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## Which Was The Heir?

### CHAPTER XXIV.

“I know! I know!” she broke in. “Oh, I’m glad we shall be married properly. And—and when it is to be, Sidney?”

“As soon as you like,” he replied. His voice was rather hoarse, and his cigar still seemed to require a good deal of attention. “You could go up to town in a day or two and meet me at the rooms I have taken—”

“I see,” she said thoughtfully. “I could tell my grandmother that I am going back to college—”

“Just so,” he said, clearing his throat, and pressing her to him. “And I would go up the same day. Nobody knows, or would suspect anything; and—and almost before we knew it we should be married.”

“Yes; man and wife!” she murmured. “Oh, Sidney!” and she nestled closer to him, her red-barred eyes glittering with love and anticipatory triumph.

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### CHAPTER XXV.

It may be stated as an incontrovertible fact that no man commits his first crime without a certain amount of nervousness and misgivings; afterwards the criminal career appears to be easy enough, for men seldom stop at one crime; indeed, one nearly always leads to another; and so we get that interesting specimen of humanity—the habitual criminal.

Sidney Bassington was by no means easy in his mind when he contemplated the piece of villainy which he was about to perpetrate; but he was not shrinking so much from the crime as from the possible consequences. To be a really satisfactory villain a man needs more courage than ordinary, and courage was not Master Sidney Bassington's point.

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But two things kept him on his evil course—his passion for Rachel, and the influence which the man White had gained over him. It was an ordinary, seeing how short a time they had been acquainted, that such a man should have gained so firm a hold up on Sidney; and yet, when one considers it, the person who panders to our self-indulgence is always the master and holds us in slavery. Sidney knew that the man was an arrant scoundrel, but he had found him a congenial companion, and had at once yielded to the temptation which “Captain White's” proposal had presented.

The thing looked so easy; no one would know anything about it; and for Rachel—well, after all, what right had she, a mere nobody, and the daughter of a convict, to expect that he, the heir to Starborough, should marry her? It seemed preposterous when he came to think of it. And, of course, he would act generously by her; she should have a good time, and plenty of money, not only now but in the future. He would provide for her most handsomely, and—oh, it would all be right enough!

But, as this was his first crime, he did not feel at all easy; and if Rachel had not been so intoxicated by her dreams of future wealth and glory, she would have noticed that her lover was embarrassed and uncomfortable; but Rachel was in the seventh heaven of anticipation, which the wise tell us is the keener joy. She spent hours before her glass, looking at it over her shoulder as she paced up and down, practising what she considered the gait of a lady, fanning herself with a languid air, and aping the natural grace which she had remarked in Miss Rashleigh!

Why, very soon she would be that young lady's equal, nay, her superior, for she would be a countess! She pictured herself reigning at the castle as its mistress; the mistress of that pompous old Yates, and the sneering, supercilious Goodley, of all the servants and horses and carriages. It was an intoxicating vision!

Of course her grandmother would have to leave the cottage; she would not have such a perpetual reminder of her former low estate living within the shadow of her lordly castle. She would send her grandmother to an asylum for the aged blind!

Yes; that would be the best thing to do with her. It was really lucky that there was no father or mother to be disposed of. Of course it would be some time before the people would forget that she was Mrs. Farren's granddaughter; but they would do so in time; for Rachel resolved that she would be a very popular countess; one of the fashionable ladies whose doings are recorded in the daily and society papers; she would give fine dinners and garden-parties; and have swell people to stay with her. Her brain swam as she thought of it all; and she felt almost really in love with her future husband.

As there was no reason for delay, and she was dying with impatience, she fixed the marriage for a certain Wednesday, about a week after Sidney's return, and she employed the interval purchasing some necessary things for which Sidney had given her the money.

“I shouldn't buy very much,” he advised her, “because, you see, you will get most of the things better in London or Paris—we may go on there; and you don't want to attract attention.”

She agreed with him—oh, the

thought of shopping in London and Paris—but she could not resist the temptation of spending some money with the drapers of Starborough, where she gave herself all the airs of a future countess, slightly amused the tradespeople, who, however, while they laughed behind her back, were outwardly very attentive and respectful.

Naturally enough, Sidney, during those days of waiting, rather avoided the Rashleigh's.

