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'Margaret,'

The GIRL ARTIST

The Countess of Ferrers

Court.

CHAPTER XX.

"I only heard you singing," said Margaret.

The words and the gentle tone, to its sad expression, seemed to fascinate staying in Florence?" the girl, and she drew nearer, saying timidly:

"But I was making a tremendous noise! You are painting?" "Yes," answered Margaret, with

sigh, "I am trying to do so."

"What a lovely spot you have chos en," said the girl, looking round am so fond of art myself, but"-and she made a little grimace-"I am shocking stick!"

Then she clored furiously and

pardon! But I learn it from Ferdy! There-how stupid of me! Of course. you don't know who Ferdy is; he is my brother."

By this time she had looked at th canvas.

"Why!" she exclaimed, "that is

"A poor one," said Margaret, smiling in spite of herself at the girl's en- you," and she half rose.

got those trees there, and that bit of

for a moment, then she flung herself and pay us a visit, and see if yo on the grass beside Margaret, and said:

"Do you know, you reminded me of mamma just then. That is just how she speaks when she wants to scold me for one of my extravagancies. Of course I wouldn't give ten years-or one year-of my life for anything:

Margaret sighed. How gladly would she have given all the remainder of happiness.

"It all depends," said Margaret,

gravely. Some people's lives are no few years from them."

Sec.

The girl glanced at Margaret's pale face and then at her black dress, and remained silent for a moment or two hen she looked up and said, timidly: "Do I interrupt you sitting here? will go at once if I am a nuisance." "No, no," said Margaret, quickly and with a wistful smile "You do no interrupt me; pray stay!"

"I like to see you paint," said the girl after a nause "Somehow you re gether with the beautiful face with I wish you knew mamma. Are you

> "Yes," said Margaret, "I am staying at the hotel there," and she pointed

> "Really! Then you must beexclaimed the girl, quickly, but checking herself abruptly, and color ing with annovance.

"I must be-what?" said Margaret

lives so quietly at the hotel that they call her the 'Mysterious Lady.'"

noment, then she said: "I'd better go now, I have offended

me something about yourself?"

was the instant reply. "Do you see Ferdinand, my brother, live there. 1t if your life should be as happy all is called the Villa Capri; and, do you through as it is now," said Margaret, know, there are some beautiful views from it. If I were sure you wouldn't could not make a picture of the river unning below the woods. Oh.

> tracted Margaret's attention. "Are you Italian?" she said.

ily. I should like you to know him

Almost as she spoke a voice rang

"I was going to make one of my

Margaret smiled gently. "Do they call me so?" she said then she sighed, and went on with her

The girl sat and watched her for a

"Do not." she said. "You have not offended me. And now, will you tell

would like that!" Something in the girl's voice at

"Half and half," was the reply, with a laugh. "My father was Italian, my mother is English. I call myself all English-please do not forget that!' presents the Italian side of the fam-He is out riding this morning-"

MADE IN CANADA Bread is the cheapest food known. Home bread baking reduces the high cost of living by lessen-ing the amount of expensive meats required to supply the necessary nourishment to the body. REFUSE SUBSTITUTES. V.GILLETT COMPANY LIMITED ut clear and musical above the trees "Florence! Florence!"

The girl laughed and sprung to her feet, then she sunk down again a quickly.

"It is Ferdy!" she said. "Let him find me if he can!" and in a falsetto which rang quaintly through the hills she called, "Ferdy! Ferdy!"

Margaret heard the dull beat of a horse's hoofs as the rider rode thi way and that, misled by the echo then, as tired of the sport, the girl sprung to her feet and shouted with a full round tone, Margaret saw handsome young man ride pell-mell at

"Oh, take care, take care, Ferdy! shouted the girl, but the warning came too late; the horse struck the leg of the easel with its fore hoof, and over went the whole apparatus, paint box brushes, and the rest, leaving Mar garet sitting smiling amidst the ruins The girl uttered a cry of dismay and the young fellow, almost before he had pulled the horse in, flung him

headed and penitent before Margare "Oh, Ferdy, Ferdy, how could you so reckless?" exclaimed the girl. He put up his hand as if to silence

self from the saddle and stood bare

"Signorina, I am overwhelmed wit hame! Believe me. I did not suspec that any one was here beside this madcap sister of mine! Pardon me, I pray you! Have I broken anything?-have frightened you? I shall never for give myself! Is that right?" and he put the easel in its place with the

"Thank you, yes," said Margare 'No harm has been done. You did not see me, that bush hid me. Pleas do not mind; it does not in the leas signify."

