At the Eleventh Doctor Could Do Nothing Hour!

CHAPTER XVIII.

A DOUBLE SENSATION.

In truth Prentiss had often snee ed at such matters, but, though h had been skeptical before, he was so excited by the sudden apparition on the very scene of the murder, that no doubt of its supernatural nature en tered his mind.

Perhaps Graham Prentiss had guilty conscience, for he certainly gave the impression of cowardice to the unseen spectators who gazed blank surprise at the fear and emo tion manifested in his recoil fron Lynette as she stood there, wrapped in the sheet and trembling with ex citement.

All three of them suspected at th first moment of recognizing him that he would tear the sheet away and give Lynette a playful shaking for trying to play a joke on him. But a his startled cry and familiar utter ance of the name of "Madge," Lynette felt the blood run cold in he veins with horror, so comprehensiv had been that tone, as if the dea girl had not indeed been a strange to his acquaintance.

A terrible suspicion flashed ove her mind, and, obeying a lightning impulse to test the man, she cried out in a hoarse sepulchral voice:

"Murderer!" Out there in the solemn night th word had a terrifying sound that pierced the listener's heart like the point of a dagger.

He was already turning to fly from the accursed spot, but the wor struck coldly on his ears, arresting his flight. He groaned, reeled, staggered, then his stalwart frame fell prone upon the earth.

Lynette, almost frightened to deat by the result of her daring ruse, turned to escape from the spot, but fel into the arms of the girls, who rush ed from their concealment, dropping assistance of the protrate man, wh was writhing on the ground in a sort of fit, uttering inarticulate words. "Lynette, you carried the joke to

stooped over Prentiss. Lynette made no answer, onl clung to Myrtle, trembling and soboffered any assistance to Mr. Lewis, who was trying to get the prostrate

all, nothing but a girlish joke. But at first Prentiss appeared up conscious of their presence. He was deathly pale in the cold moonlight his eyes rolled in a ghastly stare, his lips were flecked with foam an drawn back convulsively from his teeth, while his form trembled an writhed in a strange convulsion.

"This is dreadful! We have fright ened him into a fit!" muttered Mi Lewis "We ought to have a doctor I wish now I had brought that imp 'Rastus."

"Hi! yi! boss, I thought you was gwine need me, so I follyed the kerridge!" blurted out a triumphant nas al voice, and Erastus emerged fron his hiding place behind a convenient tree, glibly boasting: "I hung on a the back, an' you didn't fine me out! "You black rascal! I'll give you hiding for that!" threatened the farmer; but the boy only laughed as in answered:

"Sho', I don't mind gittin' lathere a leetle bit for sech fun!"

At the same moment they caught the sound of a melodious negro chant

The musical camp-meeting refrain blended melodiously with the wood-

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Toronto.

What scorching admonition the ghost might have administered may never now be known, for at that crucial moment Vida and Lynette blought up the rear, each one in her sheet, and at the petrifying sight old Wilkins ended his confession with a sonson, Bates & Co., Toronto.

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debility and all run-down conditions of

land sounds and the low, dirge-like murmur of the river:

When I die, I want ter die right; When-I-die! want ter go to heaven, all dress

in white! Hail John's Army Some goes to church shout-Amen! Before six months dey is all turned

out-Amen! When I die, I want ter die right: When-I-die!

want ter go to Heaven, all dresse in white! Hail John's Army lethodist bred, and Methodist bor

-Amen! When I die, dere's a Methodist gon

Myrtle Dare whose sympathies had not overflowed for Prentiss laughed aloud when she heard the ferven far!" her uncle cried harshly, as he chant, and caught up the sheet again "I'm not going to lose the fun! she exclaimed; and, running down the path, barely out of sight of the bing, and Vida was the only one who group, again donned the sheet and posed herself sepulchrally for the negro's benefit, while Erastus, ignorman to understand that there was ing his master's remonstrance, rushstealthily after her impelled

> his love of fun Wilkins came steadily on, bearin a loose sack on his back, which h had perchance dropped a rooster su reptitiously obtained from the chick n-house at Bonnie Braes.

'When I die I want ter die righ When-I-

Oh, my good Lord a-massey, what lat?" his song trailing off into a cry of fear and awe as he came in sight of Myrtle.

Pausing a few yards away, the ole negro stood with quaking knees an kinky wool begining to straighten out with fear, as Myrtle had predic ed. He wished to turn and flee, bu the power of motion was gone. Seeing that she was accepted as genuine spook, Myrtle was embolden

ed to stretch out her arms and mut ter lugubriously: "I am Madge McDonald's spirit!

