## LORD HUNTLEIGH

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### MODERN NEMESIS

(By Margaret Kelly)

"A very easy condition," cried Sy- Miss Quick, weakly "It is no uso bil, "only I am alraid I can't pro- bringing me anything. Oht to think mise to fulfil it; for I know I shall love you a thousand times more ev-

CHAPTER VII.

"You go up, Mrs. Henneit, dear, and ask Miss Quick to open her door. I am sure she will do it for you. Give Baby to mo-there, he is quite good, you see! He won't dream of crying

while you are away." The speaker was Mrs Elmsloy, and, as requested, Dollio handed over baby Aubrey to the Matron Whilst she went upstairs to coax the refractory Miss Quick into obedience. The fact of the matter was, Miss Quick had an inordinate liking for cats. It was more than a liking, it was a positive mania. Before coming to St. Margaret's she had lived in a tiny cottage by herself and had kept numberless cats. On coming to St Margarct's, however, (which she did in a cab, accompanied by seven cats), her feline friends had been promptly reduced to two, Miss Marjorio allowing her to keep her two favorites. Miss Quick made herself generally obnoxious to the rest of the inmates of the house. She was deaf, and on that account seldom spoke to anyone. When in the general sitting room she always set her chair near the farpets on the window-sill upon velvet cushions, would remain in the same place for hours together, sewing and reading, as the case might be. All

efforts to make her join in the general conversation, or to take part in various amusements, were met by a frigid refusal-sometimes politely worded, more often not. She scarcely ever went outside the grainds, except to church on Sundays. ' During the year, however, she always made a point of visiting the Crystal Palace Cat Show, and here she would spend a whole day going round the cages, stroking the animals, talking to them, and oven kissing them. During the past few weeks she had been in very great grief on account of the iliness first of Timmy and then of Zuc. Notwithstanding all her watchful care Tim had developed some disease which Zue caught also. Matters at length reached such a crisis that the inmates of St. Margaret's declared it was nothing more or less than crucity to animals to allow the cats to live on in such misery. Besides they insisted upon the fact that it was far from healthy to live under the same roof as poor Tim and Zue. Miss Quick tended her pets with assiduous care, and literally washed them with her tears as she dwelt upon the unkindness of her companions. Madame Meliacourt in particular made her life was arrived at when a mandate was issued that the cats were to be drowned. Strategy was resorted to in order to seize the cats, and Dollie was made the instrument of deception, for she was asked by the Ma-

When the Matron on their return made the sad news known to Miss Quick, that lady fell into a succession of hysterical and fainting fits, and upset herself to such an extent that she

tron to take Miss Quick for a long

walk, and in the meantime the cats

were abducted from their mistress'

room and shortly afterwards found a

became really ill. She then locked herself up in her room and refused admittance to everyone. This would not have been serious; but she also refused to take any food. The Matron was-rather alarmed at this, for she knew the peculiarly obstinate nature of the woman she had to deal with, and seared that she would become seriously ill. Several times she had been to Miss Quick's door and had successively coaxed, reprimanded and expostulated, but all in vain. The occupants of St. Margaret's had been up in turn, and had each tried their hand at cajoling their companion into reason. Their success, however, had been nil, and in despair the Metron was thinking of sending for Miss Mar-

As a last resource she sent \Dollie to try her powers of persuasion. Here Dollie's gentleness, patience, and tact, came to her aid, and 'at length she was rewarded by Miss Quick giving her admittance. Dollie was astoniahed at the change in her appearance a deep sigh that Mrs. Willox looked in the pressed a kiss on them with such a deep sigh that Mrs. Willox looked in the pressed a kiss on them with such a deep sigh that Mrs. Willox looked in the pressed a kiss on them with such a deep sigh that Mrs. during the last few days. She was pale and hollow-cheeked, and her eyes looked sunken with much weeping door opened and the Matron appearable was excessively weak also, and ed, accompanied by Miss Marjorie She was excessively weak also, and it was quite apparent even to Dollic's | Walton and another lady, whose loveinexperienced eye that she needed im- ir face and beautiful dress found their

She insisted on Miss Quick's going to bed at once, and in a short time she had made the bed, which she found all tossed and tumbled. The Sission, but Dollie's quick fingers soon and beautiful countenance. restored it to meatness.

"Now I am going down for some soup fot you — and you must take it larly wished to speak to her. Dollie after all my trouble, and Dollie services was pleased for speak to her. Dollie was pleased for speak to her Boiles was pleased for speak to her Boiles War-

thing to but antistaction. "I couldn't take anything," walled employment.

bringing me anything. Out to think of my darling angels meeting such a terriblo\_dcath!"

Dollie would have been mused only that the poor creature's distress was so very real.

