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A Summer Evening Tale.

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I tell you, I am uneasy about the girl, ed myself that I was a very good date and cannot help my forebodings. Lady Elderton was apeaking of her grandchild, and addressing her daughter,

the mother. But, dear mother, replied Mrs Dudley, what is it you have observed about Isabel ? You know she never was such a merry chatterbox as Lotty.

Exactly so. And those quiet, reserv ed, sentimental girls are always the ones must open to the danger I am apprehend. ing. I do not like the listless fits of reverie, and the absence of mind about trifles, which I have observed lately. 1 believe I shall have to relate my early experiences at the first suitable opportunity.

Will you, dear mother ? exclaimed Mrs Dudley joyfully-will you really once more recite the story of your youth, that your grand-daughters may profits by it? ly. In reality she was only an artful But, oh, I fear the recollection is pain-

That may be. But once in a dozen of years or so, I am constrained, like the Ancient Mariner, to tell my tale; and the mood is on me tonight. Lady Elderton was not only a stately

dame, but a beautiful woman, with the rare peculiar beauty that sometimes lingers round the sixtieth year. Tall and upright, she had the easy grace of walk and gesture that belonged to the well-bred people of her generation, who, it might be said, emulated the glide of the swan rather than the strut of the ed me.

peacock. Across her forehead and down her cheeks, thick braids of hair revealed how richly her tresses were streaked with ailver. Not for their weight in gold and jewels would she have had and give a little mechanical dexterity to them otherwise. Her sense of real fitness of things was too keen for her to have any doubt that nature, in thus touching her hair, had been a kindly beautifier. Nor did she wish for any deeper tint on her cheeks, or fairer bloom of skin, than became her autumn

Hardly had Lady Elderton finished her miration. remarks, when the object of them-

Isabel Dudley and her sister Charlottewere seen in the next minute they stepped under the verandah, and entered the drawing-room. Shall I ring for the lamp to be light-

ed? asked Lotty, who was ever the the brink of a precipice. Madame Bar thoughtful aid of her invalid mother. Not yet, my dear, said Mrs Dudley, 1

am watching the moon coming up be- purpose to encourage my taste for it-especially to encourage out-of. door sketch hind the trees, and I think we need not shut out its glory this lovely summer ing. Young people with mental activity are very apt to take up one pursuan night.

I like talking in the twilight, observed after another with a sort of feverish eag erness ; but it is a mistake to fancy such Lady Elderton.

cagerness is a sign of special genius. Do you ? exclaimed Lotty. Then do tell us something about old fashioned am inclined to think that great and times. It must have been so funny, and special genius works more quietly and yet so slow, when there were no rail- silently; with incredible rapidity, it

ly. There was a start, an apparently forth her thimble and scissors, and nuneapness was not a Percival fault, whatever pride might be. On the wh recognition between the two, to nearly seventeen years of ago, I finth and Madame, turning to me, begred-eave to present her friend, Monseiur the Due of Alton.

ed myself that I was a very grout anum-ter, not taking into account that I had never met with a strong temptation to be otherwise. I had a French governess. Ah, how alever she was I Gover with the wicked aleverness that other for a long time de-What could I do but receive his salu tations ? He had the bearing of a gentleman, and seemed the intimate acquaint. ance of my governess. His present position was easily explained. He had been ceives good simple minded people. Mad

grants who had taken refuge in England during the Reign of Terror, and the widow of a fellow-exile. She was nearly fifty years of age when she became my instructress ; but a halo of romance still lingered about her, and I well remember the respect and delicate kindness with which she was treated in our family. My family took a lively interest in the storie she had to tell of the ancien regime : and my mother, believing her to be a woman

of sincere piety, respected her according hypocrite. As for me, she charmed me from the first, as I know now, by her subtle, im-

plied flattered flatteries, her carressing manners, and her seeming sympathy with youthful emotions, hopes and aspirations Though in all wise ways most tenderly cared for, I had not been a spoiled or

petted child. Indeed, in those days, children were kept far more in the back ground than they are at present; and there was a stately dignity about my parents quite imposed to the impulsive. demonstrative manner which so bewitch