To her surprise, Wilkins returned affably, though his teeth were chat-"Lordy, is dat so, Mistis. Berry gla

o see you, dat's a fac'! I been excoming toward them through the pectin' dis ebry nite when I come woods. It was Wilkins returning pas' dis spot! Please, ma'am, wha from his work, and singing to keep fer you come back yere to dis place. up courage on passing the scene of l'se in a drefful hurry ter git 'ome te Marth', my ole 'oman."

Myrtle could barely repress h laughter at his alarm, and her voice rembled with it, as she said sharply "What have you in the sack, ol

"Mistis?"

"What have you in the sack-stole hickens, eh?"

"Lordy, Lordy, how'd she know n-no, ma'am, please.' 'Wilkins, you are lying! chickens in the sack."

"No, mistis, indeedy no-not chicken; leastwise-ef I must 'fess, an' I hopes you won't go back an tell my Lord about it-dere's on'ly ne rooster, please, ma'am. Ez I wuz crowed at me, so fat an' sassy, est wrung his neck fer spite, dat An, den, finks I, might's we kyar it home ter Marth' ter mek pot-stew. Dat's de God's trufe, mi

led Frimme of all kinds.

'Anudder and anudder! T'ree on em, all sperits! Or is I craty? I must be drunk, dat's it! Marth' tol me not to tek so many pulls at dat cle black bottle. I wouldn't listen, an' now I has de jim-jams and am aseein' sperits ob de dead!"

The imp Erastus who had thoroughy enjoyed the situation, regretting that he had not also a sheet to pose in, here gave such a loud, irrepressible snicker that the girls felt the game was up, and, turning around, fled with one accord, leaving the boy master of the sifuation. He proceeded to improve on it by dancing in front of old

"You silly ole fool! I didn't fink we could fool you so easy wid t'ree sheets ober de young gals' heads-hi! yi!

Wilkins on his knees, and exclaim-

Wilkins shambled to his feet, mut-

ering in a tone of relief: "Wuz you jest foolin' me for shuah? And didn't I see three s.e:its? And ain't I got de jim-jams, neider?"

"No; but you'se drunk, I 'specf; nd golly! won't Marse Prentiss be nad when he hears 'bout dat roost-

"No, he won't neider! What d ich men keer 'bout one pore leete ich men keer 'bout one pore leetel poster-and a hen? I didn't 'fess ter de hen, you see. Come, 'Ras', what you doin' here, anyway? What's all dis about?

Erastus hardly knew himself, but ne did not intend to give it away, so e capered about, and replied:

nisses got up for fun. But. come along, now, an' I'll see you safe home wid yer rooster. And, taking him by the arm, he

around Graham Prentiss, who had oon recovered from his strange seizure on hearing Mr. Lewis' repeated explanation that it was nothing but

But no doctor was needed now, fo e was joining in the laugh against Wilkins as the girls related the stor f their adventure with him.

"Although the laugh is quite again t me." he owned. "But perhaps you never knew that I am rather superstitious. It is a weakness I always concealed until Lynette's joke surprised me. Besides, I am very nervous started from Cincinnati last evening Aunt Moore did not think I ought go out this evening, but I disregarded er pleadings, and thought I would walk to Blooming Meadows. Ah, Wilkins, you rogue!" glacing around as that worthy shambled into sight. "S you have got my rooster in your sack Well, I hope you and Martha will en-

oy the pot-stew." "T'anky kindly, boss. I knowed yo wouldn't keer 'bout er pore li'l' roostnohow ez agerwated me so much flyin' up on de fence an' crowin' se oud ez ef ter say: 'Aine I fat an sassy? Wouldn't you like to eat me? God night ladies and gentl'men,

mus' git, or Marth', she'll pull all de wool offen my ole brack haid." "You go along with him, 'Rastus,' said his master; "and mind, not word from either of you about what pasesd to-night, or I'll scalp you both. "Yaas, suh-yaas, suh," answered

both at once. Then they disappeared in the woods. Mr. Lewis turned bay to Prentiss, saying cordially:

"We came in the carriage, and we can take you back with us if the girls

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don't mind crowding a little. The lover looked at Lynette's face t was cold and impassive, and she had barely spoken to him at all.

A sort of defiance kindled in him at er indifference, and he exclaimed: "Yes, I will go with you, even if to crowd the girls. Lynette deserves some punishment for giving me such

But when they were all getting in Lynette and Myrtle maliciously managed to crowd him between Vida and the farmer. He could only protest scorted him along the path where he laughingly, that it was not fair, for he came suddenly upon the others of the knew he must be on his good behavparty standing in a little group ior now to offset the shock he had

He spent two hours at Blooming Meadows, and when he went away he told himself that in spite of Lynette's oldness she had not offered to break her engagement. The wedding would be sure to go on on Thursday.

To be continued.

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