LORNA DOONE

CHAPTER XIX

ANOTHER DANGEROUS INTERVIEW Although I left the Denes at once, having little heart for further questions of the wise woman, and being afraid to visit her house under the "Devil's having little heart for further questions of the wise woman, and being afraid to visit her house under the "Devil's cheese-ring" (to which she kindly invited me), and although I ran most part of the way, it was very late for farmhouse time upon a Sunday evening, before I was back at Plover's Barrows. My mother had great desire to know all shout, the matter: but I could not re-

ed to pass a week or two, with more pain of hand than heart to me. But when the weather changed in earnest, and the frost was gone, and the south-west wind blew softly, and the lambs were at play with the daisies, it

was more than I could do to keep from thought of Lorna. For now the fields were spread with growth, and the waters clad with sunshine, and light and shadow step by step, wandered over the furzy cleves. All the sides of the hilly wood were gathered in and out with green, silver-gray, or russet points, according to the several manner of the trees be was more than I could do to keep from were gathered in and out with green, silver gray, or russet points, according to the several manner of the trees beginning. And if one stood beneath an elm, with any heart to look at it, lo! all ground was strewn with flakes (too the ground was strewn with makes (too small to know their meaning), and all the sprays above were rasped and trembling with a redness. And so I stopped be-neath the tree, and carved L. D. upon it, and wondered at the buds of thought that seemed to swell inside me.

The upshot of it all was this, that as or fancy, and as my life was not worth living without constant sign of her, forth I must again to find her, and forth I must again to find her, and say more than a man can tell. Therefore, without waiting longer for the moving of the spring, dressed I was in grand of the spring, dressed I was in grand attire (so far as I had gotten it), and thinking my appearance good, although with doubts about it (being forced to dress in the hay-tallat), round the corner of the wood-stack went I very know-ingly—for Lizzie's eyes were wondrous sharp—and then I was were wondrous ne who would care or dare to speak of

It lay upon my conscience often that I had not made dear Annie secret to this history; although in all things I could trust her, and she loved me like a lamb. Many and many a time I tried, and more than once began the thing; but there came a dryness in my throat, and a knocking under the roof of my mouth, and a louging to put it off again, as perhaps might be the wisest. And then I would remember too that I had no right to speak of Lorna as if she were common property.

This time I longed to take my gun.

has quite escaped me; and in the midst of a tiny spring arose, with erystal beads in it, and a soft voice as of a laughing dream, and dimples like a sleeping babe. Then, after going round a little, with surprise of daylight, the water over-welled the edge, and softly went through lines of light to shadows of untold bourne.

While I was gazing at all these things with wonder and some sadness, Lorna turned upon me lightly (as her manner was) and said:

"Where are the new-laid eggs, Master

This time I longed to take my gun, and was half resolved to do so; be and was half resolved to do so; because it seemed so hard a thing to be shot at, and have no chance of shooting; but whom I came to remember the steepness and the slippery nature of the waterslide, there seemed but little likelihood of keeping dry the powder. Therefore I was armed with nothing but a good start bolly staff seasoned well for many stout holly staff, seasoned well for many a winter in our back-kitchen chimney.

gh my heart was leaping high the weather, and the welcome way of everything. There was that power all round, that power and that goodness, which make us come, as it were, outside our bodily selves to share them. Over and beside us breathes the joy of hope and promise; under foot are troubles past; in the distance bowering newness tempts us ever forward. We quicken with largesse of life, and spring with vivid mystery.

And in good seath the softness of safe out of my pocket. Lorna looked with growing wonder, as I added one to by side, and bidden her now to tell them, to my amazement what did she do but be safe out of my pocket. Lorna looked with growing wonder, as I added one to by side, and bidden her now to tell them, to my amazement what did she do but shame, scarce daring even to look at her, because her grief was not like Annie's—a thing that could be coaxed away, and left a joy in going—"oh, what have I done to vex you so 2".

pats of running, and bright anger at

This was very pleasant to me, now This was very pleasant to me, now and then, to gaze at, blinking as the water blinked, and falling back to sleep again. Suddenly my sleep was broken by a shade cast over me; between me and the low sunlight Lorna Doone was

of the way, it was very late for farmhouse time upon a Sunday evening, before I was back at Plover's Barrows. My mother had great desire to know all about the matter; but I could not reconcile it with my respect so to frighten her. Therefore I tried to sleep it off, keeping my own counsel; and when that proved of no avail, I strove to work it away, if might be, by heavy outdoor labor, and weariness, and good feeding. These, indeed, had some effect, and helped to pass a week or two, with more pain rock, and leading up the mountain, by

Lorna raised the sereen for me, but I had much ado to pass, on account of bulk and stature. Instead of being proud of my size (as it seemed to me she ought to be), Lorna laughed so quietly that I was ready to knock my head or elbows againstlanything, and say no more about it. However, I got through at last without a word of compliment, and broke into the pleasant room, the lone retreat of Lorna.

