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CHAPTER XIV.

"His words were true; for, Margery, it was discovered that she had gathered together all the treasures of the Gill, and would have eloped that very night with a man who had served her as groom during her stay there.

"Nugent seemed turned to stone when all was over; it almost killed me to see him wandering about listlessly, all happiness crushed out of his life. Then I spoke to him and tried to persuade him to go abroad, to leave Court Manor for a time, at first he would not listen to me; but, after a while, the idea seemed to please him, and he went, leaving me alone and miserable, and I came here, ostensibly to be under the London doctors. I have seen him only for a few days together in the four years that have passed since that time; but his letters of late have been brighter, and I live in the hope that he will return to me as he was before his life was clouded."

"It is a sad story," murmured Margery. She had risen, and was leaning against the broad chimney-board. Tricky and deceit—how knew better than she how bitter, how terrible they were? Did not her heart beat in warm sympathy for this man, with his wounded heart, his life spoiled by false vows? The story brought back the agony of by-gone days; it paled her face and made her hands tremble. Lady Enid saw the distress she had produced, but attributed it to the girl's sympathetic nature.

"Dear Margery," she said, gently, "do not look so sad. You have a



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tender heart, dear; I am sorry I told you."

"I am glad," Margery murmured, "for it binds us closer together. What suffering there is in the world!"

"Sometimes it seems too great for us poor mortals; yet, Margery, this world is not all; we have a source of peace, a Comforter in our greatest trials. You know these lines:

"I know not what the future hath
Of marvel or surprise,
Assured alone that like and death
His mercy underlies."

"They are beautiful!" Margery answered. "But it is hard sometimes to believe them."

"I do not think I should have lived through my trouble if I had not known the truth of them. You have health—while I—"

"Lady Enid gave a little sigh. "I am selfish—cruelly selfish!" cried Margery, roused by the pathetic sound.

Lady Enid stretched out one small hand and drew Margery to her.

"You have a sorrow of your own, too!" she said, tenderly. "Ah, yes; I have seen—I know it! Kiss me, Margery! Some day, dear, perhaps you will tell me what it is, and, if I can, with all my heart I will help you."

Margery knelt beside the chair for a few moments; then she raised her head.

"Some day I will," she answered, steadily; then she rose.

When the footman appeared with the lamps, Margery turned to the piano. She had a sweet, sympathetic voice; but, though Miss Lawson had taught her music, Margery had had no singing lessons until she came to London to be companion to Lady Enid, Walk. Then, hearing her one night, the young invalid had been charmed, and insisted on Margery's receiving lessons and studying under one of the best masters in town. She made rapid progress, for she loved all music well.

"What will you sing, Margery?" asked Lady Enid, leaning back, watching her young companion's graceful form with loving eyes.

"Elaïne's song, the song of love and death. I have a new setting; it is very sweet."

She played a few bars; then her voice filled the room with melody.

"Sweet is true love, though given in vain,
And sweet is death, who puts an end to pain;
I know not which is sweeter—no, not I."

"Love, art thou sweet? Then bitter must be.
Love, thou art bitter; sweet is death to me.
Oh, love, if death be sweeter, let me die!"

"Sweet love, that seems not made to fade away,
Sweet death, that seems to make us loveless clay—
I know not which is sweeter—no, not I."

"It is too sad!" cried Margery, with forced lightness; the misery of her own lost love was almost choking her.

"It is very beautiful," said some one standing in the doorway.

Margery rose quickly, and her eyes rested on the figure of a tall, well-built man, with a keen, dark face, a tawny-brown moustache hiding the mouth, and eyes of such liquid beauty that not even the long scar on the forehead could mar them.

Lady Enid uttered a cry of delight.

"Nugent—my brother! Oh, thank Heaven! I am so glad—so glad—so glad!"

Lord Court had left the door, and was bending over the slight figure of his sister, Margery, with tears of sympathy in her eyes, turned away, and was leaving the room, when Lady Enid noticed her.

"Margery," she called, softly, "you must not go; then, turning to her brother, she said, "Nugent, this is Margery Daw, whom I have so often written to you about; she is my dear friend."

"I am heartily glad to welcome you," said Lord Court, extending a hand to Margery. "I seem to know you already through my sister's letters. Let me thank you in both our names for your kind attention to her."

"My small services merit no thanks," Margery responded, simply. "I would do all in my power for Lady Enid, for I love her."

She moved forward and kissed the lips Lady Enid upheld to her; there was a flush of delight on the pale face of the invalid, a glow of unalloyed happiness in the lovely brown eyes.

"Ah, Nugent, it is like a gleam of sunshine to see you again! Where have you come from?"

