LADY LAURA'S RELEASE

—OR—

THE STORY OF A SPOILED BEAUTY.

CHAPTER XIX.

The ball was a most brilliant one. Angela seemed to enjoy it thoroughly, and she and her mother were surrounded with admirers. Lady Laura looked radiantly beautiful; but, though she laughed and chatted gayly, her blue eyes were restless, and wandered continually in search of her husband. She did not quite recover her color, and there was something in her smile that to a close observer would have suggested tears. And for what? When she asked herself that question, she was ashamed.

A time came when she found herself near Angela, and she hastened to her daughter.

"Angela," she asked, "where is the captain? I cannot see him. Is he in the ball-room?"

Angela looked round with innocent, unconscious eyes.

"I do not see him, mamma. Ah, yes, there he is—near the conservatory door, with Miss Rane."

"I do not wish to stay here any longer," said Lady Laura. 'Do you not think it is time we left? We shall be late for Pemburn House."

As plainly as if her mother had spoken them, Angela read her thoughts, read her jealousy and fear.

"I am quite willing to go home," she replied.

"Tell the captain I want to speak to him, will you, Angela?"

Much against her will, the young girl crossed the room to him. He was so deeply engrossed in conversation that at first he did not notice her; but Gladys saw her and welcomed her kindly.

"Mamma wishes to speak to you, Captain Wynyard," said Angela, with her usual cold formality.

"I am engaged," he replied, brusquely.

Half an hour afterward he made his way to his wife's side.

"We had better go," she said; "we shall be late for Pemburn House."

But he did not care to leave Gladys Rane.

"I find it so pleasant here," he said, turning away, "that with your permission, I shall stay an hour longer."

CHAPTER XX.

It was not without many a hard struggle that Gladys Rane had compromised with her conscience, and accepted under the name of friendship what she well knew to be love.

She tried to act up to the honorable dictates of her heart. She said to herself that she had loved Captain Wynyard deeply and passionately; but, now that he was married, there could be no question of love between them; still they might surely be friends, even intimate friends. No one could possibly find fault if they were only that.

Yet she knew perfectly well that she ought to have avoided him, that her only safeguard lay in shunning him.

More—knowing that, she missed no opportunity of meeting him whenever it was possible. She called it friendship, yet she knew that at the very sight of him her heart beat with a pleasant excitement, that her face flushed with joy.

When he spoke to her, it was as though the depths of her soul were stirred.

She knew that his face was ever before her; that her first thought on waking was of him; that his name was the last word she uttered at night; that her dreams were filled with him; that her whole heart was centered in him; that her whole being was engrossed in him.

Yet, knowing all this, she had not the moral courage to give him up altogether and see no more of him.

It was treading on thin ice; it was a friendship fraught with the most dangerous consequences to her. But she would not think of that side of the question; she only reasoned that, although he was another woman's husband, he would have married her if either of them had had money. He was not happy in his marriage, and if her friendship was a comfort to him he should have it.

So a few weeks ran pleasantly on. The captain was careful to do nothing that could arouse his wife's suspicions. He was kind to her in a careless fashion, and she had not the faintest idea that his whole heart was consumed with love for another woman. He was absent from home a great deal, but then he had so many engagements.

One evening, when he had been dancing with Gladys at the house of a friend, and had taken her afterward into the conservatory, she said to him:

"Do you know, Vance, we have not had a ride together for a long time; and, of all things, I enjoyed most a ride with you. I suppose you are always on duty with her ladyship?"

"I will ride with you to-morrow, if you wish it," he answered, eagerly. "It will be a greater pleasure to me than it can be to you."

"I should like it," she said. "But what will Lady Laura say?" she asked.

"Just what she likes. But there will be no need to tell her. We will not wait for the fashionable hour; let us go in the early morning. You can manage that, Gladys?"

"I will manage it, whatever the cost," she replied; and she did.

They had a long ride together, and both enjoyed it all the more because it was stolen pleasure.

But, seeing her husband looking somewhat tired that evening, Lady Laura said to him suddenly:

"Have you been riding to-day, Vance?"

And he answered quickly, "No."

Later that same evening the captain and his wife attended an "at home" given by one of the leaders of fashion, the Duchess of Everton. Among the guests was an old friend of Lady Laura,s, a Mrs. Gilder Langton, a pretty, fashionable woman, who came to her now with a smiling face.

"I have just heard some one say that your ladyship has one of the handsomest husbands in London," she said, "and I am half inclined to believe it is true. I suppose he takes those early rides to preserve his health and beauty?"

"Early rides!" echoed Lady Laura. "I do not see how you can call them early. He rides with the rest of the world."

"It was not noon when I saw him with Miss Rane in the park this morning."

Lady Laura remembered suddenly what her husband had said.

"You are mistaken," she replied; "my husband has not been riding today; he told me so."

Mrs. Gilder Langton had not the faintest intention of making mischief, but she did not like to be contradicted, and she knew that she had seen the handsome captain.

