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CHAPTER XX.

"But that I pity your suffering, and such words would not be long unicvenged," put in Sir Hugh slowly, a flush coloring his pale haggard face,

and his blue eyes turning to Majo

depths. "Why is she silent? If she could do so, do you think she would not refute the charge? She knows that I have right on my side, and witnesses to prove that right. Have having than a penniless officer? Her very long gone when she permitted

"Kiss her hand in the hall," gasp he turned them on his sister's face.

"Thank you, Miss Fairholme," said Sir Hugh. "I am glad to have my asthis lady's assurance that she had

rible bitterness, a great horror, an | ture of her old queen-like grace. irrepressible loathing overspread it, and she lifted her eyes and fixed Dumfife with Sir Hugh Glynn?" de- it off." them on Sir Hugh with an expression that he could not meet.

"Shirley," Major Stuart broke out, indignation, entreaty and pain in his voice, "this is unendurable. Love, you know I do not doubt you-not for one moment-but to satisfy these others utter just one word in denial. Darling, I do not doubt you, remember." he added, with earnest tenderess. "It is not to clear yourself It was painful to hear her as the

ORIGINAL GENUINE

isual tone that every person in the room turned and looked at her, while Ruby rose quietly and drew nearer to her side.

"It would greatly simplify mat ters," put in Sir Gilbert, sternly, "i" you would deny the charge brought against you, Shirley. Where wer you on the afternoon of the third January?"

"I remember," Miss Fairholme sai

suddenly in the silence which follow

and when she came in-quite late was-she fainted in the hall!"

With a quick look Shirley's eye were turned upon her cousin's face and Ruby Capel stole nearer to he ide and put her arm around her. Th girl made no sign that she even fe he gentle caress; she was utteri otionless-only the anguish on he face and the restless eyes showe

"And I met you in the hall." Gilbert said severely; "and I saw Si HughHugh take leave of you in th avenue, and-and-'

His voice failed, and he turned away in great agitation. Every eye

"Shirley, why don't you speak?" her sobs; and a flash of indignant said her cousin Alice quickly, in her contempt came into Oswald's eyes as clear high tones. "Why don't you de-

The words came slowly and feebly shudder which ran through her. For a moment her lids sank heavily, as it she were going to faint; but the next she rallied and lifted the beautiful Shirley's face changed then; a ter- head which had drooped, with a ges-

"Do you mean that you went to manded her uncle sternly.

"Yes."

"That at the Half-Moon Inn you passed as his wife and called him

"And that this story he has told v

in the same slow faint voice-"yes."

her engagement, of which both you and Lady Fairholme cordially approved. Together we devised the plan which we subsequently carried out, I being still under the impression that she had written to Major

ill tell us now your object in doing RADWAY & CO., Montreal, Can. Why did you go, Shirley? There must have been some pressing reason to make you take such a step." The look of hopeless anguish deep

"I cannot tell you," she said pain fully. "Try to trust me still, Guy." A look of distress and disappointment passed over Major Stuart's face, and his eyes, as they met hers, were full of an entreaty which piercel Shirley to the heart, but she had given a promise to Jack, and she could not tell him now before her uncle and aunt.

words fell from her lips; it was ter-

rible to see the agony of scorn and horror which crushed out all the life and beauty of the fair face. Sir Gilbert turned away with a groan; the old wound was deeply probed, and it

was bleeding profusely under the hand which had so rudely torn it

There was a short silence then, bro-

ken by Major Stuart's voice, which

was deep and low and constrained,

from the terrible restraint he put

"Shirley," he asid gently, "since

you have told us that you went to Dumfife with Sir Hugh Glynn, you

ened in the girl's eyes as they went

to his face for a moment, and he

lips quivered.

open.

"If you can trust me, Guy," she said piteously, putting out two little supplicating hands, "I will tell youwhen-when we are alone."