I was very fond of drawing and paint ing ; most girls are, I think, if in child hood they have had enough good instruction to smooth away the first difficulties, the hand. Absolutely, I could so far sketch from nature, that a view which included a profile of our parish church, and the vista of an elm-tree avenue that led to our house, was recommended by my mother at a glance-

And praised ? added Lotty with mile. As an only daughter so excelling. I should have expected raptures of ad-

Then you would have been greatly disrppointed, resumed Lady Elderton. I never met with raptures of admira tion till I listened to the false and artful woman whe led me by her flatteries to

villier did pretend to think that I had genius for painting-it answered her

the general impression left on my mind was that the Duc d'Alton was a peer o

rolled her strip of embroidery. "She had said that the "illustriou exile' would be gone on the morrow, therefore it was with real astonian

that I recognized his advancing figure before I had been settled at my task quarter of an hour. Madame acted an prise in the cleverest manner ; and explained the change in his plane, so long in England that he had acquired declaring that he had found letters at

many English tastes, and he was now the post office which made it desirable when I receiperforming that thoroughly English feat; that he should remain in that locality recognition. pedestrian tour. Midland scenery was for another day or two. As such was adoration -- landscape-painting his the case, he was determined to employ craze. Might he be permitted to look at the time in sketching-and as it was post chaise conveyed her to the next my drawing ? Would Madame suffer him from this spot the loveliest view was to to ait beside her? the stump of a tree be obtained, he hoped he should not be sociate, the pretended duke, I never considered a trespasser, an intruder, if knew with any degree of certainty. But was conveniently near. How favored a land was England ! How richly endowed he lingered near us. He did net dare twenty years later there was a cause cel were all English women ! Questions and to emulate my skill, he said, or to atphrases such as these were poured out tempt anything beyond such small penwith emphasis and volubility ; and some- cil sketches as might remind him of this dling and forgery, the description of thing I gathered about Muses and Graces beautiful spot-and-and of the ineffacebeing fairy godmothers who must have able recollections associated with it.

presided at my christening-this piece of "Again, however, he departed before pagan adulation being addressed in a trusty old Gibson came for the sketching equipments, and I returned home, more oud whisper to my governess Of course Monsieur le Duc was enrap inflated by self-importance than I had been even on the previous day." ured with my drawing, and apropos of

"O grandmamma," interrupted Chan those bare outlines, talked learnedly of lotte Dudley, "I don't think you doing Poussin and Claude Lorraine. For the yourself justice. I don't believe you first time in my life, I felt treated not were ever inflated with vanity-dignifionly as a grown-ur young lady, but as a ed, perhaps, you were even at sevenersonage distinguished from the throng by her natural gifts. My cheeks flushed,

"Thank you, my dear Lottie, for your my voice trembled, and, inflated by gra good opinion; but I assure you I am guilty of imprudence even in early tified vanity, I had not good sense enough giving you what I believe would have youth. for ballast to keep my mind steady.

Looking back to that scene as it shows in been a true description of my state mind ; though I do not think I need prothe sober light of memory, I seem to myself to have been featherheaded as shuttlecock, and a girl whom only God's special providence anatched away in His good time from being the plaything of those people.

It was a curious coincidence that the Frenchman found himself obliged to take up his knapsack and walk on towards the village inn to which Madame had direct ed him, just ten minutes before Gibsor. the trusty old servant, who was a pattern

of punctuality, came by appointment to carry back my portfolio and the campstools. But there were a good many singular coincidences within the next fortnight, which did not explain them-

selves till afterwards. As we walked home, Madame Barvil

lier narrated for my edification the romantic history of her newly discovered friend. Utterly unreal and highly im probable as were the details with which she indulged me. I could not recall them oured out a torrent of adoration, callto mind even if I would: but I know that ing me his love, his life, the star of his destiny-in short, his affianced wife.

