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CHAPTER XIL (Continued) A MYSTERY.

FALSE PRETENCES," &C.

A MYSTERY. In a few moments Gerald was faid up-bis "Perfectly." He hesitated, still with of his ability. "You yourcelf," said Authouy, with "You yourcelf," said Authouy, with on a bed in the room that had been his own when he was a boy. It was on the ly say," he added at last, with an abruptand floer ; one of the rooms in the ness which sounded almost harsh, and anxiuosly upon the faces of his attend-

face away.

Lord Morven impatiently.

"Oh, yes," she answered, with a curl of her lip, "of course I know that. Only ants. Then he groaned and turned his for Bertie's sake." "Is Airlie not in the house?" said

He turned to go. She leaned back in her chair and began drawing off the long "He is coming ; he'is here." said Bea tan gloves which she had not yet removtrice, with a look at the door and a sigh ed. There was a very weary look upon of relief. Then, in a low tone, to her her face. He glanced at it as he placed

pousin, "You may trust him, I am sure. his hand upon the door, but she did not I will leave you now. Mr. Luckhart, may I show you the way to more com-of his presence, she wished only that he fortable quarters !" Mr. Leckhart bowed gravely. would go. H Anthony suddenly felt conscious of all marvelled at her self-possession. the disadvantages of which he had once

"We are much obliged to Mr. Lockspoken to Bertie. His own roughness, hart for his assistance," said Lord . Morhis akwardness, his ignorance of women's ven courteously. And then the doctor entered and Miss ways, came with a rush into his mind and

arrested his stops. In the last hour or Essilmont signed imperatively to Antwo he had almost forgotten that Beatrice theny to follow her from the room. Essilmont was a woman ; she had shown The only persons left behind beside the herself strong, brave, self-reliant ; she patient were Lord Morven, Dr. Airlie, was a woman who could be so thoroughly and Martin, an old and trusted serbon comarade with anyone whom she lik ed that he had scarcely remembered his

Lockhart measured the doctor with one of his sharpest glances as the two met in the doorway. A flash of recognition paused over the faces of both men, but it wanished as quickly as it had come and left no trace behind. Lockhart looked a little more than usually forbidding ; the doctor glanced at him with w smile of simple and childlike geniality, as if his heart were so full of the milk of human kindness that he must needs dispense it to all comers.

Nevertheless, if anything could gathered from the expression of "Look-hart's eyes as he came suddenly face to" face with Dr. Airlie, it was a look of involuntary disgust and loathing, such as Beatrice looked up and spoke again. that with which one regards a venemone reptile or a noiseme beast. But the doctor's innecent, friendly smile betrayed the box, I think ? the box that we ne comprehension of that look. There found-?"

was a momentary pause on Lockhart's "I gave it into the care of the Super-part. Then he slowly followed Beatrice intendent of Police, who was present," ut into the ante-room. "You know Dr. Airlie," she said, with the accent of conviction, not of interrog-

stien. in dus time." For the tenth part of a minute Anthony hesitated. Then he answered with his customary delibe in the house. "I have met him." "In Scotland ?" "Yes!" said Anthony, quietly ; "in bar, for example ?" Scotland. She did not question farther. She had

shadow of anxiety returned. "It is no pu into Bertie's bands at once. If he one " aba said with an evident effort : Of wees ! ask no questions I don't ob ase," she said, with an evident effort ; use," she said, with an evident effort ; ject. But you put me into a very awk, ard position I was there as Bertie's reway. I promise to give you some ex-guest, a d I must do my duty. Be-planation; Gerald's honor demands it, sides," he added in a lower voice, "I have no reason to trust in Mr. Gerald planation ; Gerald's honor demands it, and Lord Morven's too. I could not en-Ruth zen's honor or honesty." Beatrice was silent Anthony dure that you, or anyone, should think

Beatrice was silent Anthony was hard-almost brutal, as it appeared to that he had committed a dishonorable action. I don't want Bertie Douglas to h r-but there was some truth in what think so either. But—whether good or bad—I give you my word to make the if he could. He had said a few words matter plan to you. Will that it he could he had so he had found his which made het painfully doubtful

startling shroptness — he had found voice and words at last, and was determined to spare neither — "you yourself knew ground floer; ene of the rooms in the ness which sounded almost harsh, and to spare neither— you yourself allow west wing, but separated from the correct took away from the somewhat concilatory that there was something to conceal that there was something to conceal that there was something to conceal the young man seemed to revive a little; explanation on my own account. It is only for Bertie's sake."

right." "I might be ufraid for the moment. I

"I might be wraid for the moment. I —I am not afraid now," said, casting down her eyes. "No?" he said skeptically. I am glad to hear it. I have no more to say, Miss Essilmont. Perhaps you will permit me

to go," He thought that she looked as if she He thought that she looked as if she were in pain. Her face was pale, and she was biting her lower lip. He even fancied that her eyes were full of tears. But at that moment the door of the bed-room opened, and Dr. Airlie came out. The old man glanced curiously at Bea-trice and then at Leckhart. It was with an expression of profound compassion on on his venerable face that he stopped

softly to her side, "My dear Miss Essilmont," he said tenderly, "this indeed a terrible afflic-

