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Walton Court;

OR ADELAIDE CAMERON'S "SHADOW LOVE."

By the Author of Dora Thorne.

CHAPTER XXXIV.

(Continued.)

She rose as though the pain of her own words was almost greater than she could bear. She stood looking at the far-off woods and the bright river in the distance.

'I cannot tell you all, Margarita,' she continued; 'perhaps you will like me even less for what I have said. I know what people say when a girl gives her love unasked; but I have not given mine in that fashion. He knows nothing of it; he never will. I would not stoop to intrigue and manoeuvre—for a fortune I would not try to win his liking; it is only the shadow that I love, after all. But, Margarita, something terrible happened once to my love—something that should have made him hate me—something that seemed to outrage the girlhood and modesty within me—and, because he did not hate me then, it seems to me that he must in time love me.'

For the first time a faint glimmering of the truth came to Margarita, and she looked into the girl's fair face with troubled eyes.

'Why did you think he would hate you?' 'I cannot tell you that—I must not. But I shall soon know whether he does or not.'

'How will you know?' asked Margarita, who began to feel interested.

'That I cannot tell you. Next June will decide my fate. It may see me the happiest of the happy, or content to live without love.'

'Next June,' repeated Margarita; and then her half-formed suspicions died away. It could not be her husband—it could not even concern him—for he was far away, and would not return until June had long passed by.

'You will keep my secret, Margarita?' said Adelaide, as they walked slowly to the house.

'Yes, I will keep it, and I shall hope some day to see this hero of yours.'

But Adelaide rejoined sadly— 'I do not know. I do not think it is likely that you will.'

CHAPTER XXXV.

The Marquis of Hedington had been dismissed with all possible kindness and sympathy, but with the firmest assurance from the lips of the lady he loved that all further importunity would be useless. He was wretched enough; and Adelaide pitied him. He had left Combermere, and soon afterward the heiress and her companion went home to Walton Court.

Lady Rylestone had received several letters from her husband, and had answered them, sending her replies to Marpeth, and having them posted from there. For many days after the receipt of those letters Margarita was very happy. It seemed to her that the world grew brighter because of them; and in the last Lord Rylestone said he hoped to be home by the end of November.

'Then for the new life, Margarita!' he wrote. 'No more hiding in a village for my beautiful wife! I have worked hard during these two years, and I shall have my reward. Social success and fortune will both be ours, and I shall prize them doubly because I have won them for you. The Earl of Barton has told me that he will have at his disposal next spring an excellent appointment, and he has promised it to me. So, my darling, I shall come home to you the happiest of men. I shall see the face I love at the window, as I saw it last. Does the world contain another so happy as I?'

She read that letter under one of the great spreading oaks at Walton Court, and when she had finished it a sudden pain seized her—a dreadful doubt as to whether she had done right or wrong—as to what he would say when he knew all—that the wife he loved and honored had stolen under false pretences into his home. Would he be angry? Would he think that she had disgraced him?

'It was for his sake, after all,' she thought. 'It was to try whether by some means or other I could not get his lost fortune back.'

He did not seem now either to think or to care about this fortune. He seemed almost better pleased that he had been left to carve out his own fate. He seemed to have forgotten the bitter repinings about leaving home and leaving her.

Still he could not be angry; she had done no harm, and it had been all for him. It was true he said nothing in his letter about his disappointment, but it must be as keen as ever, and, if she could lessen it—if she could find some means of restoring his wealth to him—he would be so much the better pleased to see her.

So she took heart again, repeating to herself the magical words, 'It is for his sake, and then she looked at the matter in its worst aspect. He would return in November. Early in November she must go to her own home and be there to meet him; and then she must tell him what her love for him, her anxiety for his interests, had caused her to do. If she had good news for him, she would gladly tell him it; if bad, she must own it; and then after a time she could go with him to Walton, and the worst that the few people who had known her as Miss Cameron's companion could say would be that in marrying a "companion" Lord Rylestone had married beneath him. It was not so terrible after all. Another thought occurred to her. If she was to find out the secret of the will before her husband returned, she must find it out soon; she had but little time left, and she must make the best of it.

There had been some slight sensation about the lost letter, but not so much as she feared. Miss Cameron had in due course of time received an epistle from Lord Rylestone, asking why she had not answered his questions; and she in her surprise read it to Margarita.

'The letter must have been lost,' said Miss Cameron; 'and yet in England our postal arrangements are so good that I cannot see how that can have occurred.'