France, yet, for some reason or other, he and I believe I showed on the occasion was a political exile, travelling under an a little more dignity than had been exassumed name. If restored to the in heritance of which he had been defrauded, he would be rich beyond the dreams of a Crossus-Madame was fond of clas-

But I knew that at last she yielded to riad his intentious-and suspected my my entreaty, and putting her head lightfolly ? ly on my shoulder, kissed me on the

forchead. But though that kiss of for-

giveness soothed my sorrow, peace and self-reconcilement were long in coming. Nor did m, father ratify his forgiveness quite so soon as my mother had done. Those were bitter nights, when I was dismissed by him without the securatomed benediction-and mournful days, when I received only a frigid me

As for Madame Barvillier-she was allowed one hour to pack up, and then a town. What became of her and her asebre, in which an old Frenchwoman ap-

peared and a foreigner, accused of awinwhom singularly tallied with that of the imposters in question.

There was a pause ; and it was Mrs Dudley who broke the silence, saying with evident emotion: Mother, it was kind and generous of you to give the his portrait looked down upon the scene, girls the benefit of this story. Once you told it me in my girlhood, and I think it was like a chart laid down, that warned me from listening to flattery, or indulging idle dreams about romattic admirers. But the strange thing is, that your now are the last person in the world that could have been thought

That is, replied Lady Elderton, because I was blessed in my surroundings ceed with every minute detail of my blessed with parents who showed me girlish folly and wrong-doing. Under how to profit by the short lessons I had the guidance of my traitorous governess, learned. Yet do not think I have not I met the young Frenchman day after think I have paid same penalty, if only day. Soon he assured me that it was in the painful associations which often my presence that detained him in the arise. I gave up painting early in life. neighborhood. Then he presented me because the occupation constantly recallwith verses, written, he said, in my ed scenes I wished to forget. As for honor-all copied, as I afterwards dis- emeralds-pieces of green glass, perhaps covered, from such French writers as they glare at me even across a room, as Madame Barvillier knew I had never if in their verdant beauty they were the read. The next move was to implore eyes of a anake.

my acceptance, as a souvenir, of a ring, But surely, dear mother, ycu have apparently an emerald as large as a six- had a happy life, said Mrs Dudley tenpence, and which had belonged to his derly-happy, at least, for many, years mother, he said-its original possessor ahe added.

having been the unhappy Maria Le- I was supremely happy in my married csinski, wife of Louis XV. For a long life, returned Lady Elderton; and my while I resisted this entreaty ; the jewel story would be incomplete, if I do not seemed so valuable; and besides, it try to contrast the true love of an honorwould be necessary to retain it secretly, able man with the deceptive flatteries of as a matter of course. When at last I an unprincipled fortune-hunter. It may compiled, he assumed a heroic attitude, be taken as a golden rule, that no lover means well who prompts a young girl to concealment, or seeks to load her with ever increasing burden of a elandestine For this I was certainly not prepared. engagement. Poets and noyelties have much to answer for in so often making what they call love paramount, somethpected from me. Nevertheless, the man ing to be indulged, and its blind impulses had fascinated me ; and I know not to obeyed, before simple old fashioned

I cannot tell, replied her sister. But,

Isabel, if you are wise, you will confees everything to grandmamma, and ask her

1 will-I promine you I will. Then do it at mos, returned Lotty. Let me look if the light is shining from her room-it always shows beneath the

Oh, surely she is alsoop by this time. At anyrate, let me moertain if it be o, resumed Lotty, opening the door gently. Yes ; I see the light ; she is still Go now-go while you have the ap. resolution.

Thus strengthened by sisterly sympathy and good counsel. Isabel knocked at Lady Elderton's door, and was promptly admitted. No room in the house was better known to her than that bebchamber, yet, tonight, its adornments impressed Isabel in a manner they had

never done before. Her grandfather's sword and epaulets hung on the wall, with memorials to his fame and honor ; while the widow, majestic in her age, and serence in her sorrow, sat with he gray floating over her shoulders, and an open Bible before her. Ser ne she was in the sorrow of her widowhood, but tonight there was a trouble on her face-a trouble arising from her belief that Isabel was entangling herself in a mystery.

