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SEE WINDOW.

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# Tale of Mystery

CHAPTER XIX.  
DESSIE'S VISITOR.

'How?' asked Dessie, with a bright smile—her thoughts were all away from her troubles for the moment, and all with her lover.

'Ah, that's the smile Tom raves about,' said Mrs. Davenant, smiling in turn. 'And I'm not surprised either, my dear. Let Robert feel the warmth of one of those looks, and his opposition will melt as surely as the snow melts snow. But he could always beat me, as I said, because he would turn on me and say, "If you think so much of the girl, why don't you have her to stay with you?" and had no answer. I came to town once, resolved to see you, but my courage failed me, and I went back, having only met you in the street, after waiting about outside here for some hours. I thought that a girl who could fight the pinky fight you had fought, and be so strong as to win your way to independence alone and friendless in this big, cold, hard Babylon might be so confident of her own strength as to despise the weakness which I showed in the moment which threw us together.'

'And now?' asked Dessie, with another smile, a mingling of happiness and love.

'Now I think I am the harder of the two. Then came the news of all this trouble—that you had fallen miserably into the power of a Count de Montalt, an unknown Frenchman, whose description by Tom made me recognise him at once. I felt that my hour for strength had indeed come. I was to have a glorious revenge on you, Dessie—kissing her. 'You have saved me and might think harshly of my weakness, but I could at any rate save you, and we could both be strong together. If two such women as you and I are not a match for even that villain Lespard—well, we'll call in a certain English barrister that I know to help us.'

She finished with a laugh that was sweet music in Dessie's ears; but the girl's fears and grief were too fresh and too heavy not to reassert themselves soon.

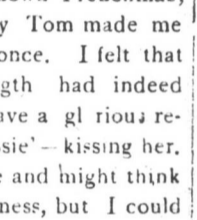
'I am very glad you have come; I felt like starving for a little friendship; but even you cannot guess how infinite the trouble is.'

'Guess it? No, not all of it. I can certainly guess some of it though, and you must tell me the rest.'

Dessie shook her head slowly and smiled.

'I cannot. I could not tell Tom, this was an unanswerable reason for

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'Will what?' asked Mrs. Davenant, when Dessie paused.

'It will ruin me. Don't go to him, don't please, Mrs. Davenant,' sobbed again, in a tone of great distress, taking her companion's hand and kissing it. 'If I could tell you—and would to God I could—you and Tom would see that only trouble and misery and ruin can come of this interference. Don't see him, and don't speak a word to Dora—Mrs. Markham. Go back and leave me to bear this load alone. I can bear it indeed, I must. But I cannot bear what will follow from your interference. I know you mean to do what is kind and loving, and I know that Tom hasn't a thought that isn't loving and sincere. But this is stronger than us all. It is, indeed, it is hopeless; and only misery can come of any effort to help me. Please, please believe I know what I am saying. Nothing can help me but silence. Nothing on earth, 'S' was almost hysterical in her agitation.

'You must let me be the judge of that, Dessie. I can only promise to do nothing if you tell me everything, and I see for myself that you are right.'

'I cannot tell you; I cannot; I must not. If I were to say even a word to you, I should only be bringing down the ruin that I dread more than death. Mrs. Davenport, I give you my word that there is a bar between Tom and me which must at all times keep us apart—always. If I told it to you and to him, you would both see it as plainly as I do—and I am pledged not to speak—pledged under the penalty that is absolute and utter ruin.'

Dessie's profound distress pained and embarrassed her companion.

'What is this barrier?'

'I cannot tell you. Please ask me no more.'

'Dessie, my dear, I cannot leave it like this. Tom loves you like the true honorable fellow he is, and his affections are bound up in this hope of making you his wife.'

'I can never marry him. I am not fit.'

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Peoria, Ill.—'I wish to let every one know what Lydia E. Pinkham's remedies have done for me. For two years I suffered. The doctors said I had tumors, and the only remedy was the surgeon's knife. My mother bought me Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound, and today I am a healthy woman. For months I suffered from inflammation, and your Sanative Wash relieved me. Your Liver Pills have no equal as a cathartic. Any one wishing proof of what your medicines have done for me can get it from any druggist or by writing to me. You can use my testimonial in any way you wish, and I will be glad to answer letters.'