Miss Quick had risen and was sitting up in bed so Dollie went over to make her lie down. She clutched at Dollio My dear," she said, "believo me, my Tim and Zue were more to me than any human being has ever been. You are yoing yet-you don't know anything of the deceit of mankind, but I do. I have reason to know that the poor dumb creatures

are faithful when all others fail " Dollie shuddered visibly as sho ro-Occted that but for little Aubrey sho might have become just such another embittered prematurely aged woman as the one before her. A tear glistened in her bright eyes Miss Quick saw it and saw sympathy in it Sho clasped Dollie with her feeble arms, saying "You ard the only one who has any pity for me. Don't let any of the others come near me, and I'll do exactly as you wish."

Dollie gently extracted herself from the weak grasp, and then went off to report the success of her mission to

Notwithstanding the watchlulness expended on Miss Quick, she managed thest window, and placing her two to find her way out into the garden the next evening, and was found there by Dollio after having spent an hour or two by a fresh mound on earth which she presumed covered the grave of her lost pets.

On the following day Miss Quick was too ill to move, and the doctor who was called in pronounced her to be suffering from acute pneumonia. She had evidently contracted a chill in the damp garden. Dollie was installed as nurse After a sharp fight between life and death, the former triumphed, and our nurse received the hearty congratulations of the doctor, who declared that she was cut out for this gentle profession. A few weeks passed, and one very duil day Dollie was in the sitting room of St. Margaret's, feeling rather depressed She had been at St. Margaret's more than a year now, and though she was certainly a great help to the Matron, she had begun to feel that she ought to try and get some sort of employment - for there was the boy Aubrey to think of. Dollie was determined that he should receive a good education, even though she should work her fingers to the bone to obtain it for

Aubrey could toddle about now, and bade fair to combine the handsome or companions. Madame face of his father with the sterling beautiful Aubrey up to Miss Walton's particular made her life qualities and sweet disposition of his friend, she was prostrate with grief.

I at length the climax mother. Dollio was sewing buslly, But after the first day's separation is the prostrate with grief. and her thoughts and fingers were both flying along with lightning speed. Mrs. Willcox was deep in the pages of a three-year-old Strand Magazine, and at the plane sat a musical newcomer, with a voice decidedly in need of renovation, who was singing most sentimentally "Oh, promise me that you will take my hand," etc.

Presently Madame Melincourt tripped into the room with her most youthful air and said in her most affected tones: "Miss Marjorio Walton has come. I saw her carriage come up a few minutes ago and it has gone away empty; so perhaps she is going to stay a day or two. I shall be so delighted to have her! She does remind me so much of my darling sister-in-law, Madame Caresec." She pirouetted to and fro before the mirror, and then, turning with a sigh to Dollie, said: "Who would believe, to see me now, that I was once the brilliant and beautiful Madame la Comtesse de Melincourt, of the salons | ed at the idea of being so easily of Paris?"

Dollie bent her head over her sewing so that her smile of amusement should not be seen, for she thought Madame's beauty must have dated wack a very considerable time, there was so little of it left now.

Then, in the exuberance of her spirits. Madame caught un little Aubrey and waltred round the room with him. Poor Aubrey was glad to be released again and ran to his mother. where he held tightly to her skirts in up in affright.

At this moment the sitting room mediate care to prevent a serious ill- | way immediately to Baby Aubrey's heart and caused a wave of admiration to pass over Dollie's.

Miss Marjorie conversed with all her protegees and the stranger did cure - especially at first, when she the same appearing to be much at- was strange and unaccustomed to the room was in a state of the direct con- tracted by Dollie's unaffected manner

The evening a message came for Mrs. Bonhett. Miss Marjorie particujorie as to her prospect of getting

ing her to a seat beside her on the

"You could hardly be cruck, I think," was Dollio's reply.

"Well, I am going to suggest something that perhaps you may think very dreadfully cruel, I want you to let some one have—liaby. Some one who wants him very much, and who would, be very good and kind to him."

As Marjorie Walton finished this speech Dollie's eyes filled. This was a hard request, and Dollio scarcely knew what to reply

"The lady whom you saw to-day," continued Marjorio, "came here spocially to see you and Baby. She is my dearest friend, and when I told her about Aubrey she was most enthusfastic and said that she should like to see him and perhaps adopt

Dollle's tears fell "You were very kind to think of us," she murmured, "but I don't know how I could part with Aubrey. He is the only one I loves me "

"But think, dear," resumed Miss Walton. "Think of all this adoption means for him and for you. My friend is thoroughly good, and the boy will be brought up well. If you will not part with him, see what a burden he will always be to you. I must tell you that I have been trying to get you a place as probationer-nurse in one of the large hospitals | could begin by being a staff nurse. I and I think I shall be successful Dr. am sure it is much easier than being Ward is sure that you will nake a a probationer. We have to do all the capital nurse, and he has highly recommended you. I knew, of course, that you had a liking for the work or I should not have made inquiries without consulting you first. However, as I had an opportunity of her right-hand neighbor, who was of speaking to the staff nurse has only to walk round and grumble at everything I am positive I could do that to perfection without any training."

