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## JEZEBEL'S FRIENDS.

BY DORA RUSSELL

CHAPTER XXXIII-Continued. "Compensation," repeated Forth, rugfully,
"Yes, certainly; you asked her to
marry you, and if you have changed
your mind, you ought to pay for it."
"How imuch do you think—"
hesitated Forth, who did not quite see
the force of his friend's argument.
"Well, say five hundred pounds."
"Five hundred pounds! Where am
I to get five hundred pounds, do you
think, to throw away in such a manner?"

we'll raise it somehow; you are my Francis' father, so I owe you more

of an impatient, irritable invalid.

Audley, indeed, could not reconcil himself to the changed condition o his life. The tall, stalwart good looking soldier suddenly found him self broken alike in health and spirits and it was no doubt a heavy cross thear. And it was the remembrance

bear. And it was the remembrance of this, which made Ruth so patient and gentle in all her ways to him But do what she would, she could no satisfy him; and at last he decide that in the beginning of the New Year he would go up to two and tree. Year he would go up to town and tr what a change of air and scene would

what a change of air and scene would do for him.

Ruth said nothing to dissuade him but her heart sank at the prospect of leaving Frances, for it was the one bit of brightness in her life—her almost daily visitors from Sudley. They had tried to persuade her to go there for Christmas, but "How can I?" she had answered pathetically, and Colonel Kenyon agreed with her.

"It would be cruel to leave the poollow upstairs," he said, "but w will come and see you in the morning. Ruth; and Frances here," and he laid his hand kindly on his wife's shoulder; "must him you some helly." "must bring you some helly."
And they came, and not only brought the "holly," but all manner of good things. Frances was in high

was looking handsomer than ever.

"How odious that you can't be with us," she said; "I don't see why you could not come."

Ruth made no answer; still she wore black for Miss Audley, and she felt very sad. She was only a girl in years still, and her life was such a dreary and weary one, that on a day like this she could not help thinking of it. She could not help thinking, too, that Frances never seemed to reof it. She could not help thinking, too, that Frances never seemed to remember the bitter storifice she had made for her sake. She was as bright and gay and careless as though no shadow had fallen on her young sister's life, and though Ruth tried not to feel annoyed by this, it sometimes seemed very, very strange to her.

"I saw the carriage at Mrs. Audley's door," answered Sir Arthur, he asked him to go back to Sudley with them.

"I saw the carriage at Mrs. Audley's door," answered Sir Arthur, he asked him to go back to Sudley with them.

"I saw the carriage at Mrs. Audley's door," answered Sir Arthur, a faint color mounting to his brown, goodlooking face, "so I came across to bask what time I was expected this evening?"

evening?"

"No time like the present; drive over with us new," said Colonel Kenyon; and Sir Arthur was but too pleased to accept, though he asked for a few moments' grace to run back to the Fort to tell his servant to follow him with what he would recover.

quire.

For he was going to remain all night at Sudley, and indeed spent so much of his time there that the neighbors sometimes gave a little shrug when they spoke of it. And Colonel Forth by no means liked it, and often when they spoke of it. And Colonel turning point of her fate; but she had Forth by no means liked it, and often often looked with a half-averted, contemplated giving his old friend a shuddering glance from the back into the opinion on the subject windows of the house at the sands But his own matrimonial misadventure had made him rather shy of interesting with Frances, as he was not gone in the darkness and the storm. And now a sort of weird fascination and bitting jests.

As Sir Arthur hurried to the Fort the very spot. She was alone and free

whelmed the nobler instincts of his they parted.

"Perhaps," answered Ruth, smilting.

"Perhaps," answered Ruth, smilting.

"Perhaps," answered Ruth, smilting.

"Then they shook hands, and Ruth wrong she was doing. He was devoted they are the shook hands, and Ruth wrong she was doing. He was devoted ing.

"Then they shook hands, and Ruth wrong she was doing. He was devoted to her unloved home, and if for a moment she felt she liked him found that Audley had been fretting and fuming about her absence.

"You have stayed out far too late," weary without him. Of the nobleshearted gentleman whose name she bore, she scarcely cared to think, nor said Ruth, and so the matter dropped. The next day the doctors allowed to the winds. The foolish woman in her vanity thought more of a young sman's love than her husband's constant affection and trust.

And this Christmas day Sir Arthur stant affection and trust.

And this Christmas day Sir Arthur shad brought her a gift which he had beard the news, and asked when he had arrived.

"You know it is symbolical" beard.

"You know it is symbolical" beard.

"You know it is symbolical" beard.

"The returned to her unloved home, and Ruth turned her head away with the stant affection and trust.

"To-day, I think," said Beaton carely stones set in the shape of a diamond lessly, who was still staying at Sudheart, and Frances was delighted with it.

"You know it is symbolical" beard.

"You know it is symbolical,"he said, looking at her intently with his grey earnest eyes.
"Of what?" she said, lightly; but the next moment she laid her slender hand on his. "I understand," she half whispered; and she wore the jeweled heart on her shapely throat during the evening, and when someone admired it she said it had been given to her long ago!