"Is he very ill?" she asked quickly. Anothony could not help waiting to hear

the answer. "So ill," asid the doctor solemnly, "that I fear-I fear very much for the result. He is now alone with his lord-ship, to whom he wishes to make some ommunication of importance---" Beatrice flashed a significant look at

old scruples at dealing with the feminine Beatrice flashed a significant look at Anthony, then she started up. "Let me go in too," she said. "Let me see him ; I ought to see him too." Dr. Airlie laid his hand on her arm. "Sit down, my dear." he said quetly. "You are suffering. What is the mat-ter with your wrist !" "I think I sprained it a little," said Beatrice, rather faintly. "It is nothing much." element, of which he professed to be profoundly ignerant. But now as she sat silently in the great armchair by the

table, smoothing out her long gloves on her knee, and allowing her weariness to appear in languid posture and half-closed

eyes, he knew that he had been rude and harsh. He longed for a moment to make much." The doctor raised the little wrist, gen some apology, to set himself sright in her

erally so round and white and sleader. It was swollen and discoloured now, and dropped helplersly to her lap when he estimation and prove to her that he would gladly concede all that she might wish, were it not against Bertie's interlet it go. "More than a strain," said Dr. Airlie

eats that he should do so. But he did with some emphasis. "What were you doing at the fire tonight ? Uan you tell me, Mr. Lockhart?". not know how to frame an apology in fitting words, and while he hesitated,

me, Mr. Lockhart (The tones were suave and polite enough, but Anthony frowned as if un-willing to address him in return. "Miss Essilmont probable injured her "There is one thing that I had forgotten, Mr. Lockhart. You took charge of

wrist in lifting something too heavy for her," he said briefly. "Her promptness and brayery saved Mr. Ruthven's life; I fear that she suffered in return."

"No very distinct information is con veyed in that statement, Mr. Lockhart," said Anthony, hardening himselt against her at the sound of her clear, composed said the doctor, with a benign shake of the head. "But I shall learn everyvoice. "He will give it up to my cousin thing in time. I always learn everything "And you told him—" "I told him simply that I had found it in the house." hart is gone I daresay I shall be told a little more." Beatrice had always pro-fessed to like the white-haired doctor, "And the other things ? Did you give them to a policeman too? The-the crowbut at that moment she positively dread ed his boasted omniscience. She looked round for Arthony, as if he could pro-tect her. Disagreeable as he was, his Beatrice's face visibly whitened as she spoke, in spite of the coolness of her sternly honest face was preferable to the dector's unchanging smile and impenetra-"No, I did not, Miss Essilmont. f ble sky-blue eyes. But Anthony had disappeared. "And now," said the doctor, quietly sitting down, "you may as well tell me what Gerald has been "Give them to me," she said impiriusly. "Excuse me. They are better

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fixed her eyes anxiously on the bedroom tones door. "I must wait a little while," she said. have them in my pocket." "I must know how he is, whetherwhether-"

"Whether he can explain his errand in mine." to my cousin's house," said Anthony. "You refuse to give them to me !" she "Exactly." Her tone had grown very exclaimed, a wave of angry color floodhaughty. "Pessibly you will be so kind ing her pale cheeks and spreading even as to let me wait for that explanation to her temples. "Surely you are not in before you make Mr. Douglas acquainted

with the circum "I shall be happy to wait with you," he replied ; "and, if it is convenient to you, to hear the explanation."

The tone was perfectly polite, but it was one of studied coolness. Beatrice's by them," said Anthony. check flushed ; she bit her lip. But her answer was given in a very dignified manner. "You must allow me to say, Mr. Lock-Indeed, the whole conversation was car-

mart, that you have no right to de.nand. any explanation at all." "It is quite sufficient if it is given to

scorp.

and afraid of being overheard. "It is my cousin, "anid Anthony. "But I abeminable ! You choose to suspect fancied that you did not wish to give it Gerald Ruthven-Morven's brotherto him. As I already know the circummy cousin-of a crime ; you insinuate stances, it might be easier to explain that he was stealing the things that he matters a little to me. 1 am not Bertie's cerried, when it was easy to see that he legally appointed guardian, but I am his mearest relation, and I take an interest the house, as we all were carrying things ! As for the tools, you know in his affairs." "Evidently," said Beatrice, with some well enough that they might well be

used for innocent purposes ----- " Then she turned away from him and

"No, that I don't," broke involuntarcated herself in a chair near the table ily from Anthony's lips. But she took in the centre of the room. Her face was no apparent notice of the exclamation. pale from fatigue, the pose of her grace-"And how can we tell that he had not ful figure indicated weariness. But the taken them from some housebreaker who dark eyes that looked out from beneath her level eyelids were as brilliant as ever, had entered the house by stealth ? You and the tense lines of her mouth did not have no right to throw a base suspicion relax. She sould not afford to let herself upon him. He is a gentleman, a man of honor, yet you speak of him as if he 1. 1. 1111 go just yet."

"Give them to me, if you please,"

on in an undertone ; both speakers were

mindful of the patient in the next room,

Anthony looked at the ground and were a thief.' knitted his brows as if he were debating 'I have said nothing of the kind, Miss some point with himself. Then he spoke Essilmont. I have only expressed some natural surprise at your cousin's presia a low tone-

"I will leave the matter in your ence in Bertie's house, in disguise-as hands. You would not do a wrong to you yourself said to Lord Morven-with anyone, however small-I am sure of a housebreaker's tools on him, and a box that. Good night, Miss Essilmont." of valuable trinkets in his possession. "Are you going ?" said she, with a It is absurd," said Anthony with some Which acts at the same time upon the Bowels, guick change of manner. Relief and contempt, "to tell me that these things strengthens every Organ. pleasure seemed to be dawning for a have no meaning. I don't want to in-moment in her eyes, but presently the terfere in the matter. It ought to be Thus B. B. B. Gures Liver Complaint. Goderich, March 9 1882. DOWNING & WEDDUP pleasure seemed to be dawning for a have no meaning. I don't want to in-

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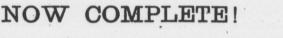
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