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## GERTRUDE MANNERING

A TALE OF SACRIFICE

BY FRANCES NOBLE

CHAPTER XIX.—CONTINUED "If you please, Miss Mannering, Lady Hunter wishes to know if you are unwell, and if she may come up to you, or would you like anything. She said I was to tell you that Mr. Graham told her you were not well, and had gone up-stairs; and as you did not come down, they did not like to go to bed without hearing

how you are, miss."
"Thank you, Roberts. Will you say I am better now—quite well, indeed; but that I prefer going to again, as I have still a slight head-ache, and it is getting late? Per-haps Lady Hunter will come to me in the morning if I lie a little longer than usual, as I think I must ask her to let me; but if she does not mind, Roberts, tell her I would "My love, how white and ill you rather she did not trouble to come now, as I am all right, and shall be all right and blooming again!

ed directly. "And you won't have anything brought up to you miss?"
"Oh, no! thank you, Roberts; I don't want anything, Good-night!"

And with the sweet, courteous smile which made her a favorite with the day and every one, Gerty shut the door, and

the thought that, as he said, he might really bring himself to believe she did not love him, in his stand the motives which had obliged

with her hands clasped and a perplexed look on her face.

"No, I must not see him again; I dare not trust myself. I think I be strong; I do not feel afraid now; but we can never tell; we may not even put ourselves in the way of temptation if it can be avoided. I must go away tomorrow—home again to papa. My cousin when I tell her all, will help If he goes out for any length of time I can easily manage it; and he will, I think. But in any case I must not see him. God will help me, and will not let me be put in his way, I know. My cousin shall give him a note from me when I am gone: and she will excuse me to the She will know best how; she is always so kind, though it will grieve her so terribly-her and dear old Sir Robert. I can telegraph from the station to papa that I am coming home, and then he will not be so startled to see me." And she thought it out all methodically, as though she were planning, not for herself, but for some one else, with that numbed state of feeling coming

which she had brought to Nether-cotes, and laid them in readiness to morning, pursuing her occupation quickly, never pausing until it was finished. Then she drew from her finger the ring which somehow in her agitation she had forgotten until now—the pretty ring which Stanley had given her the evening before, intending as he told her, to replace it later by a handsomer one which he meant to purchase specially for herself, and which he would like her to choose. She took it off quickly, as though not daring to linger over it or look at it, and put it away to be returned to the giver; then, as she stood by the dressing-table, she glanced at the mirror, almost starting at the sight of the face reflected there—so white and ghastly, years older, she thought, since yesterday. Her task over, she lingered still by the fire, as though reluctant to seek the sleep from which the awakening would be so terrible.

"I could do better, I think to stay up all night and face it—the life that is before me—for I have now begun to realize it a little. But to have to let myself forget it for a few hours—to go to sleep and dream perhaps, and then to wake again to it all! But I must, or I should, perhaps, be ill in the morning, and they would not let me go. And I shall have to grow used to it at home; the forgetting it in sleep and dreams, and then the awaking, in all the weary days that are only

And when once undressed and in hed, with her little convent crucifix clasped tightly in her hand, Gerty soon fell into the heavy, kindly sleep, almost stupor, of exhaustion and utter weariness which often comes when all is over, after a cruel mental struggle such as she had experienced, after a day of such agitation as hers had been.

even than she had pictured; and Gerty lay still a while longer, with her eyes closed, as though wishing to defer as long as possible at least out some of its agony in words, where they're going?" scolded to be see everything in sight that she doesn't care who she bangs with here to defer as long as possible at least the bodily facing of the duty which lay before her. She had glanced at her watch, and found it late for an early riser like herself; but she knew Lady Hunter would not expect her down early, and she must keep her room, if she could, until Stanley should go out, as she to defer to a some of its agony in words, a terrible sob broke from it too, and Gerty paused a minute, while her cousin made her rest her head on her shoulder. "He told me what a love he would give me if I would only yield; that never wife had must keep her room, if she could, until Stanley should go out, as she to be anged with her old bean t care who she bangs with her old bead purse!"