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Another Operation Avoided.  
New Orleans, La.—'For years I suffered from severe female troubles. Finally I was confined to my bed and the doctor said an operation was necessary. I gave Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound a trial first, and was saved from an operation.'

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The great volume of unsolicited testimony constantly pouring in proves conclusively that Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound is a remarkable remedy for those distressing feminine ills from which so many women suffer.

'He told me you had said this, and that it is the only thing you ever told him that he does not believe; and I agree with him. I cannot, therefore, let things rest where they are. I believe, and so does he, that you are acting in that way for some cause which has quite upset your balance of judgment—and I must interfere to save you from yourself.'

Dessie sighed, and withdrawing her hands from her companion's clasp, let them fall on her lap, with a movement of despair.

'As you will,' she said, in a low tone of sorrow; 'as you will. But some day, when you know all and when the ruin has come, you will be sorry indeed that you have been so merciless in your friendship.'

'No; on the contrary,' said Mrs. Davenant, firmly, as she got up. 'I shall save you from a ruin which, I am sure, you have done nothing to deserve.'

Dessie made no answer, and watched Mrs. Davenport put on her bonnet.

'Are you going? Where?' she asked, dreading the answer.

'I am going straight to Mrs. Markham, and to face this villain who calls himself de Montalt—to unmask him. And kissing Dessie lovingly, she whispered: 'Keep heart and hope, for Tom's sake.'

The next moment the door closed behind her, and Dessie felt chilled with the knowledge that the ruin she dreaded was now brought close at hand.

CHAPTER XX.  
DAPHNE AGAIN.

Mrs. DAVENANT was much disturbed and profoundly perplexed by the interview with Dessie, and on her way to South Kensington to see Mrs. Markham, she turned over and over in her thoughts all that the girl had said, trying vainly to guess the key to the mystery which had caused the sudden rupture between the two lovers.

She had long accustomed herself to think of Dessie in a strain of somewhat exaggerated admiration. The service which the girl had rendered her at the critical moment of her life, had developed and grown as the result of constant thankful remembrance until Dessie had become in a manner idealized in her thoughts. All that Tom Cheriton had ever said had seemed to confirm and strengthen her feelings until they were almost passionate.

As a consequence, it was impossible for her to interpret the secret as involving anything disgraceful to Dessie herself. But at the same time the knowledge that there was some secret which as Dessie herself declared might mean ruin, that it was in some way connected with the man de Montalt, and that it was something more serious than the possession of the jewels, formed a problem which baffled her.

She was convinced, however, that the key was in the holding of the man who called himself the Count de Montalt, and she meant to have a hard struggle to get it.

When she reached Mrs. Markham's house in Edgemoor Square, the widow was not at home, so that she could do no more than leave her name and say that she would call again. When she called the second time, she was shown in at once, but

**SAID "She had no Blood."**

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**MARTIN HARDWARE CO.**

**WALKED FROM SAN FRANCISCO.**

By yesterday's arrival here a man, Parry and a companion, other men, walked Bay, Labrador, to Straits, a distance of 4000 miles, and covered the distance in 113 days. On arrival of the day carrying the packs returned. The men on the 17th March, carried heavy packs, and travelled in very cold. They had great snow drifts of the woods, and of destination were for well used up after a very rugged trip. The two who came to Red Bay nearly a could get further along on the S. S. lands. Parry says winter was the worst in about 400 miles, but years past. He says there there was so cold the coast from San Harbor, covering about 400 miles, in cases of actual situation was not of could not be copied authorities.

**Big Lumber**

The schr. Gerlie master, arrived here N.B., yesterday with 600 feet of lumber. Owing to the this winter than last, big shipments come from the mill handlers here, and of exceptional quality. The vessel of 67 years old and will be sold here, and is meeting many for. Freely to this port, a great menace to especially in foggy weather.

The s.s. Coburg was house, N.B., and were from England.