

Love a Conqueror

OR,
WEDDED AT LAST.

CHAPTER XXXII.

The door opened softly, and Mrs. Beadesert entered, looking pale and subdued and touched. She had not seen Shirley since the night of the storm, and now she uttered a startled, shocked exclamation.

"Is it over?" The voice was almost inaudible from agitation and weakness.

"No, not yet," Mrs. Beadesert said unsteadily; "but it cannot be long now. Poor Shirley! Do not be afraid. It cannot be against him."

"What cannot be against him?" "The verdict," Mrs. Beadesert said, startled by a sudden imperative gesture from Lucie which she was inclined to resent.

"Shirley, will you not go back to the sofa?" asked Miss Grey, speaking fast and excitedly in her terror. "You will rest better there. Mrs. Beadesert will help you."

"Lucie, are you hiding anything from me?" Oh, how pitiful the look in the sweet eyes was! "What does she mean? A verdict? I thought it was only a trial for—her voice died away on her lips, but she forced her self to continue—"for murder: that there was—"

"My darling, the coroner's decision is always called a verdict," said Lucie earnestly. "Are you feeling faint again, Shirley?"

"No—oh, no! I am well," she answered eagerly. "Mrs. Beadesert—oh, my heart! What—what is that? What—what is that?"

There was a sound of voices and footsteps, of opening and shutting doors; they could hear the shouting of the crowd outside. Mrs. Beadesert flushed and trembled; and ran to the door, Lucie Grey turned pale, and Shirley stood up, supporting herself by both hands upon her chair, waiting in a silence which was as death itself, it was so intense.

It was broken by hurrying footsteps along the passage, the rustle of heavy silken skirts, the tapping of high-heeled shoes, and Lady Eastwell rushed into the room, her handsome face pale and eager and triumphant. Shirley went toward her, standing alone and unassisted; and seeing her movement, Lucie went to her side.

"What is it?" Shirley said. "You look as if you had good news, Alice." "So I have," she answered with a vindictive light in her blue eyes. "The verdict is the one I have longed and prayed for from the beginning."

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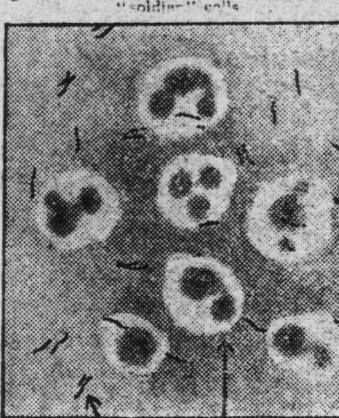
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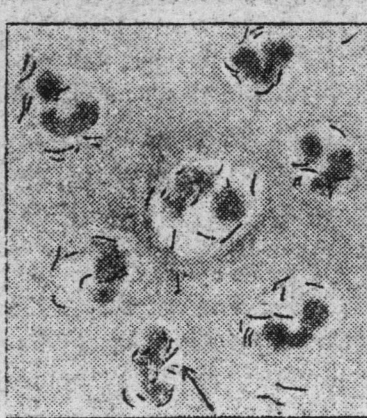
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BEFORE FEEDING ON VIROL. Photograph of the blood under a microscope, showing that the white cells have no been attacked by the harmful germs.



AFTER FEEDING ON VIROL. Photograph of the blood under a microscope, showing that the white cells have been attacked by the harmful germs.



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TABLE OF RESULTS

Duration of feeding with VIROL.	Average number of germs absorbed in 15 minutes.
0 weeks	47
2 "	3
4 "	6
6 "	9
8 "	7

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"Alice, you are cruel; for pity's sake come away! She is so ill," created Mrs. Beadesert, her bright eyes full of tears. "It will kill her, she whispered. 'Oh, come away—come away! Do not be the first to tell such an awful thing.'"

She had clasped her little hands over Lady Eastwell's arm, and was trying to draw her out of the room; but Alice resisted, the evil vindictive look deepening in her eyes.