Yes, but a mystery that is not to be explained, since at that midnight hour, in that sacred chamber, a full confession was made, and a foolish letter, sealed and stamped quite ready for the post, was burned unread-burnt together with the letter, something worse than foolish, which had drawn it forth. Was it a singing master, or handsome penuiless ne'er-do-well acquaintance, or military partner at a bell, who had been seeking surreptionaly the hand of Isabel Dudley, co-heiress of a large property, but under age, and very inexperienced of the world and its evil ways ? I shall not tell. Such chemers' plans are singularly alike, though always with a difference. It is enough that Isabel Dudley had strength given her to shake off a brief infatuaion. Travel, and reading, and cultivated society, during the -next year or two, enlarged her mind, and quickened her intellectual faculties, so her standard of excellence was altegether heightened. There is a rumour that both sisters are engaged to be married-to suitors perfectly approved by their parents. Per-

haps somantie young people may say : Approved because they are men of wealth and position. But that is not the chief because ; though principles being good, and characters being sympathetic, it is no mean guarantee for happiness that married people are of the same rank in life, have had similar assowhat depths of imprudence I might have duties. Yet the greatest poets do not ciations and, in fact, have lived during elder frends and relatives spoke sympathetically to the young while yet there was time to retrace a false step; or if they emulated the self-sacrifice of Lady related the story of her own girlish folly.

THE W

A young farme sat on his plough just then an old eried : "Why d day and night u two days until tree that stands and overtops all hew it down you tune."

Not waiting to ed the farmer al started on his after tramping tw fir-tree, which h cut down. Just before it fell with out of its branche eggs. The eggs : broke, and ther young eagle and o a gold ring. The by enchantment. the size of a man to try their streng ward, it cried : take as a reward. other egg ; it is a your finger twice wish is it shall be ber there is but a No soover is that its power and is on Therefore, conside so that you may repent your choi eagle soared high

ed like an arrow to The farmer took his finger, and tur ward. Toward eve where a jeweller a counter, on which for sale. The fai

the farmer's head

and asked the mer "It isn't worth answered.

Upon that, the heartily, and told wish-ring, and of g the rings in the she The jeweller wa man, and so he inv main as his guest o explained, "only wears a wish-ring r So he treated

fair words: and tha lay sound asleep, th the magic ring from on, in its place, a c had made to resem!

The next mornin impatience to hav He awakened him said : "You had b still a long journey

but altogether wi If I tell you a story, replied Lady El. No, my dears, I assure you the world derton, it will certainly have nothing to has nothing to regret in my not having do with railroads ; yet it shall be some- touched a brush these forty years. thing of real life. However, I shall not My passion for sketching was the ma

detain you with moralizings; but at once terial Madame Barviller had to work begin my tale, if I may call it so; and upon. One day, in our search for the picturesque, we wandered beyond the her ladyship accordingly commenced. I think you know I was an only child- park gates, a thing not actually pro-

an heiress, in fact; but let that pass. hibited by my mother, yet one I knew Honestly, I may say that my parents she did not altogether approval. How thought only of wealth as a stewardship. ever, I was under the guidance of my They had weaknesses of pride ; but the governess, who tempted me by the pride of ancestry, of the brave men and account of a lovely bit of scenery lately virtuous women, whose honor in some opened by the felling of some treessort they shared, and felt bound to keep just in my style to paint, she declareduntarnished. That they were fastidi- and so she lured me on to the outskirts ous in their choice of friends, and kept of a neighboring woud, where, dismissa good deal sloof from what is called ing the servant who had carried my general society, is quite true; but this portfollo and the camp- stools, she settled reserve did not arise from vulgar pride, herself to her embroidery, and I began Half a century ago, irreligion was more cutting my pencil. Madame chattered open, and frivolity more frivolous, than away, as was her wont, certainly in pure they are at the present day. The coarse Paristan French, which I by this time

language and manners of an earlier pe- understood perfectly, and spoken with riod had not yet disappeared, even a certain fluency; but I have often among what are called the higher classes. remembered how apt she was to glide My mother had much about her of out of educational discourses into little what would now be called the Puritan romantic history in which some grand type; and she had a womanly intolerance chevalier was sure to figure. Not, how for those who differed from her in opinion. Happily, she and my father were on the contrary, she talked learnedly one on all great questions; and this about moths and butterflies, and, conmight well be the case, as, with love's sidering the subject, was quite ponderdevotion, she had modelled her mind ous in her erudition.

