## My Lady Cinderella

By Mrs. C. N. Williamson

CHAPTER XIX. (Continued).

"You were never lovelier, dear!" she my rose tulle frock. "Pink is love's her rare kisses. "Who knows but this night will prove the most eventful of your life so far—the end of one phase,

first, and only of commonplace things; vas grateful for every plate that was set noiselessly down before me as if it "Those things are not always so days. My heart has been breaking for

"Mine is the sweetest little room," I "Mine is the sweetest little foolin, and it will," I impulsively broke in.

said in a low voice to Sir George, when begin this very night. But why 'particularly'?"

from glad you like it!" he exclaimed, his face looking bright and eager. "I got hold of the desk simply enough; just told a man to look out for me, and finally heard through him that something of the sort I wanted was to be sold at auction a few days ago (a poor Johnny with a fad for collecting antiques had gone bankrupt, and his treasures had to be disposed of), so I that this Chippendale escritoire had just been knocked down to me. He came up afterwards, and tried all he later would it be for a popular young am not too scrupulous in a good cause. If you had believed my story about the letter (which I really did begin, as a blind), I would have given you certain information which it is in my power to give, and left you with my other errand undone, hoping for better luck next time. But you did not believe; you thought yourself supernaturally Johnny with a fad for collecting and tiques had gone bankrupt, and his treasures had to be disposed of), so I attended the sale myself. It was rather good sport; and, by the way, I have a queer thing in connection with it to tell you; but it is rather a long story, so perhaps it had better wait until after dinner. You'll give me a little after dinner after din

ed at me in a puzzled way, oblivious oak staircase that wound above.

There were numerous turns and passgive them up."

My words a

sold it to a dealer without my knowl-but it was I who first found breath. edge because I had offended her! That was quite simple—in one of her type; but it was curious that next day a perhaps?"

"Good evening, Miss Dunbat, I said."

"Good evening, Miss Dunbat, I said."

"You didn't expect me quite so soon, perhaps?" ested in my affairs, should have called, and offered money even for one look at the escritoire. He afterwards went to very large sum, but it had already had never seen before. I heard all this from my cousin's little boy—such a done."

She pointed to a sheet of paper and an envelope with a pen lying beside until I met Lady Sophie."

find out the solicitor's name, or any-"I found out that he was middleaged, had gray hair, and wore big, dark spectacles."



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"By Jove, that fellow Wynnstay!"

"So I thought." said when Adele had given me her Our eyes met. I think we were both blessing, with the last hook and eye on my rose tulle frock. "Pink is love's had come together so strangely at Holland Park Mansions—remembering Mr. color," she whispered, pinching my believek, and bending to bestow one of their rare kisses. "Who knows but this ber rare kisses. "Who knows but this ber rare kisses." suasions.

"Look here. Miss Brand. I'm not much of a chap for raking up mys-If we had known how Lady Sophie's rophecy was to be fulfilled, I wonder f I could still have gone downstairs with a light in my even and a spile on the still have gone downstairs with a light in my even and a spile on the still have the still hav with a light in my eyes and a smile on my lips?

as well that we—that you have got that escritoire. Did it never occur to you Sir George took Lady Forth in to there might be a secret drawer holding

"A secret drawer?" I echoed. "No. this first evening I had ever spent under his roof. In my eyes there had escritoire from beginning to end, I'm But my poor mother, whose life has never been so perfect a dinner table. almost certain that if there had been the old butler and the smart anything of the kind my mother would should exist. Haven't you seen how Even the old butler and the smart anything of the kind my mother would young footmen were notable men; I have told me of it; or if not, that I she has changed in the last few weeks?

had been a personal favor. Diana easily discovered unless one suspects her. At last I persuaded her to tell Dunbar was not here; there would be and knows how to look for them. If I me all the truth. 'You don't think I were you I would institute a thorough can help you,' I said. 'But the mouse search. Particularly-"

"I will," I impulsively broke in. "I'll

occupied by a distinguished general.

"And the desk—thank you so much for it. It was the kindest thought. How did you manage to find it?"