"Old? I bet you she bought it yesterday; it's exactly like one I saw, but I gave it one glance and passed on. Bead bags don't fit my salary, not this year." laughed Charlotte. Let's take that bus. Oh, we can't! It's filled up and the temptation (you gone. Now we are in for a wait." hoped and felt sure, somehow, he would do.

In a few minutes there was gentle knock, and the maid entered, bringing a cup of tea, which Lady Hunter had sent up in case Gerty should be awake. "Lady Hunter will come up

directly, miss," she said. Gerty drank the tea, and when the maid had left the room she remained sitting up in bed waiting for her cousin, nerving herself for her task. A few minutes more brought Lady Hunter, who sat down at once by the bedside and took both Gerty's hands as she

you did not look well all day yesterday, and I thought at the "is there no other way? Is it not time something more must ail you than merely Stanley's day's merciful: does He, even in your a season. Today's venture too cruel? God is so good and than merely Stanley's day's merciful: does He, even in your it might presage a turn of the scale

The color rose now deeply enough | this? "Indeed I am not ill. Julia-not

was alone again.

"He has betrayed nothing, then, yet. But he is too proud ever to do that, whatever he suffers. Is he suffering much, or is his anger too great against me?"

But she dare not think of his suffering, the thought of which was more terrible than her own—harder, oh! so much harder to bear; the thought that, as he said, he she here before the effort and the rest, for the day; but he will

the rest, for the day; but he will be back before the others, an hour or two, he said, love."
A strange look contracted Gerty's

inability to appreciate or under-

stand the motives which had obliged her to renounce him.

"I must not let myself think of it. It is all over now; I must never see him again unless—unless—but why do I deceive myself again with hope?"

Then she stood before the fire, with her hands clasped and a perwinder. to have brain fever or something of the kind; but, seeing her alarm, Gerty smiled so quietly and naturally, though sadly, that the fear of that kind vanished, and she only asked very gently and anxiously:

"Oh! surely not, Gerty! It cannot be anything so bad as that. Tell me, if you can, love, what is wrong. You and Stanley have not quarrelled; or, if there has been anything, it will be all right again? You take it too much to heart, love whatever it is; for though Stanley is stern and hasty, no one is more just or tender in reality; no one could be more sorry if he has said anything to hurt you, Gerty."
Without answering her yet, Gerty

questioned her in turn: "Did he-say anything, Julia, to -to make you think anything was

wrong? "He said nothing, love, not a word, last night. He merely told me he thought you were not very well and had gone up stairs, when I wondered why you did not come back to the drawing-room. But his look and manner were so gloomy and abstracted that I could not but Then, instead of undressing, she began to make preparations for departure. Mechanically she gathered together all her things, her of that kind one likes to be alone, sions. mother calling me back to get my coat this morning?" she demanded for bella. "I might as well put it on; it just ruins a coat to carry it all twisted upon your arm." They because you know, he cares so little about hunting. He was very quiet and silent then, until, as they were preparing to go out, he came to me and said that he should be back an hour or so before the rest, if possible; and though he did not say your name, Gerty, I felt, from his look and manner, that it was a kind of message for you, love."

"And I must not be here when he comes back, Julia; you must let me go this afternoon." Then putting the coat this morning?" she demanded for bella. "I might as well put it on; it just ruins a coat to carry it all twisted upon your arm." They were hurrying along Michigan avenue, and Della smoothed down the offending garment with a sympathetic hand.

"It is lots cooler; I wish I had mine," she said, shivering a little as a boisterous wind swept across the park. "Believe me, I'm actually your name, Gerty, I felt, from his look and manner, that it was a kind of message for you, love."

"And I must not be here when he comes back, Julia; you must let me go this afternoon." Then putting out of a quiet pool are caught up by the waters of a hurrying river, so the two girls were whirled along. The demanded for the morning?" she demanded for the mention; it just ruins a coat to carry it all twisted upon your arm." They were hurrying along Michigan avenue, and Della smoothed down the clean, happy days! Days and years of sorrow, cruel, ugly living were gone. It was summer. and his mother's birthday. The shuffling feet went faster. He must hurry, so that his gift, the result of heartbreaking hoardings of pennies, such as only a boy of ten can experience, might be at her plate before she sat down at the meager table. He recalled that vividly.

