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For Her Sake;

—OR—

The Murder in Furness Wood.

CHAPTER VIII.

The soft shadows fell more darkly outside, the rose-clouds had given place to a faint amber light, the odors of rose and lily filled the night-air, the musical ripple of the fountain could be plainly heard. Suddenly there was a display of animation among the ladies. The gentlemen had at length returned. Lady Scarsdale, still enjoying the comfort of her velvet chair, was careful not to disarrange one fold of her dress. She looked at Peter Cameron, and he went no further, but took a seat by her side.

"What a pleasant evening you have given us!" she said. "The Duchess has no room at Stonedale like this. You cannot obtain a glimpse of the sea from the windows there."

This was delicious flattery to the man who had suffered so much annoyance from the Duchess' slights. "I should like to see your picture gallery," continued the fair lady. "I am fond of pictures."

"It will give me great pleasure to show you the gallery," he said. "I have some rare pictures."

"So I have heard," she replied. "I do not care much for the picture gallery at Stonedale."

After that expression of opinion, Peter Cameron would have done anything on earth for her. He would have been ashamed to plead guilty to such meanness, but in truth nothing delighted him so much as depreciation of the Duke and Duchess of Stone. And Lady Scarsdale knew it well. She lauded his pictures with a judicious amount of praise. She commended his taste in

And the Worst is Yet to Come



welfare. His daughter is, after all, the weak point.

"I think this the most peculiar flower I have ever seen," said Mr. Cameron, suddenly appearing at her side with a remarkable orchid in his hand. "It is difficult to distinguish it from a butterfly."

She looked at it, as he thought, intently, but in reality her mind was engrossed in the one idea that she would marry him and become mistress of Ferness. She recovered herself, and talked to him for a short time about the flower that was so like a butterfly, then with subtle sweetness turned the conversation to himself.

Peter Cameron had never before felt the full force of such fascination. The dim light of the conservatory, the odor of the flowers, the handsome face of the stately woman before him, her lustrous jewels, her exquisite dress, her caressing voice and manner—all told upon him, there was a spell upon him which he could not resist. Moreover, this lady who talked so familiarly of the most distinguished people in the land, always spoke very kindly of his daughter, and praised her skill and management. Still she half pitied her. So much responsibility, she pointed out, was a burden to so young a girl. And then Peter Cameron suddenly seemed to see things in a new light. He had never thought of that before.

Lady Scarsdale looked at him with her fine dark eyes, a faint smile playing round her ruby lips.

"Ah, Mr. Cameron," she said, gently "if you had consulted your best interests, and your daughter's too, you would have married again!"

"Married again!" The words came upon him with such suddenness that for a moment he did not realize their import. He had never thought of such a thing. When he had buried his wife, he had buried his heart in her grave, and had never even thought of giving her a successor. He lived now for his daughter, as before he had lived for his wife. The words seemed to shock him.

"Marry again! I have never thought of such a thing," he said.

"I can imagine that," she replied. "But it is the only reasonable step for a man left with a daughter like yours."

"Marry again!" repeated Peter Cameron. "Do you know, Lady Scarsdale, the idea never occurred to me?"

She laughed softly; and her laugh stirred his heart. The spell grew more powerful.

"That is because you are so true and faithful of heart," she said; "but, for your daughter's sake, I think it would have been better had you married some one who could have been of use to you—the one who could have introduced her to the great world, and have done all that money alone can never do. Do you not see?"

"I have never thought of it," he answered.

Lady Scarsdale rose from her seat, gracefully gathered up her train, and laid her hand on his arm.

"We must go back to the drawing-room; Diana will think we are lost," she said.

But Peter Cameron made no reply, for his mind was full of conflicting thoughts. "Marry again!" he could not forget the words; they haunted him. Marry some one who could be of use to the child he idolized, some lady already within the charmed circle which so rigorously excluded him and his. He wondered that he had not thought about it before. He had money; but he wanted something more, and this was exactly what he craved. If he could marry some high-born lady of title, the only thing he lacked would be his. If, he were to marry again why not marry some one like Lady Scarsdale—indeed, why not Lady Scarsdale herself? At the very thought Peter Cameron's face flushed and his whole frame shook with suppressed excitement. He had seen no one like her. She was handsome and clever, kind and sympathetic; she was a prominent figure in the great world of fashion, and her influence was equalled only by her highborn connections. But of course it was impossible; he might as soon think of marrying the Queen of England. Still, at intervals, the thought returned to him, "Marry Lady Scarsdale!"—and when it came a thrill ran through him.

