

Vera's Love Affair

CHAPTER IV.

A kind of weight hangs heavy on my heart.

This suspicion may perhaps have crossed Mr. Dymars' mind, because he frowns heavily as the woman approaches.

"You are singularly prompt," he says with a lowering glance and a sneer, that passes her by, as she takes no notice of it, but stands staring at him with a stolidity that has something of defiance in it. "This is Mrs. Grunch," turning to Vera, "my housekeeper. She will see to your wants. Grunch, take these young ladies away. There, go! seeing she is about to speak. "Don't worry me with questions. I am positively done to death already by this terrible invasion. Go! And be careful not to slam the door behind you. My nerves, with a shudder, "are all unstrung to the last pitch," she says.

Thus unconsciously dismissed, Miss Dymars follows the housekeeper from the room, Grunch, and after a moment the first "go." Through the huge dark hall and up the wide mouldy staircase, they follow their guide, noting as they do so the decay that marks everything around. As for Mrs. Grunch herself, it is impossible to view her with any sort of kindly feeling. A more forbidding old woman both in manner and feature it would be difficult to produce. Stalking on before them, with never a word to one or the other, they every now and again, at a turn in the staircase or a bend in the gaunt empty galleries, catch a glimpse of her unpleasant face. A hard-featured woman—gaunt, bony, with a scowling brow and thin lips and lank gray hair, that she is taller than most strikes them, as also the strange fancy that once she must have been beautiful. But she is aged, now, and angular, and altogether loveless, with the memories of past fears and loves and hatreds printed savagely upon her brow, and with all that, a strong vitality that belies her age.

She flings wide a door for the girls to enter, and then abruptly departs, without offering word or glance. They are thankful to be thus left alone. Vera is very pale, and her breath coming rather fitfully from between her parted lips.

"He looks dying," she says at last, with a heavy sigh, "but I don't think to Griseida as if unconsciously seeking a closer companionship. "Did you ever see such a face? Don't you think he's dying?"

"Who can tell?" says Griseida, whose unhappiness takes different form from that of her sisters; that past violent indignation bears fruit still. "I might think it, perhaps, but for his eyes. They are—she shudders, "they couldn't die. What terrible eyes they are, and what a vile old man altogether! Good heavens, how did he dare to so insult us! I told you, Vera, with rising excitement—"I warned you that our coming here would be only for evil."

"Don't, Griseida; don't, darling," says Miss Dymars in a frightened tone. She is, indeed, trembling in every limb, and as she speaks she puts out her hand and catches Griseida's, and holds it in a tight, nervous grasp. "I don't like that woman," she says in a low tone.

"Who could?" asks Griseida. "A very proper attendant on such a master, say I."

"Oh, Griseida, what will be the end of it?" says Miss Dymars, a touch of despair in her voice. She sinks into a chair, still holding Griseida's hand as if unable to let it go, and looks fearfully around at the bare, ugly, hideously furnished apartment.

There is indeed something so poverty-stricken, so mean about the whole look of the apartment that her heart dies within her. Everything is bald, bare, comfortless. Yet, through the discomfort, one is compelled to see that once the now dingy bedroom was handsome and well-appointed. The chipped and broken washstand is of marble, and the jug and basin—the former now cracked and lipless—are of china, expensive in their day, and extravagant in ours.

The paintings of the room alone would have shown anyone that at least at one period of its existence the room had hardly known the word poverty. The very ceiling was painted—little cupids running riot among roses and lilies; the roses very much besmudged by time, the lilies terribly soiled, and the cupids so clothed upon the smoky grime of centuries as to be very much more decently habited than the original artist ever intended.

"What a terrible woman!" says Vera, alluding to the housekeeper. "What a cold, unfriendly creature! One might almost imagine that she hated us." As she speaks she looks up nervously at her sister, who is standing beside her chair, so silent as to be almost gloomy. The day is fast fading into night, and the sad twilight creeping into the room makes it more melancholy than it, in reality, is. Griseida's eyes are bent upon the ground; her lips are stern. "Speak, darling," says Miss Dymars hurriedly. "I don't know what is the matter with me, but I feel unbidden—frightened." She pauses, struggles with herself a moment, and then bursts into tears.

