if she were a very goddess for beauty—a Venus "Prenez garde, monsieur! do not

be too sure. You can do as you please, however. Most certainly neither I nor Lelia will ask you to do so." "Has she many lovers?"

"Wealthy and titled?"

"Yes, my lord. She refused the Lord of Earnecliffe offered her his Her sarcastic tone silenced Disbrowe on that subject; but all he had

to go up. A bell tinkled—the music Norma tried to laugh, but her face "Maid of Oreleans"-the heroic

ceiling, and there stood the brave box, and an angry murmur of daughter of France ,its banner in her the interruption. But heedless of all "Who was Jacinto, may I ask?" said hand, at the head of its army—there -of everything save the actress bebefore them stood "Lella, the Act- fore them, Mr. De Vere and Lord

Austrey's twin brother—he looked so cheer—swelling, and rising, and unmixed with a sort of horror at this thundering, till the very wall shook apparition from the dead. Augusta, The dinner-bell here fortunately a regal walcome truly to the tragic browe found himself holding Norma's but an end to a subject evidently anyband in his, and wishing her joy, thing but welcome to the lady in completely himself—his easy, self question, and it was not again renew- waving her hand for silence, uttered "Oh, grandpa! it's Miss Jack; it's ed. Disbrowe sat beside her at din- a few brief, graceful words of thanks. Miss Jack!" ner, but all his efforts could not make her disclose anything that then the vast crowd sank back in penetrating eyes of Lelia, the actress,

> Lord Earnecliffe was on his feet, and was no recognition in their depths, dead no longer, but living, smiling,

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It was a brilliant scene—fans waving, they stood watching her spellbound, "I beg your pardon," said Mr. De jewels flashing, bright eyes sparkling, until her voice first broke the silence.

Jersey. He might have been Lady A wild cheer arose—an English her with eyes wild with surprise, not

All but the inmates of one box. Disbrowe knew so well; but there

great annoyance of Mrs. Tremain and ner daughter, who were lost in wonder at this singular scene, Lord George, too, stared with all his eyes, evidently debating within himself of lunatics that day from Disbrowe Park. Norma was the only one of the party who seemed to understand it: and there was a malicious smile sparkling in her eyes and hovering around her lips, only partially con-

"I say, Earnecliffe, old fellow, this won't do, you know," said Lord George, in a low voice, touching his arm; "everybody's looking at you. Sit down, won't you?"

be seated; you are disturbing the old American here, to set them flar-

ing up in this fashion at sight Lelia? Where is he gone?" nis eyes, as if to dispel a mist; and then seizing his hat, turned to go. "My lord, where are you going? said Lord George, startled by his

"To Jacquetta! Living or dead, the crowd, and disappeared. The face of sublime bewilderment and dismay

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laughter; but now some nervous eling of anxiety for Dishrowe re-"You had better follow him, George. Do go after him," she cried, anxious-

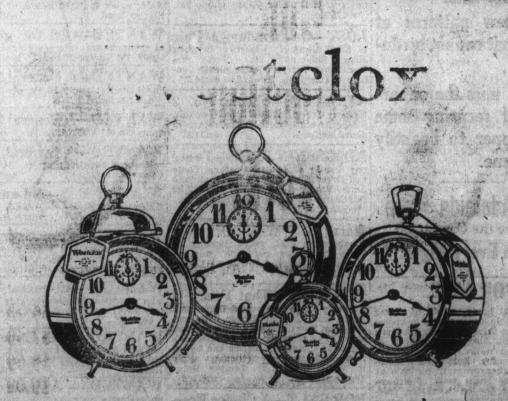
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