He was in time its know the clean, happy days! Days and years of sorrow, cruel, ugly living were gone. It was summer. and his mother's birthday. The shuffling feet went faster. The

me go this afternoon." Then put-ting her hand again in her cousin's, she continued, her heart beating once more after its unnatural calm: 'You remember, don't you, Julia, saying to me yesterday, when I was telling you the news"—and her lips quivered—"that I should not always get my own way like you do, that I should have to give in a good deal to Stanley when I became his want my own way, because I should always think his wishes the best for me. Even as I said that, Julia, the fear came up in my heart, though I dared not listen to it then, that there might be one thing which I he would not be the state of t he would ask me to do in which I could not obey him, and about which I must make sure before I became his wife. I think you guess, Julia, what I mean: my—teliging—whether he would always the could not obey him, and about woman who swung a bead bag. His hand moved scarce a fraction of an inch toward it, when a promising

idea of Him, ask a sacrifice like in his favor.
A wide doorway loomed ahead.

"Gerty, do you remember, when you first came to me in London"— his fingers. This means visits to and Lady Hunter spoke slowly and various pawnshops, always dangersolemnly now—"one day that you ous, so his luck hadn't changed were explaining the doctrine of hell after all. Disgusted, the red-eyed to me—at least, why it should be easy to believe, even to those who are not Catholics, who take it of course with the rest—and I told

The next moment his white face TO BE CONTINUED

#### THE STOLEN ROSARY

The last Thursday of July brought a measure of relief to the two million odd who "summered," or as Charlotte Martin expressed it, to her best friend, Della Smith, "sim-mered in the city." As a usual thing Charlotte had scant time or words to expend on weather dis-cussions. The busy little brain under her smart sport hat (bought at a "mark-down" sale, of course) had more than enough to occupy it, what with the ever-present problem of stretching a pitiful small check eyes were riveted on the crueifix beyond all possibility, so that an occasional, very occasional, "soda" might be indulged in. But in the last two weeks even Charlotte had been drawn into weeklast and the concrete of Wabash avelance. been drawn into weather discusat first at least. Then you did not come down to breakfast, as I felt coat this morning?" she demanded

so the two girls were whirled along in the happy, chattering crowd.

of the street, stopping now and again to test the merits of an unagain to test the merits or an uncoronic department. With no perceptible increase in his shuffling perceptible increase in his shuffling the street.

been made. After that, to become one with the home-going throng was a simple matter. The red-eyed man quick-ened his steps until his heels were religion—whether he would always looking bulge in the jaunty pocket let me practise it; whether—if— of a blue tricotine coat (purchased And when once undressed and in hed, with her little convent crucifix clasped tightly in her hand, Gerty soon fell into the heavy, kindly sleep, almost stupor, of exhaustion and utter weariness which often comes when all is over, after a cruel mental struggle such as she had experienced, after a day of agitation as hers had been.

CHAPTER XX.

The shock was over, the shock of awakening and remembering everything, which was so much worse

The shock was so much worse

The shock was so much worse

And when once undressed and in the would be children, I might there should be children, I might have them too brought up Catholics. Well, I have asked him, Julia, spoken to him about it, pleaded with him as well as I could, telling him I could never be his wife unless I won from him that promise; and—and he—refused to give it, Julia. He pleaded, on his side, that I would yield, as hard as I did on mine to him; for his hatred of religion—our religion—is something terrible, Julia. Even you would be startled at it, I think, if you heard how stern it made him

