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Which Was The Heir?

(Continued.)

CHAPTER XXIV.

COTTIE hurried home, her head full of new impressions and ideas; but the deepest impression was that made by the resemblance of the portrait to Geoff. It haunted her; and, of course, made her long for him worse than ever.

Betty dealt out a soft scolding to the truant; but Cottie appeared her by sticking to the gloves most industriously after tea; and while she was at work a boy drove up in a donkey-cart to the cottage gate and dumped down a dress-basket.

'From Miss Eva,' he announced, staring open-eyed at Cottie's graceful figure as she sauntered down the path to him. 'From Miss Eva, so you'd better take care of 'em,' he said. 'What's your name?'

'Find out!' retorted Cottie, 'and while you're doing so, carry the basket to the house.'

The boy got down, still staring, and in profound silence did as he was told, backing out again with his eyes still fixed on Cottie.

'They're the things I've to mend for Miss Eva,' said Betty. 'I'll take them up to my room.'

'I'll carry them up,' said Cottie; and she lifted the basket in her strong arms and carried it into her own room. She stood and looked at the basket

for a moment or two curiously, then she unfastened the hasp and lifted the lid. There were one or two dresses and some underclothing, and she turned them over with a woman's appreciative touch.

Gradually a strange wistfulness grew upon her a desire to lift the things out, to look at them more closely. She did so, and laid them out on the bed, examining them one by one.

As she held them at arm's-length and passed her hand over them she was assailed by another desire—the longing to put them on. In fact, in

the presence of these, the first woman's clothes that had come under her hand for a long time, the instinct of her sex asserted itself.

She stole to the door and softly shot the bolt into its place, then swiftly took off her boy's serge suit and slipped into one of the dresses, a tailor-made homespun. It was a little small for her at the waist, but in other respects it fitted her exactly, and she moved to the glass almost absently.

But when she saw herself she started and the colour rushed to her face; for the strangeness of the figure upon which she looked startled her.

The transfiguration was astonishing, bewildering. A moment before she had been an ordinary and rather short boy, and now she was a slim and—something whispered—a graceful girl! Her breath came fast and thickly, and she looked at herself with the blood burning in her cheeks and her lips apart.

For, perhaps the first time, a thrill of something like shame ran all through her, and she realised the sacrifice she had made in deserting her sex; and, for the first time, she thought:

'What would Geoff—what would they all say, if they knew?'

'The thought made her cower before the glass and hide her burning face with her hands.

But Betty's voice called up to her, telling her that supper was ready; and, calling back in a quavering voice that she was coming, she slipped out of dress, and, with slow, reluctant hands, folded it up and replaced it in the basket.

The colour still lingered in her cheeks when she went down, and she entered the living room with so obvious a shyness that Betty said:

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to Betty's cottage. Now and again Eva walked or rode over; but very often Cottie stole away and hid herself at her approach—the sense of her sex was growing upon her and made her nervous and fearful.

'One evening, as she was sitting at work beside Betty, the old lady said, with a shake of her head:

'Mr. Sidney Basington's coming back.'

'Oh, is he? Has he been away?'

responded Cottie, indifferently.

'Yes. He's been in London, so I hear,' explained Betty; 'and for my part I'm main sorry he didn't stop there. It 'ud be better for Sir Edward.'

An hour or two later, Cottie leaning on the gate, saw him drive by in the dog-cart from the station.

He pulled up and cast a scowling glance at her; and Cottie noticed that his face was more sallow than when she had last seen it, and that it looked haggard and drawn.

'So you're here still, boy, are you?'

he said in a condescending tone. Cottie nodded.

'Yes; I'm here still; and what business is it of yours?'

He opened his lips as if to swear at her, but checked himself and drove on, for there was only just time for him to dress for dinner.

He dined alone, and though the meal was as elaborate and perfect as usual, he did not seem to enjoy it; but he permitted Yates to fill his glass pretty frequently, and after a while he seemed more cheerful and at ease.

After dinner he lit a cigar and strolled through the gardens to the plantation, and, seating himself on a fallen tree, waited. He had not long to wait before Rachel came to him, gliding in her peculiar way between the trunks of the trees, and looking over her shoulder to see that she was not observed. 'Oh, what a time you have been away, Sidney!' she murmured, as he took her in his arms.

'It has seemed years! But how pale and—' and worried you look!' she added, as she bent back to gaze at him.

His sallow face flushed, and his shifty eyes avoided hers.

'I've had rather an anxious time, Rachel,' he said. 'It wasn't as easy—the arrangements, I mean—as I thought.'

'You poor dear!' she murmured, lovingly. 'But it is all right, isn't it?'

'Oh, yes; but I've made a little alteration in our plans, dear,' he said. 'I know you don't like the idea of a marriage at a registrar's.'

