# Ruled ROYAL

Destiny!

CHAPTER XIII. "COURTING TIME."

To know that they were separated

She reached the bridge as the clock struck eleven, waited there for some minutes, then slowly strolled into the

She had brought a book as an ex cuse for lowering, and with it open in her hand site sat down on a fallen

she started, excepting an old laborer in a rought freize coat, whom she had and with a sigh of relief, as the clock closed her book intending to go home, steps, paused to gather some sticks and cones, and then hobbled back again and stood beside her looking up at her, with his hat in his hand and his reddish-gray locks streaming

Lady Blanche had taken out her purse, when the old man put his hat on again and laughed.

At the sound of the laugh-the low, pft, mocking laugh-Lady Blanche harted and turned crimson.

"Is it you?" she said. "Yes," said Raymond, "and if your ladyship does not recognize me, I need not fear detection by any others here," and he peered up at her from

"Why are you here? Was it neces-

"Quite." he said, "or depend upon it Things are working well for us, my luck, I shall have my rewenge, and for our little comedy than this. You amusement!" will understand that when I unfold

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Lady Blanche. "But we had better come into the middle of the wood, my lady," and he hobbled in front of her.

Lady Blanche followed him until they had got well out of sight of the road, then he stopped, and, courteousself up to his full height and leaned me." against a tree.

"We need to be cautious, my lady," he said. "Last night my messenger account. That is Josine's only fault." "It was Josine, then, who brought

me this note?" she said, coldly. brought it, but she dropped it, and it was brought you by Lord Norman," he answered. "A dangerous episode. ruined us, and that would have been provoking, just as our plans are com-

"Complete," she repeated, turning

"Yes," he said, with a smile, and with a look of confidence that shone his half-closed eyes with a furtive through the painted wrinkles on his prepared, and given a fair opportunity silence for a moment or two, while he -which we must make-and average watched her.

"Tell me!" she said, impatiently. "With pleasure," he answered clinching her hands. "Your plot? Then you are ready-" "Lady Blanche, before the week is out, "To strike!" he said, quietly, and Lord Norman and the young lady who

A DIABOLICAL PLOT.

trasted very strongly with the disguises of age and poverty.

"Your ladyship would like to know how I am going to bring this muchto-be-desired result about. I will tell you. Will you not sit down? We are quite out of sight from the road."

broken sticks he had gathered at his ers for your hair to-night. I will find it necessary to resume his assum- make a suggestion?" ed character-leaned against a tree

"This is my little plot, Lady Blanche," he said. "Pardon me if, during the recital, I exhibit any signs of pride. They say that the serpent in the Garden of Eden was rather conceited with the little plot of the apple, whereby he caught Eve; and a little ly motioning her to a bank, drew him- self-glorification must be permitted

Lady Blanche made a gesture of impatience, and lowering his voicebending down as he approached the was discovered by Lord Norman. He most critical parts of the recital—he unfolded his scheme for the destruction of Lord Norman's and Floris'

> Lady Blanche listened, and her face grew paler and paler.

whispered its last word, and he closed with a low, sardonic laugh of satismy lady! Her stupidiy might have faction, she drew a little away from him shuddering palpably. "Ingenious, is it not, my lady?" he

> said, with a sinister smile. "It is diabolical," fell from her pale

little plot is together, her brows knit, pondering in

"If-if it should fail," she said, in a lady! There could be no better scene you-well, you will have had your hushed whisper, "it will cover me with shame! I shall never be able to hold up my head again-I should die!"

> nice, careful, artistic acting; and I think I can manage my part. As to can play, if I mistake not, to perfec-

for a moment—crimson with shame— ring for her if it were not such a terthen the color died away, leaving her rible way!"

moment's thought, "can you rely on or two that young lady stood beside her? Persons of her class are not al- her mistress, with her dark face set ways to be trusted. You have bought demurely. her, no doubt, but she may betray us for gold as readily as she consented to betray—them."

He laughed.

"No doubt. But I hold Josine in a stronger chain than that of gold, my lady—I hold her by fear. Josine, in weak moment, was foolish enough to steal some letters of her mistress, and I have them. If I am not mistaken, she had appropriated other things besides letters-such unconsidered things as rings and a bracelet. I have seen her wear them, which was a blunder on her part. A word from me, and she would lose her place and her character. Besides, Josine is French-she enjoys an afto her; and she hates, she detests provided by the young gentlemen in Miss Carlisle. Oh, you may rely on attendance; and Lady Betty, to whom Josine, my lady!"

"We are all at the mercy of some "Isn't that Josine?" asked Lady ome one or other, my lady. Lord Betty. "She hasn't been gone long!" forman, for instance, is at the mercy of you and me; while I—oh, I am at once that Josine had found the flowthe mercy of my tailor, my landlady- ers already picked for her. the world at large. Is your ladyship have done with the matter. After all, ly and languidly away, as if she had Miss Carlisle and Lord Norman, so to care for them. much as it will affect you-"

"I am not afraid!" she said, with

stands between you-pardon! the calm hauteur. "I am merely anxious young lady he loves-will be parted, to guard against failure, failure which shame unspeakable," and her lips quivered.

