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LORNA DOONE B. R. D. BLACKMORI

CHAPTER XXX ANNIE GETS THE BEST OF IT

INNIE GETS THE BEST OF IT I had long outgrown unwholesome feeling as to my father's death, and so had Annie; though Lizzie (who must have loved him least) still entertained some evil will, and longing for a punish-ment. Therefore I was surprised (and, indeed, startled would not be too much to say, the moon being somewhat fleegy to see our Annie sitting there as motionless as the tombstone, and with all her best fallas upon her, after

fore with those was. "What are you doing here, Annie ?" I inquired, rather sternly, being vexed with her for having gone so very near to

frighten me. "Nothing at all," said our Annie shortly. And indeed it was truth enough for a woman. Not that I dare women are such liars as men say; only that I mean they often see things round the corner, and know not which is which of it. And indeed I not which is which of it. And indeed I never have known a woman (though right enough in their meaning) purely and perfectly true and transparent, except only my Lorna; and even so, I might not have loved her, if she had ugly. Why, how so ?" said I ; " Miss Annie,

hat business have you here, doing othing at this time of night? And avoing me with all the trouble to enwhat

tertain our guests." "You seem not to me to be doing it, John," Annie answered, softly: "what business have you here doing nothing at

Joint, Allie answerzel, solory, what business have you here doing nothing at this time of night?"
I was taken so aback with this, and the extreme impertinence of it, from a mere young girl like Annie, that I turned round to march away and have nothing more to say to her. But she jumped up and caught me by the hand, and threw hersell upon my bosom, with ther face all wet with tears.
"Oh, John, I will tell you—I will tell you—I will tell you. Only don't be angry, Joha."
" Angry ! no indeed," said I; "what right have I to be angry yoha."
" Angry ! no indeed," said I; "what right have I to be angry with you because you have your secrets."
" And you have none of your own, "And you have none of your own.

right to her own secrets." "And you have none of your own,

John ; of course, you have none of your

Sonn; of Sourse, you have hole of your own? All your going out at hight—"" "We will not quarrel here, poor Annie," I answered, with some loftiness; "there are many things upon my mind which girls can have no notion of."

which girls can have no notion of." "And so there are upon mine, John. Oh, John, I will tell you everything, if you will look at me kindly, and promise to forgive me. Oh, I am so miserable!" Now this, though she was behaving so badly, mored me much toward her, especially as I longed to know what she had to tell me. Therefore I allowed her to coax me, and to kiss me, and to lead me away a little as far as the old yewtree; for she would not tell me where was. But even in the shadow there she was

But even in the shadow there she was very long before beginning, and seemed to have two minds about it, or rather perhaps a dozen; and she laid her cheek against the tree, and sobbed till it was pitiful; and I knew what mother would say to her, for spoiling her best frock $\frac{1}{2}$

"Now will you stop ?" I said at last, harder than 1 meant it : for I knew that harder than I meant it; for I knew that she would go on all night, if any one en-couraged her; and though not well acquainted with women, I understood my sisters; or else I must be a born fool—except of course, that I never pro-formed to understand Fline

Meanwhile the reapers were mostly one, to be up betimes in the morning; gone, to be up be and some were led by their v and some had to lead their wives wive themselves; according to the capacity of man and wife respectively. But Betty was as lively as ever, bustling about with every one and looking out

you are late away at night among those dreadful people." "Well," I replied, "it is no use crying over spilled milk, Annie. You have my secret, and I have yours; and I scarcely know which of the two is likely to have the worst time of it, when it comes to mother's ears. I could put up with perpetual scolding, but not with mother's sad silence." "That is exactly how I feel, John;" and as Annie said it she brightened up; Betty was as lively as ever, bustling about with every one, and looking out for the chance of groats, which the better off might be free with. And over the kneading-pan next day she dropped three-and-sixpence out of her pocket; and Lizzie could not tell for her life how much more might have been in it.