The chamber was of unhewn rock, The chamber was of unbewn rock, round, as near as might be, eighteen or twenty feet across, and gay with rich variety of fern and moss and lichen. The fern was in its winter still, or coiling for the spring-tide; but moss was in abundant life, some feathering, and some gobleted, and some with fringe of red to it. Overhead there was no ceiling but the sky itself, flaked with little clouds of April whitely wandering over uds of April whitely wandering over clouds of April whitely wandering over it. The floor was made of soft, low grass mixed with moss and primroses; and in a niche of shelter moved the delicate wood-sorrel. Here and there, around the sides, were "chairs of living stone," as some Latin writer says, whose name has quite escaped me; and in the midst

quicken with largesse of life, and spring with vivid mystery.

And in good sooth, I had to spring, and no mystery about it, ere ever I got to the top of the rift leading into Doone glade. For the stream was rushing down in strength, and raving at every

catch her up and kiss her, in the manner in which she was looking: only it smote me suddenly that this would be a low advantage of her trust and helplessness. She seemed to know what I would be at, and to doubt very greatly about it, whether as a child of old she might permit the usage. All sorts of things went through my head, as I made myself look away from her, for fear of being tempted beyond what I could bear. And the unshot of it was that I said, within my

ing, but grieved and harassed more and more by the coarseness, and the violence, and the ignorance, around her. In vain she strove, from year to year, to make the young men hearken, to teach them what became their birth, and give them sense of honor. It was her favorite word revert when I and they called her.

"By your face, Master Ridd, I see that

"And so in the early day, perhaps, "And so in the early day, pernaps, when morning breathes around me, and the sun is going upward, and light is playing everywhere, I am not so far beside them all as to live in shadow. But when the evening gathers down, and the sky is spread with sadness, and the day has separt itself then a cloud of lonely

CHAPTER XX.

LORNA BEGINS HER STORY

"I can not go through all my thoughts so as to make them clear to you, nor have I ever dwelt on things to shape a story of them. I know not where the and hurries me, in the carrages and have I ever dwelt on things to shape a story of them. I know not where the story of them. I know not where the beginning was, nor where the middle ought to be, nor even how at the present time I feel or think, or ought to think. I look for help to those around me, who should tell me right and wrong (being older and much wiser), I meet sometimes with laughter, and at other times with anger.

"There are but two in the world who gover listen and try to help me; one of fortune, which made me (helpless as I

are to deal with make my blood to tingle, had no more of manners than to urge poor Lorna onward, hoping, perhaps in depth of heart, that she might have to hold by me, when the worst came to the worst of it. Therefore she went on again.

The clares of more than average excellence, and better than any two men to be found in Devonshire, or any four in Somerset. Very few things can have been beyond his power of performance, and yet he left his daughter to starve upon a near done, and look. And in good sooth, I had to spring, and no mystery about it, rece very proudity, the answered, viry it is mothing done by you, Master kild, 'the mastered very proudity, and not mystery about it, are overly goot to the top of the rift leading into Dooms, and the state of the property of the top of the rift leading into Dooms, and the state of the property of the pr

mit the usage. All sorts of things went by a shade cast over me; between mad the low smilght Derna Doone was standing.

"Master Ridd, are you mad?" she said, and took my hand to move me. "Not mad, but half asideep," I answered, feigning not to notice her, that so she might keep hold of me. "Come away, come away, if you care of life. The patrol will be hered fired with the patrol will be hered fired by the patrol will be dealer. That very day I chanced to return though the patrol will not be fired by any different by and the patrol be deepend with me to do the patrol will be fore the ravens.

"It does not happen many times that one timely head to come for ner," I was allowed to visit in me is the defend with a line, when the dreary weight creeps on.

