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Sequel to "Unknown"

CHAPTER XVII.

The Duke of Montcalla

Just then a waiter announced a visitor for Mr. Carew.

"It is someone from Scotland Yard, my dear. And you had better retire, perhaps."

Musa did so. When the detective was shown up he gave his name as "Ketchum," and presented a note from his chief.

"The note was one of introduction from his chief."

August then gave him instructions regarding the search to be made for Musette.

CHAPTER XVIII.

The Meeting

The next day was the first of June. It was a very fine day, even in London.

It was just a quarter to two when Bertie arrived with his little protegee and was announced.

Musa arose and greeted her guest. She had forgotten the little protegee.

"Will you welcome my little friend," inquired Bertie.

She cast her eyes down on the child and recognized Musette.

She clasped the child to her heart and called for August.

Mr. Carew took the situation in at a glance. He advanced and offered his hand to Bertie, who received and pressed it in silence. Musa was lost to everything but the child.

"Now for your story, duke. How did you discover the child?" asked August.

Bertie told of the accident and how he brought the little victim to Montcalla Lodge and had her cared for.

Continuing, the duke said: "I then left the house and dispatched a messenger to the scene of the accident to make investigations regarding the child's relatives."

"It was late at night when my messenger returned. He said that he had experienced some difficulty in doing his errand."

"He reported that he found the mother in desperate circumstances, and in a dying condition."

"The next morning I went to my aunt and told her the piteous story of the dying mother, and of this mere babe going out to sweep a crossing."

"Lady Etheldreda wept. Her charities were known far and wide. She ordered her brougham, had it stocked with provisions etc., and, taking her maid with her, she drove down to the wretched neighborhood and to the miserable room that little Musette had called her home."

"There she found the woman Morris in full as destitute a condition as had been reported."

"Just before she died she confessed that Musette was not her own child, but was a lady."

"We gave directions for a decent funeral, and then returned to Mont-

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calla House—I, with the firm resolve to educate and provide for the little child.

"I taught her to call me uncle, not knowing how near the truth I came. And this morning I told her that I was going to bring her here to introduce her to a lady friend. My story is finished, Mr. Carew," said Bertie, as Musa re-entered the room.

"And you must receive my heartfelt thanks for all you have done for our child," said Mr. Carew, with much emotion, as he arose and took the young man's hand and earnestly pressed it.

Musa came directly to Bertie, and said:

"My profound gratitude to you can never be expressed, and never be lessened!"

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Musette at once and kissed her heartily.

After the party had partaken of lunch, the Duke took leave of his friends.

Legal proceedings occupied the next few weeks, and at the end of that period Musa was accepted as the Countess of Cressy, and Musette, as the lawful daughter and heiress of the late Earl of Cressy.

Later in the month the marriage of the Duke of Montcalla and Lady Gwendolyn Newydd was celebrated at St. George's.

Musa received a letter from Kate Carew bringing the tidings that she had married a third time, the nappy groom this time being Mr. Lyttleton Locke.

Happy lives have no history, it is said. And the lives of the people in whom I have been trying to interest you flowed on from this time forth so peacefully that there is little to record of them for years to come.

And that little may be written in a few words.

Mr. and Mrs. Locke went back to Washington City, where Kate set up a magnificent establishment at The Poplars, entertained fashionable company and spent the old lawyer's money extravagantly all the week and dragged him to church three times every Sunday, and made him believe that he never knew how to live until she had taught him the way.

In all her social intercourse in Washington, Kate had the good taste not to talk overmuch of her daughter the Countess of Cressy, except on occasions when she had any of those malicious women who had so basely slandered Musa in the past seasons; then, indeed, Kate gave the reins to her tongue and to her imagination, and let them run, and she must have been above, or below the average of feminine nature her she forbore to do so.

Mr. Carew's life seemed to be decided. It was to be a diplomatic one, as that for which his genius and training best fitted him.

He remained attached to the American Legation in London until the recall of the minister, in the autumn of the third year of his foreign civil service. Then Mr. Carew and Musa, with their children and their ward, returned with the legation to America.

They reached Washington early in the winter, and took up their residence on Vermont Avenue, which had been made ready for them under the supervision of Mrs. Shrewsbury.

Early in the following summer August and Musa went to Bay Beauty, where they found their old treacherous enemy, Armida Sutton; an enemy no longer, but a crushed heart-broken and penitent woman, who could only be met with pity and pardon.

Musa told her to live in peace with her mother, at Bay Beauty, as long as she desired to do so.

And thus Armida found a warm home there for the rest of her life.

While staying at Bay Beauty, August and Musa renewed their affectionate intimacy with all their old friends.

When Sam Carew graduated from the university, Mr. Carew attached him to the legation as an initial step toward that diplomatic career to which the ambition of the young man tended.

Sam became fascinated by Musette's loveliness, both of person and disposition, and every year he was rising step by step in the service.

Musette returned his devotion with the purest love that woman ever felt for man.

And so we leave Musette, in a haven of love that emanates from her own angel-spirit and brightens and blesses all that come within her sphere.

THE END

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