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ARE USED, AND ALWAYS GIVE PERFECT SATISFACTION

**The Earl's Son;
TWO HEARTS UNITED.**

CHAPTER XXIII

Ralph smiled at the dubious compliment, and, lighting his pipe, went out with a lighter heart than he had owned since he had left Lynne.

The next day when he returned from work, the child was waiting for him at the top of the stairs, and leapt into his arms with that abandon which is simply irresistible to a man with Ralph's tenderness of heart.

"Ave you got the rabbit, Big Man?" she asked, wistfully, as she clung round his neck.

The nurse came out and scolded her for worrying the gentleman, but Ralph begged that she might come in to his room while he had tea, at which not only a rabbit but a barn-door fowl put in an appearance.

From that day the child and he were fast friends; and she looked forward to seeing her elfish form on the stairs waiting for him, and still more for the loving embrace with which she welcomed him. Gradually, as the nurse's confidence increased, the two became so necessary to each other that Ralph often, in the evening, took Ada for a walk. They would saunter along, the child clinging to his hand, through the big thoroughfares, Ralph, with his pipe in his mouth, pointing out the objects likely to be of interest to a child, and answering her innumerable questions. How great a comfort and consolation her love and companionship were to the broken-hearted man no pen could set down. It is possible they saved him from utter despair.

One day he succeeded in finding a vessel that would take him, and he was trying to break the news of their approaching parting to Ada, when she startled him by saying:

"My papa's coming to-morrow. I'm so glad; aren't you? I hope you'll be as fond of him as 'oo are of me, Big Man. 'Oo are fond of me, aren't 'oo?"

"Very," said Ralph. "And so papa is coming? I'm very glad, for your sake; though I'm afraid we sha'n't see so much of each other—Look at the soldiers, Ada! They're going

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Now quit complaining—don't suffer another day—Nerville, that good, soothing old-time liniment will limber you up mighty quick. Get busy today, the large 50c. family size bottle is the most economical, of course, the trial size costs but 25c. Any dealer anywhere can supply Nerville.

down to the bank to take care of all the money there."

"Is all the money dere?" she asked, after she had stared at the guard marching past her. "P'raps that's where, papa's money is. He said he'd lost nearly all of it. Do 'oo think he'll find it dere?"

"I hope so," said Ralph. "And now I think we'll have to turn back. We'll just get a packet of that special chocolate of yours; eh, Ada; and then we'll toddle home."

His heart ached not a little that night, for he knew that he should lose his little companion; and, sure enough, next evening there was no Ada to welcome him on the stairs. He heard a man's voice mingling with hers in the room next his and knew that her father had arrived. Although he himself was to start in three days' time he felt as if he had been bereaved and thought, as he knocked out his pipe and prepared for bed, that he was doomed to lose everything he loved.

Veronica also reached London "in due course;" and she also had had plenty of time for reflection during the journey. In the enthusiasm of her love for Ralph she had fled from the Court with the intention of following him; but, long before the train had reached the terminus, she realized that it was easier to resolve than to accomplish. In the first place, she was not sure that Ralph would go to Australia, or that he would go at once; and, supposing he had gone, she did not know which part he would ship for. But her earlier knowledge and experience of London stood her in good stead and she was not daunted by the difficulties in her way.

It seemed to her that the best thing she could do would be to go back to her old rooms in Camden Town where she was known; and she was getting into a cab when a voice spoke her name. She looked round and saw a young girl who had been a fellow lodger of hers. At sight of her, Veronica's heavy heart leapt—And yet she had almost forgotten the girl's name! But in that moment of loneliness in the midst of the great crowd it came back to her as readily as if days instead of years had passed since she and Martha Ludlow had dwelt together in the grimy lodging-house in Camden Town.

"Martha!" she cried, holding out her hand. "Is it really you?"

The girl shook hands and eyed her with friendly surprise.

"Lor, now to think of meeting you, Miss Gresham! Why, I thought you'd gone away to live with some swells, and that I shouldn't set eyes on you again."

"But you have, you see," said Veronica as cheerfully as she could. "I have come to live in London again. I am going back to the old place; will you come with me? Jump in!"

Martha laughed, the Cockney laugh of peasant cynicism.

"Why, what's the use of going there?" she said. "It's pulled down and turned into a shop; the whole row is, long ago."

Veronica looked dismayed.

"Oh, then I—I don't know where to go!" she said almost to herself.

Martha's sharp eye scanned her narrowly.

"If you ain't too particular, you might come with me," she said. "I'm living in Sowerby Street; it's near here, and there's a vacant room—a couple of 'em, if they're good enough. Anyhow you'll have to make up your mind pretty quick if you don't want the cabman to have a fit."

Veronica nodded in her quick way.

