

At Last.

CHAPTER I. 'Geraldine, do you want to marry Arthur Farelham this afternoon?' 'The only answer I could give possibly being him.' 'Do you mean to tell me, Geraldine, that you have positively refused him?' 'Yes,' and the gentle eyes were raised for the first time and rested on the irate countenance of her aunt, for I could never, never marry him.' 'How long do you intend going on like this Geraldine, defying me as I bet your wiles at a night?'

worth anger increased, for she perceived that what she had done was an over-protection, was only a subject of gratification to her niece. 'Do, ungrateful child!' she cried, her voice choked with fury. 'I see now what is my reward for nursing a serpent in my bosom. Do what you expect,' she added, scornfully. 'From the daughter of a miserable French man!'

The flush on Geraldine's cheek gave place to two burning spots as she turned to her aunt and said with quiet haughtiness. 'You may say what you like to me, but I will not allow a slur to be thrown on my beloved father's name. He bore an honored and honorable name, and he was worthy of a true and chaste daughter.' Geraldine then hastily quitted her aunt's presence, and gaining the privacy of her own room she threw her self upon her knees, and burying her face in her hands she cried: 'At last! The hour has come when I can at last fulfill my heart's desire. Accept me, unworthy though I am, as Thy servant and handmaid. Show me the way wherein I should walk, teach me how to do Thy will, and I will be Thine. And the Lord gently poured down her cheeks—not the tears that are the outcome of anger and vexation, but tears that, like the gentle dew-drops of heaven, brought peace and rest to her troubled heart.'

CHAPTER II. All Anastasia was in a panic, the people were wild and frantic. The great banking company of Wentworth, Baxter & Co., had failed, and ruin, utter and complete, stared numerous families in the face. Many people from the highest of affluence had to endure the lowest depths of poverty. No greater sufferer was there in this dire distress than the proud rich woman who was so wedded to her wealth and the things of the world. After the panic had subsided, Sister Anastasia wrote affectionately letters of condolence to her aunt, to which the lawyer replied, saying no one knew anything of Mrs. Wentworth's whereabouts. After the dreadful funeral and her state of desolation was terrible to behold. However, the next day she had disappeared, leaving no trace whatever of her destination or her whereabouts. Inquiries had been made, but all to no purpose. The lady was found in the missing lady and proved faithful. Sister Anastasia was horrified and grieved, at such terrible news of her poor aunt, who was now advanced in years, but she put more confidence ever in God's powerful protection.



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