CONTRACTOR OF THE STATE OF THE

"Pardon me," he said suavely; "it! is my part to take all the precautions LADY BLANCHE drew a long breath against failure, and I have done, and will do so. Leave it to me, Lady The dark, piercing eyes met hers Blanche! Rest assured that I am too with a faint smile of confidence, a fond of my little plot to permit it to forecast of triumph in them that con- miss fire! If you will carry out the instructions I have given you, you will find that we shall succeed beyond our

> Lady Blanche rose, and drew her veil over her face, and he stooped and

"You will send Josine to me, Lady Blanche sank on to a fallen lavy?" he asked. "Send her to the tree, and Oscar, Raymond-with the plantation to gather some wild flowfeet, ready to his hand if he should wait here for her. And, if I might Lady Blanche inclined her head.

> "If I were your ladyship I would give her some trifle in the way of ornament. Josine's heart is set on

Lady Blanche nodded, and turned

He nodded, approvingly, and with-

out a word of adjeu she glided from the plantation. As she neared the house she sa Lady Pendleton and several others

standing on the terrace.

seemed to her as if the dullest of them must read her secret in her face.

"To the plantation," she said; "and am almost inclined to go back. There were such lovely flowers there. and it never occurred to me until I had left them behind how nice some

"We'll go and gather you a hunch.

Lady Blanche!" said one, and the rest eagerly echoed the offer.

"Thanks; but you would not know "Oh, it will not fail," he said, con- which to pick, or you would pick them fidently; "it is too good a plot to fail, with too short a stem. No, but if Lady It is just a little comedy that requires Pendelton will allow her maid to

your ladyship, I have no misgivings ty. "Josine will be glad of the excuse respecting you; it is just the part you to get out. Will one of you be so Lady Blanche's face grew crimson ery for her? I'd go to my room and

"There is Josine," she said, after a went to find Josine, and in a minute

wild flowers, Josine!" said Lady Pen-

"You will find them in the plantation by the hedge," said Lady Blanche, languidly, and without raising her

plained Lady Betty. "Certainly, miladi," said Josine, with second sharp glance at Lady Blanche

with the rest, joining in the conversation, and even laughing, a rare thing fair of intrigue, it is meat and drink for her, at the feeble sallies of wit Lady Blanche was a perpetual enigma, "At the mercy of a servant!" mur- was wondering what had put her in mured Lady Blanche, with suppress- such good humor, when the figure of

she spoke she rose and walked slow-

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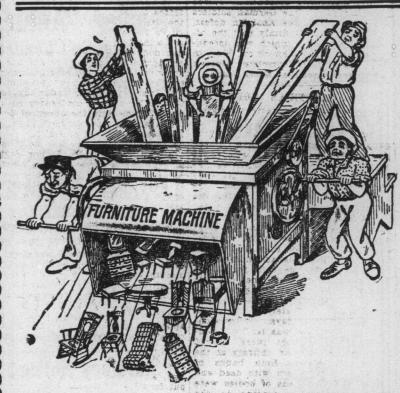
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Miss Carlisle and Lord Norman, so the put up her hand to silence him.

She put up her hand to silence him.

"I am not afraid!" she said, with

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# Italians Ha Held by Au in Vienna.

WAR SUMMARY.

ly engaged cleaning up the front gathering together the spo war and making straggling Aus of Chateau Thiery have been dev their time to showing the Ger was launched Tuesday night wit purpose of driving out the few strewing the ground, and the st the general demolition that pre-The capture of Belleau Wood considerable strategical impo owing to the fact that the ener been able to take positions sides without further artiller northern edges also cammand rear behind the enemy line run Chateau Thiery. All the po held by the Austrians on the Piave constituting the Capo ridgehead have been taken Italians, and the whole bank Piave is clear of the enemy, from the fighting there has bee activity in the south section Italian sector. In the mo however, bombardments are gress in many sectors and i artillery operations are going along the whole front. The war official reasserts that all t ritory lost by the Italians to t trians in the initial stages fighting has been recaptured. front in France and Flanders Picardy, Allied troops have out successful encounters agai AMERICANS ATTACK.

PARIS, June 26. (Off American troops carried out liant attack near Belleau Wo night, capturing 150 prisoners, whom was a captain, according statement by the war office t

AUSTRIA DEJECTED.

an defeat in Italy has caused p dejection in Vienna, where de and at Prague, where the inh press is sarcastic concerning treat of the Austrians. As an ple the Stanz Zeitung asks German troops be continually from the important Western bolster up our weak Allies?"



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