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Lord Cecil's Dilemma

—OR—
The Picnic
—In—
Woodall Forest

CHAPTER IV.

Sir Charles saw that Lady Gladys' eyes were fixed upon him, and he advanced to her stall, smiling. Lady Marcia was assisting her niece, and she greeted him pleasantly. "I hope that business has been brisk," he said. "I shall be glad when it is over," replied Lady Marcia. "We have quite a crowd about us the whole time, and I am getting fatigued already." "You look tired, auntie, but you shall have some tea soon. Oh! we are doing a great trade!" Lady Gladys clapped her hands in almost childish glee, and her eyes sparkled with happiness. Sir Charles thought that she was more beautiful than ever.

"You have been buying roses from one of my rivals?" she continued, mischievously, and blushing warmly. "Only a trifling purchase," he said, quickly. "I was inveigled into this little sin! Will you forgive me?" He laughed. "Now I have come to the stall of Lady Gladys Howard to buy the costliest article she has to sell!" "Indeed, I hope you won't tell people that I inveigled you into the folly of wasting your money." She smiled into his reproachful eyes, and was conscious of the warm blood mounting to her brain. "You see that I have nothing but flowers to sell. Here is a magnificent bouquet. The price is ten guineas."

"It is indeed beautiful," observed Lady Marcia, who was watching her niece in some surprise. She had never seen her so bewitchingly vivacious before.



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"Think kindly of him if you can," Lady Marcia interposed. "He was weak and erring, but I believe that there was some good in him."

"I am surprised to hear you defend him, Lady Marcia." "He was my lover," was the simple reply; "the only man I ever cared for. The late earl, my father, would not consent to our marriage. The disappointment maddened Edgar Emden. His disinheritation followed, and his strange disappearance."

Sir Charles had grown white. "You know the story?" he said, quietly. "You know that my father was accused of murdering him, and that we, my mother and I, live under a social ban?"

His eyes were fixed on Gladys' happy face, as she moved about and chatted with the people she knew, and a sigh escaped him. "We have never lived the scandal down. My uncle's curse follows us to this day. There are many people who believe that his body is somewhere hidden in the vaults of Emden Hall. There are many who believe that I am the son of a murderer. My father's life was blasted by these charges. He had dreams of representing his county in Parliament, but found himself completely ostracized by society. His death did not relieve my mother of the ban, and I—"

He stopped, as though conscious of having said more than he intended. His face was pale, and his hands were tightly clenched.

"Yes, my uncle's curse follows us to this day."

"I should like to know your mother," said Lady Marcia, pityingly. "I heard much of her from Edgar. You will let me visit her? Sir Charles, I never believed that he died. I am waiting for him still! He was a wild, wayward fellow, and considered himself bitterly wronged by his own father, by his sister's husband."

"It may be so," was the moody rejoinder. "But I do not think that it would be wise of me to invite you to Emden Hall. It is a house of darkness and gloom. But for my mother I would never pass its portals again!" His tones had become bitter. "I have tried to hope that Edgar Emden would come back some day, but even this faint hope is damped by what you have told me, Lady Marcia. If he lived, and cared for you, he would not have hidden away for the mere sake of perpetuating the mystery, to his sister's misery."

"You will let me visit Lady Hastings?" implored Lady Marcia. "In some way, Sir Charles, our lives seem bound up together. I can comfort your mother. If the fates had been kind, I might have been your aunt. I know all the dread, trouble, Sir Charles, and there is a bond of sympathy between us. I felt intensely drawn toward you the moment I beheld you." Reluctantly the young baronet yielded, though it was with many misgivings.

"I am only here on a flying visit," he told her. "I came down to see Staphole's hunters. I am passionately fond of horses. Then Cecil had much to tell me about the people here, and literally dragged me to the flower bazaar."

(To be continued.)

If the chair at your sewing machine is not the right height you will not be so tired when sewing. Save ironing in hot weather by running flat pieces, such as towels and pillow cases, through the wringer.

He laughed lightly. Then his brow darkened and a sigh escaped him. He had been watching Lady Gladys with rapt attention.

"Your uncle's name was—Edgar—I mean the unlucky one?" stammered Lady Marcia, a little catch in her voice.

"You know him?" exclaimed Sir Charles, surprised.

"Yes!" She turned away her head; then added: "You are like him; your eyes, your voice."

"I am sorry for it," said the young baronet, abruptly. "He hated my father, and the night before he disappeared there was a terrible scene between them. The servants heard blows; they naturally took the part of their old master's son. I was but a child, but I remember my uncle's baleful eyes being fixed upon me. I was another creature in his way. He called upon heaven and hades to curse my father, and my father's child! I was sent out of the room, and my mother fainted. She will not talk of that terrible night. My uncle was never seen again. He left behind him a legacy of hate—for father and son. To know that I resemble that man is cruel, indeed!"

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Fashion Plates.



A DISTINCTIVE STYLE.

3331-3335. The short detachable cape on this pretty model goes well with the wide sleeves and youthful garment lines. Canton crepe would be very attractive for this design, with braiding or embroidery. This is also a good model for taffeta or crepe de meteor combined with georgette. The vest, 3331 is cut in 4 Sizes: 34, 36, 38, 40, 42 and 44 inches bust measure. The width of the skirt at the foot is 2 1/2 yards. To make the dress as illustrated will require 7 yards of 36 inch material. TWO separate patterns mailed to any address on receipt of 15c. FOR EACH pattern in silver or stamps.

A PRETTY SUMMER FROCK.

Pattern 3385 supplies this attractive youthful model. It is cut in 3 Sizes: 16, 18, and 20 years. An 18 year size requires 4 1/2 yards of 38 inch material.

Crepe, crepe de chine, voile, embroidered, dotted Swiss, taffeta, and wash silks, also linen and chambray may be used for this model. The width of the skirt is 2 1/2 yards.

A pattern of this illustration mailed to any address on receipt of 15c. FOR EACH pattern in silver or stamps.



A NEW AND COMFORTABLE SUIT FOR THE SMALL BOY.

Pattern 3385 is here portrayed. It is cut in 4 Sizes: 3, 4, 5 and 6 years. A 4 year size will require 1 1/2 yards of 27 inch material for the blouse, and 1 1/2 yard for the trousers. It preferred blouse may be of material different to that of the trousers.

Linen, drill, cambric, madras, pongee, khaki, and flannel are good for the blouse, with the same materials for the trousers, or serge, mixtures, cheviot, corduroy and galates.

A pattern of this illustration mailed to any address on receipt of 15 cents in silver or stamps.

A GOOD STYLE FOR A PLAY SUIT.

3322. In a romper suit like this one, the "little" person may run and romp unhampered, or hindered by skirts. The "Dutch" lines are attractive, and the "up-to-date" neck and bodice features will be very becoming. Chints or cretonne with linen or chambray may be used for this style. The Pattern is cut in 4 Sizes: 1, 2, 3 and 4 years. A 2 year size will require 2 1/2 yards of 36 inch material.

NOTE:—Owing to the continual advance in price of paper, wages, etc., we are compelled to advance the price of patterns to 15c. each.

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A GOOD SUIT STYLE FOR A SMALL BOY.

3387. Here is a smart and trim looking suit that will not be difficult to make, and will prove comfortable. It is good for serge or twill, as well as for velvet and wash materials. The trousers close at the sides. The Pattern is cut in 4 Sizes: 3, 4, 5 and 6 years. A 4 year size will require 2 yards of 44 inch material. In blue corduroy with white linen collar or brown serge, this makes a very serviceable suit. Pattern mailed to any address on receipt of 15c. in silver or stamps.

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