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"SHADOW LOVE By the Author of Dora Thorne.

CHAPTER XXXI.

Continued.) MISS CAMERON,

Walton Court, Westshire.

Lady Rylestone's heart gave a great, jealous bound when she saw that letter. She knew that in the London post-office one would be waiting for her; but she wanted Adelaide's She could not bear that another face should be brightened, another heart lightened, by his written words. He was all her own, and she laid her hands, with a passionate cry, on the letter; she would rather, ten thousand times over, have torn it into shreds than have given t to Miss Cameron to read. She would have done so but that she dared not-it might have led to her detection.

And then Adelaide entered the breakfast room, fair and smiling as a summer morning. Her whole face brightened when she saw the foreign letter laid by her plate.

'That is for me!' she cried. 'It is from Lord Rylestone.'

And Lord Rylestone's wife sat by in silence while the heiress read and reread her letter. 'You do not eat any breakfact,' Margarita said, at last; for Miss Cameron had pushed

aside her plates. ' I do not want any-the tea is quite suffici ent, thank you.'

And Margarita could not help seeing tha he was too deeply engrossed in her letter to care for anything else. When she had read it through, she sat for some time with a smile on her lips and a bright, happy look on her face, wrapped in a reverie, and then she said:

'That is a kind letter. I must answer it before the mail goes.'

And Margarita was obliged to make some indifferent remark. She would have liked rise indignantly, to seize the letter in her grasp, to say, 'He is my husband, and because of you he is an exile!' Her heart was hardened against the fair-faced girl who lived in such luxury, while her husband was over the sea. She longed too, with a wild longing to read the written words that had brought such happy look to the young face.

'Is it a kind letter?' she asked, with a cold smile. 'I do not think gentlemen, as a rule make good letter-writers.'

Why not?' asked Adelaide. 'They study brevity where ladies study full

ness of expression. Lord Rylestone does not try to describe Canada to you, does he?' ' No,' replied Adelaide, with a happy laugh: he does not even mention it;' and then, look-

ing up suddenly, she saw the dark eyes fixed on her with a wistful look. She did not understand the expression, but she took the letter and beld it out to Margarita.

'Read it,' she said, 'and you will change your opinion as to gentlemen's letters.'

The dark face burned and the dark eyes fiashed as Margarita took the letter-her husband's letter-and read it through. It was kind and cordial, thanking Miss Cameron for the long letter of details she had sent, asking her to see one or two old pensioners for him, wishing her all happiness and prosperity, and concluding as her 'sincere friend, Allan Ryle-

There was not one word that might not have been read aloud to strangers, and Margarita could not feel the least emotion of jealousy about it.

'It is a kind letter,' she said; 'but I cannot say that it alters my opinion. That remains unchanged-gentlemen do not write as well as

She had read the letter, but there was not a single word in it about the will, no allusion to it, nothing that could give her the least clew as to the secret, and she was bitterly disappointed. Could it, after all, be fancy on her part? No: she remembered the words so well. She had read them a hundred times—'I am thankful that no one knows the secret of the

And then she remembered Miss Cameron's a doctor, suggested Margarita. 'I hope it is agitation when the strange visitor to the Court | not sprained. had been mentioned, and how she had seemed to resent the question as to whether there had been anything strange about the will. She would have given anything for a clew, but the pain bravely. The moment they reached Walton, Margarita sent to Lufdale for a docthere would be a letter waiting for her in Lon-

don; she knew that it would go to the little villa at Marpeth, and that the servants would forward it according to ber directions. She asked Miss Cameron if she could be spared to run up to London for a day.

'Certainly. Your time is your own. Because you are kind enough to give the greater part of it to me, that is no reason why I should take it all. When do you wish to go?'

Margarita told her; and she was touched when Miss Cameron added-

'I hope you will not be away long-it is not so much because I need your services as that I shall miss your society. I have grown so fond of you that I shall count the hours of

Margarita went, and at St. Martin's le-Grand she found a letter awaiting her. Her heart had hungered for it, her soul had longed for it, and now that she had it, it exceeded all she had hoped for. Every line breathed such passionate love, such intense devotion, such sorrow at being away from her, that for a time she forgot everything else in the happiness of knowing how dearly she was loved. One sentence rearoused all her dislike to Adelaide and all her longing to find out the secret of the will, and it was-

'I wish that something unforeseen would happen to shorten my exile and bring me home

'His exile would be shortened if she could but find out the secret of the will-so she, in her infatuation, firmly believed.

CHAPTER XXXII.

THE autumn had gone; all the red and brown leaves had fallen; the great trees stood with their branches bare, and the cold winds bent them; the snow by like a mantle over the earth; King Winter was come with his crown of red holly. Once more Miss Cameron received a letter from Canada. This time there was a request for business details—when John Luck's lease would expire, and whether the Home Farm was to let; and these two questions Lord Rylestone begged Miss Cameron to

'I must write my letter for Canada to-day, said Adelaide to Margarita. 'I see the mail leaves on Wednesday, and this is Monday—I have no time to lose.

But Monday was a tempting winter day; to remain in-doors was an impossibility; there was a gleam of sunshine on the snow, the sky was brilliant, and air was so clear and bracing that to breathe it was a luxury.

'I must go out,' said Miss Cameron. 'I do not think there is a fairer sight on this fair earth than the woods in winter; to-day there is such a rich purple light amongst the trees, such a delicate silver haze, such a net-work of hoar-frost, that I cannot resist the tempta-

'You have forgotten your letter,' said Mar-

' No, I have not-nothing would make me forget it; but there will be plenty of time when I return. You will come with me, Mar-

Long before then Miss Cameron had abandoned a more formal style of address. She asked her young companion quite suddenly one evening, what was her Christian name; and, before she had time to think, Margarita

' Margarita,' repeated Miss Cameron-' then let me call you by it. I do not like "Miss Avenel "-it is so stiff and formal.' So from that time she used it.

They went out together, and the winter woods were as she said, beautiful, the delicate tracery of the branches standing out in bold relief against the brilliant sky. But an accident happened to Miss Cameron. She saw a beautiful spray of laurustinus, and stretched out her hand to reach it. Either she had miscalculated the height at which it grew, or the ground beneath her feet was treacherous. She slipped and fell-fell with her whole weight on the extended hand, spraining it terribly.

A little cry escaped her lips, and then she rose. Margarita hastened to her.

'I hope you are not hurt,' she said, anx-'I have hurt my hand: it is either bruised

or sprained-and it is my right hand, too. What shall I do?'

We had better hasten home and send for

'It is very painful,' said Adelaide; 'I am a great coward as regards pain.' They hastened home, and Miss Cameron, although she called herself a coward, bore the more she sought, the further she seemed from tor. He came, and announced that Miss her object. Suddenly she remembered that Cameron had sprained her wrist very seriously.

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