Her ladyship saw that she had made the very impression she desired, and was wise enough to leave the rest to time. For the remainder of the evening she talked brilliantly, and had perhaps, never been seen to greater advantage; but she said little more to the master of Ferness. She knew from the lingering glances at her face, by

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the sudden flush that overspread his countenance when she caught the somewhat perplexed expression of his eyes, that he was thinking of what she had said.

Diana, whose fine open nature was free from the faintest taint of suspiciousness, saw nothing to make her uneasy; but those who loved her did. Lady Colwyn managed to secure five minutes with Sir Royal before the party broke up, and as she talked to him tears gathered in her eyes.

"How I wish," she cried, "that I were clever and brilliant! Do you know, Sir Royal, until to-day I never found out how stupid and helpless I really am!"

"You are the only person who could make such a discovery, Lady Colwyn," said Sir Royal, for he had a warm regard and respect for his kindly neighbor. "Why do you accuse yourself in this fashion?"

"I only wish I were clever enough to foil her scheme," she answered, somewhat vaguely; "and I am not—I never shall be."

"Of whom are you speaking?" asked Sir Royal, with a puzzled expression.

"Oh, Sir Royal, have you not seen it? I am sure every one must have remarked the flirting of that woman with Mr. Cameron."

"You mean Lady Scarsdale?" he said. "Well, yes, to tell the truth, I noticed it; but I did not think any one else had."

"I am miserable about it," cried Lady Colwyn. "Diana is so noble herself that she never suspects any one; but I am sure Lady Scarsdale has set her cap at Mr. Cameron; and men are so weak, so lamentably weak!"

"Mr. Cameron is not," he replied. "Besides, it is a mere whim. A lady of fashion like Lady Scarsdale would not marry Mr. Cameron, a man whose fortune, large as it is, has been made by himself. And you know he rather prides himself on being the son of a tradesman."

Lady Colwyn looked at him, her eyes full of surprise.

"Why, Sir Royal, I am more worldly-wise than you! He is just the man she would marry. Do you not know that Lady Scarsdale is exceedingly poor, and that the way in which she and her daughters maintain their position in society really puzzles her own friends? She has high birth, an ancient name, high connections—in fact, she has everything but money. It is money she wants; while Mr. Cameron lacks all she has, and has money."

"Mr. Cameron would never think of marrying again," said Sir Royal. "He is too fond of Diana."

(to be continued.)

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ON RATIONS AGAIN.

LONDON, Sept. 29. London to-day faced stricter food rationing than for a year. Regulations which were winked at even before the armistice when supplies started coming in in larger quantities to-day were clamped down hard on all kinds of meat and butter and sugar. Cured meats which were only slightly rationed during the war, to-day were placed in the same category as other meats. Fish was not placed upon the ration edict, but the lack of transportation is affecting the supply. It is roughly estimated that there is a fourteen week's food supply in the country, if it is conserved. Restrictionists have eliminated butter from their menus, and restricted bread to one role per meal. The familiar miniature war steaks again are in evidence.

WOULD HAVE BEEN AVERTED BY BALLOT TAKEN.

LONDON, Sept. 29. (Reuters' Secretary Appleton of the General Federation of the trade unions, interviewed by Reuters, said that in view of the fact that no issue was involved between the railwaymen and the government until the end of December, he believed that if the railwaymen had balloted there would have been no strike. Mr. Appleton said that he was of the opinion that the effect of the strike on other trades will not be certain for some days.

DECISION DELAYED.

LONDON, Sept. 29. The transport workers federation to-night postponed decision on the question whether a general strike of tramway, omnibus, dock and river-side workers should be called. The postponement was due to the absence of a number of delegates who could not reach the meeting owing to the railway strike.

THE STRIKE SITUATION.

LONDON, Sept. 29. (Reuters'—) The following official statement was issued to-day: "The general situation is improving, government measures are working satisfactorily and food distribution is proceeding smoothly. Offer of voluntary assistance are still pouring in." J. G. H. Thomas, secretary of the railwaymen's union, announces that there has been no development in the situation

