

ANNABEL

THE TEMPTATION.

CHAPTER XXXVIII.

A TERRIBLE SCENE—PHILIP AND JIM AT THE OLD HOUSE AT DODDEN.

"Thank God she is not dead. She is asleep," he murmured in fervent tones, his heart filled with gratitude's unspeakable—his whole being quivering with excess of emotion.

He held the light closer and gazed down upon that pale and silent face. Oh, yes, it was the face of Annabel, but how sadly altered! The bloom of youth and health had vanished; the marks of terrible suffering were visible in the sharp features, the hollow cheeks, the lines on the brow, the blue encircling the eyes, and the close-drawn, pinched, and parched lips—all so widely different from the radiant and lovely countenance on which he had so often and so fondly gazed. Alas, alas! it was no "sleeping beauty" which he contemplated, but sleeping anguish and despair.

Oh, what infinite pity and tenderness filled the bosom of Philip as thus he hung over the loved one who would presently awake to rapturous bliss. The depth of her misery, the extent of her suffering, was revealed to him even through the unconsciousness of sleep—revealed in the havoc it had made of her youthful freshness, in the marks of pain and care so deeply worn into cheek and brow. Oh, what she must have endured ere these dire effects could be produced. He shuddered under the picture which his imagination, quickened by the intensity of his love, portrayed; and there came into his spirit a fierce longing for vengeance on the authors and inflictors of her heavy wrongs.

Yet she lived—oh, she still lived—and her grievous wrongs being ended, she might be restored to him and to happiness. The grave had not swallowed her up, as for many weeks he had believed; therefore the days of his mourning were ended, and a blessed, glorious hope shone through the gloom, that thrilled his soul with a delicious joy.

How should he awake her to the knowledge and realization of the deliverance that had come? She had fallen asleep in her misery, wretched and hopeless as ever—what danger might not lie in a sudden intimation of his presence, and her return to freedom and the deepest, sweetest joys of life?

He stood puzzled and dubious how to act, when another low moan escaped her, accompanied by a contraction of the brow and a spasmodic action of her features, which showed that her sorrow was with her in the land of dreams.

A sob shook Philip's frame as he heard that wail of pain and saw those signs of suffering, and, bending down, his lips rested on hers with the gentlest touch that kiss could give.

Oh, heaven, how cold were those lips, and equally cold the bloodless cheeks, when the tips of his burning fingers lightly pressed them. No wonder! The winter night in that fireless room was cold in the extreme, and one coarse coverlet was all that sheltered her.

"I will whisper her name in low and tender accents," said Philip to himself. "Perchance the sound will penetrate her slumbers and change her dreams into peace."

"Annabel," he whispered, with his lips close to her ear—"my own, my darling Annabel!"

Very soft and low were the tones in which the words were whispered, but it did seem as if they had reached and rested on her shrouded brain, for her troubled countenance grew calm and placid, and a happy smile broke upon her lips.

"Annabel, Annabel!" he continued, with trembling eagerness, "I am here to save you—I—your Philip—to rescue and protect you. No one shall harm you now my darling, my darling!"

Again the smile came upon her face, and a flutter passed over her bosom. The inner ear of her soul had evidently heard the dearly loved voice, and thrilled responsive to its echo. Her slumbers, too, were beginning to be broken, for a thin, cold hand moved from under the coverlet, and was instantly taken possession of by Philip, who stroked and caressed it, while his heart ached at sight of its emaciation.

Once more he leant over her, and kissed her now parted lips more warmly and forcibly than he had dared to do before, and murmured her name in louder accents—

"Annabel, Annabel! my darling, darling Annabel!"

She visibly started, and both arms were now drawn towards her head; then her whole frame moved, and, with a suddenness she did not expect, her eyes opened wide, and she gazed wonderingly up at him.

He smiled—his old, happy, loving smile. She clasped her hands in doubt, her face expressive of wild, intense inquiry.

He opened wide his arms and pronounced her name. She gathered round that she was awake, that it was no dream, that Philip was really there in flesh and blood, and, with a cry which echoed through every corridor of that silent house, she bounded up, and was caught in his extended arms.

RAILWAY TIME TABLE—Grand Trunk Railway

FALL SHOWS. Guelph Central—Sept. 16th to 19th. Provincial—in London, Sept. 21st to 27th. Luther at Luther Village, on Monday, Sept. 23rd.

THORP'S HOTEL, GUELPH, remodeled and newly furnished. Good accommodation for commercial travellers. Free omnibus to and from all trains. First-class library in connection.

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GEORGE JEFFREY'S ANNUAL SALE OF REMNANTS

Will commence on Friday, the 11th of July, and continue for Thirty Days.

SOME EXTRAORDINARY BARGAINS WILL BE GIVEN FOR 30 DAYS, As the stock must be cleared out regardless of cost. Over 2000 Remnants of Prints will be sold at 10 cents per yard, worth from 15c to 20c;

Over 3000 Remnants of Dress Goods will be sold at any price, and all other Remnants will be sold equally low.

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227 CASES AND BALES OF NEW FALL AND WINTER DRY GOODS!

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The Largest Display of Dry Goods ever shown in Guelph! An assortment unequalled by any Retail Establishment in Ontario. A monster stock bought for cash.

HEFFERNAN BROTHERS

Beg to announce that their stock of goods for the Fall and Winter Trade is now complete in every Department. Our importations which are unusually heavy this season, have been carefully selected by Mr. Thomas Heffernan, who has just returned from Europe, where he has purchased extensively from the leading manufacturers of Great Britain and Ireland, France and Germany.

Noted for Cheap Dry Goods. (Guelph, Sept. 13, 1873.) HEFFERNAN BROTHERS.

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Call and examine my new stock of LADIES', GENTS' & CHILDRENS Boots and Shoes, Which for moderate prices, style and workmanship, cannot be surpassed in the town.

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The safest and most reliable remedy in use for the speedy and effectual cure of Diarrhoea, Dysentery, Cholera, and Cholera Morbus, and not one out of thousands who have used it has ever known it to fail.

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The most elegant Dressing ever offered to the public for strengthening and invigorating the hair, renders the hair soft and coarse, soft, fine, glossy, silky and beautiful, keeping it in its natural position.

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Immense Importations! Immense Importations! The Largest! Most Attractive! Most Fashionable! and the Cheapest Goods ever Imported by any one House in Canada!

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A very large stock of carefully selected Dye Stuffs just received. All colors guaranteed.

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Thrashing Machine Oil—a very superior quality kept constantly on hand. Give it a trial.

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This is the secret of the wonderful success of the remedy in curing Dyspepsia, Liver Complaint, Dropsy, Chronic Diarrhoea, Bolls, Nervous Affections, Chills and Fevers, Humors, Loss of Constitutional Vigor, Diseases of the Kidneys and Bladder, Female Complaints, and all diseases originating in a bad state of the blood, or accompanied by debility or a low state of the system.

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