TWO HEARTS UNITED.

CHAPTER II.

young man looked over his shoulder, hesitated, then came back with obvious reluctance.

"You want a situation as gamekeeper, my man?" said his lordship. The young fellow nodded.

"I do, sir."

"It's his lordship, the earl," whispered the footman, warningly.

sent you. If you know your work eyeing him with a faint blush. and possess a good characteryour name?"

"Australia. My name is Ralph Farringdon," was the reply.

The earl's brows grew straight-Veronica's had been straight all through the scene: the two looked he scanned the sunburnt face with another flash of his black eyes.

"Go to the keeper." he said. signed to Matthews to drive on.

The young man raised his hat

a swift and eloquent glanec of gratright on her horse, gazed straight before her and made no acknowledgment; perhaps she thought that there had been quite enough fuss over the ther. "Here, Fanny, take the iron "especially seeing that it's so small." man, prompt and plucky though he had proved himself to be.

saw a spot of red on her left gaunt- at his clothes. let. It was blood. For a moment she thought that, after all, the puppy you.' had been hurt; then the truth flashed been hurt in body, perhaps badly, in cry of distress and called out: his humane and successful attempt to save the dog, and had been hurt in and a towel-quick, Fanny!"

still in his arms and the dog barking the basin in friendly, foolish fashion at his heels; the color came and went in her

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ride after him and make some

How should she know that the shadow of her fate was riding behind I shall her; that the curtain of her life's drama was up and the tragedy had

CHAPTER III.

his name as Ralph Farringdon strode sitting-room, in which a young girl droop and something about the chin, while charming in their way, hinted at weakness of character.

She started as she heard his footstep, and slipping the novelette in her pocket, looked quickly into the "Go to my head-keeper; tell him I ironing. Then she rose and stood

"I beg your pardon," said Ralph. bread. Where do you come from? What is "I've brought your puppy: it is Mrs. Mason looked rather taken

"Oh, yes; thank you!" she said, coming forward to take it from him: then she shrank back.

"Oh, it is hurt-is bleeding!

"No, no; it is all right," he assured Mr .-her, with a smile. "It nearly got run over, but I managed to pick it up in time. In doing so the young lady's not hurt!" he added, promptly, at her glance of alarm and pity; "not in the Lynborough, and all Lynborough and

voices, came forward with the iron

Polly's puppy, and has got hurt," ex- herself echoing it half unconsciously.

and go on with those collars. I hope you're not much hurt-sir!" She ad-

"Not at all," said Ralph. "I'll show something original.

He drew back the sleeve of his happy," observed Ralph. upon her: she remembered that she coat and shirt and bared his muscuhad felt one of the mare's forefeet lar arm. There was a nasty gash just to stagger Mrs. Mason; but, with the strike something as the young fellow below the elbow, and it was still candour which was as characteristic had darted for the puppy. He had bleeding. The woman uttered a little as her duliness, she said:

"Pon my word, I'm very sorry to "Is he married?" asked Ralph, with trouble you," Ralph said in his pleas- just a trifle more than polite inter-She looked at the red spot and ant voice; "you'll find there's noth- est. then at the tall, graceful figure strid- ing the matter when it's washed," and Mrs. Mason shook her head. "No. ing across the moor with the puppy he laughed as he held his arm over his lordship's never been married:

"It's a nasty cut," she said, as she alone at the Court or one of his other bathed it. "A horse, you said; a places-"

mured the girl who stood by, her eyes fixed on Ralph's face with an intent went on Mrs. Mason, ignoring the re- ment aid to the Canadian Northern. expression. "I saw her ride across mark. "He's very stern and proud-

beautiful girl with grey eyes and dark name was?"

The woman nodded, but looked up at him with a little surprise. He ooked like a working-man; but the working-men of the place did not ting voice. "She's as proud as-asspeak of Miss Veronica as a "girl," Lucifer." but as a "young lady."

suppose?" he said. "Lord-"

ne a stranger not to know his lord-

"I am," he assented. "Just from Australia. I walked over from Halsery this morning."

"It's a long way. Perhaps you'd. like something to eat and drink-you look a little pale," said the woman.