I had not meant to speak of this until after dinner, as our conversation at the table must consist of broken scraps. But my impatience got the better of me, and I reflected that plans like. me, and I reflected that plans, like to kill some one when he found out that this Chippendale escritoire had

"And now you have more than you know what to do with. But did you with the sweet, subtle scent that al-

knees, and do you always take our the drawers of the desk at which you sit before beginning?" I demanded se-

"I found the drawers exactly as they are now, and left them so. I don't know who has disturbed your desk, certainly not I. I had dropped something of my own, and stopped to look for it before you came-

"I don't doubt that you had 'stopped to look for something," I said with emphasis, "but I venture to think that the something was mine, not yours. "Of what do you accuse me?" she

fiercely broke in. "You have been sent here by the man who calls himself Wynnstay. But for him you would have heard nothing this escritoire. What he and Lady Dunbar know about me you know now also, though you may not have known t long. You perhaps have a separate purpose of your own in coming, but you are 'killing two birds with one stone, Still, I think that I was in time; I think that you have not yet done what you tried to do."

"You are mad!" she ejaculated. "I

don't believe you know yourself."

y as if I were not speaking at a ven-

ipon her face, and in the clear electric gain, moved by some influence which did not understand—an influence that lid not whisper of the dark horror that

intil I choose to make use of them." "You little fiend! you little tiger-

"Ah! you don't pretend to misunder-

dinner, but I sat on his left hand. We did not speak much to each other at then to some one else?" tend to misunderstand you. I did know about the escritoire; I did look for the drawer. Those papers you have are of no importance to you. They are use-She has aged ten years in as many

> gnawed the net that held the lion prisoner, and you must not despise what I can do.' If I could have got into this room (which was mine last year when we stayed here) and discovered the drawer and the papers, by the instruc-tions which I had brought with me, before you came, I would have done it and gone away. Yet I had provided for this thing that her horsest?
>
> "And the third man's opinion differthing that has happened."

"You had provided for it by telling me alseholds, which I did not be the distribution of the time of the time in t

they are mine, and I shall certainly not give them up."

"He was to ask a certain lady, well known in the set to which they all be-

"And did you mean to say you don't know it was mine?"

"Indeed I did—glad as I would be to claim credit that I don't deserve."

"What a coincidence, then! I'm not sure which would have been more strange—that you should have been more strange—that you should have been more strange—that you should have bought the very thing, of all others, in ignorance."

"This makes certain odd little circumstances seem queerer than ever,"

"Indeed I did—glad as I would be to obtain them were the limitation of the law, they were hardly yet my property. But I felt them so much mine that I would have to trace my property. But I felt them so much mine that I would have use from the first property in the points of the law, they were hardly yet my property. But I felt them so much mine that I would have use from the first property in the points of the law, they were hardly yet my property. But I felt them so much mine that I would have use from the first property in the points of the law, they were hardly yet my property. But I felt them so much mine that I would have use from the first property in the points of the law, they were hardly yet my property. But I felt them so much mine that I would have use from the nine points of the law, they were hardly yet my property. But I felt them so much mine that I would have use from the nine points of the law, they were hardly yet my property. But I felt them so much mine that I would have use from the first property in the first property in the first property in the service of the awful words. "Till not believe it.

"Why, my dear child," she exclaimed, what a little ghost you look! Are you look and then were the mine points of the law, they were hardly yet my property. But I felt them so much mine that I would have use from the first property in the service of the awful words. "Till not believe it.