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eac Pric dru;

A fash cat, Cha dws and dws deat vey's troct Wile

-perhaps unconsciously -on his. Yet ! It certainly was a pretty view she had he, as became the man, had wider views tempted me to sketch, and the golden than she ever entertained. In his light of a still August afternoon-just youth, he had travelled; and youthful such as that of to-day has been-lent its travelling opens out rivers of thought, charm to the scene. As I sketched the that must fertilise any but the most arid outline of a range of hills, I wondered, minds; whereas, my mother had been when I lay on my colors, how nearly I the stay-at-home English gentlewoman, produce the soft haze whici yeiled withwhose migrations had been from York- out obscuring, objects, and marvelled at shire to London, varied by sea-bathing the spell which I knew a really great at Scarborough, or drinking the waters water- color painter might have exerciseat Harrogate. A gentle, happy soul was ed.

hers, that had always been sheltered and Suddenly their emerged from among guided by love, and remained singularly the trees a young man bearing a pedes-Ignorant of what is called "the world trian's knapsack. Long afterwards, I reand its ways;" but something was there membered, what I never noticed at the in my life or my nature that made me time that he was by no means dusty or feel, ay, and acknowledge to myself in travel stained, though he professed to very girlhood, that I was self-willed and walked twenty-five miles that day; for independent, with strong desires and a he stated that circumstances when he warm temper; and that never, never apologized to Madame for her, saying never should I be as meek, and gentle, that he had quite lost his way, and beggand confidingly obedient to authority as ing for information as to his wheremy dear mother was. And yet it is a abouts. Madame responded in very my dear mother was. And yet it is a about in the about it is a about it is a bout i fact that her very gentieness awed me. So inthe given to something, and so told her own story to-It would have seemed mean as well as words, glided into French, in which the wood; and while I arranged my port-demonstration as my mother was, I think night-every word of which touched my

sical illustrations and allusions-mean while, he had a little mine of wealth in old family jewels, which, happily, he had

secreted and brought to England with him. She told me all this, she said, because I exercised a spell over people by my truth and ingenuous confidence, and veritably she could not hide things from me; but on no account must I reveal to any human being-no, not even to the chere Maman-that we had met anyone out of doors, or that she, Madame Barvillier, had any acquaintance with the Duc d'Alton. The most fatal, the most terrible events would occur were I to betray his whereabouts ; and here today, he would be gone tomorrow ; and there could be no possible harm in my keeping silence ; nay, had I not better try to forget the occurences of that afternoon altogether '

I was arraigned, and pleaded guilty Very subtly put was that recommendation to forget, as if forgetfulness were holding converse with a stranger, and possible. But the boldest part of the of deliberately concealing from my par. strong and faithful, and to waik aright scheme which was being carried out was ents every transaction connected with the trading on my ignorance of life, and the acquaintanceship. Good old Gibignorance of passing events and current son had already been my counsel for my history. Charles X. was at this time defence, and, as I long afterwards disseated on the throne of France, and, to covered, had pleaded every extenuating all appearance, securely, and yet here circumstance, which, after all, could be was supposed to be an exiled royalist only one-namely, that I had acted by playing at hide-and-seek. Yet she told the advice of my governess. her vague, complicated, romantic history I was ordered to fetch the verses

man-who admired my drawing so much bottom of the bag was the ring; and deepened into night, and light clouds geon, and perhaps thence to the scaffold ! very shame. Of course I had read of the horrors of the French Revolution, though modern pleased to explain." history was, for the most part, but mea-

my notions were altogether crude and inaccurate.

"Before we reached the hall door, I and personal importance.

one as its predecessor, and there could pardon you; and lead her away, while It is a relief. Lotty, to have told you, not be a doubt as to the expediency of I deal with this woman."

