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LADY LAURA'S RELEASE

THE STORY OF A SPOILED BEAUTY.

CHAPTER X.

But he knew that he must be diplomatic in this instance, and that to resent the girl's manner would be a fatal mistake; to be gentle, generous and forgiving would impress Lady Rooden most favorably.

"I shall hope," he said, suavely, "to win from Miss Rooden greater grace and greater kindness."

Then Angela raised her eyes to his; and there was something both pathetic and wistful in their expression.

"Captain Wynyard," she said, "my mother and I have been very happy together; I shall never be so happy again. Why do you want to marry her?"

Somewhat taken aback by so straightforward a question, he replied quickly nevertheless and with great presence of mind:

"Because I love her, Miss Rooden."

"I do not believe it," said the girl, promptly. "I am sure that you do not love her; and time will prove that I am right."

"Angel," cried Lady Rooden, "I have told you that I will not allow you to say such things."

"I cannot help it, mamma," she answered. "It is the voice of my heart that speaks, and I cannot control it."

"Believe me," interposed Captain Wynyard, in his sweetest and suavest voice, "I quite understand; and, Miss Rooden, though some in my place might feel hurt, I do not, for I understand. I may say even that I admire you all the more for your fidelity to the memory of your father. I can only hope that as time rolls on you may judge me more favorably and learn to like me better."

Lady Rooden felt quite a glow of pride as she heard these kindly words. How noble and generous he was! Angela must surely come to like him in time. The falsity that was so apparent to the daughter the mother could not detect—indeed, she was more delighted than ever with her lover, more ready to resent her daughter's ungraciousness.

"Angel," she appealed again, "have you no answer to make to such kind words?"

"No, mamma," she replied, sadly; "I have none. I trust more to my own instinct than to any words I hear."

"I will wait patiently," said the captain, gracefully. "I have been fortunate beyond all other men in winning the love of the mother; I

"It seems so very soon," she objected, shyly.

"There is no such thing as time in love," declared the captain; and, after a few more persuasive words, Lady Rooden consented.

"We need not have any delay over our marriage settlements," he remarked carelessly; but there was a keen, shrewd look in his eyes which belied the lightness of his words.

"Ah, Laura, dearest, how I wish now that I had been more careful! How I regret that I lavished my wealth in idle follies! I wish I had it all to lay at your feet."

And in the blindness of her love she responded:

"There can never be any question of money, Vance, between you and me. It matters little which has it. As it happens, I have enough for both."

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CHAPTER XI

With a passive despair Angela Rooden had yielded herself to what she saw was inevitable. The world in general smiled upon the engagement of Lady Rooden and Captain Wynyard, and thought it a most excellent one. The captain had every advantage that high position and unbounded popularity could give him; her ladyship possessed unusual beauty and great wealth. Few paused to think if the union were agreeable or not to her refined and sensitive daughter.

In the meantime the happiness of Lady Rooden was at its height. Her engagement added to her popularity and she herself was charmed at having one of the handsomest and most popular men in London by her side.

The state of things at Rood House was not quite so pleasant. As was natural, the captain was almost continually there; and Angela, although she said nothing, plainly let it be seen that she resented his presence. She felt that it was impossible now to secure a tête-à-tête with her mother. There was an end to the pleasant little breakfasts in the morning-room, where they had discussed the events of the previous day and had arranged their plans for the next twenty-four hours; there was an end, in fact, to the happy intercourse which had always existed between mother and daughter.

When it was possible without showing any disrespect to Lady Rooden, Angela absented herself from the luncheon-table. Captain Wynyard was always there. He never omitted spending that hour at Rood House, and three or four times in the week he returned to dinner. Lady Rooden usually made up a pleasant little party to meet him; and those evenings were full of positive torture to Angela. The captain was always most kind, most deferential and attentive to her, but he made no progress; her distrust only increased with her knowledge of him.

On those evenings when he did not dine at Rood House, he went with Lady Rooden to the opera, or to the theatre or some ball. Angela was invariably asked to accompany them, but when it was possible she avoided it. There was no trial so great to her as that of going out with Lady Rooden and the captain. The result was that she spent many lonely hours at home, and brooded over what seemed to her a terrible sorrow.