"Oh, don't do that!" cries Griseida, horrified. "Don't cry on your first coming into a house, it is so unlucky. If you do, you'll keep on crying all the time you're in it. There, now! Cheer up, do. After all, they can't eat us, and you have me, always, you know."

"No misdeed!" says Griseida. "I seem to think this a balm not to be equaled."

"Uncle Gregory is a Tartar, I confess, worse than father. But so far as Mrs. Housekeeper is concerned, I feel myself a match for her, anyway."

"How old she looks, yet how strong," says Vera. "Griseida, have you noticed that everyone here is old? Oh," with a quick sob, "I don't think I like old people; they are so hard, so cruel, they never understand. At all events, I mean, I don't like too much of them, not altogether. And the man who opened the door, did you notice him? He was a coachman, and this horrible woman, and Uncle Gregory himself, all—all are old."

"Yes, moody, and be done with it," says Griseida. "Why, the very house reeks of must; I shouldn't wonder if a crime had been committed here, a house of evil reputation."

"Oh, don't, Griseida, don't!" cries Miss Dymars, with a nervous glance over her shoulder, and a perceptible start, as at this moment a knock comes to the door.

"Will you be pleased to come downstairs or to have your tea here?" demands the harsh voice of the housekeeper, coming from the threshold.

"Here," is on Vera's lips, but Griseida, the bold circumstances here, "Downstairs," she says, "when we get some hot water, and when you send a maid to help us to unpack our trunks."

"There are no maids in this house," replies Mrs. Grunch, sullenly. "You must either attend to each other or let me help you."

"No misdeed!" says Griseida. "And my room? Or—is this mine or Miss Dymars'?"

"Both yours and Miss Dymars'; sorry it isn't big enough," with a derisive glance around the huge bare chamber.

"You mean, we are to have but one room between us?"

"Just that, miss. Neither more nor less. And good enough, too, for those as—"

"Leave the room," says Griseida, with a sudden sharp intonation, so unexpected, so withering, that the woman, after a surprised stare, turns, and withdraws.

"I wish you had let us have our tea here," says Vera. "To face that old man again, to endure his cruel speeches more than I feel equal to."

"As we have to live here we must face him again sooner or later," says Griseida. "And would you have that woman think we were afraid? No, no, Vera, let us meet the foe with a bold front, and without delay. The longer you shrink from it the harder it will appear."

THREATENED MILLIONAIRE

Fifty Thousand Dollars or His Entire Family Must Go.

Chicago, Jan. 4.—In anonymous letters, alleged to have been written by Leo Brennan, read before United States Commissioner Frode Saturday, it was intimated that an attempt was being made to kidnap the grandson of Marshal Field. "Don't forget the Cudady case" was one of the sentences in one of the letters sent. In another it was stated that unless \$50,000 was left in a bag at a place designated "the entire family must go," and that Marshal Field would be the last to "go," so that he could see what a few dollars would have saved him. The reading of the letters in court was the first time the real threats were made public. Overruling motions of the prisoners' attorney that the young letter be charged, Commissioner Frode held the defendant to the federal grand jury.

The Mexican Government has reduced the import duty on ferromanganese with the view of encouraging the manufacture of steel by modern methods in the Republic.



The Purest Form in which Tobacco can be Smoked.

LONDON LANCET.

LONDON BASKETBALL TEAM MET SEVERE DEFEAT AT BRANTFORD

The City Hockey League Completes Arrangements for Practice Matches—Lornes Lost.

BASKETBALL

LONDON BADLY BEATEN. Brantford, Jan. 3. The Brantford Y. M. C. A. basketball players scored another notable victory New Year's afternoon by defeating the London team in a fairly interesting contest.