'No, I don't,' she said, promptly. 'It doesn't seem—seem regular.'

'Neither does it to me,' he said, knocking the ash from his cigar.

'And so—so I've managed that we should be married by a clergyman, a properly ordained clergyman, at the rooms I've engaged.'

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She drew a breath of relief and satisfaction.

'Oh, that is much nicer,' she said. 'How good and sweet of you, dearest! A clergyman!—I suppose I could not have bridesmaids and—and the rest of it?'

'No; oh, no; I'm afraid not,' he answered, and he bent aside to re-light his cigar, which seemed to have gone out at that moment. 'You see, we have to be just as careful and cautious as if we were married at a registrar's. If my uncle—'

(To be Continued.)

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A	Andrews, Miss Jessie, care P. M. Gt. St. John's	Frampton, Miss Annie, card, Duckworth St.	M	Mayers, Abraham	R	Ryan, John
Adams, Miss Maud	Wood's East E. Restaurant	Farrell, Miss Sarah, care	Maloney, Miss Nellie,	Markes, Stanley	Ryan, Miss Katie,	New Gower Street
Adams, C. E., late Pt. St. Charles	Fleming, James, card	Flumming, H.	care Mrs. W. P. Hamilton	Martin, Master H. L.,	Ryan, Miss Mary,	Barter's Hill
Aspel, Miss Mary, card	Flynn, Miss Annie,	Flynn, Miss Annie,	Cabot Street	Miller, Mrs. Mary A.,	Redman, Ed. s.s. Prospero	Ring, Mrs. Benjamin
Blackler, Miss E., card,	Fitzgerald, Wm.	Flynn, E. J.,	James Street	Miles, John, Walsh's Square	Ricks, John,	late James Town
Bartlett, Mrs. Susan,	Foran, Mrs. Barter's Hill	Foot, Mrs. C.,	Belveder Street	Millan, Capt. F. J., card		
Barnett, Miss Mary,	Foot, Mrs. C.,	Foot, Mrs. C.,	Belveder Street	Mills, J. E., late		
Bray, A. W., card	Foote, Mrs. C.,	Foote, Mrs. C.,	Belveder Street	Morris, Eleize, Queen St.		
Brennan, Wm.,	Foote, Mrs. C.,	Foote, Mrs. C.,	Belveder Street	Moore, Lizzie, retd.		
Brine, Miss Mirria,	Foote, Mrs. C.,	Foote, Mrs. C.,	Belveder Street	Murphy, Miss M.,		
Brine, John, care G.P.O.	Foote, Mrs. C.,	Foote, Mrs. C.,	Belveder Street	Murphy, Miss E.,		
Brown, Mrs. James,	Foote, Mrs. C.,	Foote, Mrs. C.,	Belveder Street	Murphy, Mrs. Spencer St.		
Brown, T. A.,	Foote, Mrs. C.,	Foote, Mrs. C.,	Belveder Street	Murphy, Mrs. J. C., retd.		
Brown, Patrick,	Foote, Mrs. C.,	Foote, Mrs. C.,	Belveder Street	Murphy, Mrs. J. C., retd.		
Bowden, Miss, card,	Foote, Mrs. C.,	Foote, Mrs. C.,	Belveder Street	Murphy, Mrs. J. C., retd.		
Bowden, Mrs., Colonial St.	Foote, Mrs. C.,	Foote, Mrs. C.,	Belveder Street	Murphy, Mrs. J. C., retd.		
Brown, N. A.,	Foote, Mrs. C.,	Foote, Mrs. C.,	Belveder Street	Murphy, Mrs. J. C., retd.		
Butt, Miss Nellie,	Foote, Mrs. C.,	Foote, Mrs. C.,	Belveder Street	Murphy, Mrs. J. C., retd.		
Budden, Stephen,	Foote, Mrs. C.,	Foote, Mrs. C.,	Belveder Street	Murphy, Mrs. J. C., retd.		
Butler, J. W.,	Foote, Mrs. C.,	Foote, Mrs. C.,	Belveder Street	Murphy, Mrs. J. C., retd.		
Brennan, Mrs. J.,	Foote, Mrs. C.,	Foote, Mrs. C.,	Belveder Street	Murphy, Mrs. J. C., retd.		
Crawford, Mary,	Foote, Mrs. C.,	Foote, Mrs. C.,	Belveder Street	Murphy, Mrs. J. C., retd.		
Callahan, J.,	Foote, Mrs. C.,	Foote, Mrs. C.,	Belveder Street	Murphy, Mrs. J. C., retd.		