"Oh, but-" he said, arranging the palette and paints with the nicest carefulness-"it signifies so much that I shall not sleep in peace unless you will forgive me!"

It was an Italian speech, but it wa was singularly English, and the speaker's eves were fixed so earnestly that the color rose and she bent down and got her brushes to hide it. The girl glided to her side. "Poor Ferdy! But it was very stu

nid of him, and he might have hur you as well as the easel, and then should never have forgiven him whatever you had done. But you will forgive him, will you not?" She seemed to set so much value on

Margaret, with a soft laugh, said as "Certainly, I forgive him!"

The young man's face cleared in stantly, and with the slight foreign accent which was more marked in him than his sister, he said:

"I am deeply grateful! I do not deserve it. Florence, have you told the lady your name? Will you tell her

stepped forward, and with a little graceful movement of the hand, said: "Madame, let me present to you my prother, Prince Ferdinand Rivani." "And I, the Princess Florence, my

sister," said the prince; and the prince bowed, and the young girl drop ped a courtesy in courtly fashion. "And now we have been formally

ntroduced." said the girl, with a mer ry laugh. "We are friends, are we not, and you will come to see us' Ferdy, the lady-"

She hesitated and looked at Margaret, and Margaret, with downcast

"Miss Leslie! What a pretty name Why, it is more Italian than English, I think. Miss Leslie is staying at the hotel."

The prince drew himself up, and with the same fixed regard of respectful, almost reverential, admiration said: "I shall have the honor of waiting

upon Miss Leslie to-morrow-if she permits." A servant who had been holding the horse came up, and as the princ

bent over Margaret. "Mind! We are to be friends, you and I! I shall come with Ferdinand to-morrow!" then, laying her han

nounted, the princess drew near and

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and have proved to be a

holesale Druggists St John, N.B.

beside her brother

Margaret sat and looked at the view with eyes that saw nothing. She had come to Florence for solitude and seclusion, and already that solitude was threatened. What should she do? Th girl was so lovable that Margaret's tender heart already felt drawn to ward her. All the more should sh guard against the possibility of an under a cloud of shame-and these nigh-born Italians

With a sigh she began to put he easel together, thinking that she must leave Florence in the morning, when

It was folded up and had evidently fallen from the pocket of the prince. Half mechanically she opened it and paper of some weeks back. Still mechanically she let her eyes wander over the columns, when suddenly she saw amongst the provincial news an account of her own death off the rocks at Appleford.

Trembling and shuddering, for the lines brought back all the torture of that day, she read the succinct narra tive, and found that in very truth the beyond question. But a strange coin cidence awaited her, for turning to the births, marriages and deaths columns she saw this announcement-"At Leyton Court, on the 25th instant, Martha Hale, aged 68, the faithful servant of the Earl of Ferrers"

In one and the same paper was the account of her own death, and that of the only person whom she would have The last link between Margaret Hale and Mary Leslie was broken, and the past had slipped away as completely as if, indeed, the tidal wave had washed her out to sea!

CHAPTER XXI.

It was autumn, but such an autumn as often puts summer to shame. The those of July: but that the leaves had changed their emerald hues for those of russet-brown and gold, one might well be tempted to believe that the ummer was still with us, and the

(To be continued.)

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many of British prisoners which the Hon, Mr. Justic is chairman, has issued a the conditions prevailing i tenberg camp during the demic of last year.

The report is based on from repatriated prisoners. pecially from Major Priestle Vidal and Captain Lauder my Medical Corps, who w the camp shortly after the c the epidemic, and who we released from Germany.

The three officers mentionly survivors of six Brit sent to the Wittenberg ca Germans, "to take up," s port, "the place of duty ab their own medical staff, wh sence of typhus manifested

The records of the epide by the British officers, w from them before their depa Germany, but the report g tail the condition of the c treatment of prisoners a James W. Gerard, in his November, said was "eve favorable than I had been

According to the releas there are 15,000, and some prisoners in the camp, whi mittee says "is an enorm tion for so restricted an proper heating arrangemen men were insufficiently clo overcoats having been fa them, their other clothing rags. Many had neither socks. There was an insuffic ply of water and soap, a Priestly says he found "gaunt, of a peculiar gray pa verminous."

The supply of food was als cient, even in the hospital, plies arrived from England. "The only provision for

cleanliness made for the n the report, "was one cupfil soap, issued at intervals weeks, to a room containin consequence the men be creasingly verminous, and t tion, coupled with cold and proper nourishment, was u the principal inducing caus epidemic." The epidemic broke out

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ber, 1914. "Thereupon," s

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