

Eventually



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Sunshine After the Storm.

CHAPTER XVI.

"Let Me Alone To-Night!"

(continued)

YOU should have told me, Mrs. Ryan was an old servant. I like to know what people are in posts of trust in my house."

He spoke with an air of offense, and Ambrosia answered quickly: "I like to know the people employed in your office. You told me I had nothing whatever to do with them."

"Then you dismissed Mrs. Ryan because I employed her granddaughter without consulting you?"

"Partly so, but mainly because of her general and constant insolence. If you wish to know the particulars, you can ask Mr. Stuart, my father's lawyer, whom I employed in the business."

"You employed a lawyer to interfere in my domestic arrangements? I think such conduct, even on your part, savors of impertinence to me."

"You said I was autocratic in the house, and claimed on this ground a right to be so in your office. I have never since made an inquiry about the people you chose to employ."

"Do you know Mrs. Ryan's address?"

"I know nothing about her. If you will ask Mr. Stuart all she said about you, I am sure you will say I did right."

"She would not say a word wrong about me. Mrs. Ryan was in my employ long before I married you."

"She said you adored her granddaughter. She said the girl lived here by your orders. She said—Oh, Robert, she said dreadful things, which I have not allowed myself to think of."

"He did not answer, but his face was dark and angry, and Ambrosia continued:

"Why do you not ask the girl for the address, if it is of so much importance?"

"The girl have not been in my office for months. I want her services again. I intend to be perfectly frank with you concerning her—more fool I!"

"Robert, dear, can I not help you? I have been—"

But he rose in a passion and said scornfully:

"You help! What can a man expect from you but hindrance and annoyance? You had no right to take so much upon yourself!"

"It had come to this, Robert; I would no longer live under the same roof with the creature. Do you prefer Mrs. Ryan and her granddaughter to me? You have only to say so."

"For Heaven's sake, spare me your heroics! What question or choice can there be between you and those poor women?"

"Poor women?" Say wicked woman to me? You have only to say so."

"You must be mistaken."

"Ask Mr. Stuart."

"Kindly desist from thrusting a lawyer in my face. Your own words are sufficient."

"She accused me of loving St. Ange better than you; of loitering about to meet him; of dressing myself to please him."

"Well?"

"No! It is shameful!"

"I never once entered a doubt of you."

"That is not enough. You ought to protect me from the doubts and evil tongues of every one. I detest St. Ange, and it is true you force aim on my society continually."

"As I told you before, you detect any one who is of service to me."

"I detest him, not because he is of service to you, but because he dares play me. Yes, he dares love me!"

And you ought to be ashamed, that you have subjected me to such suspicions."

"You have not deserved them. That is protection enough."

"I will not submit to St. Ange's company any more."

"What has he said to you?"

"Nothing—in words. But he looks at me in—"

"Pshaw! Every cat that looks at a king does not lose his eyes! I know St. Ange and all his vanity and the worship women give him. He is so used to 'looking' at women that he is not conscious of the act. I do not believe it would be possible for you to wrong me in a thought and therefore I do not propose to make an Othello of myself. I would kill a man who really meant to wrong me—or you, either!"

"Will you send St. Ange away?"

"Not from the office. He is invaluable to me, and especially so at this time."

Clara had been so perfectly frank with you concerning her—more fool I!"

"But when you found out that her presence troubled Amber, you ought to have dismissed her at once. It would have saved a deal of domestic sorrow, and there are ten thousand people in the city able to take her place. Is there one you could put in the place of Amber?"

"That is not the way to manage any unreasonable husband. Go and wash your face, and meet your husband fairly and squarely. You are right, and in his heart he knows you are right. That is the reason he tried to hide his injustice in a show of bad temper. I am going now to talk to Robert. I think he will listen to me."

"She received no answer to her first tap at the library door, but as soon as she spoke Robert said:

"Come in, Clara!"

"She found him standing at the window, gazing into the dreary street. He did not see the dripping rain, nor the wet pavements, nor the casual figures under the damp umbrellas passing before his eyes. He was feeling too much to see anything exterior to his feelings. He looked miserable, and

"Clara, that altogether wrong and foolish; it is a very false position."

"I did. I found her envious and nervous to the last point. She had no vital interest in life. I gave her this hope, and she seized it with a pitiful eagerness. It has done her world of good. Do not be a cruel, blundering practical man and tell her it is all utter nonsense."

"That would be almost wicked. Think of the hours she has worked and encouraged herself with the idea of pleasing and surprising you. Give her something to copy, no matter how useless; only let her think she is helping you."