She went to see Ruth the next day, but she did not mention Sir Arthur's gift to her.

"We had rather a jolly party," she told her; "the Heathcotes are pleasant people," and so on.

"And Sir Arthur, how did he enjoy himself?" asked Ruth, who wished to give a word of advice to her sister.

"Very well, seemingly," answered Frances, carelessly; "I drove him in just now, and he has gong to the Fort, but he will be over here presently to see Audley."

"In the morning, and Frances told Ruth the party at Sudley was to break up next day.

"And I shall not be sorry," she added, "I have got rather tired of Mrs. Heathcote."

She kissed Ruth affectionately when she went away, and wished her a happy New Year; and on the follows ing day Frances did not come to the follow she will be over here presently to see Audley." ong ago!
She went to see Ruth the next day.

"Of course he is; how on earth am I to amuse Mrs. Heathcote, and Lady Hastings too, who is going to dine with us te-day, without any young

with us te-day, without any young men?"

"He seems to be so much with you."
Frances gave a little shrug.

"He is very nice; he helps to amuse me," she said; and then she began telling Ruth about the Indian embroidery on Mrs. Heathcote's dress, and before Ruth could say anything more of Sir Arthur, he arrived, and went upstairs for a few moments to speak to Audley, who intended the first time he saw him to give him a bit of his mind about Mrs. Kenyon.

But this was not so easy, as he expected. There was a certain reserve in Beaton's manner that Audley found very difficult to break through when he approached the subject of his visits to Sudley.

"You seem to be the adopted friend of the family," at last said Audley, s little scornfully; "take care, old fellow!"

Beaton drew himself up and colored.

fellow!"

Beaton drew himself up and colored.
"They are very kind to me," he answered coldly; "well, good day,
Audley, I am glad to see you so much
better;" and he shook Audley's hand
and went away, and Audley felt that
his interference had been anything
but appreciated.

He, of course, began to rail Frances
to Roth the moment Beaton was gone,
and Ruth escaped from his hard and
cutting words by going out for a long
walk by the sea coast, and the fresh
air did her good. She returned looking brighter, and as Seaforth was
not at Headfort, Audley made no objections when on the following day jections when on the following day she again proposed to take a walk.

As she went out, a strange wish rose in her mind once more to go down to the bay. She had never done this since the night which had proved the turning point of her faits, but she had

had arrived.

"To-day, I think," said Beaton care-lessly, who was still staying at Sud-ley, and Ruth turned her head away with a conscious blush, for she had not told Audley she had met Sea-forth on the previous afternoon, as she knew Audley would be so very

But she did not ask leave to go out fangry.

But she did not ask leave to go out fany more. She used to see Seaforth pass and re-pass the house on his way to the post office sometimes, and once the called on Audley, but Ruth did not go into the room while he was there.

Children Cry for Pitcher's Castoria.

half-distracted state. And as the dull winter dawn crept over the earth and sea, again she heard a carriage drive down the village, and stop at the house door. She hurried to open it herself, and saw her father getting out of the carriage alone.

She asked no questions, she connot; but Colonel Forth understowithout a word being spokenthe n u without a word being spoken the nute, agonised query of her eyes.

"She is not at the Hastings'," he said hoarsely; "she has never been. Kenyon's like a madman. He thinks she has been murdered."

Still no word came from Ruth's white lips. She grasped her father's hand, and pulled him into the diningroem, and shut the door.

"You don't know anything?" he asked, quickly and nervously.

"Father," she gasped out in broken accents. "Sir Arthur Beaton—is not at the Fort."

Colonel Forth's face, which had

Norway, Me. at the Fort."

Colonel Forth's face, which had been a dull purplish color, for he and Colonel Kenyon had been up all night, suddenly grew a fiery scarlet.

"You don't mean to insinuate, surey—. You don't think—"
"Oh! I don't know what to think,"
aid Ruth, miserably, "but Major Frances, carelessly; "I drove him in ting day Frances did not come to Audley thinks—"
just now, and he has gone to the Fort, Headford, which did not surprise "Not that she has gone off with but he will be over here presently to Ruth, as she knew the guests at Sud-ley would be leaving.

"He is not going back to Sudley" But the day after she rather ex-Audley to suppose or suggest such a

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gentleman.

"We must try to keep up," said Colonel Forth, passing his large hand with a quick gesture over his eyes, where an unwonted moisture had stolen at the sight of the grief of his old friend. "We had better see the Inspector of Police now, I think—or shall we wait?"

[TO BE CONTINUED.]

JOSEPH A. SNOW

pected her, but Frances nave came and believes, "that he knew more than we have been o'clock in the awanting and however, while Ausley was 17th however, while Ausley was 17th however, while Ausley was 17th have here and the first of the hook kinself when drove up to the street door, and will have a sixting reading, a carrier of the continued when the continued of the continued

And the control of th

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