

## Love & Conqueror

—OR—  
WEDDED AT LAST!

### CHAPTER IV.

"So our friend soon discovered. However, he converted his stock-in-trade into money and joined a circus, where for some months he distinguished himself by standing on his head and contorting his limbs," then he became a public singer—comic, of course—and went the round of the cafes chantants. When that failed, he was 'general utility' at a minor provincial theatre," Sir Hugh continued; "and I am convinced the stage is his vocation. He is a first-rate actor, and makes up capital. It was at Pottiers that I first made his acquaintance. I was travelling, and had met at a cafe the manager of the theatre there, a pleasant, gentlemanly fellow enough. There were one or two pretty actresses belonging to the company; and one night I invited the troupe to supper. Latrelle was among them, and I confess he attracted me. He was so frankly insolent, so amusing, and so independent that I found him irresistible. The next morning, to my surprise, he called upon me, said he was sick of the stage, and offered his services as valet and courier; and I engaged him."

"And you have not repented?"

"Not once. He is a most useful servant; his only fault is an occasional slight freedom of manner, which never approaches insolence but at times is somewhat familiar. But he is far too valuable an acquisition to dismiss for so trifling a fault. I dare say he robs me, for we are of the same size and build, and my clothes fit him perfectly; but he is perfect in his own line, and he never chatters."

"And he entertains a profound admiration for his master?"

"You have noticed that, have you?" Sir Hugh laughed. "Yes—I believe he flatters himself that we are somewhat alike; and indeed so we are, so far as complexion and size and the color of hair go—and he has particularly good feet. This resemblance, slight as it is, proved very useful once. I had made an engagement to meet a man at the Bal de Opera, in Paris, but, when the time came, I was more agreeably engaged." Sir Hugh continued, with a laugh at the recollection, which Guy

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Chas. H. Billings, of 260 V. 17th St., writes: "For years I have been suffering from asthma and bronchitis. A week ago I purchased a bottle of Radway's Ready Relief and have taken a teaspoonful in water before retiring each night. The relief I have experienced is marvellous. I most heartily endorse R. R. R."

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Stuart recalled long afterwards. "I made Latrelle don my costume, and sent him to the masked ball, where he personated me with perfect success."

"And without detection?" Stuart asked, in surprise.

"Quite so. He did not unmask, but he managed to lose three hundred francs at ecarte afterward, at my expense of course, and he told me that he had enjoyed himself most thoroughly. He is the coolest, most self-opinionated fellow in existence—quite amusingly so."

"He is rather a character, evidently," remarked Guy, laughing. "But here he is," he added, as the door opened and Latrelle came in quietly with his usual noiseless step.

"Well, Latrelle," said his master from his place on the hearth-rug, and without removing his cigar from between his lips, "what have you cleaned?"

"The family is one of the most ancient and distinguished in this part of Scotland, Sir Hugh," Latrelle answered quietly, not at all intimidated by the scrutiny with which his master's friend was honoring him. "Sir Gilbert has one son, the gentleman who Martin says, called upon you on Tuesday, and who is in the army, and three daughters."

"Three daughters!" repeated Sir Hugh, with a swift glance at his friend, who hid a smile under his heavy dark mustache.

"Are they grown up, Latrelle, children?"

"Miss Fairholme is grown up and very beautiful, Sir Hugh, quite a belle in the country; but the other two young ladies are in the schoolroom."

"That will do," said Sir Hugh slowly. "Is there anything else?" he asked, seeing that the man lingered.

"There is another young lady," said Fairholme Court, Sir Hugh.

"Another young lady!" repeated Sir Hugh, with a laugh. "Who is she—the governess?"

"Oh, no, Sir Hugh! She is Miss Ross, a niece of Sir Gilbert's; and she is as beautiful, Martin says, as Miss Fairholme herself."

"Oh, very well! We will ride this morning. Order the horses for twelve. Latrelle. What did I tell you, Stuart?" he added, when the man had disappeared. "Two marriageable young ladies—a daughter and a niece!"

"But both equally charming. I feel rather curious to see these Scotch belles."

"I know the style—reddish hair and freckles, high cheek-bones and thick waists," said Sir Hugh contemptuously. "However, we'll trust to chances."

"How are you ready?"

As Sir Hugh spoke, he came up to the table with a little laugh and held out the half crown.

"Still harping on that nonsense!" said the soldier with a smile.

"It was your own proposal," answered Sir Hugh. "You said, 'Let us toss up,' and I am quite willing to do so, and trust to chances."

"If there is such a thing," supplemented Major Stuart lightly. "Well, go on, and let us see what chance will decide."

"How did we say?" Sir Hugh asked, with the coin suspended between his forefinger and thumb. "If it is 'heads,' Fairholme Court carries the day; if 'tails,' we remain here."

"Head!" exclaimed Sir Hugh.

"Head!" echoed Guy Stuart. "Fairholme Court has carried the day. Who knows, Hugo mio, but that you may meet your fate in one of the two sandy-haired freckled damsels you described so eloquently?"

"Who knows?" echoed Sir Hugh. "I'll write the acceptance at once."

so that there may be no drawing back."

Light words, lightly spoken, and forgotten almost as soon as said.