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UNCLAIMED LETTERS, REMAINING IN G. P. to FEB. 23rd, 1911

- | | | | | |
|---|--|---------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|
| A | Adams, John, care Ducreux Street | Cannick, A. J., care Forest Rd. | Kavanagh, Mary Ann, ret'd. | Prowse, Mrs. James W. |
| B | Baird, Wm., care LeMarchant Hill | Chafe, Beatrice, Forest Rd. | King, H., ret'd. | Power, Mrs. Thos., Water St. West |
| C | Balivan, North, care LeMarchant Hill | Chafe, Beatrice, Forest Rd. | King, Mrs. M., care G.P.O. | Ryan, Miss Gertrude, ret'd. |
| D | Barnett, Arch, ret'd. | Chafe, Beatrice, Forest Rd. | King, Mrs. Matthews, care Gen'l Delivery | Ralsh, Hugh |
| E | Bennett, T. P., care LeMarchant Hill | Chafe, Beatrice, Forest Rd. | King, Mrs. Matthews, care Gen'l Delivery | Rellis, Harry, ret'd. |
| F | Benson, J. J., ret'd. | Chafe, Beatrice, Forest Rd. | King, Mrs. Matthews, care Gen'l Delivery | Reld, Mrs., care G. P. O. |
| G | Birch, Miss Beatrice, care LeMarchant Hill | Chafe, Beatrice, Forest Rd. | King, Mrs. Matthews, care Gen'l Delivery | Reynolds, T. W., Y.M.C.A. |
| H | Burton, Mrs. Frank, care LeMarchant Hill | Chafe, Beatrice, Forest Rd. | King, Mrs. Matthews, care Gen'l Delivery | Ring, Susie, Goodview St. |
| I | Byrne, Geo. T., ret'd. | Chafe, Beatrice, Forest Rd. | King, Mrs. Matthews, care Gen'l Delivery | Rodgers, Mrs. S. A. |
| J | Butt, Mrs. George, care LeMarchant Hill | Chafe, Beatrice, Forest Rd. | King, Mrs. Matthews, care Gen'l Delivery | Rock, Martin |
| K | Byrne, Geo. T., ret'd. | Chafe, Beatrice, Forest Rd. | King, Mrs. Matthews, care Gen'l Delivery | Ruel, Johanna, card |
| L | Butt, Mrs. George, care LeMarchant Hill | Chafe, Beatrice, Forest Rd. | King, Mrs. Matthews, care Gen'l Delivery | Read, S. E. |
| M | Butt, Mrs. George, care LeMarchant Hill | Chafe, Beatrice, Forest Rd. | King, Mrs. Matthews, care Gen'l Delivery | Rodgers, Mrs. S. A. |
| N | Butt, Mrs. George, care LeMarchant Hill | Chafe, Beatrice, Forest Rd. | King, Mrs. Matthews, care Gen'l Delivery | Rodgers, Mrs. S. A. |
| O | Butt, Mrs. George, care LeMarchant Hill | Chafe, Beatrice, Forest Rd. | King, Mrs. Matthews, care Gen'l Delivery | Rodgers, Mrs. S. A. |
| P | Butt, Mrs. George, care LeMarchant Hill | Chafe, Beatrice, Forest Rd. | King, Mrs. Matthews, care Gen'l Delivery | Rodgers, Mrs. S. A. |
| Q | Butt, Mrs. George, care LeMarchant Hill | Chafe, Beatrice, Forest Rd. | King, Mrs. Matthews, care Gen'l Delivery | Rodgers, Mrs. S. A. |
| R | Butt, Mrs. George, care LeMarchant Hill | Chafe, Beatrice, Forest Rd. | King, Mrs. Matthews, care Gen'l Delivery | Rodgers, Mrs. S. A. |
| S | Butt, Mrs. George, care LeMarchant Hill | Chafe, Beatrice, Forest Rd. | King, Mrs. Matthews, care Gen'l Delivery | Rodgers, Mrs. S. A. |
| T | Butt, Mrs. George, care LeMarchant Hill | Chafe, Beatrice, Forest Rd. | King, Mrs. Matthews, care Gen'l Delivery | Rodgers, Mrs. S. A. |
| U | Butt, Mrs. George, care LeMarchant Hill | Chafe, Beatrice, Forest Rd. | King, Mrs. Matthews, care Gen'l Delivery | Rodgers, Mrs. S. A. |
| V | Butt, Mrs. George, care LeMarchant Hill | Chafe, Beatrice, Forest Rd. | King, Mrs. Matthews, care Gen'l Delivery | Rodgers, Mrs. S. A. |
| W | Butt, Mrs. George, care LeMarchant Hill | Chafe, Beatrice, Forest Rd. | King, Mrs. Matthews, care Gen'l Delivery | Rodgers, Mrs. S. A. |
| X | Butt, Mrs. George, care LeMarchant Hill | Chafe, Beatrice, Forest Rd. | King, Mrs. Matthews, care Gen'l Delivery | Rodgers, Mrs. S. A. |
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