Rachel, who appeared to do all the thinking required for the business, suggested that it would be better that Sidney should go up to London a day or two before her, so that no suspicion should be aroused; and on the Tuesday evening Sidney and Captain White were sitting in the dining-room of Berry Street making the final arrangements.

Now, Sidney had not fully confided in his friend, and White did not know his accomplice's name, or the name of the girl they had schemed to entrap; and, as a matter of fact, Captain White was not at all curious on these points. He had spent or gambled away the money he had possessed, and the hundred pounds which Sidney had agreed to pay him had become entirely necessary; and the money was all he cared about.

The whiskey decanter and the glass were on the table, and Sidney was helping him pretty freely; but though his sallow face was flushed, and his eyes bright, the latter had a restless and uneasy expression, and he looked from right to left every now and then with a covert air of fear and suspicion.

“Six o'clock to-morrow, then?” said the captain, as he tossed off his last glass and rose to go.

Sidney nodded, and glanced at his confederate half-sullenly.

“Yes, I suppose there—there isn't any risk, any danger, is there?”

Captain White laughed and shrugged his shoulders, his small, evil eyes resting on the downcast face with barely concealed contempt.

“Of course there is,” he said; “that is what you're paying me the hundred pounds for, isn't it?”

“But—but I was thinking of myself—said Sidney. “If it was found out—”

“You'd be in a bit of a hole,” said the captain—the might have said more truthfully, “you'd be in one of his Majesty's jails”—“but who's to find it out? After the ceremony I shall clear off, and you won't see me again. You won't want to, I suspect, eh? Besides, I've got other fish to fry—I don't mind telling you. And as to the girl, how is she to guess there's anything wrong, until—well, until you tell her? But that won't be perhaps, for ever so many months, if at all; and, of course you can square her. Women can always be squared, especially women of that class, don't you know. I suppose, from the little you dropped that night you were screwed, she's some kind of servant or dressmaker—anyhow, a girl below your class, eh, Richards?”

Sidney nodded and shut his lips.

“Oh, I ain't curious. It's no business of mine; and after I've played my little part I shall forget all about it. Little did I know I was a bit of a hater, did you? You wait until you see how well I'll do the parson to-morrow. Why, I should deceive the Archbishop of Canterbury. There!” he laughed, sardonically. “Keep your pecker up! Why, it's a little game that's played every day in the week by fellows who are in the know. What's the use of tying a noose round your neck that you can't get out of for the rest of your life? Got a cigar? You'll have the notes ready for to-morrow? I shall want 'em.”

(To be Continued.)

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(To be Continued.)

