One in a Thousand, BUT TRUE TO THE LAST

CHAPTER XIX.

"Adrian is very late." I say, going to the window and looking down the

"Adrian is late." she says. fret-

dinner!" I answer. "Very likely he's gone in to see Loys; he often does on

At this I laugh outright.

"You think nothing short of an accident would keep him away from me so long?" I cry. "Oh, don't make yourself uneasy! I should have heard you not hear the sound of the hoofs on the road? I must tell him how anxious you have been about him ! "Oh, pray do not!" she says, cold-

"Well," he says, when at last he makes his appearance. "I suppose you are quite tired out?"

"Oh, no!" in the gentlest of gentle

"And"-looking round the room-"where is the boy?"

"Not brought him?" repeats my husband, blankly, "And why not?"

"I thought he would trouble," she answers. "But didn't Audrey give you my

message? "Oh, yes; but I knew you didn't really mean it!'

must send for him.' "I don't think you can do that."

answers Theo, sweetly, "because he has gone down to Park Royal with matter of smoking, for instance. his grandmother."

Adrian, in an aggrieved tone. "I'd ing morning, she looks round got a steady little pony for him, and Adrian, but in vain.

"And he would have liked it so much;

"Yes, my baby, terribly so." "And what has brought Col. Cardy- affair, a much more tiresome one." lion back so soon? You did not ex- "Oh! What are you going to do



bad attack of gout, and they fear i

I look at Adrian, who is intensely

disgusted, though he is too polite to "Have you any chance of it?" I ask alluding to the colonelcy."

He shakes his head.

"Have you seen Loys to-day?" I

They are coming up to dinner tomorrow," he answers. "And Teddy's

"Oh, that is good news!" I cryl 'How delighted Lovs will be! No more orderly duty!"

"How long is it to dinner?" he de-

"Poor, ill-used thing!" I cry;

"Wine would be better," says Theo "Oh I don't allow him wine ween meals!" I say, calmly,

"Why?" with evident surprise.

"She bullies me tremendously

iffirms Adrian. ly, "it would never occur to me to interfere in such a matter as that."

"Just look at Theo's horrified face!" he laughs. "Now you know "Of course I meant it! Well, we what other people think of your ty-

I think of the way Theo used to tyrannize over poor Lasselles-in the

When Theo makes her appearance "Well, I am disappointed!" says in the breakfast room on the follow-

'Where is Adrian?" she says. "Not

cers' field day; but this is a brigade

here are plenty of sub-

stitutes (avoid them),

but no real rival for

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"Anything you like this morning. I must go into Idleminster this afternoon to fetch Miss Dare. You will

"Yes, I suppose so." "We might go for a walk thi norning." I suggest.

"I thank you." she says, with chil

chatting; then Mawson finds out that To my surprise, when I enter the drawing room. Adrian is there with Theo; and so engrossed have they turns, with a guilty flush, to confront me. Adrian, on the contrary, has not at all the "caught" expresturns round, coolly, and says:

"Well, baby, so you are back? How are you. Miss Dare?"

I feel sick and faint, for all my ealous doubts and fears have come back to me with tenfold force. However, for the sake of this strange girl, whose eyes are taking in every detail. I force myself to answer lightly. I cannot let any stories of our

the time of year, and ring for tea to warm us a little. Then, when my "Nearly an hour and a half," I say, husband is carrying on a bantering conversation with Stewart Dare, thus astonished at the change this after

look beside her, how faint a likeness I bear to her. In my sealskin coat and plain, black hat, I see no charm, only a haggard, tired, rather sickly-looking girl, as unlike, Theo, with her brilliant eyes and quickly changing blushes, as possible. With

eager eyes, I take in every detail of her beauty-the daintily waved bair and the quick rise and fall of the

You look very tired, Audrey, says Adrian, presently. "Won't yo



ing," says Theo, with a laugh, which cuts me like a knife or a keen east

"Perhaps not," he says, calmly con amore, eh, Audrey?" "I did not know you disliked it,"

"Oh, he likes it well enough!" puts in Miss Dare. "No man ever did anything for a woman yet, except to please himself. Men are a mass o

I see an angry flash, followed by superb disdain, in Theo's eyes, and l am grateful to this girl for saying the very thing I should like to have said myself, but dared not.

whole human race like that?" "Not the whole human race," she

corrects: "only the men." I cannot help laughing at his discomfited face, though I am so miserable. Now that Stewart Dare is coming out a little. I can understand that she is considered clever.

"And are not the women selfish,

"Universally," she repeats gravely. "I know one man who is not sel

"There, you see," says Adrian, tri phantly; "I've one person "Oh, I wasn't thinking of you

D!" I say quietly My husband looks intensely asto shed, and Theo laughs.

"I am sure you do not," I cry, "fo ou have never seen him!" "I have never spoken to him, mean," she says, correcting me

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