The score was 38 to 12, and it is safe to say the figures would have been higher had the locals exerted themselves in the second half. The visitors were clearly outclassed in all points of the game, being inferior in their shooting, passing and body work.

At half-time the score was 24 to 6. There was no rough play. The visitors were clearly outclassed in all points of the game, being inferior in their shooting, passing and body work.

The teams were: Brantford—Lester, Hay, forwards; Davidson, center; Hawthorne, Chittenden, defense.

London—Marshall, Gidley, forwards; Slater, center; McBride, Tammings, defense.

HOCKEY. WATERLOO JUNIORS BEATEN. New Hamburg, Ont., Jan. 2. A New York match played here in the evening of Saturday last between New Hamburg and Waterloo juniors resulted in favor of New Hamburg by a score of 12 to 0.

QUEBEC BEAT MONTREAL. Quebec, Jan. 2. Quebec defeated Montreal here this evening in the opening game of the senior series of the C. A. A. I. by a score of 10 to 3.

IN THE FAR EAST. Montreal, Jan. 3. The Victorians had an easy thing in the opening match of the senior series last night, defeating the Shamrocks 10 to 3, after a slow match.

In the intermediate series Westminster defeated the Victorians 5 to 1, and Montreal defeated the Shamrocks 4 to 1.

WATFORD WON FROM INGER-SOLL. Watford, Ont., Jan. 2. Watford opened the hockey season here last night with the Ingersoll seven, and won out by a score of 9 to 0. In the first half Watford scored 4 and Ingersoll 2. Watford added 5 in the last half, and Ingersoll 2. The game was fast all through, and the referee was free from roughness. Line-up: Watford—Goal, Hay; forwards, Cress, White, Hobbs, McGuffin; point, Halstead; cover, Clarke.

WANDERERS BEAT MARLBOROS. Toronto, Ont., Jan. 2. Montreal Wanderers beat Marlboros at hockey last night by a score of 5 to 2. In the first half was 2 to 2 in favor of Marlboros.

PRESTON WON. Preston, Ont., Jan. 1. The hockey game between Preston and Galt played here this afternoon resulted 5 to 1 in favor of Preston.

HOCKEY IN THE SOUTH. Watford, Ont., Jan. 2. The Ontario Counties' Hockey Association schedule "Tillsonburg at Watford Jan. 5. Hagersville at Tillsonburg Jan. 11. Watford at Hagersville Jan. 18. Watford at Tillsonburg Jan. 25. Tillsonburg at Watford Feb. 2. Hagersville at Watford Feb. 11. Watford at Hagersville Feb. 18. Hagersville at Watford Feb. 25. Tillsonburg at Hagersville March 2.

AN EXHIBITION GAME. Toronto, Jan. 2. The exhibition hockey match played here tonight between the Wanderers of Montreal, and the Marlboros of Toronto, resulted in a tie—four all. The referee, who was 4 to 3 in favor of the Wanderers. A good crowd witnessed the match.

PRACTICE HOURS ARRANGED. At a meeting of the City Hockey League on Saturday night at the Tecumseh House, the final arrangements for the season were made. Mr. C. W. Smith has contested very successfully terms with the league for the use of the Jubilee rink, and everything is now ready for the season.

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LORNES WERE BEATEN. The Lornes, a City Hockey League, were defeated by the Pastimes, of St. Thomas, in that city, on New Year's Eve. The score was 4 to 3.

THE O. H. A. SUB-COMMITTEE. Toronto, Jan. 2. A meeting of the O. H. A. sub-committee was held this afternoon. The junior games in progress between Woodstock and Ingersoll, and played at the latter place on Dec. 30, was declared a tie—three goals all.

The sub-committee decided to play the game at Ingersoll at a date to be agreed upon. A permit was granted to Billy McLaren to play with his debarred club, the Crescents of Perth. McLaren has been residing in Toronto since last April and returned home recently. The application of Robert Mercer for a permit to play with the Peterboro club was granted on his declaration that hockey influenced him to induce him to change his residence from Port Hope to Peterboro. Mercer worked in Peterboro last spring, and then went sailing, returning to that city in December.

