

A Christmas Conquest

How pride of birth and breeding was made to realize the simple faith that makes all men brothers.

So you release my request point blank, Mr. Lucy?

And as Helene Marden asked the question she compressed her lips into a certain line, and there was a dangerous light in her violet eyes.

"Don't put it in that way I beg, dearest," was Brian Lucy's troubled answer.

"In what other way can I put it?" continued the young lady, with a tilt of her arched brows.

"I ask you to spend Christmas Eve with me, your betrothed, and you decline on the plea of another and, I infer, more attractive engagement!"

Brian Lucy looked up at the girl for a moment, all his soul in his dark blue Irish eyes.

"The attraction? You will not argue," Lucy answered. "You know that you are dearer than all the world to me—that I find perfect happiness at your side."

"But I am pledged to my mother and my father, and I am pledged to the people of the world, and I am pledged to the people of the world, and I am pledged to the people of the world."

"You will have to put up with me, as I have to put up with you," she said, in a low tone.

"Why?" he asked, lifting his head with a pride equal to her own.

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Get the Most Out of Your Food

You don't and can't if your stomach is weak. A weak stomach does not digest all that is ordinarily taken into it.

Among the signs of a weak stomach are uneasiness after eating, flatulence, nervous headache, and disagreeable belching.

"I have been troubled with dyspepsia for years, and tried every remedy I heard of, but never got anything that gave me relief until I took Hood's Sarsaparilla."

"Hood's Sarsaparilla" strengthens and tones the stomach and the whole digestive system.

"And it's all—well over, Helene," said F. Marden, Mrs. Keith Gordon as, in her delay, still-headed hound, she was pouring her newly-arrived guest a welcoming cup of tea.

"Two lamps fender, is it? Really all over? How disappointing! Just as we were ready to chop hands above the sea for your sake."

"Get the house on fire," answered that gentleman with a heavy laugh.

"I believe we've tried everything but that, haven't we?"

"As a fair second to Keith's proposition, I suggest an auto race," said his brother.

"I came out in my new car this evening in ten minutes and twenty-nine seconds."

"I'd like to match my 'Blue Devil' against Keith's 'Helen' in a spin of about twenty miles over these five roads."

"Good, good, splendid!" Mr. Flora stopped her jawed hands.

"And with the four dervishes, the other night, I'm saying that promises a momentary amusement, it is so deadly wearisome of it all."

"In the deadly wearisome of it all that was growing upon her, Helene would have evaded the proposal, but a whisper from her sister would have brought her back.

"Come with me and Keith, to keep the others off, Helene. He is not himself to-night, as you see."

"And in pity for the anxious wife, who must pay her part in the world as any other, Helene agreed, while Mrs. Flora and one of her own kind claimed places in the 'Blue Devil' to the Keith's unspoken disappointment of its owner, who had hoped to have Mrs. Marden in his care."

"The two cars swept away down the broad avenue, and a cloud of wipers and cinders, and billows of smoke, made harsh din in the streets, the darkness of the Holy Night."

"The Holy Night! O how this evening Helene had sung the sweet hymn with her lover—'I fall in love upon his lighter wings as the deep swell of the sea upon the foam crest. And now she will reckless race through the wintry darkness, seeking typical of the life which she had cast aside the strong, true love that would have upheld her through life and death."

"On in mad, wild flight, sped the cars, no one to check their daring speed, to Keith Gordon, always better and slower witted than his brother, had been drinking deeply, and his brain was dull, his hand unsteady."

"Keith, Keith, be careful, pleaded his wife, but she would not let them stop."

"A muttered oath was uttered by the 'Blue Devil' as it sped ahead, its occupants flinging back mocking farewells."

"Keith," continued Blue, as the motor roared in its mad flight, give up, please, dear. They are out of sight, out of reach."

"But the slow, sultry spirit was stirred in the fire of her eyes."

"Keep still, my poor fool woman! I'm going to win if it kills me and you, too!" And Helene Marden green old with terror as the car dashed on, this madman's drunken grip the only guide through the winter night, for their rival had sped far away now, out of sight, out of hearing, the last echo of Mr. Flora's silver laugh dying away in the silence of the wooded hills."

"And then while she covered helplessly among the robes and cushions there came a shock, a jar, a crash, a moment of agonized bewilderment, and Helene found herself in the road-side, tangled in the soft heavy folds of the great beak-like robe that had muffled her fall, while the despairing cry of Elio Gordon pierced the silence."

"Keith, Keith, look at me, speak to me! He is dead, oh my God! he is dead!"

"Dazed with horror, Helene struggled to her feet. The motor lay crushed and twisted before her; Keith Gordon his heavy, livid face all streaked with blood, senseless in the wreck. Blue, reckless of her own lesser hurt, bent wailing over him."

"Helene, Helene, he is dead or dying! Call for some one in God's name. I can not walk—go—the farm house up there—quick, before he dies, before he dies!"

"And roused by the broken, despairing cry, Helene sped away, her face pale, her hair flying, the folds of her rich dress dragging heavily behind her, her hair dripping with blood, her face all streaked with white in the darkness. She pushed it open with fierce strength, and an up the well kept way that skirted the edge of meadow and pasture. Whence reached her—voices sounding in deep, rich melody."

"CHILDREN In disorders and diseases of children drugs seldom do good and often do harm. Careful feeding and bathing are the babies' remedies. Scott's Emulsion is the food-medicine that not only nourishes them most, but also regulates their digestion. It is a wonderful tonic for children of all ages. They rapidly gain weight and strength on small doses."

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