stowing away the dishes. My nerves, however, are good and strong, except at least in love matters, wherein they always fail me, and when I meet with witches; and therefore I went up to Annie, although she looked so white and pure; for I had seen her be-fore with those things on, and it struck " What are you doing here. have another trial to-morrow night, it began to occur to me that although dear Annie had behaved so very badly and rudely, and almost taken my breath away with the suddenness of her allusion, yet it was not kind of me to leave her out there at that time of the night all alone, and in such distress. Any of the reapers going home might be gotten so far beyond fear of ghosts as to venture into the church-vard; and although voice and face. "Then, I am sure, I am very glad ;" Then, I am sure, I am very glad; Annie always made the best of things; for I do believe that Sally Snowe has taken a fancy to our dairy-place, and the pattern of our cream pans; and she asked so much about our meadows, and the color of the milk--"

far beyond lear of ghosts as to venture into the church-yard; and although they would know a great deal better than to insult a sister of mine when sober, there was no telling what they might do in their present state of re-joicing. Moreover, it was only right that I should learn, for Lorna's sake, how far Annie or anyone else had pene-how far Annie or anyone else had pene trated our secret.

Therefore I went forth at once, bear Therefore I went forth at once, bear-ing my pipe in a skillful manner, as I had seen Farmer Nicholas do; and mark-ing, with a new kind of pleasure, how the rings and wreaths of smoke hovered and fluttered in the moonlight, like a lark upon his carol. Poor Annie was gone back again to our father's grave; and there she sat upon the turf, sobbing very gently, and not wishing to trouble any one. So I raised her tenderly, and made much of her, and consoled her, for I could not soold her there; and perhaps after all she was not to be blamed so

woman. Upon this 1 brought her back again to Tom Faggus and his doings. "My poor Annie, have you really prom-ised him to be his wife?"

"Then after all you have no reason, John-no particular reason, I mean-for slighting poor Sally Snowe so?" "Without even asking mother or me!

upon her after the old man's time ; and though she gives herself little airs, it is only done to intice you; she has the

In the light extent the old man's time; and thouse of the part of the section of the part of

THE CATHOLIC RECORD

"That is exactly how I feel, John;" and as Annie said it she brightened up; and her soft eyes shone upon me; "but now I shall be much happier, dear, because I shall try to help you. No doubt the young lady deserves it, John. She is not after the farm I hope !" "She i" I exclaimed; and that was enough; there was so much scorn in my yoice and face. vest sits aside neglected." "Nay, Master Huckaback," cried Sally Snowe, with a saucy toss of her hair, "Mistress Ridd is too kind, a great de-l, in kanding you over to me. You take her; and I will fetch Annie to be menorities this merics. I like done my partner this evening. I like danc-ing very much better with girls, for they never squeeze and rumple one. Oh it is so much nicer!"

"Have no fear for me, my dears," our mother answered, smiling ; "Parson Bowden promised to come back again ; I expect him every minute ; and he in-tends to lead me off, and bring a partner for Annie too—a very pretty young gentleman. Now begin, and I will join you."

you." There was no disobeying her without rudeness; and indeed the girls' feet were already jigging, and Lizzie giving herself wonderful airs with a roll of cow, 'Nipple pins.' But she never shall have her now; what a consolation?''
We entered the house gently thus, and found Farmer Nicholas Snowe asleep, little dreaming how his own plans had found Farmer Nicholas Snowe asleep, little dreaming how his own plans had sinste was arching itself. as I could see from the parlor door. So I took little Ruth, and I spun her around, as the sound of the music came lively and ring-ing; and after us came all the rest with mids, as Uncle Ben will call them, and in step was arching itself. As I could see from the parlor door. So I took little Ruth, and I spun her around, as the sound of the music came lively and ring-ing; and after us came all the rest with mids, as Uncle Ben will call them, and poor stupid Mistress Kebby?''
 "That, indeed, I do, Annie. I must kiss you for only thinking of it. Dearme, it seems as if you had known all about us for a twelvemonth.''
 "She loves you with all her heart, John No doubt about that, of course.'' And No houbt about that, of course.'' And' No doubt about that the serve that to serve to that the were to the sea as a sign in the could love me all the more for it : ''she is only beginning to like me, Annie ; and as for you wi

and came up and praised me so to Ruth, times and again, that I declare I was quite ashamed. Although, of course, I knew that I deserved it all, but I could not well say that. Then Annie came sailing down the