ly, at the same hour, and under precisely tently and poured out the whole story of grandmamma has noticed or suspected It would have seemed mean as well as words, glued into French, in share for a start while Farranged my port-demonstration as my mother was, I think night-every word of which touched my undutiful to obstinately thwart her; and language the stranger responded fluent- folio and pencils, Madame again drew my vehemence almost frightened her, heart as an accusation? Can she have

sin thus. Shakespeare knew better than stance aroused the susgicion of faithful to reconcile the Montagues and Capulets phere. And perhaps unfortunate marold Gibson, who took upon himself to while their children lived. And the riages would sometimes be prevented, if tell my father all he had discovered. Moor might have trusted Desdemons Can I ever forget the morning when I till Iago was unmasked, had not Othello was sent for, and confronted with Mad- remembered that she had deceived her ame Barvilier, who had been summoned father-though it was for him. Oh, from the school-room half an hour prev- that young people would but believe Elderton, when, to point a moral, she iously, and forbidden to leave the lib- that their elders do not necessarily rary till I had been questioned in her forget the emotions and temptations of presence ! My dear mother, who alone youth, when they offer advice that is was seated, seemed drowned with tears ; contrary to youthful impulses!

while my father, white with anger, white Ah, you don't forget ! murmured with the suppressed passion of a man ac- Lotty.

customed to exercise self-control, stood No: I do not, continued Lady Elderleaning on both hands at one end of a leaning on both hands at one diverse that a brown of the state of the ton : and yet I declare that a breath of which, perhaps, she had dropped for some sort of support, rather than exactly in a woman onwards and upwards; and how

to the charge of meeting secretly and can he do this, if he has not himself a true soul? How can he teach her to be he has previously taught her error, and been her tempter---if he has offered her the false jewel of his pretended love, and in requital of her acceptance, has robbed her of her sincerity.

Lady Elderton had warmed with her theme and her last sentences had been spoken with real pathos. Her summer so well, that I positively believed a word which had so turned my head ; and I did evening tale had been told and commentfrom my lips would be enough to sur- so, carrying them in a little blue silk ed on, leaving a deep impression on the round this handsome, clever, ill-used bag in which I had kept them. At the auditors. The twilight had by this time -with the myrmidons of a foreign gov- when my father drew it forth, I covered obscured the moon. Presently, the clock ernment, who would drag him to a dun- my face with my hands, and wept for struck ; then Lotty rang the bell for the servants to assemble, and Mrs Dudley rose from her couch to conduct the fam-"What is this ?" said my father. "Be

ily devotions. To my surprise, Madame was silent. I It was midnight, and the house was so

grely taught to girls in those days, and wondered that she left me to narrate the utterly still that the ticking of the hallhistory of the precious jewel. But hard- clock alone broke upon the silence ; save ly had I mentioned the royal lady who in a large bedchamber, where two white was said to have once possessed it, than beds remained as yet unpressed by Charhad given the promise that Madame my father burst into a bitter laugh ; and lotte and Isabella Dudley. The two girls Barvillier had required, and not con- carrying the ring nearer to the window, were in their loose wrappers, with their scious as yet of the bondage to which I he gazed at it for half a minute ; then, by long hair plaited and arranged for the was submitting, the strongest feeling I sheer strength, his fingers snapped it in night, just as their maid had left them remember was one of gratified vanity two, as he exclaimed : "Base metal and so far as the toilet was concerned, but green glass ! I see there was really a both were weeping, and Isabel was in an "The next day shone forth just such a plot. Daughter, ask your mother to attitude of dejection and shame.

exclaimed Isabel; but oh! I am wretched proceeding with my sketch. According- When we were alone, I sat down peni- and ashamed. Can it—can it be that

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jeweller closed his ters, so that no one the door behind I the middle of the ring and cried : "I sess a million gold | No sooner said th

gold pieces came po in a golden torm shoulders and arms for mercy, and trie the door : but befo stumbled and fell bl As for the golden n till the weight of th floor, and the jew sank through to the still poured down complete, and the the cellar beneath h

The noise, how neighbors, who ca see what the matter the man dead unde claimed : "Doubly blessings kill." came and divided t

In the meantime. home in high spirits to his wife.

"Henceforth, we

in want, dear wil fortune is made. careful to consider ought to wish." The farmer's wife advice. "Suppose, wish for that bit of

our two fields." "That isn't wo band replied. "If year, we'll earn end

So the two works harvest time they money to buy the co and still had some t the man. we have th

as well.' The farmer's wife they had better wis horse. But the m why waste our wi The horse and cow Sure enough, in a ey for the horse earned. Joyfully hands. The wishe year, and yet we ha How lucky we are But now his wil

him to wish for "Now that you hav