"Don't be absurd, Lena! She must know it some time or other, and she may as well hear it from me," she said angrily. "Take away your hands, you are hurting me." She pushed up the sleeve of her dress looking, with an angry color in her cheeks, at the red marks of the little widow's eager hands on the white flesh. "See how rough you are!" she continued. "What absurd nonsense! As if I would tell it to her more kindly than any one; for she must know it sooner or later."

"Lady Eastwell, let me entreat you," Lucie said, imploringly; "say nothing away—she can bear no more! Oh, this is terrible!"

For Shirley was looking from one to the other, making desperate but ineffectual efforts to speak, while the parched lips refused to obey her.

Lady Eastwell looked at Miss Grey in silent contemptuous disapproval, and made a step or two toward Shirley; but again Lucie interposed.

"My dear, my dear," she entreated, "come away, come with me to your room! I will help you. Do not stay here. Good Heaven, she is dying!" she added, in an agony, as Shirley's head sank and her eyes closed; and Mrs. Beadesert flew to the table for

some wine, which she forced through the pale lips, in her agitation spilling a great part of it over the white wrapper that Shirley wore, while Lucie trembled so exceedingly that she could hardly support the falling limbs.

"Tell me," the poor girl said, when she could speak—"tell me; I can bear—"

"Another time," Lucie interrupted, tremulously. "It is nothing dear; but you are fit for no more agitation now. Come with me and rest, and I will tell you."

Gently but firmly Shirley put her aside.

"I must hear at once," she said. "Tell me, Alice."

Lady Eastwell hesitated now; she had been extremely startled by the mortal anguish on Shirley's face, and rejoicing in her triumph as she was, she was afraid to tell her the news.

"Tell me, Alice."

"Well, the fact is, Shirley, that

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poor Hugh did not meet with an accident at all."

"No?" The voice was very calm and steady; it deceived Alice, but it did not deceive Lucie Grey; and she covered her face with her hands.

"No, he was murdered." "Who says—?" The steady voice failed; but Alice answered the unfinished question.

"The jury. They have given a verdict of willful murder against Guy Stuart."

CHAPTER XXXIII.

Never for many a long year, never even in the memory of its oldest inhabitant, had the little country town of Exminster seen such a concourse of people in its streets as on the fair autumn morning when Guy Stuart was to be tried for his life, charged with the murder of the man who had been his friend and his betrayer, the man he had loved and who had injured him so cruelly. It was not merely the pageant of the sheriff's procession which attracted such numbers; intense interest seemed to pervade all ranks of society as to the result of the trial which was to take place, and which must, the initiated said, prove of special and thrilling import to all.

Nor was it the townspeople of Exminster only who showed this interest. From far and near over the whole land came eager interested visitors of high rank and position; friends of Sir Hugh Glynn's who had admired the brilliant, hapless baronet who had been carried home through the storm, cold and stiff, with the red rose over which they had faked a few short hours before still in the button hole of his gray tweed coat; friends of Guy Stuart's, brother officers who knew him well, and who were furious at the charge brought against one whom they loved, and of whose bravery and honor they had been justly proud during the time he had been one of them; friends of Lord and Lady Eastwell's, their guests at the house they had taken for a short time in the immediate neighborhood—and these, taking their opinions from Alice, inveighed bitterly against the accused and the baseness of his crime. There were many too at Exminster who had known and envied Shirley in her brilliant career as belle and queen of society; and these were anxious to see how she bore herself now that she was dethroned—that her wealth was lost—for by a will made a few weeks after his marriage, Sir Hugh's entire possessions had been left away from his wife, save a small annuity. Among the crowds of rich and titled visitors who came by every train on the day before the trial, but few sympathized with Shirley. Women who had flirted with her husband in his bachelor days, men who had admired Shirley and had been repelled by her haughty manner, were equally bitter against her now. If it was Guy who had committed the murder, she was the cause of it; she had always hated her husband; she had married him doubtless through ambition, but she had loved Guy Stuart with a great love; and Lady Eastwell was looked upon as an oracle by the heartless votaries of fashion, who had agreed with her in her dislike to the poor girl whose one sin against Alice had been an involuntary one, whose only real cause for hatred lay in that fatal beauty which had won a love she had not craved.

(To be Continued.)

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