

The Broken April Circle!

CHAPTER XXXVI.

He would put an end to all his doubts it once; better a thousand times to fix his chain so tightly that he could

ot even move it. Leah was standing against the carv- of what awaited her, would have pro ed mantel-piece in the drawing-room; nounced her to be one of the happiest a bright fire burned in the grate, the girls on whom the sun shone. Beauty, lamps were lighted, and a half-golden | riches, honor, love-every gift with radiance from them filled the rorm and which life and fortune can crown their fell on the queenly head with its Crat favorites was hers.

of rich dark hair, on the beautiful face that was transfigured with love and all her troubles, both past and preshappiness, and on the white graceful ent, when the faint shadows died, and throat and rounded arms. The fine the sun of her love and happiness white lace swept the floor. A prince shone out in full and perfect day; then for his wife; her beauty and grace and her disturbing fancies took tanwould have charmed any man. Per- gible shape.

hans, out of the whole wide world, this | But in April with the snowdrops and man who was to marry her was the violets, with the springing leaves and har loveliness without emotion He went up to her, and put his arm Basil must love her, or he would not round her waist. He was not given to ask her to be his wife. He was not caressing, and Leah raised her face marrying her for beauty; he had seen with an expression of half-amused fairer women. It was not for her wonder.

"I want to ask you a question, Leah." It could be for nothing but love. To he said, gently, "What day shall we her own heart she said that she would choose for our wedding-day? I shall be happy; she would trample under eave it entirely to you, dear," he con- foot all her fancies and thoughts. tinued. "We arranged that the wedding should take place in the spring-in give herself up to happiness which should have in it no alloy. hat month shall it be?"

Something in his tone arrested her ftention: his voice was not musical ith love, but earnest, as though he colors and decorations for her boudoir. weighed each syllable. She looked at In every detail he showed the stronghim keenly; he was calm, with a est desire to please her. What he did thoughtful expression on his face; not give in devoted or passionate love. there was no rapture, no warmth. She he gave her in unremitting attention.

could not tell why, but in that moment her heart chilled; then she reproached herself for it. He could give her no greater proof of love than this-that to be his wife. Why should she find fault with the manner of his asking? Yet she wished that tress. The room that was to be so esthere had been more passion in his sentially her own, her boudoir, he was words.

people say," he continued. "The violets known firm of Clough & Hewson had bloom and the trees begin to bud in waited upon him, and, after some little April. Shall it be in April, Leah?" She put her arms around his neck be grateful if he could see the porthat shone in her eyes might have of the lady who was to preside over melted a heart of stone.

"Are you quite sure that you wish it then, Basil?" she asked, anxiously. "I am quite sure." he replied, with more firmness and greater tenderness. "Then it shall be just as you will," she replied; and they parted that night



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elling himself that this peerless w