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### A GIRL OF THE PEOPLE By Mrs. C. N. Williamson

\*\*\*\*\*

"What were you going to say before Mrs. Jennett came in?" I curiously enquired, as he held out his hand for He looked at me intently, in a char-

acteristic way he had, that always quickened my blood a little. "Do you really want to know?"
"Very much, or I wouldn't have

asked." "And I very much want to tell you But it's something too important to be told in a hurry. If you were offended I should not have time now to try and Make my case good."

"Am I likely to be offended?" "I can't tell. I hope not, more than ever hoped anything." "Dear me! And I must wait till to-

"I had meant not to speak of this matter until you were out of this house and in those rooms of you own to which you seem so eagerly looking forward. But I'm not a very patient man, I'm afraid, where my own interests are at stake; and now that the subject has been broached-"To-morrow, then!" I broke in. "At

half-past ten. It's an appointment."
"Yes," he said, slowly. "You shall hear what I have to say for myself." All this time he had been holding my hand, and I had forgotten to draw it away, for the conversation had been very absorbing. Now I remembered, and gently pulled away my fingers. One more quick, strong pressure he gave them, and then, with an abrupt "Goodbye until to-morrow," he turned, and

was gone without looking back. "What can it be that he wants to say to me?" I thought. "Something so important that he is anxious about itsomething he hopes mayn't offend me?" That speech was puzzling, for it

seemed that, if the mysterious "something" were the one thing I dared to hope it might just possibly be, there could be no idea of "offence." Still, the expression of his face more than the spoken words, perhaps, gave me a hope that went thrilling through my veins. And when his tall, alert figure had passed out of sight I lifted the hand that he had pressed and kissed it. Then, ashamed of what I had done, I hurried back to the typewriter, and began to work as if driven by a merciless taskmaster.

For half an hour there was no sound in the room except the tapping of the keys, the sharp "ping" of the bell which me to make some odd mistakes, when I heard a ringing at the front door; but this was nothing to me, and I did to my face.

"He's out, really, your ladyship," Mrs. Jennett was protesting, almost imploring. "He won't be back to-day, I do assure you."

"I am sorry," followed silvery accents, which in the fraction of a second carried me back to another world. "I will write a note and leave it, if you will kindly let me go into the study,

where I waited once before." I sprang up from the table where had been typing, and my heart was thumping against my side. Unless Mrs. Jennett somehow prevented her, in a moment more Lady Feo Ringwood

would be in the room. She would see me; what would she think? "What does it matter?" I said, angrily, to myself. "I'm Mr. Bourke's ecretary. I'd rather this hadn't happened, but-there's nothing to be

ashamed of. Anyhow, it's too late now. can't run away." There was only one door leading into the study, and my imagination pictured

Lady Feo just outside. "Oh, your ladyship," Mrs. Jennett was saying, "you don't need to trouble about writing a note. I'll give Mr. Bourke any message you may like to

Her voice sounded troubled, and its note of distress added to my confusion. If she were so anxious to prevent Lady Feo Ringwood from seeing me, perhaps there were reasons stronger than I knew for concealment of my presence My face grew burning hot, and my hands trembled. I looked round the room, but no hiding-place offered, even if I could have humiliated myself to seek one. Mrs. Jennett was the arbiter of my fate. If she failed to keep

Lady Feo out of the study I must be brave and make the best of it. "I would really rather write, thank you. It is no trouble," said the visitor, every word coming distinctly to my ears. Then the handle of the door turned, and Lady Feo Ringwood swept silkenly into the room. I faced her,

standing, my eyes undinching, but my She started, and her beautiful face went from white to red. For an awkward instant no one spoke. Then Mrs. ennett, quivering in the background tepped into the breach. "Your lady-

hip, this is Miss Harland, Mr. Bourke's retary." "Ah, indeed?" said Lady Feo. "I be lieve I have met Miss Harland" (she spoke the name slowly and with em-

phasis) "before. Do you remember, Miss Harland?" "Yes, I remember you very well, Lady Feo," I answered, and though I tried

only to keep my tone steady, it sounded

"It is interesting to meet you again-here." She turned to Mrs. Jennett with a smile, looking a very great lady, as indeed she was. "I will write my note, and perhaps, as Miss Harland is here, she will take charge of it, so I need not trouble you. I am in no hurry, and if she doesn't mind, I would like a little talk with her. We have, I think, some

"If you are not too busy, miss?" the poor old woman said, anxiously, to me. Her eyes added: "Do forgive me. I did my best. I hope this won't vex you

I sent a glance to reassure her. My spirit was roused, and I did not wish the visitor to go without some explana-tion; though I had arranged no formula in my mind. "I am not too busy for a talk with Lady Feo Ringwood," I returned.