"It does not happen a patricle, when the said, thered

Brown it will to we

just to let her know; "and I will follow you, Mistrees Lorns, albeit without any let or hinder you, Mistrees Lorns, albeit without any let or hinder though with many timid glances toward the upper valley, to and into the little bower, where the linkt through the before though I cannot now go seek for lit, and my memory is but a wormout hind in which I was like to drown myself through the control without anothered greatly, and individually and the possible of that she is atmost tree from all control of place and season, and is allowed to pass where none even of the youths may go. Being so wide, and short, and flat, she has none to pay her compliments; and, were there any, she would scorn them, as not being Cornishmen. Sometimes she wanders far, by moonlight, on the moors and up the rivers, to give her father (as she says) another chance of finding her; and she comes back not a whit defeated,

> "Herein she sets me good example of "Herein sie sets me good example of a patience and contentment hard for me to imitate. Oftentimes I am so vexed by things I cannot meddle with, yet cannot be kept from me, that I am at the point of flying from this dreadful valley,

discouraged, or depressed, but con-

"There are but two in the world who were listen and try to help me; one of them is my grandfather, and the other is a man of wisdom, whom we call Counselor. My grandfather, Sir Ensor Doone, is very old and harsh of manner (except, indeed, to me); he seems to know what is right and wrong, but not to want to think of it. The Counselor, on the other hand, though full of life and subtleties, treats my questions as of play, and not gravely worth his while to answer, unless he can make wit of them.

And among the women there are none with whom I can hold converse, since my Annt Sabina died, who took such pains to teach me. She was a lady of high repute, and bofty ways and learning, but grieved and harassed more and more by the coarseness, and the violence, and the ignorance, around her. In vain she strove, from year to year, to make the young men hearken, to teach them what became their birth, and give

make the young men hearken, to teach them what became their birth, and give bourne.

While I was gazing at all these things with wonder and some sadness, Lorna turned upon me lightly (as her manner was) and said:

"Where are the new-laid eggs, Master Ridd or hat blue hen ceased laying?"

I did not altogether like the way in which she said it, with a sort of dialect, as if my speech could be laughed at et. as if my speech could be laughed at et. as if my speech could be rought the crush them in the narrow ways, Mistress Lorna."

And so I laid her out two dozen upon the moss of the rock ledge, unwinding the whisp of hay from each as it came and when I had placed them side by side, and bridge hard for mer and when I had placed them side by side, and bridge have hisp of hay from each as it came and when I had placed them what became their birth, and give the flower of the winds and they called her word, poor thing! and they called her word and they called her word in the safe of them. The counties word, poor the safe of them. The counties word when I had to the warm of the word and along the whisp of hay from each as it came and the safe of them. The counties word in the poor boone, and the broad so in the call of the word in the word of the word in the poor to the counties. The counties word in the word of the word in the word of the will be any called the word in the word word in the word word in the word in the word word in the wor

by the comfert, I did my best to hold my peace, and triad to look very cheerful. Then thinking that might be bad manners, I went to wipe her eyes for her.

"Master Ridd," she began again, "I am both ashamed and vexed at my own childish folly. But you, who have a mother, who thinks (you say) so much of you, and sisters, and a quiet home, vou cannot tell (it is not likely) what a lonely nature is. How it leaps in mirth sometimes, with only heaven touching. "That yeve day I chanced to return the comments of the grant and sorely, for the sake of seeing you. I know right well sor wrong, yet have plentiful sense of fear when brought before that white haired of which has a strange, softsmile, and a gaze they weakness and with want of food she lost will be that she was sleeping. With weakness and with want of food she lost pour cannot tell (it is not likely) what a lonely nature is. How it leaps in mirth sometimes, with only heaven touching. "That yeve day I chanced to return the comments of the came no more to help her, dwell three days near the mouth of the and then it was closed over, the while that she was sleeping. With weakness and with want of food she lost pour annot tell (it is not likely) what a lonely nature is. How it leaps in mirth sometimes, with only heaven touching. "That yeve day I chanced to return the came no more to help her, dwell three days near the mouth of the and then it was closed over, the while that she was sleeping. With weakness and with want of food she lost provided in the came no more to help her, dwell three days near the mouth of the hanks a strange, softsmile, and a gaze they when I was quite a stripling lad—" when I was quite a stripling lad—" "Worshipful guardian," I said, there is protection, I am as safe from all bones of fear when brought before that white hire of white hire of which the is rough with them they have of themselves. Under his protection, I am as safe from all sense of fear when brought before that white hire of which having eaten the belong that the is rough whith

the middle of our vale, with the water skirting or cleaving it. You have never been up so far as that—at least to the best of my knowledge—but you see it like a long gray spot, from the top of the cliffs above us. Here I was not likely to meet any of our people, because the young ones are afraid of some ancient tale about it, and the old ones have no love of trees where gunshots are uncertain.

