

A Fatal Wedding

By the "Author of Dora Thorne."

CHAPTER XV.—Continued.

Was there no warning in the solemn night skies, or in the murmur of the trees? The giant arms might have been fingers upraised to warn her, but she went on, resolved to do right—to say good-bye to Lyster, and then return.

He who reads all hearts knows she had no other intention. She went down the broad glades, tramping the dew-laden grass and flowers under foot, until she reached the gate.

He came forward to meet her with a glad cry. She stayed him with her uplifted hand.

"Lyster," she said, "I am come to tell you it cannot be. I must not leave my father and Irene. So we must part again, and, in time, with faith and hope, it will all come right."

He gave a little sigh, thinking to himself that he had all the weary way of persuasion to go over again, swearing that she should not escape him.

He knew his own power over her. He feigned submission; looked broken-hearted for a few moments; then spoke of bidding her farewell. Any one but a child must have seen through his artifice.

He kissed her and caressed her with the passion he knew so well how to feign. He called her by every endearing name. He used such loving words to her that her heart thrilled as with the sweetest music. Then he spoke of what he would do—go abroad, and do the best to die there.

Life had no charm for him; and he would not cause a dissension between her and those who loved her. She should not sacrifice home and wealth for him.

He touched her there, and she looked down, crying that he was her love, and she would sacrifice the whole world for him.

Then she told him of the squire's resolve that with her travel together; and Lyster Ayrton saw that if he did not win her that night she was lost to him forever.

It was a sad, pitiful story—the fair, passionate child, so weak, yet so strong; so fond of him, yet so anxious to do right. Little by little, long before she knew it herself, he saw that she was giving way.

The night was falling around them, dark and still; they had walked through Glynn Woods, and the high road lay before them. She forgot how late it was—forgot that she was far from home and everything else, save that with her whole heart she loved the man by her side.

Let him answer for it when all men shall be judged—for the persuasions, the entreaties, the passionate caresses, the burning words, that led her astray—that made her deaf to the voice of her own heart—forgetful of everything save him!

He won her at last—he bewitched her with his love and his prayers. There, at the turn of the road, he showed her a chaise waiting for them. A drive of six miles would bring them to Molesworth—the busiest junction far or near. There they could take the train for London, and be married in the morning. They would return, if she liked, to-morrow to Glynn. Once married, he told her, the squire would be certain to forgive them.

She went. The dew lying upon the flowers might have been tears, the whisper of the wind might have been sighs. Half shrinking, willy nilly, irresolute—his strong will over-powering hers—the squire's darling turned from her home to link her fate with that of one of the most worthless of men.

Weeping as though her girlish heart would break, yet smiling through her tears—thinking of the father she was leaving, and of the sister whose sacrifice had been in vain—yet clinging with her tender hands to the strong arm holding her—she passed from Glynn Woods and went to her fate.

CHAPTER XVI.

"THEY HAD BEEN MARRIED IN ST. PANCRA'S CHURCH."

Was it chance that led the squire to stay out so late that evening—a most unusual thing for him—and gave to Irene a book that he begged time so quickly for her that for the moment she forgot the squire so seldom out of her thoughts? Believing Lyster to be in her room, she did not disturb herself until the squire's loud ring at the outer door startled her. His first and only inquiry, as usual, was for Sybil; and the eldest sister told him she had been in her room some time.

"I am determined to start to-morrow," said the squire. "I met Charles Neville about twenty minutes ago; he was going home from Molesworth; and he tells me he saw Captain Ayrton to-night, driving in a chaise. He said he was going to Lings for Charles says he had a lady with him."

To the last day of her life Irene could never account for the impulse that made her leave the squire and go at once to her sister's room.

She rapped once at the door—there was no answer. She went in—it was quite empty. By the light of the taper in her hand, she saw that no one had disturbed it that night.

"Sybil!" she said, gently.

Then waited for an answer.

None came save the tapping of the ivy-leaves blown against the window. She looked round the pretty white chamber—there was no trace of her sister's presence. She opened the dressing-room door—no Sybil greeted her.

Then a cold horror fell upon Irene Jocelyn as she stood in the lonely chamber—a cold awful terror that made her heart beat wildly, and clinched her hands in fear.

"Merciful powers!" she cried. "Am I dreaming or mad? Where is she gone?"

There was no sign of disarray. The toilet-table, with its pretty jewel-cases, was untouched.

"Sybil!" she cried again, her voice weak with dismay. "Where is she? And again the tapping of the ivy was the only sound."

[TO BE CONTINUED.]

No Confusing Environment.

Miss Edith to evening called—When I write I have to be entirely alone, and have everything quiet, so there will be nothing to disturb my thoughts. I don't see how any one can dictate to an amanuensis.

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Manufacturer of and Dealer in Harness, Trunks, Valises and Travelling Bags.

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Have Made a Purchase of WHITE FLANNEL SHIRTS

SLIGHTLY SOILED TO BE SOLD AT HALF PRICE

The Goods are New. Secure a Bargain.

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THE SHIRTMAKERS

Wines and Liquors.

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Finest French Brandy. Pure Jamaica Rum. De Kuyper's Holland Gins. Sheriff's Islay Whiskeys. Dunville Irish Whiskeys. Hunt's Old Port Wines. Sandeman's Port Wines.

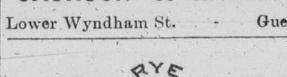
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Walker's Club Whiskey. Gooderham's 5 year old Rye. Guinness' Double Porter. Bass' Ales. Sleeman's, Labatt's and Carling's Ales and Porters. Pure Native Wines.

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OF ANY MAKE, SHARPENED and repaired. Parties leaving their Lawn Mowers at Richardson's Coal Office will have them called for and delivered at their residence.

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SATURDAY, THE 11TH INST.

Owing to the mild and broken weather we are heavy in some lines, and Our Motto is, "Sell goods; with profit if you can, but sell them first."

NOTE SOME OF THE LINES.

MANTLES FOR CHILDREN REDUCED 1/2

MANTLES FOR MISSES REDUCED 1/2

MANTLES FOR LADIES REDUCED 1/2

Astrachan and Russian Canine Mantles we sold for \$25, \$28, \$30, \$33, \$40; we now offer for \$17, \$20, \$23, \$25, \$30.

WINTER DRESS GOODS REDUCED.

FANCY DRESS GOODS REDUCED.

TWEED DRESS GOODS REDUCED.

There is neither stint nor stay to the great reduction in Dress Goods. We would again call your attention to that line of 50c. Foulle Cloths that we now sell for 35c.

MANTLE CLOTHS REDUCED 1/2

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CLOTHING FOR CHILDREN ALL REDUCED.

CLOTHING FOR BOYS ALL REDUCED.

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BOOTS AND SHOES

Big Bargains.

This is a Preliminary Sale and will continue for two weeks, when we will hold our Great Semi-Annual Clearing Sale. It will be a grand chance for those needing any of the above lines.

Frank Dowler,

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85 Upper Wyndham St., Guelph.

RICH RANGE OF FURS

LADIES' AND GENTLEMEN'S

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Choice New Overcoatings, Handsome New Suitings, Elegant New Pantings.

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AT

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WM. WATSON,

—HAS RECEIVED A FINE LOT OF—

PANTINGS, SUITINGS, ETC.,

For the Holiday Season,

TO BE SOLD GREATLY BELOW THEIR VALUE.

A Call Requested. WILLIAM WATSON

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None But First-Class Workmen Employed.

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PROPRIETOR

Children Cry for Pitcher's Castoria.

Down Again at Dowler's.

SPECIAL SALE Of Special Lines

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