loves her grandfather. But I hope she will come to it by-and-by." "Of course she must," replied my sister; "it will be impossible for her to help it." "Ah well! I don't know," for I wanted more assurance of it. "Maidens are such wondrous things!" "Not a bit of it." said Annie, casting her beight area downward : "love is as Then Annie came saining down the dance, with her beautiful hair flowing around her : the lightest figure in all the room, and the sweetest and the loveli-est. She was blushing, with her fair checks red beneath her dear blue eyes, or she mat my change of complex red ised him to be his wife?"
"Then after all you have no reason, John-no particular reason, I mean-for slighting poor Sally Snowe so?"
"Without even asking mother or me! Oh, Annie, it was wrong of you?"
But, darling, you know that mother wishes you so much to marry Sally; and I am sure you could have her to-mor-row. She dotes on the very ground
"I dare say he tells you that, Annie, that he dotes on ground you walk upon -but did you believe him, child?"
"You may believe me, I assure you, John; and half the farm to be settled to hong; that a thing of a scarf she has on; though be quite asting for your; whe walk the group her after the old man's time; and thou he dote son ground you walk upon pown her after the old man's time; and thou he group her after the sold man's time; and thony done to intice you; she has the
"You may believe wou; she has the
"You may believe you; she has the
"You have to intice you; she has the checks red beneath her dear blue eyes, as she met my glance of surprise and grief at the partner she was leaning on. It was Squire Marwood de Whlohe-halse. I would sooner have seen her with Tom Faggus, as indeed I had ex-pected, when I heard of Parson Bowden. And to me it seemed that she had no right to be dancing so with any other; and to this effect I contrived to whisper but she only said. "See to vourself, John. but she only said, "See to yourself, John. No, but let us both enjoy ourselves. You are not dancing with Lorna, John. You are not dancing with Loran, " But you seem uncommonly happy." "Tush," I said ; "could I flip about so

to know your secrets as I have, dearest John. Not a soul shall be the wiser though I shall be the wiser with the kitchen door thrown open. though I shall be very wretched when you are late away at night among those " Well." I replied, "it is no use crying over spilled milk, Anuie. You have my secret, and I have yours is likely to have the worst time of it, when it comes to mother's ears. I could put up with

madam?" Uncle Ben asked, very polite-ly. "I think you must re-arrange your figure. I have not danced for a score of years; and I will not dance now, while the mistress and the owner of the har-vest sits aside neglected." "Nay, Master Huckaback," cried Sally Snowe, with a saucy toss of her herself had admitted them by means of the little passage during a chorus of the harvest-song, which might have drowned an earthquake : but as for his meaning and motive, and apparent neglect of his business, none but himself could inter-pret them ; and as he did not see fit to do so, we could not be rude enough to inouire.

inquire. He seemed in no hurry to take his de-He seemed in no hurry to take his de-parture, though his visit was so incon-venient to us, as himself, indeed, must have noticed; and presently Lizzie, who was the sharpest among us, said in my hearing that she believed he had pur-posely timed his visit so that he might have liberty to pursue his own object, whatsoever it were, without interruption from us. Mother gazed hard upon Liz-zie at this, having formed a very differ-ent opinion; but Annie and myself agreed that it was worth looking into. Now how could we look into it with-out watching Uncle Rueben whenever he went abroad, and trying to catch him in his speech, when he was taking his ease at night? For, in spite of all the disgust with which he had spoken of harvest wassailing, there was not a man coming into cure kitchen who libed it

harvest wassailing there was not a man coming into our kitchen who liked it better than he did; only in a quiet way, and without too many witnesses. better than he did; only in a quiet way, and without too many witnesses. Now to endeavor to get at the purpose of any guest, even a treacherous one (which we had no right to think Uncle Rueben), by means of observing him in his cups, is a thing which even the low-est of people would regard with abhor-rence. And to my mind it was not clear whether it would be fair play at all to follow a visitor even at a distance from home and clear of our premises; except for the purpose of fetching him back, and giving him more to go on with. Nevertheless we could not but think, the times being wild and disjointed, that Uncle Ben was not using fairly the part of a guest in our house, to make part of a guest in our house, to make long expeditions we knew not whither, and involve us in trouble we know not