"I am sure you could," remarked her right-hand neighbor, who was of ask you to decide in a hurry You must have a few days to think matters over. My friend has quite failen in love with Aubrey. She will indeed be disappointed if she cannot have him."

It was a relief to Dollie to have a few days' respite before making a decision, but those days proved most trying to the poor distracted mother. At last, however, she was forced to conclude that she could do nothing better than give Aubrey to the lady who wished to adopt him. She argued that she was not yet able to carn sufficient money to support herself; how, then, could she hope to earn chough for both, and in what way could she do it, if hampered by the child? Then came the thought that in giving Aubrey she had no further right or claim to him. He would grow up to forget - his mother. A rush of bitter tears followed this thought, and the heart of the mother was wrung with anguish as she conjured up a scene of the time when she might perchance meet her darling boy and be to him nothing more than any other passerby. Dollie was so much worn out by this struggle with herself that when the day came, and with man, prayers and the hope that all was for the best she delivered her melancholy sorrow and sad forebodings, for Miss Marjorie arrived to take her to the hospital where she had been accepted as probationer.

Miss Marjorie took a positive pleasure in seeing her protegee attired in the neat dress and linen apron, and insisted upon pinning on the becoming white cap.

"Well, my dear Mrs. Bennett," she exclaimed, "you are really the very picture of what a nurse ought to be. I never saw one look so charming even at a fancy dress ball!"

Dollie blushed at this, and more still when she was told that she must in future be known as Nurse Dorothy.

"It is easy enough to look what a nurse ought to be," observed the Matron, smilingly. "It is just a little harder to be exactly the thing."

"Don't discourage her, please," begged Miss Marjorie, and Dollie laugh

"We have had a varied experience with probationers," said the Matron "Some of them come in with the idea of instituting aweeping reforms the first day; others come because they think it so very interesting to smooth the pillows of the invalids and to lay a cool hand upon their fevered brows, and others come because they have perhaps quarrelled with their lovers. We have them of all sorts and conditions, but we are soon able to sepa-

rate the chaff from the wheat." "Nurse Dorothy will be placed with the latter from the first day, I am sure, and she has already nursed a very tiresome case. But I suppose I

am taking up valuable time." So Miss Marjorio bustled away n her fussy but good-natured manner, and once more Dollie found herself with strangers, and about to make one more start in life. She set to work, however, with a hearty good will, throwing her whole soul and mind into the work she had taken upon herself. Her post was no sinesomewhat monotonous routine of the probationer's daily task - and the strict discipline which was enforced was entirely new to her However, she consoled herself by the thought that bed-making and locker-scrubbing and running hither and thither for this or that would not be her uccunation incover. In the mountime she

whose ward she was completed. He- her or tourmur a few words in an-

The state of the complete and the state of t

younger and more flighty ones out of that had become her share. their numerous scrapes, that they quito looked up to her as a superior being.

"You nover seem tired or cross like the rest of us, Nurse Dorothy," aid one of her companions, a pretty, viwas "Nurso Ella,"

They were at tea and Nurse Ella had come in late, looking extremely hot and tired, and quite ready to "bite anyone's head off" who spoke to her, as she said.

Nurse Dorothy, who was employed in cutting extra-thin bread and butter for her, smiled a little sadis She was often tired and often wears -more weary than ever pretty little him compared with his own selfish possible for him to love anyone - Nurse Elia's shallow head could pleasures have - the only person left who dream of - and on many nights she had simply cried herself to sleep with thoughts of Aubrey and of the dread past, but this was known only to herself, for she had a brave, strong heart, and was in a position where hearts and heads such as hers were

> invaluable. Nurso Ella, who felt better after that woman's panacea for all evils, a cup of tea, rattled on: "I wish one work, and the staff nurse has only to

speaking to the Matron at St. a sarcastic turn. "You are eminently George's Hospital the other day I fitted for the work you describe Natook advantage of it Now, we won't | ture certainly intended you for something of the sort."