Mrs. Jennett disappeared, closing the

Although the medicine business hould, above all, be carried on with the \*\*\*\*\*\*\* utmost conscientiousness and sense of responsibility, the unfortunate fact is that in no other is there so much humbug and deception. The anxieties of the sick and their relatives are traded upon in the most shameful memmer; impossible cures are promised; many prepara-tions are absolutely worthless, and some are positively dangerous to health.

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"No!" Lady Feo ejaculated, her voice utterly changed in an instant. "No, I can't sit down."

Her tone was a challenge, and I ooked up to meet it. Our eyes met. "It's true, then!" she exclaimed. would never have believed it."

"What do you mean?" I asked, quick-"Did you expect-were you told that I was here?" "Not that," she declared. "Not so bad as that. I was told that-someone

was here.' "I don't understand you at all, Lady Feo," I said. "But, of course, it seems strange to you

"Strange? It is incredible!" "Not incredible really; it only appears so," I protested, hardly knowing whether I was supposed to be on the defensive or not. "I daresay you must have heard that-that I had a very great affliction, and, afterwards, mis-

fortunes." "Oh, I heard things, of course," she cried, with a kind of flerce impatience. "But nothing, nothing which led me to expect this."

"Yet you said a moment ago that you had heard-"I was not thinking of you then; I was thinking of Mr. Bourke." I felt the blood which had burnt in

my cheeks receding, to leave me pale. Still, I was at a loss to fathom her emotion. She had been on friendly terms with my adopted mother and me. The last time I had seen her she warned me when I reached the end of had been dining with us and some peoline, and the rustle of the paper as I ple Lady Cope had asked to the Savoy changed the sheet. I had just found Hotel the Sunday night before my out that absent-mindedness had caused banishment. Did her excitement now mean surprise at meeting me again, and concern at seeing me so fallen in the world as to be earning my living not pause until voices in the passage as a typewriter, or was there something outside the study sent the blood flying deeper than this, something which I should regard as offensive? I was only eighteen, and I did not feel sure of my

ground. "Mr. Bourke has been very kind to me," I said. "I am trying to help him as well as I can.' "Kind to you!" Lady Feo echoed, with a strange bitterness. "But what

has he been to himself?" "To himself" "For him this spells ruin. You talk of 'helping!' Is it possible you are so blind as not to see that you are dragging him down-down off the pedestal

his genius has given him?" I stared at her in blank amazement my lips apart. "Don't look at me like that!" she ried, a sudden flame of anger leaping o her dark eyes. "I never thought that you were wicked or a fool, Sheila Cope,

Now I believe you are both. Wicked for him. A fool for yourself." "Lady Feo!" I exclaimed, indignant-"You are older than I am, but you

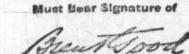
must not speak to me like that." She had been very pale under a faint pink tinge of rouge which I had not suspected her of before, but now her cheeks blazed and hid the hard line of

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artificial color, "Older than you!" she repeated, intolerantly. "Three or four years, perhaps. But after this thing that you have done you can no longer pose as a gulleless child."

"I have done nothing." I answered

her, hotly. "Nothing, except to lose all my friends and all my money, and be obliged to work for my bread." "You look like a hard-working breadwinner, in that Liberty tea-gewn!" she

sneered. Before any answer had come to me, she went on. "At least, I see by your face that you have the grace to be shamed of yourself. Then there may

be some hope yet."
"I have nothing to be ashamed of," I did find voice to say at last. "I think that you and I, Lady Feo Ringwood, must be playing at cross purposes. Did you come here to insult me?". "I came to save John Bourke-if I

"To save him-from what?" "To speak frankly, from great danger of losing all the fruit of his ambition. His seat in Parliament; his ness and Rest. Contains neither chance of rising higher still, should the Onum Morphine nor Mineral. Liberal party come into power."