what. For his mode was directly after what.
For his mode was directly after breakfast to pray to the Lord a little to story.
Well, John, we were perfectly miser-table. You cannot understand it, of the ngo forth upon Dolly, the which was of you cannot understand it.
well J, John, we were perfectly miser-table. You cannot understand it, of course; but I used to go every evening and hug poor Dolly, and kiss her, and hug poor bolly and hug poor bolly and hug poor bolly and hug poor bolly and kiss her.
having less noble ideas, perhaps, to hit her arabes, and see what became of him. For he never returned until dark or more, just have soeme of the bornes t. And then Dolly always seemed very weary, and stained with a muck from beyond our parish.
well All applied to you, knowing how quick of the pibon before har shortly; and a very poor supper you have be are done who might not like to be spied upon, and shortly; and a very poor supper you have be and point to tilt to be be applied and point to tilt to be spied upon, and short by; and a very poor supper you have bar to the anarke one have to here have and and hug poor bolly. our parish.

But I refused to follow him, not only for the loss of a day's work to myself, and at least a half a day to the other and at least a half a day to the other men, but chiefly because I could not think that it would be upright and manly. It was all very well to creep warily into the valley of the Doones, and heed everything around me, both because they were public enemies, and also because I risked my life at every step I took there. But as to tracking a feeble old man (however subtle he might be), a guest, moreover of our own, and a relative through my mother — "Once for all," I said, 'it is below me, and I won't do it." Thereupon the girls, knowing my way.

know; a great deal more than you dream of." Upon this I glanced at Annie, to learn whether she had been telling, but her pure, true face reasured me at once, and then she said very gently: "Lizzie, you talk too fast, my child, No one knows any thing of our John which he need be ashamed of; and working as he does from late to dusk, although it was beyond our beat, or, although it was beyond our beat, or, although it was beyond our beat, or,

r working as he does from late to dusk, and earning the living of all of us, he is entitled to choose his own good time for going out and for coming in, with-out consulting a little girl five years younger than himself. Now, John, sit down, and you shall know all that we have done, though I doubt whether you will approve of it." Jasper Kebby seven, all the land being cropped (as one might say) with deso-lation. And nearly all our knowledge of it sprung from the unaccountable tricks of cows who have young calves with them; at which time they have wild desire to get away from the sight of man, and keep calf and milk for one another, although it he in a harren land you will approve of it." Upon this I kissed Annie, and so did Ruth; and John Fry looked a deal more comfortable, but Lizzie only made a face at us. Then Annie began as follows: "You must know, dear John, that we hyou have the sight of an another, although it be in a barren land. At least our cows have gotten this trick, and I have heard other people complain the sight of the sight o and I have heard other people comp

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borough, and most of all Black Barrow Down, lay under grave imputation of having been enchanted with a very evil spell. Moreover, it was known, though folk were loath to speak of it, even on a summer morning that Squire Thom, who had been murdered there a century ago or more had been seen by secret or more, had been seen by several shepherds, even in the middle day, walking with his severed head earried in his left hand, and his right arm lifted that she had been quite as inquisitive. toward the sun

Therefore it was very bold in John Therefore it was very bold in John (as I acknowledged) to venture a cross that moor alone, even with a fast pony under him, and some whisky by his side. And he would never have done so (of that I am quite certain), either for the sake of Annie's sweet face, or of the golden guinea, which he three maidens had subscribed to reward his skill and relow. But the turk must have here and impodence, when I told him that Dolly was my pony, to say that we owed him a pony ever since you took from him that little horse upon which you found him strapped so snugly; and he means to run in his little cart. If there is law in the land, he shall not. Surely, John, you will not let him?" "That I won't," said I, "except upon the conditions which I offered him once before. If we owe him the pony, we owe him the straps." and a diseased sheep banished bither, and Sweet Annie laughed like a bell at this, and then she went on with her

I applied to you, knowing how quick of foot you are, and I got Ruth and Lizzie to help me, but you answered us very shortly; and a very poor supper you had that night, according to your descrite who might not like to be spied upon, and must have some dark object in visiting such drear solitudes. Nevertheless John Fry so ached with unbearable curiosity to know what an old man, and a stranger, deserts. "But though we were dashed to the