The whether nic wonth ever in the wonth of a blue tricotine coat (purchased to fa blue tricotine coat (purchased in the jaunty pleaded (park) and let him put it under her hard realize the folly of/bag snatching in such a crowd where a "get-away" verged on the impossible. Here was a fat roll in an outside pocket, telling him I could never be his wife unless I won from him that promise; and—and he—refused to give it, Julia. He pleaded, on his side, that I would yield, as hard as I did on mine to him; for his hatred of religion—our religion—is something the wonth of a bus at a bargain sale) made him realize the folly of/bag snatching in such a crowd where a "get-away" verged on the impossible. Here wont a low to find the next day, a First because the folly of bag snatching in such a crowd where a "get-away" verged on the impossible. Here wont a low to find the next day at the pleaded, on his side, that I would yield, as hard as the pleaded, on his side, that I would yield,

doesn't care who she bangs with her

from him and the temptation (you understand me, don't you, Julia, though you do not care for our holy faith? and when I had to ask him was around the corner and shuffling finally if he would grant what I along Wabash avenue. His soiled fingers were around a bulging honorably that he could not—that as his wife I should never practise times alright," he chuckled to himmy religion with his knowledge.
Then—then I just said a word of
farewell and—left him. You will
help me to get away, Julia, won't
help me to get away, Julia, won't
his victim. The red-eyed man was you, not to pain him again useless-ly?—for I cannot yield, cannot lose God for him, Julia, though I would give up all else; and he will not yield, never will, as he told me so— There was a minute's silence, for Gerty could say no more, and Lady Hunter's tears were flowing fast.

Say In the Lock to the String of Carry more than carfare at one time for fear they'll see something and spend it." At best a pick-pocket's life is a hand-to-mouth

"He has the first claim on us, has He not, Julia? If to please a creature we must give Him up, give up what He has revealed as His one holy religion, then He does ask one holy religion, then He does ask it out for the edification of any archive the state of the sta such a sacrifice, even like this; but chance passer-by who might be promising, oh! such a reward, Julia moved to wonder at onyone's stand-—heaven and His love for all ing in the doorway of an empty eternity!" And she paused a minute ere she continued: "You would not have me give up God, Julia. These were quite unnecessary prewould you, believing as I do that I cautions, though, for the street was should lose my soul by so doing— empty for the entire block. He would you, believing as I do that I should lose my soul by so doing—
lose it for ever in hell, unless time were given me to repent truly? and I could not expect or be sure of that."

cautions, though, for the street was empty for the entire block. He undid the tiny clasp that closed the case. Two fingers were thrust within, then a shade of disappointment crossed, his thin, white face.

course with the rest—and I told you you only fancied you believed it, but that you could not really do so? Well, I shall never say that again, Gerty—never say you do not believe that or any other doctrine. You have proved your faith to me, love, better than a hundred sermons could have done."

TO BE CONTRIVED.

The next moment his white face had gone from white to red and then to a ghastly pallor again. "A rosary! Well what do you know about that?" He said the words half aloud and fingered the gold chain and garnet beads of Charlotte's Easter gift. "I chose this one particularly, Charlotte, because the crucifix is really heautifully one particularly, Charlotte, because the crucifix is really beautifully her mother had said. beautifully made. The made. It was beautifully made. agonized face held in it all the pleading that an artist hand could bring out in the cold metal. There was love and beauty as well

as sorrow and anguish looking out from the sad eyes. These eyes seemed now to sear the very soul of the abashed thief. "A rosary!" he said again. Forgetful of the risk he ran and unmindful of the strange sight he presented, with five or six inches of chain and flashing beads hanging between his limp fingers, he left the doorway and walked farther south. His shifty

nue: they were carrying him at "What do you think of marvelously rapid pace down roads he used to know in the past, oh, so

That had been one of the few The pale, red-eyed man who had been ambling along on the east side attendant troubles seemed to have lost its power to cast shadows over the poor little rooms that his

wife; and I laughed and said I was the hand of the traffic policeman not afraid; that I should never waved him with a hundred others to want my own way, because I should always think his wishes the best automobiles until the passage had automobiles until the passage had the street directly in its path, but a sucomobile surface wave directly in its path w its way with only a yell of warning from him. Instinctively his finger had tightened upon the crucifix The sharp edges bruised his un-

calloused palm.

That had happened that other That had happened that other summer day, too. He remembered his mother smoothed the tiny red had resulted from the ecstatic pressure he had given his treasure in his homeward run. She

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