"I'll come. Jump in!" she said.

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last said, with a touch of colour in her face:

"And now I ought to tell you all that has happened to me, Martha, but I can't!"

"I'm sure I don't want to, Miss Gresham," Martha put in. "I always knew you was a lady, one of the swells, and I thought you'd gone to live with rich and high-born people, like you read of in the novelettes, you know. Thinking of you going away like you did, I've often thought that after all there may be some truth in them!"

"Yes, I have been living with rich people," said Veronica; "but I have left them and am quite poor again. See, that's all the money I have."

She displayed her purse, but without producing the effect she, with her recent acquaintance with wealth, had expected.

"Lor, why it's a fortune! And I was going to ask you if you'd care to go to the factory with me!" exclaimed Martha. "But, goodness! you're a regular Cresses!"

"But I don't want to spend this," said Veronica. "And I shall be very glad if you can get some work for me to do at home. Do you think you can? You know that I am tolerably quick with my needle."

Martha said that she thought she could; and Veronica drew a breath of satisfaction. It seemed to her that she would find some relief for her aching heart in hard work, and some consolation in the fact that she, as well as Ralph, was living a life of toil. The girls talked far into the night, and at last Veronica went to bed—to dream that she and Ralph were married and were working hard for their living; but, ah, so happy, with a happiness which turned this commonplace earth to paradise!

The next day she enquired her way to the shipping agents at the docks, and made enquiries respecting the vessels that were starting for Australia. One had sailed that morning, and the clerk, fascinated by the beautiful face and sweet voice, showed her the passenger list; but the name of Ralph Farrington was not in it, and the clerk, with some surprise at her

question, told her that it would be impossible to discover the names of the hands.

"And most of 'em ship under false names, too, miss."

Veronica returned to Sowerby Street with the feeling of helpless despair which must have been experienced by the individual who first engaged in the historic task of hunting for a needle in a bottle of hay; but Martha that night brought home some work for her to do; and Veronica almost flew at it as a source of relief from her anxious thought and longing.

If she had only had the courage to defy the earl and keep Ralph at Lynne, or better—oh, still far better!

—insisted upon going with him! But the earl had hypnotised them both with his worldly wisdom and cynical heartlessness, and she and Ralph were divided!

Almost daily she went to the shipping office, and the clerk, now quite head and ears in love with her, did all he could to help her, but there was no trace of Ralph. And yet if she had but thought of seeking amongst the laborers at the docks, she would have found him; indeed, once she passed within a few yards of the spot where he was toiling!

She grew thinner and paler as the days went on; for, when she went out for the walk which Martha, who was anxious about her, insisted on, all her thoughts were of Ralph, and she was always seeking him, with all her mind and soul absorbed in the search. Absence makes the heart grow fonder, when that heart really loves, and Veronica knew now how dearly she loved him, how necessary he was to her happiness. She felt like one dragging wearily through a desert where no water is, for love is the water of life, and to thirst for it is to know fully what anguish is.

One afternoon she was walking home from her quest, when a gentleman passed her, paused, and after a moment's consideration, turned and following her, lifted his hat.

"Miss Gresham?" he said, hesitatingly, as if in doubt.

(To be Continued.)

Telegram Fashion Plates.

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9972—A PRETTY GOWN FOR YOUTHFUL FIGURES.



Dress for Misses and Small Women (With or Without Chemise and with Long or Short Sleeve.) Figured dimity in white and blue is here shown. The waist is simple, and becoming. It is made with long shoulder effect and has a sleeve that may be finished in wrist or shorter length. The three piece skirt is gathered at the top and finished with a deep tuck fold in front. The pattern may be omitted. Silk, crepe, lawn, gingham, ratine, eponge, duvetyne, taffeta and linen are also appropriate for this style. The pattern is cut in four sizes: 14, 16, 17 and 18 years. It requires 6 yards of 44 inch material for a 14 year size. The Skirt measures 1 1/2 yards at the foot.

A pattern of this illustration mailed to any address on receipt of 30c. in silver or stamps.

9973.—A POPULAR SEASONABLE STYLE.



Ladies' Dress, with Long or Short Sleeve, and with or without Chemise. Blue ratine embroidered in self color, was used in this instance. The waist fronts are crossed diagonally. The sleeve may be in wrist or elbow length. The skirt has simple lines, and is finished with a hem tucked at the centre back. The right front is shaped over the left. This model is easy to develop. It is finished with slightly raised waistline. Eponge, taffeta, striped or figured voile, crepe, gingham, lawn, dimity, batiste and tub silk, are all desirable materials for its development. The pattern is cut in 7 sizes: 32, 34, 36, 38, 40, 42, 44 inches bust measure. It requires 6 yards of 36 inch material for a 36 inch size.

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