

munication with me as possible. But promise me that if you want me you will write."

"I promise. God bless you for all you have done for me and him."

He put her into a cab and, with a muttered "God bless you" and a warm grasp of the hand, he left her.

It was a dreary home-coming for a bride, she thought, as the cab rattled over the stones. To be alone, and to go to a furnished lodging!

And yet, after all she had gone through, this furnished lodging appeared very comfortable. Mrs. Carter had lit large fires in all the rooms, by Ronald's desire, and after the cold, stormy voyage these were very desirable. Everything was in readiness—the table was laid, and a tempting meal had been prepared.

"But where is the gentleman, ma'am?" asked Mrs. Carter.

"He will be here soon. I came first to see that everything was ready, but if," she added with a smile that won the landlady's heart, "if I had come here before I should have seen that there was nothing left to do. I have scarcely any luggage with me."

"No, ma'am, you have not," assented Mrs. Carter, who would have looked askance at the small amount had she not been paid in advance, and also felt convinced both from Ronald's and Enid's general style that her money was perfectly safe.

The hour was late and yet she had refused to eat her supper. She begged Mrs. Carter not to remain up, telling her that Mr. Walford was coming round in a steamer, which might be in at any hour; she would let him in herself.

This seemed suspicious, but a glance at Enid reassured the good landlady.

"You look tired out, madam," she said kindly. "Let me sit up instead of you." But this Enid steadfastly refused.

"My husband will have had his supper, as he is so late," she replied firmly, "and as there is hot water and a kettle, we cannot want anything more. I promise you I will have something to eat now. I had forgotten he would be sure to have had something on board," for she felt sure Haselfoot would not starve him.

At last Mrs. Carter retired. Enid, with some difficulty, kept her promise, then sat looking into the fire. But hour after hour went by and still Cornwallis did not come.

CHAPTER XXIV.

Her Honeymoon.

NO accident had befallen Cornwallis, but a slight accident had befallen the destroyer, causing some hours' delay. The little cabin was cosy enough, and Haselfoot, after supplying his guest with refreshments, had made him lie down.

Sleep he could not. The peril of capture might be imminent; he went in deadly fear. When at last they were nearing the harbour he joined Haselfoot on deck, although it was now pouring with rain. He raised his hand to his head, and knocked his cap into the sea.

"Good gracious, man!" exclaimed Haselfoot; "you'll get your death of cold, standing in the rain with the water dashing on to you. Do go below."

"It was clumsy of me to knock off my cap, but it doesn't matter much," returned Cornwallis coolly. "I dare say you will lend me another to go ashore in."

"That's just what I can't do. I haven't a single thing on board except uniform. There's no room for anything, so I keep my plain clothes at my diggings, which are close to where I land. Do go below." For Haselfoot began to fancy this man's death might be laid at his own door if he remained much longer in the rain.

"I will go below with pleasure. I suppose you will lend me something to land in. It doesn't matter in the least if it's uniform."

"But it matters to me," returned Haselfoot somewhat sharply. "Civilians can't wear uniform."

"Nonsense!" said Cornwallis good-humouredly. "Who in the world is to see us at this hour of the morning? Do you want to kill me by making me

walk through the streets bareheaded, for you know very well that it's very unlikely I can get a cab."

"It would look so absurd with a plain coat."

"Then lend me a mackintosh to go over it, or an old great coat, which will cover it."

With some reluctance the lieutenant produced both cap and coat, and Cornwallis put them on.

"I shan't steal your things," he observed with a laugh. "The very moment I get to my rooms I will return them to you."

MORNING was dawning when he appeared. Enid was keeping watch at the window when she saw two naval men come up the road. They entered the house with a latch-key and the taller of the two went straight upstairs and into her sitting-room.

He had not removed his cap, and she did not recognize him. That he brought ill tidings was her only idea.

"What have you come to tell me?" she asked.

"This," he replied, and clasped her in his arms.

The relief was inexpressible.

"Oh what detained you?"

He told her, adding: "And I'm about dead beat by this time, and I'm sure you must be after sitting up all night. I think I'll go to bed at once, and I advise you to do the same. Good night, my darling. Come to see me the first thing you are up."

She returned his good-night and went to her room. But not to sleep. She lay down until it was time to get ready for breakfast, when she dressed anew, appearing at nine o'clock in the sitting-room daintily as usual, with little trace of fatigue on her face.

When breakfast was ready she knocked at her husband's door.

"Come in," he said faintly.

He was lying quietly in bed, his face very pale.

"I think yesterday was a little too much for me," he said. "If you don't mind, dear, I will stay in bed all day. But you must be sure to sit with me all day, and not leave me. You are my wife now, you know."

She smiled, and said she was aware of the fact, and that she would bring him his breakfast.

"The gentleman was very late last night, ma'am," said Mrs. Carter. "A naval gentleman, I see."

"How did you know he was late? I trust he did not disturb you," replied Enid wearily, feeling compelled to ignore the latter part of Mrs. Carter's sentence, and being grievously ashamed of doing so.

"Oh, no; he was quiet enough. So was Mr. Haselfoot, but I just peeped out of my door when I heard the latch-key."

Enid sat with her husband until she was summoned to the sitting-room to see Mr. Haselfoot.

"I called to see if I could be of any service, and to enquire after Mr. Walford after his journey," said the young man a little awkwardly, for although Enid smiled it seemed suddenly apparent to him that he had intruded.

"My husband is very tired to-day; he is in bed. I hope you will not think it unkind, Mr. Haselfoot if I tell you that he is not strong enough to receive visitors, either now or when he is up. Indeed, he must have total rest. And all my time will be taken up with him. Please do not be offended, for you have been so very kind," she added appealingly.

He at once succumbed.

"I am not offended. I quite understand, and I shan't trouble you. But if you want anything done, either for you or for him, send a message, and I shall be very glad to do anything I can. I'm just off for a cruise, so you will have quiet in the house, and Mrs. Carter will be able to give up all her time to you. Good-bye, Mrs. Walford."

So Enid's honeymoon was spent in the total seclusion of a sick room.

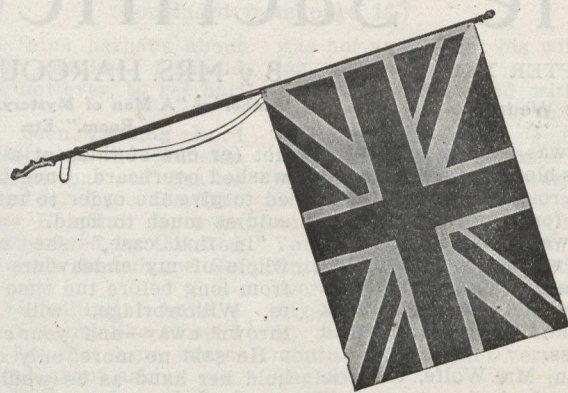
CHAPTER XXV.

Escape or Capture.

"ENID," said a weak voice.

"Yes, dear."

"Come nearer. You must never sit where I can't see you."



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