"Why, my dear child," she exclaimed, wha

"As well as the any pitty for me"; I echned to the without speciment of the window the word and after evening clouds; rich and falling. For a moment with me and falling. For a moment with the falling me and falling. For a moment with the falling me and falling. For a moment with the falling me and falling. For a moment with the falling me and falling. For a moment with the falling me and falling. For a moment with the falling me and falling. Fo



don't know what you are talking about. knowledge instead of ignorance, and house I am staying, was one of the held myself up, with a rigid grasp, for

"I will hear it now from you," I echo-

"Very well," said Diana. She paused

ment, and then went on:

night, a few months ago, three young

nen were dining together at their club somehow the subject of women who

were famous as beauties came up. One

herself down the throat of society

"The second man thought rather dif-

ferently. He argued that a woman's

exquisite being on earth. (Of course

actresses and other professionals who

live by making themselves conspicuous

did not come into the category at all;

these men were talking merely of wo-

er with the papers," I said, as decided- retain your self-respect." ly as if I were not speaking at a venture, merely making use of Sir George's said, my voice sounding strangely faint and far away in my own ears. "What if I refuse to hear you."

Said, my voice sounding strangely faint and far away in my own ears. "What if I touch the bell, and bid Adele show if I touch the bell, and bid Adele show tell you what he told me, if you choose from Diana, that you are mortified and have done better than any other tell you what he told me, if you choose the result is a sounding strangely faint and far away in my own ears. "What if I refuse to hear you."

Don't, don't be foolish, Consuelo," said, my voice sounding strangely faint was worth it. And I shall keep the promise or not, as I please. He will tell you what he told me, if you choose the result is a support of the refuse to hear you."

Sounding strangely faint and far away in my own ears. "What if I refuse to hear you."

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"Do so, and the story shall come to to ask him." light with which she had flooded the room I saw her color come and go. She drew in her breath sharply, but before she could speak I had begun ing to Lady Sophie de Gretton. I have her found it out and if you will not her ing to Lady Sophie de Gretton. I have her with what you know, you could found it out. And if you will not hear get the whole truth from her." it from me, I shall do as I once threat-ened, and tell the truth to the whole world. I do not believe George Seaforth has ever asked you to marry him, or ever will. But if he should do so,

can come of a few impulsive words.
"I might have saved you the trouble," went on, almost calmly, "if you had hosen to ask me instead of trying to t will only be through a mistaken sense f honor, because he feels that his folly yourself: I have already opened the drawer and removed the papers, as irretrievably injured you, spoiled your future. Shall all your so-called riends whisper about this thing that I which shall never leave me after this know until the story comes to you, or ill you hear it now from me?"

stand me any longer." "It's your turn now, Consuelo Brand; you have the advantage of me in this one move; I admit it. No, I won't pre-

found you out instead," I interpolated.

Two. "Yes, I did tell you falsehoods. I was

and at me in a puzzled way, oblivious of the fact that Lady Forth had been in the act of returning to her alleging the special may be trouble in the set to which they all be divided to find a suitable young woman. She was to have so much for her trouble in chapperoning and launching the extreme of a secret drawer and its suppositificus contents. But now for her sound inside. "Act of returning to her alleging the special may be trouble in the dark regarding the existence of a secret drawer and its suppositificus contents. But now for her trouble in chapperoning and launching the existence of a secret drawer and its suppositificus contents. But now for her trouble in chapperoning and launching the existence of a secret drawer and its suppositificus contents. But now for her trouble in chapperoning and launching the comfort of her presence, there came a light tap, with a suggestion of right to make the trial.

Some one was the deeping where and condition to make the trial.

As I thought, with a childishly home sick longing, of Lady Sophie, traving the comfort of her presence, there came a light tap, with a suggestion of right to make the trial.

Some one with the bow windows; but I met now in the set to which they all be fore mup."

There were numerous



on't know what you are talking about.

don't believe you know yourself."

"You are looking for the secret draw
"You are looking for t to me. I had to promise to marry him lay limply in hers. etain your self-respect."

"What if I refuse to hear you?" I before I could make him speak, but it "Don't, don't be foolish, Consuelo," George Seaforth, but it was p

> I "I do not choose," I responded stead-"Lady Sophie, then. If you surprised

"I will tell her what I have heard from you," I corrected. "I have meant to do that since you began. One only asks questions when one has sus-picions. I have none. But she shall know what you have done and said to-night."

"I wish you joy of the interview," Diana cried, with a bitter laugh. And she was gone before I could have answered, if I would.