"But though we were dashed to the ground for a time, we were not wholly disconfitted. Our determination to know all about it seemed to increase with difficulty. And Uncle Ben's man-ner last night was so dry, when we tried to romp and to lead him out, that it was much worse than Jamaica ginger grated into a poor sprayed finger. So we sent him to bed at the earliest moment, and held a small council upon having now taken to smoke (which is a hateful practice), had gone forth grum-bling about your bad supper, and not taking it as a good lesson."

go, until, in about half an hour, he drey nigh the entrance of the gully. And v; for

MARCH

either to re reached the e either case J he himself wo he himself wo ing more ever he made his I its sideways, i in around the little horse CI But he sool

But he soon was empty, so was straight; into it, though into it, though ing easily. winding holl he saw that to the left up other to the slightly tend sand lay he starving gras

narrowly for At last he At last he the man he w course which the hill he John did w hearty wish upon so peri knew not v dared to ask horrible hol borhood, cal

Therefore J. Therefore J sorrow and grew more pony reared although a 1 land. And mind that G as the par deeper, wh corner, and him. For there

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around it.

grass of th ing, tempti and plunge marge wer and forgetresist. On and the gra rush, and f rugh ald water. A heard, nei tail nor re Of this upon all 1 his grand mother, wh quiet : but quiet; but of it to h up to the made John good look well up, to if anythin proved he vide awa For at the a few lan ground wa a felled t the earth, of stone, a it. But morass pa and he co of it, exce probably seemed n she was not far away wit While self, lest pony, and ence, alt suddenly thing wh the brow this, his yet was rooted

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"You must know, dear John, that we have been extremely curious, ever since Uncle Reuben came, to know what he was come for, especially at this time of year, when he is at his busiest. He never vouchsafed any explanation, nietter gave any reason, true or false, which shows his entire ignorance of all feminine nature. If Ruth had known, which shows his entire ignorance of all feminine nature. If Ruth had known, and refused to tell us, we should have been much easier, because we must have got it out of Ruth before two or three days were over. But darling Ruth knew no more than we did; and indeed I must do her the justice to say that she had heen onite as inquisitive.

that she had been quite as inquisitive. Well, we might have put up with it, if it had not been for taking Dolly, my own pet Dolly, away every morning, quite as if she belonged to him, and keeping her out until close upon dark, and then bringing her home in a fright-ful condition. And he even had the impudence, when I told him that Dolly was my nony, to say that we owed him a

you will not let him?" "That I won't," said I, "except upon the conditions which I offered him once before. If we owe him the pony, we owe him the straps."

"From your knowledge of these things, Annie, you must have had them done to you. I demand to know this very moment who has taken such liberties."

moment who has taken such liberties." "Then, John, you shall never know, if you ask in that manner. Besides, it was no liberty in the least at all. Cousins have a right to do things—and when they are one's godfather—..." Here Annie stopped quite suddenly. having so betrayed herself, but met me in the full moonlight, being resolved to face it out, with a good face put upon it.

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REALE

"Alas, I feared it would come to this," ed very sadly : "I kn Ians ow he has I answered very sadly; "I know he has been here many a time, without show-ing himself to me. There is nothing meaner than for a man to sneak, and steal a young maiden's heart, without her people knowing it."

sort yoursell, then, then, then, "and "Master Faggus, and "seeping." "Only a common highwayman!" I keeping." "Oh, no John; oh, no, John," she begged me earnestly, being sobered in a moment. "Your hand is so terribly heavy, John; and he hever would forgive you: although he is so good-hearted, he cannot put up with an insult. Promise

should hope." "She is not half so pretty as Sally Snowe; I will answer for that," said Annie. "She is ten thousand times as pretty as ten thousand Sally Snowes," I replied, with great indignation. "Oh, but look at Sally's eyes !" cried my gister mentranet.

my sister rapturously. "Look at Lorna Doone's," said I: "and

"Look at Lorna Doone's," said I 'and you would never look again at Sally's." "Oh, Lorna Doone, Lorna Doone !" exclaimed our Annie, half frightened, yet clapping her hands with triumph at having found me out so : "Lorna Doone is the lovely maiden who has stolen poor somebody's heart so. Ah, I shall remem-

ber it, because it is so queer a name. But stop, I had better write it down. Lend me your hat, poor boy, to write