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Andrews, Miss Jessie, care P. M. G., St. John's	Farrell, Miss Sarah, care Wood's East E. Restaurant	Fleming, James, card Fleming, H.	Flynn, Miss Annie, Circular Road	Fitzgerald, Wm.	Flynn, E. J.	Foxon, Mrs. Barter's Hill	Fowler, Nellie, Belvidier Street	Foot, Mrs. C.	Allen's Square	Bray, A. W., Water Street	Barnes, W.H.	Brennan, Minnie, R. C. Teacher	Brine, Miss Mirra, New Gower St.	Brine, John, care G.P.O.	Brown, Mrs. James, Signal Hill Road	Brown, T. A., Carter's Hill	Rowden, Miss, card New Gower St.	Brown, Mrs., Colonial St.	Butt, Miss Nellie, care Mrs. Taft, Temperance St.	Butt, Miss Annie, Springdale Street	Butler, Geo. W., George's St.	Butler, Mrs. Norah, Circular Road	Buckle, James, card	Bowden, Mrs., Cochrane Street	Budden, Stephen, Gower Street	Butler, J.W., Rockbound Farm	Brennan, Mrs. J., Rockbound Farm	Crawford, Mary, Hagarty's Lane	Callahan, J., New Gower Street	Clarke, John, care Boot & Shoe Factory	Casey, M. J., card	Canning, J., card	Christian, Gilbert, care Post Office	Cooper, James, Marsh Road	Cole, George, Collins, Mrs. Mary Ann	Conolly, Mrs. P.	Corcoran, Miss M., River Head	Cullen, Capt. F. F., card	Curtis, Miss Blanche, King's Bridge Road	Curnew, James, Duckworth St.	Dew, Miss Aggie, Dempsy, Miss Stasia, Livingstone Street	Dempster, C. J., Jewelling, John, care G.P.O.	Donnelly, Wm.	Doyal, Jas. J., card	Dormady, Mrs. Wm.	Dunford, E. C., card	Dugmore, A. R.	Eavly, L., card	Eady, Herbert, Monroe St.	Zeckel, Miss Helen, card	Lovis, Master F., care Mr. Parker	Loder, Harold, Prescott St.	Squires, Wm., s.s. Cacouna	Ding, John, s.s. Durango	Mitchell, E., s.s. Durango	Walsh, John, card	Brushett, James, s.s. George Rose	McDonald, J., s.s. Home	LeRoux, E. W., s.s. Home	Flouter, Allen, s.s. Hetty Best	Cross, John M., s.s. Isabella	Brown, Henry, s.s. A. Larder	Norman, Nathan, s.s. Laura Doone	Beck, Exor, s.s. Maple Leaf	Gear, Thomas, s.s. Miss Ayre	Verge, Robert, s.s. Maggie	Robinson, J., s.s. Ryhope	Parsons, Thomas, s.s. Springbird	Moore, Roland, s.s. St. Clair	Guptill, Angus R., s.s. Wilfred M.	Mayers, Abraham	Marka, Stanley	Maloney, Miss Nellie, care Mrs. W. P. Hamilton	Martin, Master H. L., Cabot Street	Miller, Mrs. Mary A., James Street	Miles, John, Walsh's Square	Millan, Capt. F. J., card	Mills, J. E., late Colonial Cordage Co.	Morris, Eleize, Queen St.	Moore, Lizzie, Queen St.	Milley, Miss M., Pleasant Street	Miller, Miss E., Maxie Street	Morris, Mrs. Spencer St.	Moss, Miss Annie, Sheppard, E.H.	Moist, Edward, late Ontario	Morris, Albert, Wickford St.	Moore, John, ret'd.	Morgan, Patrick	Murphy, Thomas, Casey's St.	Mulcahy, John H., James' Street	Murphy, Alice, Black M. Road	Murphy, Rebecca, Water St.	Murphy, Mrs., Convent Square	Murphy, Kitty, card	McCarthy, Miss Kittie, care G. P. O.	McMaster, Capt., Water St.	McDonald, T., Brazil's Square	McLellan, Wm. G., Water St.	McKenzie, A., care Royal Stores	McKenzie, J. A., late Burin	McDonald, Dr. M. R.	McDonald, J. A.	Nelson, Peter	Newill, Denis, late Grand Falls	Noseworthy, John	Noble, Miss Sarah, care Mrs. Carter	Oak, Shim	O'Brien, Frank	O'Neill, Miss Bridget	O'Neill, James, George's St.	O'Brien, Mrs. Michael	Oxley, Mrs. E. J.	O'Driscoll, Miss M., Poor Asylum	Osmond, Arthur, Cumming's St.	Parsons, George, Golf Avenue	Penny, Geo. F., Hill	Pearce, Miss Lily, Hoytestown	Penney, Miss Susie, Lime Street	Pretty, Nehemiah, Power's Avenue	Prenter, Hector, Royal Hotel	Percey, Albert, Geogestown	Pike, Arthur, Golf Avenue	Pike, Mrs. F., card	Power, Mrs., Long Pond Road	Power, Miss B., card	Pynn, James, care G.P.O.	Pynn, Mr., Murray Street	Whelan, Mrs. Michael, care Mrs. Kelly	Walsh, Martin, Neagle's Hill	Warrilow, Mrs. D. G., care Mrs. H. McKenzie	Walsh, Miss Agnes, Duckworth Street	Walsh, Miss Maggie, care Mrs. Patrick Ryan	Walsh, John, card	Webber, Archibald, Pennywell Road	Whelan, Mrs. M., Duckworth Street	Whelan, Miss Eliza, Blackhead	Wilkinson, Evelyn, card	Wicks, Miss F., late General Hospital	Williams, Frederick, Springdale St.	Willeo, George, late Botwoodville	Williams, George, King's Road	Winsor, Fred, late Tilt Cove	Whiteway, Miss Annie, Cabot Street	Young, W. A.

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A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
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