'It must have been mislaid—something must have happened to it,' said Margarita, dreamily, remembering vividly the torture of the hour when she had written it.

Just as they were discussing the matter, Mrs. Grame entered the room, and Adelaide, who had not only a kindly affection for, but also great confidence in, the old housekeeper, told her how disappointed Lord Rylestone was at not having received a letter she had written.

'Lost!' said the old lady. 'No, ma'am, with all respect for you and to his lordship, I do not believe it. Her gracious majesty looks after those kind of things too well. She pays those who know their business. I do not believe it was lost.'

As she spoke she looked at Margarita, whose face flushed and then grew pale beneath her keen glance.

When she left the room, Mrs. Grame went at once to Gregson.

'Did you not tell me a story some time back about Miss Avenel's running after you on a dark night to put a letter in the post-bag?' she asked.

Yes, he remembered the incident, and told the story over again for her gratification.

'Ah!' she said. 'I was struck at the time. I am even more struck now. I have my own thoughts.'

'What are they, Mrs. Grame?' asked Gregson, humbly.

'They do not concern you—they are for your betters,' was the sharp answer; but, as the man moved away, she said to herself, 'I shall track you yet, my lady! I shall track you and hunt you down! If you are not a spy, my name is not Martha Grame!'

To Margarita's great relief, no more was said of the lost letter, and she believed that it was forgotten. It was then May, and she thought often of what Miss Cameron had said, that in June her fate would be decided.

'Perhaps this man for whom she cares is coming then,' she said to herself; and she felt some curiosity about him.

She had lived so long with Adelaide now that she could not help feeling some affection for the girl she had once believed she hated; and she hoped, with all her heart, that this strange love-affair would end happily. She remembered, too, what Miss Cameron had said to Lady Langham—that she might, probably, in two years' time, lose all her money—so that, almost unconsciously to herself, she began to look upon the month of June as a critical time.

She could see how its near approach affected Miss Cameron. She was unsettled in her spirits—sometimes gay and brilliant, at other times low and depressed. She tried to control herself, but her efforts were all vain. Margarita saw that she suffered keenly in anticipation. More than once she found her with traces of tears on her face.

'I wish you would trust me a little more,' she said one day to Miss Cameron. 'I see you suffer, and you will not tell me why.'

(To be continued.)

To the Hon. Thomas Talbot, M.L.C., SHERIFF OF THE CENTRAL DISTRICT.

SIR,—

We, the undersigned citizens, respectfully request that you may be pleased to convene a Public Meeting of the inhabitants of St. John's, at an early day, to take into consideration the advisability of establishing a Volunteer Military Force, to aid in the defence of this Colony and for the protection of the inhabitants thereof. ST. JOHN'S, February 3rd, 1888.