A general laugh was raised at Ella's expense, in which even Dorothy the least, though she retorted something to the effect that Nature had evidently intended some people for razor sharpening machines, but, changing her mind, had sent them to

The sarcastic girl said no more, and

As time wore on and Dollie became used to hospital life she grew to love her work, and before long she was ble position, and advanced daily in the good graces of the hospital authorities and patients alike To her tion many poor persons owed their lives, as they alterwards testified the ward door was like an electric

"I wonder if you will think me very was very quick and neat in every-cruel, Mrs. Bennett," said Marjorie, thing she did, and soon gained the taking Dollie by the hand and draw-approtion of the staff-nurse in the most feeble would find a smile for gone away and remained for peveral sides this, she became a general ia- awer to her greetings. So Dollie was vorite with the nurses, and especial- as happy as it was possible to be ly with the other probationers. She for some time, and then a cloud was so ready to give them a belping loomed on the horizon and threatenhand, and so often assisted the ed to dispel much of the sunshine

CHAPTER VIII.

Sybli had been Lady Huntleigh now vacious little creature whose title for six months, but to ter the time appeared to be rather six centuriesan eternity. The veil of love-blindness had been roughly torn from her eyes, his mask he seemed to have become and Alaric had appeared in his true colors She know him to be a game bler and a selfish, unscrupulous man As yet this was the worst she knew of him, and it was enough. Alaric Huntleigh had broken another heart, but then hearts were as nothing to

Sorrow developed in Sybil qualities

Which one would hardly bave thought her possessed of. Bitter as was the dislike with which she regarded her hisband, and crushed as was her own heart by this dread disappointment hearthrug, gazing thoughtfully into and borror at realizing that she was the bright fire which glowed warm tied for life to a man whom she must and ruddy before her, when her husdespise, she had resolved to keep her secret from the world. Her pride kept her up to this resolution; but it was not pride that kept her from opening her heart to her parents-it was her deep love for them She could not bear to cause them even one moment's regret or sorrow. She knew that what affected her affected them in the same manner, and to have in any way helped on a union that was so hateful now to their child would have been to them a matter of lifelong remorse. Besides, the neglect, the slights, the sneers and the extravagancer of her husband could not be mended by interference from outside; and since her parents could not joined; but Ella was not put out in help her in the matter, Sybil preferred to suffer in silence that they might be happy in her seeming happiness. She went on bravely, though | glance upon him. often she wondered what this must all end in. At the houses where she be mirses for the further trial of the visited with her husband, and where it was his policy to keep up appearances, they were remarked upon as a matter is, I want some money - I Eila demolished any amount of Doro- | singularly happy couple, and little thy's slices of bread and butter, the world dreamed that Lady Huntshowing that her hard work in no leigh hid under her bright, sunny ex- of the old boy for me. Do you see?"
way tended to diminish her appetite. terior a heart out of which all the (To be continued.) young life had been almost crushed, and which many times ached with dull pain when its fair owner was promoted to more and more responsi- most brilliantly gay and attractive.

Alaric had behaved well for three months; then one day, after betting, he found that he had lost heavily. He unwearying care and assiduous atten- came home in the vilest of tempers, and immediately displayed the dispositions he had hitherto so skilfully with touching expressions of grati- | hidden. He drank large quantities of tude. Nurse Dorothy's appearance at | brandy, too, and though it could not be said he was ever actually intoxi- is without a peer.

days without leaving any information as to his whereabouts, and it required all Sybil's ingenuity to prevent like ignorance on these points being discovered by others. To-night they were to dine at the

Margraves', and Sybli, though aching with the desire to be at home with her parents, positively loathed the idea of the hypocritical part she must play during the evening Alarie had returned that day after two days' absence, in order to accompany her, for it was part of Lis programme to play the model husband before his wife's relatives Sinco he had once let fall an almost absolute fiend in the methode he devised for torturing the girl whom he had sworn to love and ther ish Her calm, dignified tearing to wards himself infurtated him, and he began actually to dislike her though be had loved her as much as it was that is to say, if we may be allowed to dignify his passionate liking by the sacred name of love.

Sybil was ready and had descended to the drawing-room to await Alaric's pleasure, She was standing on the band came in, shutting the door carefully, threw himself into a lounge and told her roughly to sit down She looked at the clock and said coldly as she took a set opposite him, "We are niready late."

"Late!" he said, mockingly "You ought to be all the better pleased, then. Your beauty will attract all the more notice."

Sybli's face paled and a chocking sensation which presaged tears roso in her round white throat, but she answered her husband calmly: "It is very flattering to be the object of so loins. much satiry. But please say what you came here he say. I do not wish to disappoint my mother by my absence this evening." She stood up as a protest against his tardiness, but did not vouchsafe to bestow even a

:He laughed as he replied tauntingly: "No; it would never do to disappoint the 'mater,' so I will come to the point at once. The fact of the want it immediately, so you must manage to screw a few hundreds out (To be continued.)

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