

A Queen Among Women

"Ah, yes; Mary!" said Garling. "She

kept the secret, too. Where is she? "She is living in a little village near London," said Mr. Fielding, "I don't to know you are alive. Though"-he mused, his eyes flashing keenly-" shouldn't be surprised if she'd guessed it. All along she has been ner yous, apprehensive. At any rate, she must guess the cause of Diana's flight

Garling shook his head. "I daren't give it to you," he said uneasily. "She wouldn't like it; she-she wants to

Mr. Fielding nodded and sighed imnationally. It irked and distressed raveled skein; he, the clever Mr Fielding, found himself helpless and

"I'm afraid she's right," he said reluctantly. "The sins of the fathers-I hearts-and a woman's among them! beg your pardon, Bourne; I did not Garling, when he went round to Di-

was dead!" groaned

"So do I." said Mr. Fielding. "Pardon, pardon! But-you're alive, you -some little danger? Wouldn't it be rather awkward if you were seen?"

I've a 'ticket' only." Mr. Fielding pondered for a minute

"Better leave the country," he said "No, that will scarcely do; what to do with you! Or for her. And I tell you frankly, her fubadly, and is going to the dogs. Real-

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at the wreck and ruin you have all unwittingly caused. You will have actually affected the line of a neer

lid you start and swear, Bourne?" Bourne had done both; and now sat taring at the lawyer's troubled coun

'Desmond March! Is that hi ame?" he asked hoarsely.

neard of him? If you have, you have heard of the choicest specimen of the coundrel and the blackleg to be found even in this scoundrel-ridden city. Yes; he will get the title, and will bring the money to clear the estates. The wicked flourish as the bay-tree-pardon, Bourne, I meant nothing personal—and Mr. Desmond arch, who ought to be standing in dock at the Old Bailey-tut, tut! -is going to marry an heiress. Bu

Bourne shook his head doggedly. 'No: if you can't help me and her even from you. God knows what we

far-reaching was the trouble you

have caused. And you are living at

"All this money, now, Bourne's

Bourne turned on him fiercely 'Curse the money!" he said.

Mr. Fielding shrugged his shoul ders. "Well, we'll wait a bit. Don't do anything, or leave England, until you have seen me again. Good night.' He held out his hand, but Bourne afte ra moment's hesitation, shook his head and passed out.

Mr. Fielding returned to his room and, sinking into a chair, sighed heav

risky part to play," he muttered; "esagain: and one is dealing with human

"Do you think she's getting better?

Diana shook her head. "I'm afraid through the scarlet lips.

"And-and her mind's fixed on he trouble," he muttered, "Go and li

Diaan reluctantly went to the chair bedstead he had sent in, and, stretch ing her weary limbs on it, closed her eyes for the first time since Lucy had been brought to the attic. She must have fallen into a half sleep, for suddenly she was awakened by the soun of a knock. Garling started and look

"May I come in?" said Mr. Fielding

and he entered. Diana hushed the cry that rose to

Mr. Fielding looked down at her Diana's arm still held within his, and

"Poor girl! Still the same tende

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hout some old friends?" he said. Diana drew a long breath and

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"I saw-him the other night. Oh Fairy Godmother!" her voice broke. "I am past even your help; but i you could help him!"

Mr. Fielding cleared his throat and frowned: it was not pleasant for the clever man to acknowledge his help-

"I want you-Mr. Bourne," he said. "I am glad I have found you. I'm afraid I can't-well, put things straight; but don't you forget, please, that I am still your legal adviser Will you come, Bourne? What a devhe said after they had reached the

Garling hesitated, but Mr. Fielding ailed a cab, and gently but firmly

As they entered the Mr. Fielding said:

vate room, he took off his hat to a

"Glad you've come. Mrs. Burton," he said. "I've some news for you that will surprise you!"

Mrs. Burton raised her veil. Her ace was deathlike in its pallor, and

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and shadowed rims like those of

"You have found Diana?" she said oistening her dry lips. "Take-

ake me to her." "Yes: I have found Diana," assent ed Mr. Fielding, with a cheerfulnes hat was meant to have a restrainin ffect. "You will be glad to hea that she is-er-well, as well as we ould hope. Thinner and paler, yes. But"-with a shrug of the shoulders 'what could you expect? For, you have guessed, of course, she knows who and what her father is."

Mrs. Burton looked at him strange-

"Yes, I thought so," she said in an expressionless voice. "It was the discovery that sent her into hiding?" "And she has discovered that her

father is alive," said Mr. Fielding

"Benjamin-alive! Oh, my God!" ried Mrs. Burton.

"Alive and well. It seems that the report of his death, the certificates, were applicable to his partner,

Mrs. Burton rose and faced him with an awful mixture of despair and

"He is here," she said. "Take me

Mr. Fielding opened the door and eckoned Garling in.

For a moment or two brother and sister looked at each other; then Mrs. "Benjamin!"

"Mary!" he said. "Yes; I'm aliveworse luck! I want to thank you for the care of my gel, Diana. She's told me how good you've been to her, how you've kept the secret. It was my fault that it was ever found out; but I'm grateful to you, Mary."

She seemed to be struggling for breath and speech. At last she gasp-

"Take-take me to her."

Mr. Fielding had slipped out of the

quietly as possible, and Diana openciss her; but suddenly drew back and eved her almost with fear

sobbed Diana, struggling with her there. "And I am glad, though

(To be Continued.)

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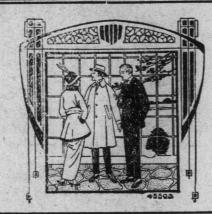
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