For a long moment I stood still, my hands tightly clasped above my heart -and they were cold as hands of ice. Only a few minutes had passed since I had left the light and laughter and flower fragrance of the dining room, yet I felt as if I had lived through years. I had spoken confidently to Diana, and I trusted that I had sent her away with a galling sense of de-

place, have a good social position, and But her words had stung me with the sting of poisonous serpents. I had said truly that I did not believe Sir heiress, with money enough to force George could so cruelly have wronged ne, but her story might explain many hings. The hot scandalous breath of it had power to blow away the mystery which had bewildered me, as a wind fame as a beauty depended upon some lucky chance. Nobody could ever tell dissipates a low-lying fog on a mounwhy one girl or woman, perhaps not as tain side. I could not help recalling handsome as her neighbors, should suddenly be lauded above them as the most

"I won't let myself think of it!" I xclaimed, half aloud, striving against the Insidious whisperings that seemed to mutter in my ears, as though hissed by the lips of evil spirits. "I'll go

my cloak.

If I could bring myself to face them all in the drawing-room, where the then I can't see that it would have men must have arrived by this time, and Sir George would be looking for me, it would be better than staying me, it would be better than staying that he was not trying to atone. You admit that—that the thing's true. That town.

"His friends, wanted to know how he would accomply here."

"It were shut up with my misery, to fight against torturing fears, and the was not trying to atone. You admit that—that the thing's true. That from her knees by my side with rust-would accomply here.

so perhaps it had better wait unit after dinner. You'll give me a littic chance to talk to you, when I can do some of these laxy old war dogs one of these

fancied you!" she cried. "You do believe, but you would shut your eyes to the truth. You would marry him in spite of all, because he is rich, because he could give you a good position. But you will find yourself mistaken. He has gone as far as he will go in this fiirtation. You will never be asked to be his wife, and you will have dragged your dignity in the dust in vain."

Under my arm, which belted her waist, I felt a slight start, that made may heart sick. She looked anxious, apprehensive. Her eyes appeared suddenly to have dilated, and when I would have drawn them, with my pleading ones, they avoided the appeal.

"You shouldn't have listened to that waist, I felt a slight start, that made may heart sick. She looked anxious, apprehensive. Her eyes appeared suddenly to have dilated, and when I would have drawn them, with my pleading ones, they avoided the appeal.

"You shouldn't have listened to that."

see him again; I would leave this house to-night," I said, my voice under control once more. "But your fingers are own in upon her, I told her to leave me."

owe it to George—"

"I didn't listen. After strength had come back to me, and I could break in upon her, I told her to leave me."

Ingnt I rent in introducing min to the experiment in the shape of the girl he had found and lost again.

"I had almost given up finding the o-night," I said, my voice unuer con-rol once more. "But your fingers are not skillful enough to play upon my but, oh, Lady Sophie, what I have suf-right sort of person when I chanced to see you in the park that afternoon eartstrings whatever tune you please.

was startled, carried out of myself at

But, oii, Lady Sopine, what I have surfered! I wouldn't believe—but tell me see you in the park that afternoon and overheard your wish for a difference of the love of Heaven tell me that

you are, you would not stoop to rid Sophie. "Diana has grossly exagger- of pleasure and admiration?" Diana moved to the door and opened "Exame."

"Exaggerated? My God! then there I said.
"You took your chances. And I hon it.

"Just one thing more." she said.

"Jack Marlowe, at whose mother's caught at the back of a chair and poor woman, and I should not have 125 Government St.,

"You took your chances. And I honestly thought them vedy good. I'm a poor woman, and I should not have 125 Government St.,

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speak for himself. I would tell you all of pique, throw away your hal there is to tell—really, there's not a great deal!—though I would gladly into a chair, at last, and sat with m have kept it from you if I could; but it will be so much better coming from George. He has the right—"

"He have no with it it."

"He have no with it."

"He has no right if he has done this coaxingly. thing!" I cried. "You forget, child. He is a man of

pleasures which seem so wonderful, so enthralling, to a debutante. Naturally, he took up a novel idea. There are a hundred excuses for him, which only he can plead Very here. he can plead. You do not really love nim, if you could not forgive. Probably Diana has given you a totally wrong version. You must let George know that something of this sort has reached your ears, and put him upon his detence. He will confess everything, like the brave, true fellow that he is at heart."