For a moment, in the shock of hear-

of such a disaster, I forgot myself and the part allotted to me in this strange "Oh, he must not lose it!" I cried. Lady Feo looked at me with a curlous expression. "It rests with you," she

ing that the man I loved was in peril

"With me? Impossible!" "But it is true. Listen, and I will tell you how. Mr. Bourke has enemies, as all strong men must have. It has got about that-that-well, that a mysterious lady is living in his house. All sorts of stories are being told—" "They are lies!" I broke in, furiously,

understanding her at last. "Wait-if you really care for him. Hear me to the end. I am his friend. I pelieve in him as I have never believed in any other man. I would do anything to save him from the storm that is gathering. If you have any real love for him in your heart, any womanly unselfishness born of love, you will do the only thing left for you to do for John Bourke. You will leave his

house." "It is not his house!" I cried, desperately, scarcely able to speak for the sobbing breath that came pantingly with the wild beating of my heart. "It is Mrs. Jennett's house. He is not living here. He has been at an hotel ever since I came-

"Oh, what sophistry! Even if I believed it, what good would such a story do him, when he came to defend himself from the accusations which will be brought against him? Sheila Cope, tell me, as woman to woman, do you love

"He is my employer, my friend," I stammered, "not my lover. Never has one word of---"

"Answer my question!" "I will not answer. You have no right to ask.'

You have answered. But I say to you you do not love him or you would eave this house now-this hour." "I was going away in a day or two," said. "It is all arranged. My rooms are engaged. I have been ill, and-" "I don't mean that sort of going away. You might as well stay here, for all the good you will do to Mr.

Bourke my moving to rooms which he has taken for you-"Mrs. Jennett took them," I cut her short, obstinately, tears of shame and anger brimming over in my eyes. "Oh, nonsense! It's all one. Don't play the child with me."
I adjured her with passion, "I swear

to you by all I hold most sacred that you cruelly wrong both me and the To be Continued.

HIGHGATE. Miss Evelyn Garrett spent a few days with friends in Ridgetown last

Mr. Gammage, of Quinn, spent Sun-Mr. Gammage, of Quinn, spent Sunday evening in the village.
Mr. W. McKerracher, of Hyde
Park, is holidaying in the village.
Mr. Leonard, of Hamilton, is the ruest of friends in the village. Miss Mellis has taken charge of

oost office after her vacation. Miss Etta Griffin, of Bothwell, is he guest of Miss Queen Gosnell, The Misses Russell, of Toronto, are

guests at the parsonage.

Miss Clara Leetch, of Rodney, spent Sunday with friends and relatives in he village. Mrs. and Miss Chellick, of London,

re visiting relatives in town. Mr. W. Nudds, of Ridgetown, was Highgate visitor on Sunday last. Dr. R. Reycraft and lady, of Detroit, are visiting friends in the

The Misses Logan have returned to their home after spending a few days with friends at the Eau.

TUPPERVILLE. Farmers are glad to see fine weaher again, but they had to use the

time cradle, as ground is wet K. R. Reid received word from his brother at Oxbow, N. W. T., that they are getting fine weather, and crops in that district looks fine. This year will be a boom to the farmers there

if a good year comes. Tupperville people are glad to hear that the by-law was passed to raise the money to build a bridge here. Now council see that it is done. Miss Bettie Davies spent Sunday

at her home in Dresden Sunday. J. C. Cooper was here on Monday, and finds things going splendid. He has a fine stock of lumber on hand for the public.

Mr. Robert Campbell was called to
Dresden Saturday night, owing to his

Word was received from Amos Carns at Grand River that he is about the same, but gaining slowly.

Mr. H. George spent Sunday at his home in Dresden, grandmother being sick.

Mrs. Harvey, of Melbourne, is vis-iting her son, Mr. John Harvey. Miss Hoder left for her home last week after spending a month with her cousins, Mr. and Mrs. John Har-

Mr. Charles Hyatt spent a few days in Sarnia with Mr. and Mrs. Ed. Mor-

Carpenters came from Chatham Monday morning and now the new church will be pushed along. Mr. Burk, of Stevens & Burk, Chatham, was here fast week on general business for the firm.

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