- J. O'neill, M. Fitzpatrick, John Sharp, John Anderson, John West, R. Rendell, B. S. Williams, W. D. Black, M. Munroe, A. S. Smith, J. Gardner, E. A. Match, A. McDougall, J. Syme, J. French, G. A. Hutchings, T. S. Winter, A. Connors, L. Lambert, J. Angel, D. E. Archibald, W. B. Grieve, W. Hicks, E. Kelly, R. W. Bishop, J. Goodridge, Chas. Bowring, L. G. McGhee, J. J. Rogerson, E. H. Frowse, John Browning, E. B. Bowring, F. Doherty, R. Crossman, E. Kelly, G. McDonald, J. Rooney, J. Gilbert, G. Payne, A. C. Stewart, T. J. Allan, J. Healy, W. Cornick, W. G. Pippy, G. T. Parker, A. D. Hook, A. W. Miller, Charles Hutchings, T. W. Spry, E. L. Chancy, M. H. Carty, J. Bugden, W. J. Barnes, J. H. Charlton, G. H. Williams, Z. Cox, E. J. Shaw, James Baird, W. E. Long, J. Webber, E. D. Shea, Charles Tessler, W. C. Cook, L. O. B. Furlong, G. E. Worthing, H. J. Halley, John Barron, J. O'Neil, G. T. Rendell, George T. Carter, P. G. Tessler, A. S. Rendell, W. Horwood, A. Milroy, J. Pittman, T. J. Murphy, Allan Barnes, George McKay, Edward Shea, G. H. Dickinson, D. M. Browning, M. H. Kearney, W. Dickson, A. Berteau, T. E. Smith, M. Furlong, T. W. Cragg, J. Simms, W. G. Meehan, W. D. S. Kelly, James Tobin, J. W. Dea, E. P. Morris, E. J. Hickey, J. W. Coleman, D. J. Connell, Jas. Devereaux, E. Sinnott, S. G. Knight, D. Munroe, J. Collins, E. Hamlyn, P. D. Scott, John Steer, C. Skeels, J. Pack, J. C. Mews, C. A. W. Pliscent, W. Hayward, A. Hayward, J. Furlong, M. McCarthy, E. Hamlyn, R. Pike, A. Churchhill, C. W. Ryan, T. Nunn, G. Purcell, John Harris, E. G. Doyle, John Gillard, A. J. Harvey, E. Flaherty, A. Hiscok, Garrett Byrne, J. Howell, J. Fletcher, A. Black, G. H. Dickinson, John Nash, John Cowan, Hon. John Syme, George Hunt, J. Evenson, E. Memory, T. Baker, W. Reid, T. Curran, J. A. Hump, F. H. Balfour, J. Mann, John Carnell, T. J. Regan, Andrew E. McCoubrey, R. A. M. McCoubrey, E. M. Noonan, R. Rankin, G. Nicholls, T. Chafe, J. McLeod, W. H. Parsons, J. Mercer, P. French, J. A. Duchemin, G. T. Smith, G. Shea, J. Power, J. Ryan, M. Kelly, B. Molloy, W. Donnelly, A. Rodgers, J. Kinsey, J. Almon, F. E. M. Bunting, N. Fraser, E. W. Parsons, J. Murphy, Francis Moran, J. Kenny, E. Walsh, T. Mulcahy, W. O'Neil, G. J. O'Neil, John Skanes, John Molloy, M. Ryan, G. Fleming, J. Foley, M. Dayley, John Doyle, John Byrne, P. Byrne, J. King, E. Corry, T. McGrath, M. Walsh, John Murray, Ed. Wall, G. A. Clift, H. H. Barnes, F. W. Rendell, G. H. Munroe, Thomas Oliver, P. Stamp, F. Vassour, A. Northcote, P. Gremm, F. M. Kelley, J. Gremm, Chas. Kemp, J. Rodgers, G. Gremm, J. Courtney, G. M. F. Hennebury, P. Rogers, P. Nelly, J. A. Sweet, C. Kavanagh, J. Aspell, J. Connors, G. Dowton, M. Kearney, J. Fahey, J. Field, J. Fahey, R. Keats, J. Molloy, M. Macneil, J. Maher, P. Maher, N. Murphy, T. Clark, M. Barnes, J. Fitzpatrick, M. Kelly, A. Snow, R. England, J. Connors, J. Fitzpatrick, John Kemp, J. Hogan, J. Kavanagh, N. Power, T. Aldred, E. Connors, R. Field, J. Peters, A. Rooney, J. Curran, R. Templeton, J. Rolger, S. Williams, J. B. Mitchell, G. Molloy, Jas. Hunt, W. Clouston, S. J. McNeil, S. G. Colton, S. Earl, P. Forsey, E. Colton, Geo. Taylor, W. N. Gray, M. G. Leah, W. D. Morrison, M. Tobin, J. Hearn, Alex. Smith, R. Sanderson, John Dicks, W. Moore, G. Ayre, John Sheehan, st., John Sheehan, E. L. LeMessurier, E. B. Barnes, T. Bears, A. H. Shears, J. Howlett, J. W. Boyd, Jas. Carmichael, L. Parker, W. Culliton, H. Graves, J. Williams, F. J. Barnes, J. S. Pitts, G. Taylor, E. W. Whiteway, C. F. Horwill, P. Burnham, W. Clouston, T. F. Lamb, J. W. Mann, G. S. Milligan, A. Diamond.

In compliance with the above requisition and for the objects therein referred to, I hereby convene a public meeting of the citizens of St. John's, to be held in the Court House on Saturday next, the Eleventh Instant, at Seven o'clock, p.m.

T. TALBOT, Sheriff of C. D.

Sheriff's Office, Feb. 7th, 1888.

Bond and other Storage

TO BE HAD ON APPLICATION TO JAMES R. KNIGHT, Commission Merchant.

Notice of Copartnership.

THE UNDERSIGNED have this day formed a Copartnership under the firm name and style of JOHN MAGOR & SON, succeeding to the business heretofore carried on in New York City in the name of Magor Brothers & Co. Dated at New York, October 1, 1887.

JOHN MAGOR, WILLIAM ALBERT MAGOR.