"When you can use your blandishents to deceive him!" put in Alice

"Mother," Oswald Fairholme interupted, with quick earnestness, "take Alice away; she is upset by all this. She does not know what she is say

Oswald's tone was too significant and earnest to be disregarded; and Lady Fairholme bent over her daughter, and half led, half forced her from the room, making a sign to Ruby to follow her; but Miss Capel saw by solation to the unhappy girl, and she ly and cruelly; "and I did not like to remained, and was thanked by a quick holme's dark eyes.

"I can trust you without the aid of servant to Scotland to see Shirley,

our blandishments, my darling," Guy Immediately on his arrival he dis-Hugh, with a quick movement came between them.

"Pardon me," he said haughtily. You forget, I think, that I claim that

Guy fell back, paling to his lips. quick gleam of passion flashing into his gray eyes and a passionate execration rising to his lips. The two nen stood for a moment looking at each other, and a glance of terrible menace was exchanged; then Si Hugh moved back to his place, and turned to Sir Gilbert with perfect ourtesy and composure.

"Sir Gilbert." he said gravely. especially as I know that this mus be a particularly painful thing fo cu. I loved your niece from the nent to my friend gave me deep pain Iad she been satisfied with and hapy in that engagement, I should have never interfered; but even in Major Stuart's presence she openly declared that in her opinion it was perfectly ustifiable to jilt a poor suitor for a ich one. Subsequently I discovered that her heart was not in her engagement, but her dread of your displeasure made her hesitate to break

"You scoundrel!" Guy cried savagely between his set teeth. "What a

"Major Stuart," interposed Sir Gilbert, with a grave dignity which became him well, "I cannot allow you to forget that you are under my roof and that Sir Hugh Glynn is my vis-

"Shirley's dread of your displeas-Stuart to cancel her promise that she

had given him. You will remember perhaps that on the day following that wife according to the laws of this country I was called away by my mother's illness. On the day that I arrived at Cannes I met with a carriage accident which resulted in a broken arm and some slight head injuries. I could not write to my wife.' A cry of unutterable anguish broke from Shirley and silenced the smooth flow of words which sounded so plausible to the hearers-a cry sharp and sudden. She shuddered from head touched her delicate flesh; and for the first time her courage failed her. Her limbs trembled and gave way, she sank upon her knees, Ruby's arms around her and supporting her, and her head fell back against Miss Capel. But she was not unconscious: Ladies' House or Home Dress with she could see and hear all that passed: and something in the helpless attitude bespoke a suffering terrible to

inch size. in and lace and diamonds, pale and drooping like a flower broken at the silver or stamps stem and left to die.

Shirley's quick glance of entreaty hoarsely-he too loved her-ay, and that her presence afforded some con- loved her well in his way, but selfishgrateful look from Captain Fair- waited. As soon as I could spare his attendance, I sent my confidential

said, moving toward Shirley, when Sir patched a telegram telling me that my wife was about to marry another man. I left Cannes immediately-at the risk of my life, the physicians said; but that matters little, since I was in time to prevent a crime."

Sir Hugh concluded, as he had spoken amid perfect silence, and Sir Gilbert, to whom he had addressed himself, bowed slightly. Captain Fairholme was standing with his hand upon Guy's arm, his face full of earnest sympathy and pain because of the anguish and anger upon Major Stuart's Mark face; and Ruby, still supporting Shirley in her arms, was watching, with nameless fear, the colorless face and miserable aching eyes so wide and desolate, the pale lips from which the quick gasping breaths came almost like sobs.

"I must thank you for the patient hearing that you have given me." Sin Hugh continued, gravely; "and now let me ask you, Sir Gilbert, what your opinion is. The lawyer-a distinguished member of his profession-Mr. Duncan of Perth-whom I consulted on the subject, gave it as his opinion that the laws of this country had made your niece my wife, and that even if I wished to do so, I could not disown the marriage."

(To be Continued.)

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