"I assure you that he did ride, and with Miss Rane, too. I saw them both."

"You must have been mistaken; it was not Captain Wynyard," said her ladyship; and then some friends joined them and the subject dropped.

Lady Laura, however, did not forget it. When they were in the drawing-room at home—the captain recruiting exhausted nature with his favorite remedy, brandy and seltzer, Lady Laura looking beautiful and stately in her rich velvet and diamonds—she said to him:

"Vance, did you ride this morning?"

Again he answered "No."

"I knew you did not!" she cried. "Mrs. Gilder Langton told me she met you with Miss Rane."

Lady Laura could not help seeing how hotly his face flushed and how fierce was the gleam that came into his eyes.

"Mrs. Gilder Langton is a——" Then he stopped suddenly and laughed. "She has mistaken some one else for me," he said, more calmly. "I thought that woman could not see."

"She seemed quite certain of it; but I knew you would not be riding with Gladys Rane."

"Certainly not," he answered.

(To be continued)

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3809. Here is a very comfortable frock, with graceful lines, in one piece style. The pockets are a useful and attractive feature. The sleeve may be finished in wrist or in elbow length. Figured percale, gingham, drill, linen, serge, mohair, sateen, gabardine and taffeta are good for this model.

The Pattern is cut in 6 Sizes: 34, 36, 38, 40, 42 and 44 inches bust measure. A 38 inch size requires 5 yards of 36 inch material. The width of the skirt at the foot is about 2 yards.

Pattern mailed to any address on receipt of 10c. in silver or stamps.

A MODEL FOR SERVICE AND PROTECTION.

4163. This "easy to make" apron model is nice in unbleached muslin with facings of contrasting material, or, in gingham, chintz or percale. The side seams are free below the hips, but if preferred may be closed their entire length.

The Pattern is cut in 4 Sizes: Small, 34-36; Medium, 38-40; Large, 42-44; Extra Large, 46-48 inches bust measure. A Medium size requires 4¾ yards of 27 inch material.

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A SIMPLE "EASY TO MAKE" APRON STYLE.

4276. Figured percale in blue and white, with banding of black bias tape, is here shown. This is a good model for gingham, rubberized cloth, linen, crepe or sateen.

The Pattern is cut in 4 Sizes: Small, Medium, Large and Extra Large. A Medium size requires 2⅛ yards of 36 inch material.

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A PRETTY HOUSE OR PORCH FROCK.

4270. Checked gingham in brown and white is here illustrated. It is trimmed with white pique. Figured voile or percale will also be good for this model. Taffeta or tub silk would be very pleasing, with stitching or embroidery for trimming.

The Pattern is cut in 6 Sizes: 34, 36, 38, 40, 42, and 44 inches bust measure. A 38 inch size requires 5¼ yards of 32 inch material. The width of the skirt at the foot is 2½ yards. To trim as illustrated requires ¾ yard of 36 inch material.

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3969. It is the little touches in the finish of this garment that will please you—as well as knowing that it is easy to make and comfortable to wear. In seersucker or chambrey or a neat pattern of percale it is quite as nice as if made up in gabardine, dimity or dotted Swiss.

It is cut in 7 Sizes: 36, 38, 40, 42, 44, 46, and 48 inches bust measure. A 38 inch size requires 6 yards of 36 inch material.

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FOR PORCH OR KITCHEN WEAR.

4161. Trim and neat is the style here portrayed. The development and adjustment are equally simple. Figured percale was used in this instance, combined with white linene.

The Pattern is cut in 7 Sizes: 34, 36, 38, 40, 42, 44 and 46 inches bust measure. A 38 inch size requires 5 yards of 40 inch material. To make vest, collar and cuffs of contrasting material requires 1¼ yard. The width at the foot is 2¼ yards.

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Household Notes.

Serve a roast leg of lamb in a border of canned pears, a clove being stuck in the centre of each half pear. Mint sauce should accompany this dish.

As soon as you have removed the dinner from the fireless cooker place the rolls in the cooker for a few minutes. They will be fresh and delicious.

Plant tiny carrots among the tulips in the window box. The fern-like leaves of the carrots will make an attractive background for the tulip blooms.

Before serving tea dash a teaspoonful of cold water into it and then with a sheet of white paper remove the fat which will have risen to the top.

A box of standard paper clips is handy in one's sewing supplies. They hold together the edges of long seams save bastings, and hold patterns together, etc.

Children are very fond of peanut sandwiches—and so are grown-ups. Mix a cup of shredded pineapple with a half cup peanut butter and spread on slices of bread.

Sponge drops are nothing more than the regular lady finger muxture shaped in circles one and a half inches in diameter and sprinkled with powdered sugar before being baked.

If you do not care for margerine, yet cannot afford butter, mix three pounds of margerine to a pound of creamery butter. The family will not be able to tell it from pure butter.

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