STRATHROY A WINNER. Strathroy, Jan. 1. The first hockey match of the season was played here today between the Bowman team of London and the locals here. Strathroy team won easily by a score of 6 to 1.

CURLING. THISTLES AT ST. THOMAS. On next Wednesday afternoon six rinks of the Thistle Club will go to St. Thomas where they will meet a similar number from the St. Thomas club.

TRIGGER. AT THE SPRINGWOOD CLUB. On New Year's morning a splendid shoot was held at the Springwood Gun Club. The first event was that shot for the Robinson tankard at 25 targets. The president's buttons were won by W. E. Robinson for first, J. Brown for second, and A. W. Bryce for third. The scores:

For Robinson tankard—F. Rooks 17, W. Brock 14, W. Brock 10, C. Bowman 17, S. Scream 19, J. Hughes 12, E. Crow 19, R. W. Glover 14, J. Brown 11, F. Nicholson 12, F. A. Brown 9, A. Tammann 17, B. Waterworth 14, Dr. Arnold 12.

For president's buttons—F. Rooks 17, W. Brock 14, C. Bowman 12, S. Scream 14, J. Hughes 11, E. Crow 15, R. W. Glover 9, J. Brown 18, W. Brock 12, F. Nicholson 12, F. A. Brown 9, A. Tammann 17, B. Waterworth 14, Dr. Arnold 12.

For years secretary of a Woman's Christian Temperance Union, C. Catharine street, Montreal. Sold in London by W. T. Strong & Co.

THE RING.

GRIM WAS BEATEN. Saginaw, Mich., Jan. 3. Gus Gardner gave a well-earned decision over Joe Grim, of Philadelphia, last night. The bout went the limit, fifteen rounds, but Gardner had the better of every round, landing at will on Grim's jaw and head. Grim went to the mat twice. Gardner weighed 137 pounds and Grim 160.

THE TURF. SATURDAY'S TURF WINNERS. At New Orleans—Choice (Romanelli), 9 to 1; Parthenon (Higgins), 11 to 5; Little Scout (W. Hicks), 4 to 1; Lawha (Fuller), 11 to 5; Larry Wilt (W. Hennessey), 3 to 1.

SEVEN AGES OF A RACE HORSE [From the Rider and Driver.] First, the foal.

Wobbling, and nursing at its mother's side: And then the whinnying colt, with gentle eyes:

And softly floating man, frisking in paddock: Nibbling luscious green. Then comes the kiddie:

Fiercely fought at first, with many a kick: But with a home with grace. Then daily training:

Months of pampering care, and trials on the level: Travelling, and racing under clever hands:

Eager to records make or break. Wager on or land fat purse. And then a mishap:

Tendon strained, and as a "selling" filis days of money earning slipped in bud:

For him no more the soft caress of hand. And he has played his part. The sixth age shows:

The old and gentle breed docked, and drawing back: With weary stride, eyes bulging and long tails, trunks sight, sans strength. Sans anything:

That ends this strange, pathetic history: For which 'twere mercy to impose oblivion.

Sens, tails, trunks sight, sans strength. Sans anything:

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BLIZZARDS ON RAMPAGE

Eastern American Cities and Maritime Provinces Storms Wept.

New York, Jan. 4.—Snow, beginning early Saturday morning, with brief intermissions of hail and rain combined with bitter blustering gales to create a condition of intense discomfort in New York. Late Saturday night the storm increased in force a heavy northwest wind, piling the snow in drifts. Practically all the New York theaters were deserted tonight because of the storm. Over 500 unfortunates driven to seek the charity of the city appealed to the municipal lodging houses.

Oswego, N. Y., Jan. 2.—A blizzard with the thermometer below zero and the wind blowing 40 miles an hour is the weather being experienced here tonight. Passenger trains are several hours late and the movement of freight trains has been entirely suspended.