The girl started as if she had been absorbed in her contemplation of the handsome young stranger, and going into the kitchen brought out some read and cheese and a glass of milk. "I'm very much obliged," said

Ralph, accepting the hospitality without the least sign of embarrassment or shyness. "It was very nice, not to say kind of you, to guess that I was hungry, Mrs .- "

"Mason's our name," she said. "We do the laundry for the Court."

"I see," he said. "Well, I hope I shall be a fellow-laborer. I am going to apply for a berth as a game-

"Geoffrey Burchett," said Mrs. Maamends. But pride held her back, and son, nodding "Well- I hope you'll with a shrug of her shoulders she get it," she added, so doubtfully that

"That sounds as if you don't think

"Geoffrey Burchett's a hard man to please not that it's my place to speak against him; for he's an old friend. He lives all alone by himself The young fellow who had given in the hut and keeps himself to himself, as you may say. Fanny here goes over every morning and does for him, so to speak.'

Ralph nodded and smiled at the was seated with her back to the win- girl as if he thought Geoffrey Burch-The footman called "Hi!" and the dow reading a novelette. She was a ett highly favored by such ministrapretty girl with a mass of fair hair tion, and Fanny blushed and dropped and soft, brown eyes, and a small her eyes before the frank, ready way mouth drooping at the corners; this of this amazingly good-looking young man, who leant back in his chair and drank his glass of milk with the airwell, of one of the gentlemen of the Court, notwithstanding he was only a

"His lordship seems rather a haughty kind of old gentleman," he said after a pause, during which he helped himself to another slice of

aback at his free-and-easy way of criticising the great earl.

"Well, yes, he is," she admitted; 'but he's got reason. His lordship's the greatest man in these parts.

Ralph supplied his name.

-"Mr. Farringdon, You've seen

"Well, of course it belongs to Lord most of Halsery as well, not to speak The woman in the kitchen, hearing of places in Ireland and Scotland-" Ralph laughed, the bright, infectious, careless laugh which Fanny "Mother, this gentleman has saved found so catching that she found

"It's kind of him to leave some part "Dear, dear!" responded the mo- of England to other people," he said Mrs. Mason stared at him.

"His lordship' a very great man," As she gathered up the reins she ded the "sir" after a doubtful glance she repeated, with the helplessness of her class when confronted by

"Well, he doesn't look particularly

"Bring in a basin of warm water don't. No, his lordship isn't a happy

and until Miss Veronica came he lived

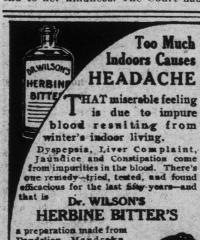
"You people seem to have a liking "It must be Miss Veronica," mur- for living alone," remarked Ralph. able from 1940 to 1960. It is suppose -"And he don't enjoy good health," ed to be connected with the govern-

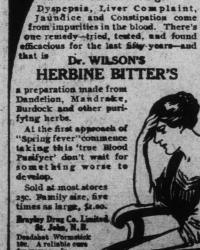
"So I observed," commented Ralph. "I daresay," said Ralph. "A very "And his niece-what did you say her

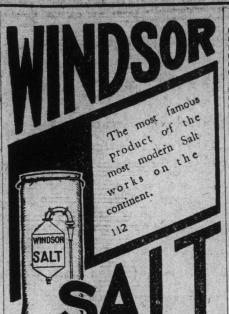
"Miss Veronica Gresham." -"Evidently takes after him."

"Yes," she said, in her soft, hesita-

"But she's very kind," put in Mrs. "That was her uncle with her, I Mason, simply, and with a reproving glance at her daughter. "There's no "Lord Lynborough; yes. You must end to her kindness. The Court hasn't







"I see: a kind of Lady Bountiful." said Ralph; but neither mother nor daughter seemed to understand the allusion, and stared at him vacantly. so great a man as his lordship must die some day, or do they live for ever? -who succeeds him, who comes into

"Mr. Talbot Denby, his nephew,

"Oh! And what kind of man is he?" asked Ralph, taking out his

from Mrs. Mason, he lit up.

man." she said. "He's a member of Parliament, and very-clever." She of imeprtinence to apply the adjective to one of the Lynborough family. body. He's quarrelled with all his people, and—and that's why he lives alone, barring Miss Veronica."

mented Ralph, smiling. "His lordship is-his lordship,"

"Amiable old gentleman!" com-

Pears. torted Mrs. Mason, stiffly. (To be Continued.)





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