At the Eleventh Hour

CHAPTER IX.

Man's Head and Woman's Heart.

(Continued.) He beamed on her so glad, so gay so fond, that not many a girl could have helped loving him; but Lynatte had never been as far from it as at this moment.

Not so very long ago-a few months only-she had admired and liked him and if she had never met Stephen Belcourt she might have liked hin still. But now she was fighting hard against hating him. For she felt herself unjust to this loyal lover. He had given her his heart's best love and her uncle and her brother had said that he was worthy to be he

husband. But the harder she tried to lik that she felt-repulsion growing into

Vida rushed in, tastefully gowned ready to accompany them on their

Lynette put on her black-plume hat that made her look like a picture and they all went to the carriage. "Where shall we drive?" he inquir

ed, looking at his darling. "Anywhere," she answered, with cold indifference.

"Oh, then, if Lynette has no choice suppose we go to Lewisburg?" cried Vida, anxious to exhibit herself in all her grandeur

"Agreed." cried Prentiss, nothing loathe, and gave the order to the

They drove through the country roads and into the quiet old town coming in at the top of the hill past Belcourt in its stately grove of autumn-colored maples. Vida and

"Wait! there is Myrtle Dare!" And there was the saucy, dashing

The carriage stopped, and Lynette leaned to the side, exclaiming :

' Myrtle, come and drive with us, please, a little way. Oh, don't refuse! I have a message for you.'

Myrtle had looked on the point of refusing, but at the last words she sudden start he gave, and the pallor blushed to the tips of her pretty, shell-like ears, and consented.

'Drive past the juil,' Vida said in a malicious whisper to the driver, who whipped up his horses and

obeved. Lynette murmured to her friend: 'Edgar is coming home soon-to

- to the wedding.' Myrtle began to draw away quickly and Lynette added: 'He said,' catching her breath

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For thirty years it has been the standard remedy for female ills, and has cured thousands of women who have been troubled with such ailMadge, as she called her; but the

wicked city." tiss; but he was quite himself now,

and said carelessly;

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> hard, 'that he hoped you would be my bridesmaid.'

Myrtle crimsoned deeply, whispered back hurriedly

are there any new developments in the Belcourt case?'

Myrtle looked at her with flashing

lovely girl, deserted by her husband papers about this case, she fears that - Oh, Mr. Prentiss, how ill you

little blonde coming out of the gate look! What is the matter?' down Jefferson Street; but no one in driving that way. noticed it so excited were all at

Myrtle Dare's words. While speaking, she had looked carelessly at Graham Prentiss. The carelessly:

'Oh, Mr. Prentiss, how ill you look! What is the matter?' Vida and Lynette instantly turned their eves on him.

They saw that he did indeed have a pallid look, as of some one suddealy ill or frightened.

'Oh!' exclaimed Lynette, in alarm hen recoiled in amazement from the

dark and angry frown that settled on All at once he recovered from the seizure, of whatever nature it was, and, looking at them, forced a smile

'I-I was ill-for a moment; but explained, with elaborate carelessness, with the dew of tears on the blackthough his voice shook in spite of

Vida turned again to the beautiful olonde, and said:

'You were telling us, when you interrupted yourself, that a strange woman had arrived who thought that look much like it. she might recognize the picture of that dead girl as her missing daught- In Dread of 'Oh, yes! But she has not seen

She looked again at Graham Pren-

"But go on. You have not finishe et," said Miss Halliburton.

Lynette said nothing. She leane ack in the carriage, her dark, dilated eyes fixed miserably on the speaker's ace, feeling over again that strange epugnance to hearing of the girl fo

"To be brief, the pretty girl had aught the fancy of some rich young nan, who took her to theaters an operas every evening, and lavished gifts upon her until her silly head was turned, and she raved of him to her associates till they were disgus ed with the theme. At last she told them they were to be married that evening, and from that day she disap-

"The poor mother, almost heartproken, returned to the farm and the brood of children she had left behind when she went to the city to search for her eldest born. She had no money to search for her, being a poo widow, so she gave up the quest thinking bitterly that Madge, having

"The months flew past, until au one, and the sore heart of the mother was becoming used to its pain, when suddenly, one September evening, as Mrs. McDonald sat by the kitchen fire darning stockings; the door a baby in her arms, and sank at her

ery came from Lynette's lips that all turned toward her with one accord and started with surprise when they saw the direction of her upraised so heartless as she seemed. Perhaps

'Miss Dare,' said Vida maliciously, of the country prison, and her upraised eyes, dim with unshed tears, were fixed on the gloomy, barred windows yearningly, as if gazing on some

"I-I-saw Stephen Belcourt's eyes looking at me through the grating!" she gasped faintly.