"It was more almost than dusk, down below the tree-leaves, and I was eager to go through, and be again beyond it. For the gray dark hung around me, scarcely showing shadow; and the little light that glimmered seemed to come up from the ground. For the earth was strewn with the winter-spread and coil of last year's foliage, the lichened claws of chalky twigs, and the numberless decay which gives a light in its decaying. I, for my part, hastened shyly, ready to draw back and run from hare, or rabbit, or small field-mouse.

At a sudden turn of the narrow path, where it stooped again to the river, a man leaped out from behind a tree and stopped me, and seized hold of me. I tried to shriek, but my voice was still:

There is scarce a man worth a cross of butter, but what you may find a hole in his shield within four generations. And so I struck our own escutcheon, and it sounded hollow. There is an all paped out from behind a tree and stopped me, and seized hold of me. I tried to shriek, but my voice was still:

The was more almost than dusk again to the thing was far too dull for me, sadventure, moving that the thing was far too dull for me, all I it the sadventure, moving chance and hot encounter; therefore, all of law I learned was how to live without it. Nevertheless, for amusement's sake, as I must needs be at my de-kan hour or so in the afternoon, I took to the sporting branch of the law, the pitfalls and the ambuscades; and of all therein, pedigrees are traps to be laid therein, pedigrees are the areset. There is scarce a man worth a cross of butter, but what you may find a hole in his shield within four generations. And so I struck our own escutions. And so I struck our own escutions are sufficiently and the ambuscades; and of all the area to save the properties.

where it stooped again to the river, a man leaped out from behind a tree and stopped me, and seized hold of me. I tried to shriek, but my voice was still; and I could only hear my heart.

that it can see of you. But I pray you keep it still, unless you would give to dusty death your very best cousin and trusty guardian, Alan Brandir, of Loch

Awe.

"You my guardian 2" I said for the
"You my guardian 2" I said for the angle said and a said and a said a said a said and a said a sai

is Lorna Doone."
"He looked at me with gravity, and that the booked at me with gravity are the same claim to

was inclined to make some claim to closer consideration, upon the score of kinship; but I shrunk back, and only

ed, atthough he was dressed quite like a man. He led me in a courtly manner, stepping at his tallest to an open place beside the water, where the light came as in channel, and was made the most of by glancing waves and fair white stones.

"Now am I to your liking cousin?" he asked, when I bad gazed at him until I was almost ashamed, except at such a

was almost ashamed, except at such a stripling. "Does my Cousin Lorna judge kindly of her guardian, and her nearest

mutual?"

"Truly, I know not," I said; "but you seem good-natured, and to have no harm in you. Do they trust you with a sword?"

"But, sir, all that you have of law is how to live without it."

"Fairly met, fair consin mine"

sword?"

"For in my usage among men of stature and strong presence, this pretty youth, so tricked and slender, seemed nothing but a doll to me. Although he seared me in the wood, now that I saw him in good twilight, lo! he was but little greater than my little self; and so tasseled and so ruffled with a mint of brayery, and a green coat barred with red, and a slim sword hanging under

"I turned aside, and there is none to do that better than your aunt, my mother. Although she knows not of my coming, she is longing to receive you. Come, and in a few months' time you shall set the mode at court, instead of pining here, and weaving coronals of daisies."

"I turned aside, and though the little sharpening. And there is none to do that better than your aunt, my mother. Although she knows not of my coming, she is longing to receive you. Come, and in a few months' time you shall set the mode at court, instead of pining here, and weaving coronals of daisies."

"He leaued against a willow-tree, and drawing from a gilded b thing like a stick, placed it between his hips, and then, striking a flint on steel, made fire and caught it upon touch-wood. With this he kindled the tip of the stick blue and smelling on the air like I had never seen this done though acquainted with tobacco-pipes said: 'this make "It was more almost than dusk, down but little: although I have capac

Awe.'