Buffalo, N. Y., Jan. 2.—Zero weather and a forty-mile gale accompanied by a heavy snowfall in some sections of western New York today delayed railroad traffic somewhat and rendered county roads impassable. Unusual conditions prevail at Niagara Falls. An ice jam has formed on the river above the falls, leaving the channels on the American side almost dry and sending an enormous quantity of water over the horse-shoe falls. The channels between Goat Island and the Three Sisters, which under ordinary conditions are deep, rushing torrents tonight are mere rivulets, three or four inches deep. The jam is the second that has occurred in a quarter of a century, and the present one exceeds that of last March in size and grandeur.

Boston, Mass., Jan. 2. Railroad trains were delayed and street car service seriously hampered in Boston tonight by heavy snow and storm which began early today. The storm is general throughout New England and the Maritime Provinces.

Cleveland, Ohio, Jan. 2.—One of the worst blizzards experienced in years raged today, throughout the greater portion of Ohio with a heavy northwest wind and a temperature of ten degrees above zero. Traffic on all electric and steam railroads is delayed.

Be In Earnest About Your Health

A Little Care and Attention Now May Add Years of Comfort and Happiness to Your Life.

Disease does not, as a rule, develop in a few days or a few weeks. When you hear of people becoming victims of Bright's disease, or dropping dead from heart failure, you can depend on it that they have been afflicted for months and years.

If you are on your guard against the first symptoms which tell of serious disease you can prevent the painful and fatal results.

When the back aches, when the bowels get constipated, when the liver becomes clogged and inactive and you suffer from indigestion, you should afford to trust to these troubles wearing away.

A few weeks' treatment with Dr. Chase's Kidney-Liver Pills will regulate and invigorate these organs and may save you years of suffering.

There is scarcely a house in which this great medicine has not been used and scarcely a community but has witnessed remarkable cures.

Dr. Chase's Kidney-Liver Pills, one pill, 25 cents a box, at all dealers or Edmondson, Bates & Co., Toronto. To protect you against imitations, the portrait and signature of Dr. A. W. Chase, the famous receipt book author, are on every box.

These were the most tragic finishes in life's game among the ball players, although two were killed in railroad accidents. H. W. Burrill, a 19-year-old, lost his life in a Great Northern smashup in January. On June 6 Capt. W. C. Kalamas, 20, was killed by a train run down and killed by a Michigan Central train, while he was hurrying from the field to meet his sweetheart.

Eight accidental deaths—two of the victims spectators—occurred on the field of play and all of them were athletes.

Something like a dozen others drew their last breaths of life from the suffering and the death roll of the year embraces the names of some famous old-timers.

These would not be complete were George E. Stackhouse to be forgotten. That sterling fellow, ex-executive of the Chicago Cubs, sporting editor of the New York Tribune, and an early official of the Scores' League, died suddenly of a heart attack.

The somber chapter needs but one more paragraph. Death stalked into the cantilever in Philadelphia on Aug. 18, and over a dozen lives were lost in the mad panic that followed a rush of the curious to the gallery.

DR. A. W. CHASE'S 25c CATARRH CURE... 25c.

is sent direct to the diseased parts by the Improved Blower. Heals the ulcer, clears the sin passages, stops droppings in the urine, and permanently cures Catarrh and Hay Fever. Blower free. All dealers, or Dr. A. W. Chase Medicine Co., Toronto and Buffalo, N. Y.

"Shooting the crow," it was explained in a police court, was the criminal's terms for ordering drinks without having the money to pay for them.

CURSE OF DRINK.

CURED BY COLONIAL REMEDY. No taste. No odor. Can be given in glass of water, tea or coffee, without patient's knowledge. Colonial Remedy will cure or destroy the diseased appetite for alcoholic stimulants, whether the patient is a social drinker, a "tippler," a social drinker or drunkard. Impossible for anyone to have an appetite for alcoholic liquors after using Colonial Remedy.

