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E. W. GILLET COMPANY LIMITED
TORONTO MONTREAL

LADY LAURAS' RELEASE

THE STORY OF A SPOILED BEAUTY.

CHAPTER LII.

She would take Miss Rane there, and say what she had to say, then bid her farewell, and wander through the fields until Gladys was on her way home again.

"I have kept my secret well," she said to herself, "it would be a pity for it to be known now."

"How strange it is that we should meet in this manner!" remarked Miss Rane. "It seems extraordinary to me. I was talking about you to the captain this morning. He cannot understand why you left home."

"I had my own reasons," replied Angela.

"No doubt; yet it was, if you will excuse me saying so, not exactly 'good form.' Captain Wynyard tells me that your secret departure is not known or talked about, which is very fortunate, for it would be a sad thing for you if it were."

Angela thought how much worse it would be for him if the reason for her flight became known.

"Does the captain know that you are here?" asked Gladys, who seemed quite unable to recover from her surprise.

"No, and I want you to keep my secret, Miss Rane. I do not want him to know. Will you promise me not to tell him?"

"That would be to promise a great deal," she said, laughing. "I know that Captain Wynyard is very anxious indeed to discover where you

are, and if the information will afford him pleasure, why should I not give it?"

"Because I ask you not," replied Angela.

"That might be a cogent reason if I understand it," remarked Gladys. And then they reached the King's Meadow, with its long green grass dotted with golden buttercups and daisies, the hedges all pink with wild roses, the meadow-sweet growing in thick white clusters. A row of lime-trees bounded the meadow on one side, a row of sturdy oaks stood on the other.

"Let us sit down," said Angela, pointing to the ivy-covered trunk of a fallen tree; and the two sat down together in the shade of the lime-tree.

The afternoon being warm, Angela unfastened the clasps of her silver-gray wrapper, which fell unheeded from her shoulders on to the grass, and the soft summer wind bore it to some little distance.

"Miss Rane," she said, gently, "I am glad to have this chance of speaking to you. I have often wondered whether it would be of any use if I made an appeal to you."

"An appeal about what?" asked Gladys, sharply.

"For my mother's sake," replied Angela, looking straight into the dark face of the beautiful woman before her. "Miss Rane," she said, simply, "do you know that you have helped Captain Wynyard to break her heart, and ruin her life?"

The proud eyes dropped before the speaker's earnest gaze.

"You say very strange things, Miss Rodeen!" returned Gladys Rane, indignantly.

"They are true," said Angela, gently. "I have often wondered if you realized what you were doing."

"What have I been doing?" asked Gladys, proudly.

"Your own heart and conscience will answer that better than I can. My mother was happy once, but now

ried the captain; she had been so happy with my father, who loved her with a devoted love. He never once in his life spoke a harsh word to her, and when he died she missed his tender, protecting care. But we were happy with each other until the captain came between us. I know from the first, that Wynyard did not love my mother. Shall I tell you why, Miss Rane?"

"If you wish," replied Miss Rane, carelessly; yet she listened with keen interest to the next few words.

"I was once present," said Angela, "at a party with you and Captain Wynyard; I need not say when or where. I did not know you then; and, quite by accident, I overheard you and the captain speaking. I heard him tell you that his heart was 'not in it.' I remember the words, and I very soon understood how to apply them. I besought her not to marry Captain Wynyard, because he did not love her, because it was only for her money he cared."

"You are a strange girl!" broke in Gladys Rane.

"I love my mother dearly," said Angela, "and I have seen her suffer. I knew she would be unhappy with the captain; but she loved him; I am afraid—may, I am sure—that she loved him far more than she loved my father. She would not listen to me. I told her that he loved you, and she laughed—poor mamma!—at the idea, she was so convinced of his devotion. Do you not think it is very cruel and wicked to deceive any one in that way?"

With her companion's clear eyes fixed full upon her face, Gladys dared not answer. She only repeated her words:

"You are a strange girl, Miss Rodeen."

"Captain Wynyard would have thought it ungentlemanly and contemptible to steal my mother's watch or her jewels," Angela continued; "but he did not hesitate to gain her heart and fortune by false pretences. Could any excuse make such an action honorable or just? I would have died to save her from this cruel marriage, but she would rush upon her fate. I shall never forget her face on the day when he told her he loved her, and asked her to be his wife. She was so radiantly happy! Poor mamma! She married him, and all her fortune became his. Do you not think, Miss Rane, that when a woman gives to a man all she has in the world, he should, in common gratitude, be kind to her?"

She waited for a reply, and Gladys Rane, the woman who had ruined her mother's life, was obliged to answer, "Yes."

"Even a dog is grateful," continued Angela, with warmth, "if you give it food and shelter. My mother gave Captain Wynyard everything she possessed in the world, but he was not even grateful to her; he made her happy just for a few months, and then he grew tired of her and neglected her. His cruelty to her was refined. He did not strike her, but he allowed her to perceive quite plainly that he did not love her, that he did not value her society, that he was tired of her. That was cruel enough, was it not, Miss Rane?"

And again Lady Laura's rival was compelled to answer "Yes."

(To be continued.)

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The popular sleeveless style, in colors of Pink and Blue, assorted sizes.
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Dr. Chase's Ointment

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