"I have a great mind to lend you a

meaner than for a man to sneak, and steal a young maiden's heart, without her people knowing it." "You are not doing anything of that sort yourself, then, dear, John, are you?"

chuckie of a fowl was wit, and the snore less a man than Uncle Ben was sitting half asleep and weary; and by his side titte girl, very quiet and very watchful, My mother led me to Uncle Ben, and he took my hand without rising, muttering something not over polite about my heing higger than ever. I asked him handle digner than ever. I asked him

answered, offering her my hand, which she seemed afraid to take; "welcome to Plovers Barrows, my good cousin Ruth." However, my good cousin Ruth only arose, and made me a courtesy, and lifted her great brown eyes at me, more in fear as I thought, than kinship. And if ever anyone looked unlike the heiress to great property, it was the little girl before me

My mother led me to Uncle Ben, and he took my hand without rising, muttering something not over polite about my being bigger than ever. I asked him heartily how he was, and he said, "Well enough for that matter; but none the better for tha noise you great clods have been making." "I an sorry if we have disturbed you, sir," I answered, very civilly; but I haw mot that you were here even; and d, a great deal, including waste and drunk-eness. Now (if you can see so small a great deal, including waste and drunk-eness. Now (if you can see so small hare thing, after emptying flagons much larger this is my granddaughter, and mother-me. "My heiress, little Ruth Huckaback." "Ma wery glad to see you, Ruth." a Plovers Barrows, my good cousin Ruth." a a Plovers Barrows, my good cousin Ruth." a a a Monter deal including waste, "welcome the barter data. Including waste and drunk-tor a provide a difference the state of a down with all speed to learn what an Plovers Barrows, my good cousin Ruth." a a maker deal inclution waste and drunk-tor a a Plovers Barrows, my good cousin Ruth." a a matter in the state and allifter difference the state of a lift the larger of the meaning of it. But I cannel the meaning of it. But I cannel the meaning of it. But I cannel the same opinion. a matter in the state of the meaning of it. But I cannel the same opinion. a matter in the state of the maning of the meaning of it. But I cannel the same opinion. a provide the same opinion. a provide the state of the meaning of it. But I cannel the same opinion. a provide the same opinion. a provide the same opinion. be and the same opinion. be a state opinion.

Headache

AND MUSCULAR RHEUMATISM DISAPPEARED WHEN THE NERVES WERE RESTORED BY

Dr. Chase's Nerve Food

Feeble, wasted, starved nerves often make their condition known by nervous headaches. This is one of the first and

headaches. This is one of the first and most marked symptoms. If you are at all subject to rheumatism you have noticed how much worse it gets when the system gets run down. Both nervous hear ache and muscular rheumatism disappear when Dr. Chese's Nerve Food is used to retuild and re-vitalize the wasted and weakened body. Mr. James Riley, moulder for the Waterous Engine Co., 46 Jarvis St., Brantfore, Ont., writes :---'I suffered for years with muscular rheumatism and as I also had frequent and severe a tacks of nervous headache I concluded that the trouble came from the nerves and began using Dr. Chase's Nerve Food. As I continued this treatment the rheumatism was gradually criven out of

house here h ment l a gall bacon again. home well-k Whe at las Annie of his pointr a littl as to him v "N this, i fell as after never know This, mout with " E looki a mai as ot as si lai, M boy; bett " I and to a They and to as Si a They only solution

money." "Not for money, plaize, miss," said John Fry, taking a pull at the beer; "but for the love o' your swate faice." "To be sure, John; with the King's be-hind it. And so Lizzie ran for John

hind it. And so Lizzle ran for John Fry at once, and we gave him full di-rections, how he was to slip out of the barley in the confusion of the breakfast, so that none might miss him, and to run back to the black combe bottom, and there he would find the very same pony which Uncle Ben had been tied upon, and there is no faster upon the farm. And

there is no faster upon the farm. And then, without waiting for any breakfast,

unless he could eat it either running or trotting, he was to travel all up the black combe by the track Uncle Reuben had taken, and up at the top to look forward carefully, and so to trace him without being aren ".

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