Clarke, John,	Foote, Mrs. C.,	Foote, Mrs. C.,	Belveder Street	Murphy, Mrs. J. C., retd.		
Casey, M. J., card	Foote, Mrs. C.,	Foote, Mrs. C.,	Belveder Street	Murphy, Mrs. J. C., retd.		
Canning, J., card	Foote, Mrs. C.,	Foote, Mrs. C.,	Belveder Street	Murphy, Mrs. J. C., retd.		
Christian, Gilbert,	Foote, Mrs. C.,	Foote, Mrs. C.,	Belveder Street	Murphy, Mrs. J. C., retd.		
Cooper, James,	Foote, Mrs. C.,	Foote, Mrs. C.,	Belveder Street	Murphy, Mrs. J. C., retd.		
Cole, George,	Foote, Mrs. C.,	Foote, Mrs. C.,	Belveder Street	Murphy, Mrs. J. C., retd.		
Collins, Mrs. Mary Ann	Foote, Mrs. C.,	Foote, Mrs. C.,	Belveder Street	Murphy, Mrs. J. C., retd.		
Connolly, Mrs. P.,	Foote, Mrs. C.,	Foote, Mrs. C.,	Belveder Street	Murphy, Mrs. J. C., retd.		
Corcoran, Miss M.,	Foote, Mrs. C.,	Foote, Mrs. C.,	Belveder Street	Murphy, Mrs. J. C., retd.		
Cullen, Capt. F. F., card	Foote, Mrs. C.,	Foote, Mrs. C.,	Belveder Street	Murphy, Mrs. J. C., retd.		
Curtis, Miss Blanche,	Foote, Mrs. C.,	Foote, Mrs. C.,	Belveder Street	Murphy, Mrs. J. C., retd.		
Curnew, James,	Foote, Mrs. C.,	Foote, Mrs. C.,	Belveder Street	Murphy, Mrs. J. C., retd.		
D	Jawe, Miss Aggie	Kelly, Miss Sarah, card	O	Oak, Shim	W	Whelan, Mrs. Michael,
Demsey, Miss Stacia,	Kelly, Patrick,	Kelly, Patrick,	O'Brien, Frank	Whelan, Mrs. Michael,	W	Whelan, Mrs. Michael,
Livingstone Street	Kelly, Miss Mary,	Kelly, Miss Mary,	O'Neill, Miss Bridget	Walsh, Martin,	W	Walsh, Martin,
Dempster, C. J.,	Kelly, Edward, care G.P.O.	Kelly, Edward, care G.P.O.	O'Neill, James, George's St.	Warrilow, Mrs. D. G.,	W	Warrilow, Mrs. D. G.,
Donnelly, Wm.,	Kavanagh, Peter, card	Kavanagh, Peter, card	O'Brien, Mrs. Michael	Wicks, Miss P.,	W	Wicks, Miss P.,
Doyal, Jas. J.,	L	L	Oxley, Mrs. E. J.,	Williams, Frederick,	W	Williams, Frederick,
Dormady, Mrs. Wm.	Lander, Frank,	Lander, Frank,	O'Driscoll, Miss M.,	Springdale St.	W	Springdale St.
Dunford, E. C., card	Lilly, Miss Mary,	Lilly, Miss Mary,	Osmond, Arthur,	Wilcox, George,	W	Wilcox, George,
Dugmore, A. R.,	Life, Mrs. Robert	Life, Mrs. Robert	P	Walsh, Miss Maggie,	W	Walsh, Miss Maggie,
E	Eady Herbert, Monroe St.	Eady Herbert, Monroe St.	Parsons, George,	Walsh, John, card	W	Walsh, John, card
Ezekiel, Miss Helien, card	LeMerchant Road	LeMerchant Road	Pearce, Miss Lidly,	Webber, Archibald,	W	Webber, Archibald,
F	Loverless, Miss Georgena,	Loverless, Miss Georgena,	Penney, Miss Susie,	Whelan, Mrs. M.,	W	Whelan, Mrs. M.,
Feader, David,	Long Pond Road	Long Pond Road	Pretty, Nehemiah,	Whelan, Miss Eliza,	W	Whelan, Miss Eliza,
care Mr. Parker	Loder, Harold, Prescott St.	Loder, Harold, Prescott St.	Prenter, Hector,	Blackhead	W	Blackhead

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Whillor, Capt. David,	King, John,	King, John,	J	schr. Hetty Beas	V	Verge, Robert,
Knudson, Ruda,	Mitchell, F.,	Mitchell, F.,	J	ross, John M.,	F	F Robinson, J. s.s. Ryhope
Withal, George,	G	G	L	schr. Isabella	P	P Parsons, Thomas,
Nolan, Frederick,	Walsh, John, card,	Walsh, John, card,	B	schr. A. Larder	S	S Moore, Roland,
Des Veaux,	schr. George Rose	schr. George Rose	L	schr. Laura Doone	W	W Guptill, Angus R.,
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