There came a day when she was especially distressed. Her mother had kissed her with unusual affection on the previous night, for her heart relented and softened as she noticed how pale and miserable she had grown. She had taken her in her arms and kissed her with some of the old affection, and then Angela had lain awake many hours thinking how she could best please her mother without making any compromise with the captain. She resolved to go to Lady Rooden the first thing in the morning, to kiss her, conciliate her, to try to renew the old confidential relationship between them, to promise her to be more patient with respect to Captain Wynyard.

(To be continued.)

Don't kick about your restaurant coffee, you may be old and weak yourself some day.

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TREASURE THAT FLASHED LIKE LINES OF LIGHTNING.

Lord Carnarvon gave a further account of his archaeological discoveries in the Valley of the Tombs of the Kings at Thebes, in Egypt, following a lecture by Professor Newberry before the Egypt Exploration Society, in the Central Hall, Westminster. General Sir John Maxwell presided, and there was a crowded audience.

Lord Carnarvon said: "Close to where I found this last tomb there is a large triangular space which goes from the tomb of Ramesses II. up to the tomb of Maestra and down to the tomb of Ramesses VI. The excavation of that space occupied Mr. Carter and myself two seasons and we used a railway to carry away the debris. We discovered that it was untouched ground, that nobody practically had ever dug there, and yet there was no tomb to be found. We did find, however, 12 or 14 alabaster jars outside the tomb of Maestra. They had been shoved out of the tomb of Maestra, and apparently forgotten."

50,000 Tons Removed. In this triangular space we must have moved from 50,000 to 70,000 tons of rubbish, but we came upon nothing. We went on until we were within five or ten yards of the tomb of Ramesses VI. Mr. Carter had been out there digging for three days when he came upon the first steps of this tomb. When we started digging down the staircase we came to a door, or a sealed-up wall, covered with seals. The seals were not at all easy to distinguish.

Previously to this we had found remains of the visitor of Thothmes III., and we thought that this might be the tomb of the king, but when we got to this door or sealed wall, after a great deal of trouble, we discovered the cartouche of Tut-ankh Amen. On the right we noticed that a portion of the cartouche was missing. Evidently a hole had been made there and had been resealed, and instead of having the seal of Tut-ankh Amen it had the seal of the royal necropolis.

On taking this wall away we got into a passage blocked up with stones, and it was perfectly easy to see where plunderers had gone in. They had made a hole at the right-hand corner big enough for a small man to crawl through. It took us one or two days to clear that passage, which was about 27 feet long, and at the end of it we came to another solid wall. Again we saw where a hole had been made and resealed, and we were very doubtful of what we should find behind it. It was a very exciting moment, because often what I have thought was going to be a great find has turned out to be nothing.

First Glimpse. With great precaution we took out a bit of this sealing, fully expecting to find another staircase or passage blocked with stone. Mr. Carter put his head in and put a candle in. He did not say very much for two or three minutes, there was a rather painful suspense, and again I thought I had been disappointed. I said: "Can you see anything?" "Yes, yes," he answered, "and it is wonderful." He withdrew and I put my head in, and with the aid of the candle I saw a most extraordinary sight. What I saw at first looked like nothing but twenty straight lightnings. It was the reflection of the light on the gold on a number of state couches, very big and colossal. They would be broad enough for two people to lie on at once and were carved with extraordinary heads—fantastic looking things. Perhaps they are not of great beauty, but I do not think anything like them has ever been found before.

Receiving Courtiers. I imagine they must have been ceremonial couches on which the king and queen received courtiers while lying down, as is still the fashion in those countries to-day. We kept on finding other things, but all the while I was wondering where the mummies were, because I do not think we have any record of Egyptian kings hiding only their furniture. It was far more important to hide the bodies of the kings.

Looking underneath one of these couches we found a small hole in the wall, and Mr. Carter remarked "There is another tomb here." I said, "Can you see a mummy?" and he answered "No I cannot see any mummy—case or anything." He looked through the hole and said: "The place is one mass of furniture," and we afterwards discovered a room about 20 feet square piled up with furniture in some places to a height of five or six feet.

There were beds, couches, tables, jars of alabaster and all sorts of things. I kept on saying, "There must have been a funeral in there," and the next things we discovered were two large statues of the king. By that time we had discovered to whom the tomb belonged, or at all events, to whom the furniture had belonged, and these statues were evidently guarding something.

I think I may say without the shadow of a doubt that the silver, the gold, and probably the bronze vessels, what I might call the heavy articles, were all taken by the tomb robbers, and I think that the glass was taken, too. I have not seen one hundredth

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