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**At the Mouth of
the Treacherous Pit**
STORY OF LOVE, INTRIGUE AND REVENGE

CHAPTER VI

Less than two days the news of Dolores' engagement had spread all over the country. It gave general satisfaction, for every one liked and esteemed Lord Rhyssworth; and Dolores Clifden the whole county was proud. She was "one of them;" she had grown up amongst them; she belonged to a family that had once been first in the county; she was beautiful and high-bred. One and all rejoiced in the good fortune that had befallen her. True, a few simple-hearted women who had married for love themselves, and believed there was nothing like love, thought the difference of age too great, said amongst themselves that Dolores was young enough to be Lord Rhyssworth's daughter, and that it was a pity he was so old, and wondered, as they kissed the rosy faces of their children, whether Dolores loved Lord Rhyssworth. They were only a few happily married women who thought this. The girls envied her; there was hardly one in the county who would not have changed places with her.

Lola smiled when she heard the news. "That is just what I thought," she said; "and I am sure that the day on which I went over to White Cliffe was the day on which the offer was made. Dolores had something on her mind, I know, and it was this. It will be strange if she is Lady Rhyssworth and I am Lady Allammore. We shall be greater rivals than ever then."

Sir Karl was one of the first to hear the rumor confirmed. He had ridden into Deeping to attend some meeting held on county business, and there found every one discussing the coming alliance. As he was riding away, he met Lord Rhyssworth, and after a few words of greeting, he said boldly:

"I wonder if I may congratulate you, Lord Rhyssworth? There was a curious look on the young man's face, a paling of the lips and opening of the lines about his mouth, which did not strike Lord Rhyssworth. "You have carried off the greatest prize in the county," said Sir Karl. "If it be true that you are going to marry Miss Clifden."

He was profoundly touched when Lord Rhyssworth raised his hat as though he would do all honor to the name. "I hope," said his lordship, "with the blessing of Heaven, that I am going to marry Miss Clifden. I speak to you more frankly, Sir Karl, than I should to anyone else. I am the happiest man in the world, and I hope to make my dear wife the happiest of women."

"I trust that every desire of your heart may be realized," responded Sir Karl, and he meant it. "Shall I

He looked half sadly at her. "Do you know, Miss de Ferras," he said, "that I cannot endure to hear you speak in that fashion. I may be not over-wise, but I like to know that there is some faith and trust in human nature in a girl's heart."

"You will find very little in mine," she laughed; and then she saw her way to scoring a mark against Dolores without any appearance of ill-will. "You say you are a little surprised at Dolores. It is a strange way of putting it. I am surprised too. I tell you candidly that I did not think Dolores would have married for money. I thought she was one of those romantic girls who think the world well lost for love. Those fair-haired girls are generally very sentimental—at least I have always found them so."

"I wonder," said Sir Karl, mustering "if she has any fortune!" "Yes, I think so, but not a large one; the Squire is not rich."

They little dreamed as they spoke how near the Squire was to poverty. "Her fortune," continued Lola, "would be as nothing. I should say, compared with one year's income such as Lord Rhyssworth enjoys."

Sir Karl's blue eyes were fixed upon her face.

"You express your ideas pretty freely, Miss de Ferras," he said. "I can hardly understand why, since you have all this amount of worldly knowledge, you did not try to secure Lord Rhyssworth's affections yourself."

She laughed, and a lovely rose-tint covered her face.

"I know why myself," she said, "but you are the last person to whom I could explain my reason. You taunt me with worldly knowledge, but let me assure you that I would not marry Lord Rhyssworth for money. When I marry, it will be solely for love."

"You surprise me," he said. The rose-flushed face and dark eyes were dangerously beautiful just then. "Yes, I can believe that," she remarked. "You think there can be no sentiment unless it is associated with which to amuse him."

So Sir Karl rode over to Beaulieu, and found the beautiful, vivacious French girl at home. He felt that he must talk about the subject that filled his thoughts.

"I have just seen Lord Rhyssworth," he said, "and that rumor you told me about is quite true."

"Of course it is, Sir Karl. If it had not been," she returned, "I should not have told you."

"I must confess that I am just a little surprised," he said. He had a vague idea that this girl was in some way or other not a true friend to Dolores, but he could not resist the temptation of talking about her.

"Are you, Sir Karl? Then you are not the man of the world I imagined you to be. That anything in human nature should surprise you is a reflection on yourself."

"Where have you learned so much of the world, Miss de Ferras?" he asked. "You hold strange views for so young a girl."

"Are they strange?" she said, carelessly. "They are true. Why are you surprised that Dolores should marry a man old enough to be her father? It is a common thing, is it not?"

"Yes, unfortunately," he answered. "Then why wonder at it—unless indeed you had an ideal Dolores?"

"Perhaps I had," he said, gravely. "Then the sooner you forget her the better, for there are no such ideals in this world."

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ever having known the real sorrow or the real joys of life."

"What an existence you foresaw for her," he said—"calm, passionless, uneventful—never to know the rapture of happiness or the keenness of pain! It seems to me that a woman may as well be dead as never love."

"But Dolores will love her husband after a quiet, calm fashion of her own. Still, I should not care for such a life," she confessed. "Give me greatest pleasure, keenest pain; give me love or death, I should dread such a life as hers."

"It is not very likely to fall to your lot," he said. "You will have pleasure and pain if you have love."

"I have them now," she cried impetuously, and then paused abruptly. (To be continued.)

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FARRELL THE TAILOR, 310 WATER ST.—NOV. 12

Scientists in Canada

TORONTO, Ont., June 17.—(By Canadian Press)—If importance to the agricultural industry throughout Canada is the forthcoming visit of Sir John Russell, D.Sc., F.R.S., O.B.E., and the Toronto meeting of the British Association for the Advancement of Science in August, recently announced, Sir E. J. Russell is head of the Rothamsted station at Harpenden, England, the oldest experimental farm in Europe. He is well known for his numerous publications on scientific agriculture, and has just executed a special mission in the Sudan where he spent three months in studying the government's policy of agricultural research and its plans for cotton culture.

As President of the special section devoted to agriculture at the convention, Sir John will deliver a lecture entitled "Combination in Attacking Farmers' Problems," and he will take part in a discussion dealing with dry land farming in relation to climate and soil.

Among other agricultural experts who are being brought to Canada for the meeting is D. Ward Cutler, also of the Rothamsted station, where he is cytologist. Dr. Cutler's special contribution will be a lecture on Soil Population, in which he will outline modern views of the part played in the growth of crops by microscopic animal and plant organisms in the soil. Other delegates to the Conference are officials in the Ministry of Agriculture in Great Britain and heads of the agricultural departments of English universities.

Sir John Russell's visit will be of particular interest to the prairie provinces in view of the fact that work has been in progress in the Rothamsted laboratories for two years on the utilization of straw. Research workers under his direction are perfecting processes for the conversion of cellulose, which forms the bulk of grain straws, into a concentrated manure by the agency of micro-organisms.

In view of the fact that it is not practicable to utilize straw in the Canadian grain belt as is done in Ontario, by the admixture of dairy farming, the stacks are usually burned in the fields after threshing, this being the most expeditious method of disposal. When the new process is perfected, however, it will be possible to utilize the huge quantity of straw which is now burnt up each year by converting it into fertilizer material.

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