CHAPTER X.

-is missing, and, having read in the ened nerves. As the words left her Graham Prentiss began to berate The driver had turned his team the driver roundly for his stupidity

"It was the lady's order, sir," he replied sulkily. Vida was holding her vinaigrette to Lynette's nostrils, and she explained

did not suppose it would affect Ly

nette like this." ed the two girls anxiously as they worked over the unconscious Lynette, thinking how strange it seemed to see her like this, bonny Lynette, who had always been such a picture of health and strength, never fainting in her life till the past month. He knew too well for whose sake she lay

burned in him with futile rage against his rival "She loves him still-despite everything," he muttered to himself.

and she faltered: "Oh, yes-yes, and sorry I frighte so weak still, I cannot bear much!" arms and leaned back among the cushions again, her face death-white, her lips quivering, her eyes half-shot ock, August 4th.

fringed lashes. It was the saddest face that any prospective bride ever wore, and Myrtle looked at it with surprise and suspicion. She had been told that Lynette was proud and happy over the

Something You can scarcely tell what-it may

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Myrtle Dare was an intimate friend of the Belcourts. She knew all the sterling worth of Stephen, and did not believe him guilty of the crime with which he was charged. And, while she had once been fond of Lynette, her heart had turned from her when she believed that the girl had recklessly flirted with Belcourt while as good as engaged to Prentiss. Myrtle's warm heart, incapable of treachery in itself, could not tolerate it in

another. But Lynette's emotion over passing the prison had touched her, and roused a suspicion that her friend was no wounded pride and ambition lay a the bottom of all that had passed since that day of Belcourt's arrest Perhaps sweet hynette was being ruthlessly sacrificed on the cruel altar of family pride. As these suspicions

that is being hurried on so fast."

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flashed through Myrtle's mind, she Ahy, Mrs. Charles thought regretfully: Ames, J. Antle, Andrew, retd. "I have been unkind and unjust to the dear girl, and perhaps increased Atkins, A. H., ner sorrow by my neglect. I shall pay her a visit this week, and find out he whole truth about this marriage

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'I can't-I won't! Don't ask me

eyes, and answered: 'Yes, there is a new development, and it is thought a very favorable one for the prisoner. Only this morning Prentiss had had the talk all to them- a strange woman came to Ronceverte selves, Lynette leaning back mute to see the pictures taken of the murand pale, her eyes following the scen- dered girl. Her own daughter-a

claiming:

Oh!' exclaimed Vida, in a shocked there so still and white, and his heart

is over now. It is a heart trouble to which I've been lately subject,' he

the picture yet, so we cannot tell if there is any hope. But it is a plausible story she tells. She came from the country, near Washington. Her daughter went to the city to work in the sewing department of a large dry-goods store. For a few months letters came at intervals, then they stopped for six weeks. Alarmed at her daughter's silence, the woman

Myrtle Dare resumed:

peared from all knowledge of those who had known her in Washington.

rich man, had deserted her relations through motives of pride. tumn without tidings of the missing

burst open, and Madge entered with mother's feet."

The carriage was at that moment colling past the dark, forbidding walls

MYRTLE'S REPENTANCE. "Poor Lynette! The shock of surrise had been too much for her weaklips her eyes closed, and she fell back heavily among the cushions, unconscious for the moment of her sorrow

"I asked him to come this way I Prentiss made no reply, but watch-

Suddenly he saw her bosom heave and her eyes unclose languidly. "You are better?" he said eagerly, ed you all like this. But-but-1 am She raised herself from Myrtle's Fresh Supplies by S.S. Rappahan-

approaching marriage. This did not

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