"From Italy. I paused only one day in Paris. I was eager to see you, my darling." Lord Court drew up a chair to his sister's side, and took her hand in his. "You are looking better, Enid," he added.

"That is due to Margery then. I am so happy with her."

"Miss Daw is a most successful physician," the earl remarked, smilingly.

"I give place to a better," Margery replied; then, with a sweet smile, she left the room.

"Is she not sweet, Nugent?" cried Lady Enid.

"It is the most beautiful face I have even seen," the earl involuntarily declared.

The day succeeding the Earl of Court's arrival was passed by Margery principally in her own room. She felt that the brother and sister had much to speak of that was of moment to themselves, and she shrank with natural delicacy, from intruding.

She employed her morning in writing a long letter to Miss Lawson and Lady Enid.

"It's my mistake!" My wits are growing fat; I don't see how I came to make a bonhead break like that."

"There is no sin in such a feat," I say, as I depart; "the thought of an illicit cent would break his honest heart."

I called on Ginghamer, who deals in doodads fierce and strange, and found that I was short three wheels when I received my change.

"It's my mistake," he sadly said, "I'm sorry as can be; you know I would not hit a red that's not my property." I know they all are worthy men, engaged in useful chores; but I do not go back again to buy things in their stores. The absent-minded dealer makes these errors now and then, but seldom pull a raw mistake that profits other men. I've waited long to get more change than I'm entitled to, and it is surely sad and strange that that event's still due.

"Oh, I didn't know you planned to do that."

"I didn't," she continued frankly, "but I went around looking for work and I had a perfectly awful time. I took some of my work the teachers said was very good, and do you know, most of them wouldn't even look at it. I got so discouraged. And two of the other girls were going to take post graduate courses, and I thought perhaps I'd do better in the end if I took another year. It's awfully hard getting started, isn't it? They say this is a bad year to be looking for work."

"Poor youngster! How I sympathized with her!"

"It's Always A Bad Year. Was there ever a year that wasn't a bad year to be looking for work?"

One notes that in frocks for the younger woman the high shades are emphasized.

A tunic of black crepe Roman is bound with coral crepe and beaded all over in gold.

A two-piece velveteen frock is the favorite of the debutante for any day-time occasion.

One velvet coat is lined with black kasha to match its accompanying silk blouse.

Cherry-colored crepe is used in trimming a frock of pastel blue crepe de chine.

The motif of the southern frock is generally repeated on its short, matching cape.

White fur is used on a white silk coat embroidered in an all-over design in black.

painting some handseens for Lady Enid.

The afternoon sun tempted her to go out, and she wandered round the garden in the square, ignorant that a pair of dark eyes were fixed admiringly on her slight, graceful figure and on the wealth of red-gold hair gleaming in the sunlight. It was a dreary plot of ground to call a garden—the trees were begrimed with the smoke of the city, the flower beds were faded and dull, the very earth was hard and cold-looking—yet all its dreariness was lost on Margery. She paced its paths nearly every day; but she did not see her surroundings—her mind was too full of thought.

In her moments of solitude her memory claimed her, though she was struggling hard to forget—the pain of her lost love was too new yet. Again and again she would go back to those two days standing out clear and distinct from all other days—the day of happiness unpeakable and the day when the sun had shone on the hot, dusty lane, and she had heard the words that drove that wonderful happiness from her tender young heart forever. She was content, gratefully content, in her present life, for she had peace and affection; but happy, she whispered to herself, she could never be again.

(To be continued.)

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MY MISTAKE.

"It's my mistake," said Druggist Jones, who sells a cure for mange; I found that I was short two bones, when he gave me the change. He heaved a chaste and winning smile, that lightened up his phiz; in such a man there is no guile, though errors may be his. I went to Griggs, who deals in junk, to buy a kitchen plank, and found that I was shy a plunk, when he had made the change. He grinned and said: "It's my mistake! My wits are growing fat; I don't see how I came to make a bonhead break like that."

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SIDE TALKS. By Ruth Cameron.

THE AFTER GRADUATION YEARS.

I met a little girl recently who graduated from art school last year, and asked her what she was doing with herself this winter. "I'm back to school for a post-graduate course," she said.

"Oh, I didn't know you planned to do that."

"I didn't," she continued frankly, "but I went around looking for work and I had a perfectly awful time. I took some of my work the teachers said was very good, and do you know, most of them wouldn't even look at it. I got so discouraged. And two of the other girls were going to take post graduate courses, and I thought perhaps I'd do better in the end if I took another year. It's awfully hard getting started, isn't it? They say this is a bad year to be looking for work."

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