"You my guardian?" I said, for the idea was too ludicrous; and ludicrous things always strike me first, through some fault of nature.

"I have in truth, that honor, madam," he answered, with a sweeping bow; "unless I err in taking you for Mistress Lorna Doone."

You have not with the very highest honor, and would heal ten holes in our escutcheon. What noble family but springs from a captain among robbers? Trade alone can spoil our blood, robbery purifies it. The robbery of one age is the chivalry of the next. We may start anew, and vie with even the nobility of France, if we can once enroll

norna Doone."
You have not mistaken me. My name storna Doone."
"He looked at me with gravity, and blooser consideration, upon the score of looked at me with gravity, and blooser consideration, upon the score of looked at me with gravity, and blooser consideration, upon the score of looked looked at me with gravity, and blooked at me with gravity and blooked at me with gravity and looked looked at me with gravity and looked lo

sir. how you are my guardian? "That I will do. You are sinship; but I shrunk back, and only said, "Yes my name is Lorna Doone."

"Then I am your faithful guardian, Alan Brandir, of Loch Awe; called Lord Alan Brandir, son of a worthy peer of Scotland. Now, will you confide in under which claim I am here, to neglect under which claim I am here, to neglect Alan Brandir, of Loch Awe; called Lord Alan Brandir, son of a worthy peer of Scotland. Now, will you confide in me?"
"I confide in you!" I cried looking at him in amazement; "why you are not from scenes and deeds which (though of from scenes and deeds

older than I am !"

"Yes I am, three years, at least. You, my ward, are not sixteen. I, your worshipful guardian, am almost nineteen years of age."

"Upon hearing this I looked at him, for that seemed then a venerable age; but the more I looked the more I doubted, although he was dressed quite like a man. He led main a seemed quite like a guardians. But if my grandfather, he will listen to you my grandfather, he will listen to you quietly, and take no advantage of you."

"'I thank you much, kind Mistress Lorna, to lead the goose into the fox's den! But, setting by all thought of danger, I have other reasons against it. Now, come with your faithful guardian, child. I will pledge my honor against all harm and to hear you safe to London. all harm, and to bear you safe to London. kinsman? In a word, is our admiration | By the law of the realm, a simple skinsman? By the law of the realm, I am now en-

"'But, sir, all that you have learned

"' Fairly met, fair cousin mine! Your

red, and a slim sword hanging under him, it was the utmost I could do to look at him half gravely.

Although he seemed so light of mind, and gay in dress and manner, I could not doubt his honesty, and saw beneath CHAPTER XXI

LORNA ENDS HEE STORY

"It is not a twelvemonth yet, although it seems ten years agone, since I blew the downy glove to learn the time of day, or set beneath my chin the veinings of the varnished buttercup, or fired the fox-glove cannonade, or made a captive of myself with dandelion fetters; for then I had not very much to trouble.

This is twas the utmost I could do to look at him half gravely.

"If ear that my presence hath scree enough of ferocity about it," he gave a jerk to his sword as he spoke, and clanked it on the spoke, and clanked it. tive of myself with dandelion fetters; this good sword of mine disarmed. Now, I felt (though not as now) that Doone for then I had not very much to trouble if the boldest and biggest robber in all Glen was no place for me or any proud



When an undue amount of nervous energy is used in the brain there is certain to be failure in the other functions of the body.

Digestion is imperfect—the head

aches—you cannot sleep—you be-come nervous and irritable—you are easily excited and quickly tired— your memory fails and you cannot concentrate the mind.

Dr. A. W. Chase's Nerve Food is a creator of new, rich, red blood and hence a builder-up of the ner-



" This rem and all the ca and all the conow the store to grow afraime thunder so growl, like roll, and ro thickening d last trump of and terror, the great bla was hurried

FEBRUA

young maiden yellow lightne clouds three done, far off

from the pile though from depths of bla it, a form as o chair loose-n hand and war

manner: · The sky and droppin should have too small to Lord Alan vexed a litter You are not old Sabina wou his full per for coming, the way yo

you come, si this; you y here; soon you. And smile of h would have say in Scot waited upo has done, long. Dov them I mus adieu, fair in haste to of my guar flower for hand to me " That at first, wi terror; t fight for and strug grasp his infant bu graveston

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