And yet, if they could have foreseen the events which were to grow out of such a trivial occurrence as the spinning of a coin, Sir Hugh's hand would have fallen powerless to his side before it twirled the silver, and Guy Stuart would have never suggested trusting to chance. Ah, with what useless regret they recalled that occurrence in after years!

### CHAPTER V.

"Shirley, did you know that Sir Hugh Glynn is coming to-day?"

"I heard Aunt Geraldine say so," Shirley Ross answered indifferently, without lifting her head from her drawing.

"Aren't you curious to see him?" Jean Fairholme asked in her clear childish treble.

"Not a bit! Why should I be? He is not unlike anybody else, I suppose?"

"I suppose not," Jeanie said dubiously—she had heard so much of the new master of Alaxwell that she was not quite certain but that he was very unlike anybody else.

"He hasn't got two heads, I presume," said Maud, the elder of Sir Gilbert Fairholme's two younger daughters, with a touch of contempt, "nor four arms, nor any other peculiarity of that kind, has he?"

"Of course not, Maudie," said Jean indignantly. "How can you say such silly things? But Alice was so curious to see him that I thought Shirley would be sure to be curious also."

"I don't see what reason you have or thinking so," said Maud Fairholme, with a toss of her pretty, fair head. "Alice is generally curious about men if they're rich; but I have never seen Shirley similarly afflicted. The only men she ever feels any interest in are Jack and Oswald."

"Probably because they are the only men who take any interest in me," Shirley remarked laughingly, turning her face with a bright glance to Maud. "Jack is my brother and Oswald is a very kind cousin."

"Pray had you ever a cousin, Tom?"

"Did your cousin happen to sing?"

"Isters we have by the dozen, Tom. But a cousin's a different thing!"

"I don't see what you mean," Maud said saucily. "Did you ever hear those lines, Mistress Ross?"

"Fortunately for you, Miss Martin is not within hearing," said Shirley, laughing. "I wonder how she would approve such flattery."

"Miss Martin is at present in the bosom of her family," rejoined Maud, laughing; "at least I hope so. She intended to get there by this time when she started this morning, and she is welcome to remain there as long as she wishes."

"I am afraid that would not suit Aunt Geraldine."

"I am afraid not; but it would suit me. Jean, will you race me down the covered walk before it gets dark?"

"Yes!" exclaimed Jean; and the two children vanished out of the glass door.

The wintry twilight was filling the room, but the fire burnt red and clear and threw a warm, pleasant glow over the rather bare, cold-looking apartment. Shirley liked the firelight; she put away her drawing carefully—

—and, leaving the table, went and sat down on the rug before the fire looking fixedly into the red glow which fell full upon her face. Such

was a sketch she was doing for Jack.

Headaches and Heart Trouble

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Anyone who knows the discouragement and despair which accompanies the helplessness of nervous prostration will appreciate the gratitude felt by the writer of this letter.

Mrs. H. C. Jones, Scotch Lake, C. B., writes: "I suffered from nervous prostration for nearly three years. I had frequent headaches, had no appetite and was troubled with my heart. After consulting two doctors, without obtaining satisfactory results, I began the use of Dr. Chase's Nerve Food, and was completely cured by this treatment. It is nearly a year since I was cured, and I want others to know of this splendid medicine. I now attend to my household work with pleasure and comfort, and am glad to have the opportunity of recommending Dr. Chase's Nerve Food."

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weary tired face it was, with such great yearning hazel eyes, and such tender, sorrowful, crimson lips.

Crouching there upon the rug, looking into the red glow of the burning coals, she saw no pleasant "fire-castles" to brighten the cheerless room; she was too dispirited for that. She felt too sick at heart and desolate. And yet a casual observer would have thought that there was no excuse for her depression. Outwardly Shirley's life at Fairholme Court was pleasant enough. She was neither starved, nor beaten, nor ill-treated; she had food to eat—the same luxurious living to which Sir Gilbert and Lady Fairholme were accustomed; she had clothes to wear—

not quite so costly and pretty perhaps as her cousin Alice's, but then Alice was a grown up lady who had been presented to her Majesty, and was "out," and Shirley had not long been emancipated from the schoolroom, and was but young yet; she had books to read, the schoolroom piano was always at her service when Miss Martin and the younger girls did not want it for a music-lesson or practicing purposes, and she could take her walks abroad with the governess and her pupils whenever it pleased her to do so.

What more could any reasonable being want? Many a girl not half so comfortably circumstanced was perfectly happy and contented with her lot, while Shirley's great, sorrowful, heaving eyes seemed so mutely, yet so eloquently reproachful that Lady Fairholme often felt a very strong inclination to box her ears.

(To be Continued.)

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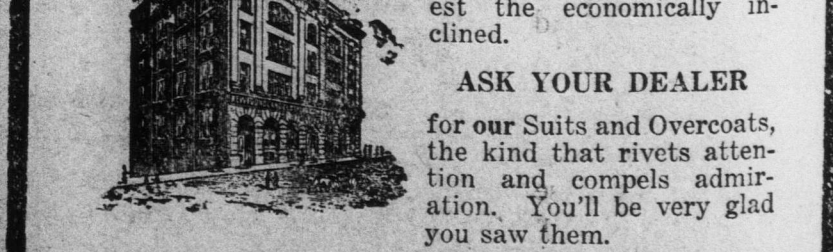
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