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nsurances effected upon almost every description of Property at the cur－ rent rates of premium．


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## By the Author of Dora Thorne．

 Continuea．The exile was over，the two years had pass－ ed，and Lord Rylestone stood once more on
English soil．How long that journey over the sea had seemed to him！There were whole day whe he enere left the deak of the ohip，
deeling inclined to coont the minotes as they passed by，blessing each one because it brought him nearir to her whom his sool loved best．
He smiled to himself as he wondered how He smiled to himself as he wondered how
he had borre parting from her．It was over he had borne parting from her．It was over
now，thank Heaven－there woild be no more now，thank Heaven－there wonld be no more
parting for them．From the beantiful dark－ eyed wife with her face of wondrous Soathern
loveliness be should never absent himself again．He knew she was well and happy－her letters ssid so；bat of late he had fancied there was something more sad than usual in them，
pathetic undercurrent he could not tell of what
It would be all over soon．His dark－eyed darling，who was so unwilling to part with him，who was so troubled at losing him，would be all his own soon．He remembered the tifal，tender face that smiled at bim from it． There would be no flowers on his return；they
would be dead，and the long，bare stalks would be drooping．But the longed－for face would be there－the red lips with their radiant
smile，the dark eyes with their passion of wel－ come．How slowly the vessel seemed to make her way！If he could but fly to Margarits－
if he could but cleave through the air and find imself by her side！He gave a great longing sigh，and then controlled himself and though of the window where Margaritis＇s face，bright
as a star，would be awaiting him． He telegraphed to Marpeth as soon as
he you in twelve hours．＇
He knew that was best；it would give her above all，she ${ }^{\circ}$ would remember his parting
to greet him．
How did he control his impatience？The
Earl of Barton laughed at him；the porters， servants，railway officials－every one with whom he came in contaet－thought he was
desperately burried．His strong frame trem－ bled，his hands barned，his whole soul seemed wept by a fiery tide of longiog lopatience．
He tried to calm the fever of his longing，but was so near home how could he tielp it？ He started for Marpeth．Steam was power－ ful and quick，but not so powerfal as the pas－
sionate love of bis passionate heart－not so uick as his fast flying thoughts．The express tanding him tocrawl．His darling would be pictured the tender curves of the lovely lips， he fire in the dark eyes，the dusky coils of womanhood；and then he started to find him－ elf weeping like a child，and thanking Heaven that he had been spared to see her again．He
eard the porter crying＇Marpeth！＇and before the train had stopped he was ont on the plat－
form．No－she was not there．He had won－ form．No－she was not here．He had won－
dered it she would come，half hoping she would not，for he had fixed his whole heart on seeing her at the window．
The afternoon was draming to a close ；there was a soft，tremulons mist that grew colder as the night advanced．The air was bleak，the sky gray，save where in the dark blue a few lears were seen．Lord hyledone walked home， leater him ster him－waiked har tres ouly，silvers walked with rapid steps，thinking only of his wife． he green lanes that he bad seen a thousand imes in his dreams，and there was the honse where his darling was waiting for him．He stood for a few moments by the little gate，and the big，brave man，who was beginning to
make for bimself a better name even than the one he had inherited，grem faint and sick with the intensity of his own joy．
He raised his head reverently．
＇I thank Heaven for its goodness ！＇he said； and then，opening the gate，he entered the grounds．
Marga：
him and to greet him light and awift as a bird， and he knew she would be there．
＇Patience！＇he said to his beating heart．In one more minute he would see the window－ November mist，that would almost pierce the clonds if she were beyond them．A sharp cry
of pain and fear came from his lips． oot there
The shock of the disappointment made him
grow faint He seemed to bearing．
＇My darling！＇he cried，stretching out his hands to the empty window－＇where is she？＇
The chill mist grew denser．The wind wail－ The chill mist grew denser．The wind wail－ dranches of the trees swayed helplessly to and ro．A foreboding that had in it the bitter－ aess of death came to him，and then he ronsed himself，and went formard quietly．He rap－
ped loadly at the door，a warm，sweet hope floshing his face and making his heart beat． garita ！No－it was opened slowly by some woman who looked hesitatingly out into the
night．Lord Rylestone recognised her as one
of tbe servants who had been there when
left his home，and at the same moment the irl recognised him．
＇Mr．Estcourt！＇she exclaimed．＇I am
very sorry，sir．I did not know you at first．
＇But you expected me ？＇he interrogated．
＇No，sir，＇she replied，holding the door open or him to pass ；‘I did not expect you；but am glad you are come．
He was standing
He was standing in the hall then，looking round with a blanched face and trembling lips．
There was no Margarita－no wife．He apoke slowly．
＇Wher
Whe girl raised a frightened face to he mat ； ＇girl raised a frightened face to his．
＇Do you not know，sir？＇she said．

## ＇Do you not know，sir？＇she said．＇ mistress is not here．She went away very so

after you
He did not cry out．A great dumb passion－
There was a chair near，and he sat down upon
，echoing the words slowly－
＇She went away soon after I did，and she
has never returned．How can that be？I have
He spoke in a strange，gasping fasbion；be all－how her mistress had found the place sea－side．
＇What friends？＇he asked，bruequely． Ellen Smith did not know．She told him how all his letters had been forwarded to the
General Post－office，St．Martin＇se－Grand General Post－office，St．Martin＇s－le－Grand，
London；how Mrs．Estcourt every month had sent them money for all expenses；how she －and he listened like one in a dream． ＇I was getting very anxious and unhappy，
continued Ellen．＇It is six weeks since my mistress wrote or sent anything．The other
servant who was left with me would not stay any longer．She said she was quite sure that He did not know would not go．＇ had not the faintest clew to account for Mar garita＇s conduct ；be knew nothing of her desire to know the secret of the will，of her half－
jealous，morbid dread lest she had come be－ ween him and his fortune，and of her resolve， and help him．He did not even remember that he had told her to read Miss Cameron＇s letters， or that one of them contained any allusion he secret of the will．He was bewildered，a －You expected to find my mistress at home ？＇she said．＇She may come to－morrow． return？
＇Yes，＇he replied ；＇she knew the day and he hour．＇And then he asked about the tele－ gram，and the girl brought it to him． open it．
He to ad hored oy－tore would Margarita＇s heart whi and then he sat still，as one ander his errible blow．He did not know how long he ad been there，when Ellen retgrned and said him－
Will you come into the drawing－room，sir？ ＇have lit the fire and the lamps．
He followed her into the pretty room，where he had spent such happy hours with Margarita A low ory of intense pain came from hig lips．

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