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**For Her Sake;**  
**The Murder in Furness Wood.**

CHAPTER XXVII

"I cannot tell you," she replied vaguely; "you are one of them."  
"One of them!" he repeated. "One of whom?"  
"One of the Scarsdales," answered Diana promptly.  
"I understand," Sir Lisle laughed. "I could not think at first what you meant. Of course I am a Scarsdale; but that is no fault of mine. And why should that take away your confidence in me?"  
"I do not say that it does," said Diana, conscious of the intense delight it gave her to be talking to him there in the moonlight.  
"Do you consider all the Scarsdales your mortal foes?" he asked.  
"Don't ask me such questions," said Diana. "Talk to me of something less unpleasant."  
"You must not think me curious," he went on—"I am simply interested. I never thought about the matter until I came to-day; then it occurred to me that it must have been hard, after reigning here as queen and mistress, to see another take your place."  
Gracefully she drew the rich sables more closely around her.  
"It was hard," she answered, quietly; but he saw that she shuddered as with cold.  
"Tell me the hardest part of it, Diana," he said.  
"The hardest," she questioned, "it was not the loss of rule and power; it was not the loss of position or of liberty; it was not the feeling that home was no longer home, but an abode for strangers. It was that I was no longer with my father."  
"I thought so," said Sir Lisle, emphatically.  
"And now," added Diana, "I refuse to say another word upon the matter. I did not come out into this lovely moonlight to talk of myself. Change the subject, Sir Lisle."  
"I will. Let me tell you that in this moonlight you look to me like the goddess Diana."  
She laughed a sweet tenuous laugh that stirred the blood in his veins.

**And the Worst is Yet to Come—**



bare to her, and that she saw there the great truth of her life, that she loved him with a supreme love.  
"I am afraid you will take cold, Diana," said a voice near her, which she knew to be Sir Royal's.  
He shrank as from a blow when the radiant face was turned to his, and he saw that the love he had been denied had been bestowed upon another.  
Sir Lisle touched Diana's cloak lightly.  
"Miss Cameron is safe in this," he said.  
"Her love is reciprocated. May Heaven bless the child!" said Sir Royal to himself as he turned away.  
Indoors music and cards were resorted to, and the young heiress was eagerly sought to charm them with her fine contralto voice. Diana's repertoire was extensive enough. She was equally at home in France chansons, Italian love-songs and German lieder; but she loved best the old English ballads and the old Scotch songs. She sang first:  
"Oh, my love is like the red, red rose  
That sweetly blows in June!  
Oh, my love is like a melody  
That's sweetly sung in tune!"  
with its sweet refrain:  
"An' I would come again, my dear,  
Were it twice ten thousand mile."  
Sir Lisle listened with rapture.  
"She could not be commonplace if she tried," he said to himself.  
He determined to ask her to be his wife, and then he wondered whether she would accept him. When he came to think of what had passed between them, every word, every look, she was mystified. It seemed at times that she loved him, and then again, as when she flung the flower beneath her feet, it seemed as though she must hate him.  
This evening she had been sweet and loving; she had given him the flower that he asked for; she had looked into his face with love-lighted eyes; and yet her haughty little head had been raised once or twice in a fashion that did not speak of love.  
Sir Lisle pondered this puzzle; but he failed to arrive at a satisfactory solution of it. Did she like him, or did she not? He would have given much that night to have the question answered. He could not quite understand Diana. With so much that was noble and lofty in her character, there was something, he fancied, of caprice—and yet caprice was foreign to her.  
So he dreamed of the future, and wondered what time would reveal.

CHAPTER XXVIII

"I knew I should hate this day," said Diana, when she saw the dawn. "It will bring anything but happiness to me."  
She knew that; but even she never dreamed of what would happen before the day closed. It broke beautiful enough, with just a chill touch in the air which made it fresh and invigorating, this day that brought to her father the realization of his heart's desire. The Duke and Duchess were coming; and his wife had given him a lesson in demeanor.  
"Try to be quiet," she impressed upon her husband. "There is nothing betrays want of good breeding so much as fuss, eagerness, and undue ceremony. Let everything take its natural course; do not excite the servants. I assure you nothing would displease the Duchess more than fuss."  
"Poor papa!" she said to herself. "He ought to enjoy his triumph; he has paid a stupendous price for it."  
Something had softened her heart, and made the earth and sky seem brighter, had made the flowers seem sweeter. She did not wait to ask herself what it was; but she gave herself up to its gracious influence. Seeing her father walking with a preoccupied air on the terrace, she went to him. Ah, surely something had softened Diana's heart! She clasped her white hands round his arm. A sharp pang came to her as she remembered their last long talk on the terrace and all that had happened since then.  
"Papa," she said, "I believe this is the happiest day of your life."  
He turned to her a face glowing with undisguised satisfaction.  
"I think it is, Diana," he replied.  
She could not tell why the words hurt her; but it seemed as though neither she nor her dead mother had any part or share in this happiness of her father's.  
"I hope," she said, gently, "that it will go off as you wish, papa."  
"I have no time to talk to you now,

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