

THE WATERDOWN REVIEW

Issued Every Thursday morning from the office, Dundas Street, Waterdown
G. H. GREENE
 Editor and Publisher
 Member C. W. N. A.

Claremont Summers

BY
 Mrs. Emerson Marty
 Kilbride, Ontario

The day on which my story opens was Friday; a day known to a few people as either the foulest or fairest day of the week. As it happened, this Friday was very fair, enough to send the blood coursing through your veins very swiftly. The air was exhilarating, commanding one to stand and look around whether there was much to see or not; and Velma Richmond's joys knew no bounds, for was not Claremont Summers, a boy of three and twenty, coming to see her that very afternoon.

Claremont was tall, fair, blue-eyed had a face once seen not easily forgotten by people. What shall I wear? was a question which Velma could not very well answer, not for want of wearing apparel, so much as a choice, or at least, Velma did not remember ever hearing Claremont express himself as to what she looked best in.

Velma Richmond was a haughty, willful girl, much spoiled as she was the only child of rich parents. Mr. Richmond owned a large plantation in Virginia, and built himself a home after the old Southern houses, with a veranda that goes right around the house; and what might also be styled a piazza from the second flight of stairs, came plainly in view from the road that led to the village of Ardale. On this upper piazza, Mrs. Richmond reclined in a large easy chair, with the dark servants almost in constant attendance; their slightest whim must be gratified no matter what the cost.

Mrs. Richmond, before her marriage, was a daughter of Captain Spearly, a wealthy planter also.

"At last" Miss Richmond chose for herself a gown of pure white silk with pearls for the trimmings, which looked splendid with her head of golden hair. Velma was slender and graceful as any girl could be; in fact to herself appeared peerless; in short, in all that part of the state, none could compare with the majestic Velma Richmond.

In a neat cottage at Ardale lived Mrs. Markland and her daughter, Gladys. Gladys was dark to extremes. Her wavy black hair and eyes that were dark also, appeared so solemn to you, that appealed strongly to most people in her favor. Gladys was no coquette, but sensible to a degree, and sometimes thought everyone was better favored than she. Gladys had said to her mother no later than yesterday, "How I wish someone would leave us some money."

"No such luck," was her mother's answer, "as that, Gladys, so you must be content on our meagre allowance."

Gladys Markland listen to every word, never dreaming what the future would bring forth.

Mrs. Markland had done her best to give Gladys an education. She had sent her to a nearby ladies seminary, and by taking up music, drawing and painting, she came home a full fledged young lady, but of course, not at all used to gay society. Velma Richmond heard that Gladys was through school and then she told her friends that she (Velma) would not stoop so low as to mingle with any of the Markland type of people.

(To be Continued)

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