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By the Author of Dora Thorne.

CHAPTER XXI.

(Continued.) Then she remembered how strange it was that she had always had some kind of suspicion about Miss Cameron and the money. Lord Rylestone had avoided the subject; whenever she wished to discuss it, he had evaded it; and yet her quick perceptions had told her that there was something not quite right, and that she did not know.

'The secret of the will!' That was the will which had deprived Lord Rylestone of the money, and had given it to Miss Cameron. There was no secret in that. What, therefore, could the secret be? Carefully, one by one, she re-read the letters, but there was no other allusion in them, no word which could explain the mysterious phrase, no hint as to what the secret was-there was no mention of money.

'The secret of the will! I shall lose my reason,' she said to herself, 'if I ponder this much longer. What can it be? Was the will forged, invalid, or what? If I live for no other purpose, if I do nothing else, I will find out this secret. Has any injustice been done to Lord Rylestone? No, it cannot be that; were such the case, Miss Cameron would not allude to it in such open terms.'

The secret of the will!' Look which way she would, act as she would, the words were always before her; they seemed to burn her like a brand. What was it, this secret that another woman shared with her husband, and from which she was purposely shut out? She, in her sick, angry jealousy, longed to wrest the secret from them. What right had any one to share knowledge with her husband from which she was shut out?

'I will live to discover it,' she said; and it was strange that toward her husband she had not even the least shadow of an angry thought, while toward Miss Cameron, who shared the secret with him, she felt something that was like fiercest hatred.

Why had Allan never revealed this secret to her? Why had she been excluded from his confidence—this same confidence which apparently he had given so freely to Adelaide

'I will go to Walton,' she said, 'and there perhaps I may hear the secret of the will.'

A fever of unrest took possession of her. There were no more plans of reading, of study, of fitting herself to take a part in Allan's world. The 'secret' haunted her. By day and by night she thought only of one thing-what that secret was, and how to find it out. The beautiful, restless face grew thin and worn with the constant strain of thought. There was to be no more peace for her until she knew all.

Once or twice she tried to argue herself into a better state of mind-to make herself believe that, after all, this secret might be no important secret—that it might mean simply where the document was kept, or some trifling circumstance connected with it. If it had been of vital importance, surely Allan, her husband, who loved her so dearly, would have told her. He had so frankly confided everything else. He had told her exactly the sum of his debts, and what he had to pay them with-what he hoped to receive from his appointment, and what he was to receive from Walton. There had never been the least shadow of restraint. Then why should he have kept this secret from her?'

If she could but know! Why should Miss Cameron be pleased that it was unknown to any one else? Did it concern her, or did it concera Lord Rylestone! She must find out. She was not curious; gossip and rumor had little charm for her; curiosity was not a weakness of hers. It was not mere curiosity that possessed her now like a fever-that made her eager to discover that which had been hidden from her. It was love, jealousy, and sensitive pride. So on the fifteenth of July Lady Rylestone left the pretty little villa at Marpeth for the most fatal journey she could have under-

She told her servants that she would be absent only a day, or at the most a night and two days; and then she started alone. She had discovered the name of the nearest town; it was Lutdale. There were many changes of line between Marpeth and Lutdale: it was a cross route. She left home quite early in the

morning, but it was noon before she quitted

Lest anything in her toilet might attract atention, she had dressed herself as simply and plainly as possible, and the beauty of her face was hidden by a black lace veil.

She left the station and walked through the streets of the town, and then of a well-dressed, respectable woman she inquired the road to Walton Court.

'It is a long walk,' was the reply. 'People generally ride there from here. It is over six

'I do not mind. I shall like the walk,' was the reply; and the woman who had been questioned was struck by the rich musical voice.

'If you prefer to walk, the way lies straight enough,' she said. 'You must go along the Lutdale Road for nearly two miles, and then you will come to the park gates. It is a long way even then.

'I do not mind the distance, and I thank you for your kindness,' replied Margarita, turning away.

It was a glorious afternoon. The sunshine seemed to be like a smile from heaven upon the earth. The flowers were at their fairest, and the air seeemed full of their perfumed breath. The day was not too bot, for a refreshing breeze was blowing. Nature never looked gayer than on this day when Lady Rylestone went in silent watchfulness, unknown and unknowing, to look at her hus-

In the middle of the afternoon she reached the park gates, but she found them shut, and guarded by a lodge-keeper.

'I wonder if the universal golden key will open them,' she said, and when the keeper came she tried it, and found it successful. She was admitted into the park; and the man bowed as she passed through the gates. That was her only welcome to her husband's home.

CHAPTER XXII.

WALTON COURT was a stately English home where art and nature seemed to have done their best-where trees and flowers were seen in their highest perfection. The vast park, the grand ancestral trees—some of them the growth of centuries—the hills covered with verdure, the bosky dells, the sunny glades, the treasures of flower and fern, all filled Margarita with wonder. Under the trees she saw picturesque herds of antlered deer. They eyed her timidly as she drew near, and then fleeted away. The scene delighted her. Presently, beyond the trees, she saw the tall gray towers of the Court. Her heart beat quickly, her eves filled with tears.

'It is my husband's home,' she said to her-

self. 'It all belongs to him.' Soon she came to a second lodge, at the entrance to the vast pleasure grounds. She saw terrace after terrace all bright with the colors of a thousand flowers; she saw the gleam of fountains, the spray of which rose high in the sunlit air; she saw the green lawns with their sweeping cedars and silvery birches. With wistful eyes she looked through the iron gates, thinking how fair it all was, and how difficult it must have been for him to leave it. As she stood there the woman from the lodge came out, and, seeing a stranger, she made a deep courtesy. Despite the plain dress and the thick black veil she discerned a lady.

Would you like to see the grounds?' sh asked, respectfully; and Lady Rylestone ans-

'They are shown sometimes to strangers, and the house, too when the family are away.' 'Are the family absent now?' asked Lady

'Yes; and the housekeeper had a party of strangers yesterday to see the place. It is considered one of the finest in England.'

Margarita gave the woman a coin that made her eyes beam with delight. 'I should like to see the place,' she said

gently. 'I think I will go through. But will they consider it strange to see a lady alone?" 'No; ladies and gentlemen too sometimes come here alone, though, as a rule, they come

'I was at Lutdale, and, hearing of the beauty of the Court, I thought I should like to see it,' said Lady Rylestone, evasively.

'Many a one does that,' observed the wo man, as she brought out the keys and opened the huge gates; and then Margarita passed, as it were, into the inner circle of her home.

The air seemed almost faint with the perfume of rare flowers. She saw rare birds flitting amongst the trees; she heard the ripple of the fountains, and the cooing of the white ringdoves. How fair and serene it all was! How he must have loved his home!

(To be Continued.)

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