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The Lost Will; OR, LOVE TRIUMPHS AT LAST!

CHAPTER IV.

THE THOUSAND-GUINEA six-cylinder motor-car shot swiftly to Chertson Hall. Jack and Mr. Chalfont had been rather silent during the drive; Mr. Chalfont smoking one of his black and pungent cigars, his heavy brows drawn together as if he were thinking over his speech and the effect it had produced; and Jack thinking of nothing in particular, but feeling comfortable as a healthy young man ought to feel after a good dinner; it did not take much to make Jack happy, and to-night he was genuinely pleased by his patron's triumph.

The car glided to the stately entrance, the hall door flew open, and the servants came out as usual to receive their master. As he was mounting the steps, Mr. Chalfont put his hand on Jack's arm, as if he, the elder man, had become conscious suddenly of a sense of weariness; so, as they had passed out from the dinner, they passed amidst a line of unnecessary servants into the hall.

Since Jack's advent at Chertson it had been Mr. Chalfont's pleasure to keep up a kind of state; more servants had been engaged, the huge rooms had been kept in living order, the two men had dined in the magnificent room in which an English Sovereign or two—and some foreign ones to boot—had been entertained; and at night the rooms were fully lit, though Mr. Chalfont or Jack might not enter them once in the evening. Some of the neighbours, amongst whom were families of good birth and position, had called upon the wealthy parvenu when he had first installed himself in the ancient house; but the calling had been a formality only and there had been no acquaintance, much less friendship, between Mr. Chalfont and the neighbourhood; but, since

haven't noticed how cleverly you've managed to keep me straight, how you've saved me from making mistakes, and done it in a way that hasn't raised my hair? And it's the same with the place here, the way you've pulled it together and got the whole thing into working order; and you've done that without raising your voice, so to speak. It's you they all look to now, and come to for orders—"

"Don't say that," interrupted Jack, with a sudden flush. "It makes me think that I've been taking too much upon myself."

"No; that's just it. You haven't butted in; you've done it easily and given no offence to anybody, me included. And I want the place in order," he went on; "for I'm thinking of giving some parties. I should like to see what those rooms would look like when they're full of smart people. Besides, I reckon it must be a bit dull for you, and I should like to live up things a bit for you, Jack."

"Don't you worry about me, sir," said Jack, with a laugh. "I'm quite happy, and in clover. Of course, there will be no difficulty about the matter; you can give a big feed of two and a hop, if you like; people will be only too-delighted to come."

"Yes," said Mr. Chalfont, with a nod; "and now you've taken the presences in hand we can have some shooting parties later on and do things properly. Seems to me that, until you came, I didn't realise that I wasn't getting as much for my money as I could get. I suppose, if you had the coin, you'd do a sight of things, eh, Jack?"

"Oh, I don't know," said Jack, easily. "No; I was fighting for my breath," said Chalfont, cynically; "though none of you guessed it. It takes me all of a sudden now and again, as it did to-night. I went to a swaggar doctor, and he said I'd got something the matter with me—something with four syllables; that I ought to take a rest and be careful."

"They all say that," remarked Jack, encouragingly. "Everybody's got something the matter with his heart, so I've heard say; 'threatened men live long.' But you ought to be careful, to rest."

"I dare say," assented Chalfont, indifferently. "Nothing much the matter with yours, Jack. You're sound enough; you'll make old bones—I was as strong as a horse once; but I've had a strain or two. Jack, I want to tell you something to-night, something I've been trying to say for the last week. You've been a good pal to me—"

"Put it the other way round, sir," said Jack, in a low voice. "It was a lucky day for me when you wrote me that letter. I've not had a chance yet, sir, of thanking you for all you've done for me. It's so surprising that I can scarcely realise it. I'm not like you, I'm bad at expressing myself; but I should like to say that I'm very grateful for all your kindness. Let me leave it at that, sir. I beg your pardon: what is it you were going to tell me?"

"That I'm going to make you my heir," said Mr. Chalfont quietly. (To be Continued.)

SPEAKING FROM EXPERIENCE



THE DOCTOR "Ah, yes, ladies and gents. Give him a Steedman's Powder and he'll soon be all right."

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He raised his head, which had sunk on his breast, and shook it as if to cast off a hideous memory. There was silence for a moment, for Jack had learnt that it was better to make no response when his patron indulged in this kind of reflection; then Mr. Chalfont said:

"I've been thinking, Jack, what's to become of all this money when I've gone. And I might have to hand in my checks at any moment—on a sudden. No three months' notice."

"What do you mean?" asked Jack, rather startled; for the short, sturdy figure opposite him looked the embodiment of strength.

"Oh, well, I've got a croaky heart," said Mr. Chalfont in a casual way. "Did you notice me stop in the middle of my speech to-night?"

"Yes," said Jack gravely; "but I thought you were hunting for a word."

"No; I was fighting for my breath," said Chalfont, cynically; "though none of you guessed it. It takes me all of a sudden now and again, as it did to-night. I went to a swaggar doctor, and he said I'd got something the matter with me—something with four syllables; that I ought to take a rest and be careful."

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British Success in Palestine

German Counter-Attack With Heavy Losses Capture 5000 Prisoners Several Towns

PARIS, Sept. 20. The capture of several villages and five thousand prisoners is recorded in the Serbian official statement made public to-day. Continuing our advance, the statement says, we crossed the left bank of the Cerna River. The enemy burned his depots and camps. We have taken more than 5,000 prisoners and captured ten additional guns, mostly heavy pieces. Several villages have fallen into our hands.

ADVANCING THE LINE.

LONDON, Sept. 20. English troops carried out successful minor operations northwest of LaBeeze, this morning, advancing their line on a front of more than two and a half miles, as far as the villages of Rue Dimatais and La Tourelle. More than 100 prisoners were captured and a hostile counter-attack later in the day was beaten off in sharp fighting.

FRENCH CARRY IMPORTANT TOWNS.

PARIS, Sept. 20. In the enveloping movement of St. Quentin from the south, the French have carried Essigny le Grand, says the war office statement to-day. The Germans during the night made strong attacks against the new French positions north of Allemont, between the Ailette and the Aisne. The enemy was repulsed with heavy losses. The French have gained further ground northeast of Vally in the direction of Chemin des Dames. A German attempt to cross the Vesle where American troops are in the line was repulsed. French patrols penetrated the enemy lines northwest of Souain (in Champagne) and brought back prisoners.

BRITISH VICTORY IN PALESTINE.

LONDON, Sept. 20. British forces in Palestine under the command of General Allenby attacked Turkish positions on a front of 15 miles. The British broke through the



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Narcissus, Paper White	.07	.45	4.25
Scilla Siberica	.04	.35	2.85
Snowdrops, Single	.04	.30	2.10
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