Confess! Ah, this was perhaps what he would have confessed on that sweet, white day among the lilies. How I wished now that he had finished then! for everything would have been over long ago, and this burning pain at the ore of my heart might have ceased to throb so fiercely. By this time a merciful numbness might have come to help with him now I shall lose him irrev away, out of his reach, out of his life gry pique he may ask some other

arrange it all. In an hour you will be I heard her but vaguely. As I an-

throat choking my breath away.
"I can't speak to him," I said, as firmly as I could. "Nothing that you I'll bathe your head with eau de Co-But at the door I paused. How could go down? I had not thought of a mirror; but I knew that I must be mirror; but I knew that I must be would be; for you are taking so much that you're thought it all satisfa pale and strange to look upon. Despite the training of the past few weeks, I was not actress enough to weeks, I was not actress enough to if I had been asked to be his wife, and had accepted—if we had been engaged

doubts that were so disloyal to my love.

"How cruel, if you must hear this, that it couldn't have been later!" she Yet I was afraid if I went among the thers I might break into hysterical obbing. It would be harder for you to obbing. It would be hornible to him and only a classic states of the course of the cour

was over, then I should be in proper for his vanity to turn on—'made into a me away. Won't you give me some celebrity,' by a process of vivisection, little message for poor George?'

Sophie—that—that Sir George made a but then you came up with Capt. Wey-land and interrupted us. I had guessed already, from his description, that the paragon of heauty he had seen was

your dignity in the dust in vain."

"If I thought for an instant that you had told me the truth, I would never owe him again." I would never owe it to George—"

background. But Fate had circum-background were the plant of the said hastily. "You can imagine what concealed delight I felt in introducing him to the

rst; but I am stronger again now. If there never was such a wager—that Sir ent lot in life. Then a voice seemed first, but I am stronger again now. It there never was such a wager—that Sir you do not leave me instantly I will George never came to you asking you ito find a girl, that he might make an have been looking for. And you must have been looking for. And you must and Garden Seeds to the Agents of the house."

"Oh. I am going, though if you were not the common, underbred person that most the common, underbred person that "Hush—hush, dear!" faltered Lady old, dull existence for even a few weeks

tell you what he told me, if you choose to ask him."

can't wonder, if you neard this story have done better than any shocked. But you must let George butante for years. Don't, for

"Tell me, dear, that you are going to

What should I say to her? My mind was fixed. There was only one the world, flattered and spoiled since his boyhood, tired years ago of all the

I felt so weak, so utterly spen body, that I dreaded lest my spirit it were flooded with the torrent

I did not look up, and my fingers sti covered my wet eyes, but I heard a "Of course you shall think, child, a much as ever you like," Lady Sophi

soothingly assured me. "It is only

think how good George really is, how handsome, how dearly he how his heart would be broken if would not forgive him ably, because in sheer misery and an-"Come—come, dear," Lady Sophie scrupulous girl to marry him,' you we be ready to possess your soul in p tain side. I could not help recalling each merciless detail she had flung at me. What if, after all, the tale were true?

Come—come, dear, Lady Sopnie be ready to possess your soul in partience, and quietly wait for him to propose to you. When he has safely done that, you can fly out at him and accust that, you can fly out at him and accuse then how to defend himself and wir swered a hand seemed clutching at my throat choking my breath away. logne as you did mine when I was ill

> out, that you are yourself again.' "Thank you, Lady Sophie." I whisp

and presently you'll be ready to tell me

"Poor George! What of poor Consu-elo?" I bitterly thought. "I can't say anything," I sharply ut-

"Oh, well, I can make up something hat must do instead." My lips opened to beg that she would to no such thing, but they closed coldtogether again. What did it signify what she said in this brief interval? He would know the truth soon enough.

(To be Contnuedi.) LAW STUDENTS' CLUB

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