Advised by Members of W. C. T. U. Mrs. Moore, press superintendent of Woman's Christian Temperance Union, Buffalo, N. Y., writes: "I have tested Colonial Remedy for very obstinate drunkards, and the cures have been many. In many cases the remedy was given secretly. I cheerfully recommend and endorse Colonial Remedy. Members of our Union are delighted to find an economical treatment to aid us in our temperance work."

Drugs sold by mail. Trial package free by writing to Mrs. M. A. Cowan (for years secretary of a Woman's Christian Temperance Union), 25, Catharine street, Montreal. Sold in London by W. T. Strong & Co.

TO FLORIDA. The only direct all-water route between Boston, New York, Charleston, S. C., and Jacksonville, Fla. Fast and staunch Steamers. Tri-Weekly Sailings. Every Modern Convenience. THEO. G. EGER, G. M. W. P. CLYDE & CO., Gen. Agents, 19 State Street, New York. E. D. LA HOOKE, Agent, London.

CLYDE LINE.

New York, Boston, Albany, and any Eastern Point, Chicago, St. Louis, Kansas City, and Western Points, reached in quickest time via

MICHIGAN CENTRAL.

Winter Tourist rates now in effect to principal southern points. Rates, routes and all information at city office, 365 Richmond street. Phone 15. O. W. RUGGLES, JOHN PAUL, G. P. and T. A., C. P. and T. A.

The WABASH RAILROAD.

It is the great winter tourist route to the south and west, including Texas, Old Mexico and California, the lands of sunshine and flowers. Through standard and tourist sleeping cars are now run via this great southern route. The new and elegant trains on the Wabash are hailed by the most beautiful engines ever built. Every comfort is provided equal to the best hotels, or the most luxurious homes. Nothing is wanting to complete one's happiness. The days and nights pass only too quickly, while traveling on the great Wabash line. For information as to rates, routes, etc., address any ticket agent, or J. A. Richardson, district passenger agent, northeast corner King and Yonge streets, Toronto.

Through Tourist Cars.

Leave Toronto every Tuesday and Saturday, and North Bay every Thursday, for Winnipeg, Calgary, Vancouver and Pacific coast points.

Winter rates in effect to California and Florida. For information call at city ticket office, 161 Dundas street, corner Richmond. A. H. NOTMAN, A.G.P.A., Toronto.

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176 and 178 Dundas Street, London, Jan. 4, 1904.



Big Reduction in Made-Up Cushions; \$3 Cushions, Tuesday - - - 75c

An American Silk Flag Cushion, with stripe satin frill in red, white and blue, value \$3.00, Tuesday 75c

\$3.50 Cushions, Tuesday \$1.00. One Cushion, heavily worked on check linen, with blue and gold China silk frill, value \$3.50, Tuesday \$1.00

\$4 Cushion Top, Tuesday \$1.50. One beautiful Cushion Top, in old rose mottled, butterfly design, worked with cream duchess braid and jewels, finished with rosette, value \$4.00, Tuesday \$1.50

\$3 Cushion, Tuesday \$1.95. One Lithograph Cushion, Choir Girls design, finished with heavy silk cord, knotted on corners, value \$3.00, to clear Tuesday \$1.95

\$4.00 Cushion, Tuesday \$1.95. Oriental Tapestry Cushion, prett y design, finished with heavy silk cord, knotted at corners, value \$4.00, Tuesday \$1.95

\$4.50 Cushion, Tuesday \$1.95. Pink China Silk Cushion, pretty design, hand painted, made up with double frill, very dainty, value \$4.50, Tuesday \$1.95

\$5.00 Cushion, Tuesday \$2.50. \$8.00 Cushion, Tuesday \$3.50. One beautiful Cushion, embroidered on huck, wild rose design, worked in pink and green, made up round with puff, and caught with ribbon, value \$5.00, Tuesday \$2.50

\$8.00 Cushion, Tuesday \$3.50. A Green Silk Cush