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Beautiful Cynthia;

Victory After Many Defeats.

CHAPTER XXXV. HER OWN TRUE LOVE AGAIN.

"Flowers! I can smell them!" said Cynthia. "Put them on the desk where I can see them; for I shall be at work for some time, Parsons."

"Yes, miss," said Parsons, as steadily and casually as she could. "Writing letters, miss? The doctor said—"

"I'm almost tired of hearing what the doctor said," retorted Cynthia, with a smile. "He is the most-quoted man in this district, I think. Yes, I am writing letters, and going over some; I am trying to tidy up, so that there may be this little less to do when we start."

"Yes, Miss Cynthia," murmured Parsons. "But I suppose you won't start at once—"

"The moment this tyrant of a doctor will let me," replied Cynthia. "You won't wait till you hear?—I mean that—such extraordinary things do happen—you can't tell what—"

At the note of confusion, of suppressed agitation in Parsons' voice, Cynthia raised her head and sat quite still for a moment; then she rose, and, growing very pale, caught Parsons' arm and gazed into her eyes.

There was a silence for a breath or two; then she said, in a low voice that thrilled the trembling girl: "You have heard something! You have heard—that he is alive! Oh,

Don't keep me in suspense. Do you think that I shall be frightened, upset? Tell me, tell me at once!"

"There—there is news," faltered poor Parsons, still striving to break the shock; but Cynthia's grasp tightened, and her eyes grew dark and brilliant as she asked, almost inaudibly: "Where is he?"

Parsons was for going to the window at this, but Cynthia still held her.

"One—one moment!" she breathed, closing her eyes and setting her lips tight. "Just—just while I realize. You can go now!"

She gave her a little push, Parsons flew to the window, and Cynthia moved quickly toward the door. Darrel must have grown impatient, for he was there to meet her.

He stood looking at her with all his long-pent-up love in his eyes; and yet with drawn brows and working mouth. Had he fought his way back to life to find her lost to him? She seemed to read his doubt in his face, for she moved slowly to him, her eyes devouring him, then, when she had come within reach of him, his name rose in a whisper from her lips.

"Darrel!" and she opened her arms. In an instant he had caught her and they were locked in a close embrace, so close that it was another instant before he could find his way to those dear, sweet lips.

that they really do understand fully, completely; then he laughed ruefully.

"I'm afraid folks, the world, will say that you did quite right when you wrote that letter, and are acting quite foolishly now," he said gravely; "for I'm a poor man still—"

"And I'm a poor woman," she broke in, with a little laugh of infinite content and boundless joy; for what fear have true lovers of poverty? "Aunt Gwen left nearly all her money to Percy Standish; but she left me a thousand pounds. We'll buy a—what shall we buy, Darrel?" she continued, still laughing; "a farm! Yes, that's it! We'll buy a farm, and we—and father will—go back to the land. He is coming home, dearest. Oh, how I wish—"

She stopped, for the shadow of some one standing in the doorway fell across the room, and a voice, the pleasantly cynical voice, with a note of tender humor in it, drawled: "Should I be deemed intrusive if I ventured to greet a daughter from whom I have been separated for a somewhat lengthy period—"

"Father!" cried Cynthia, springing to him, her arms outstretched, the tears running down her cheeks, her voice broken by sobs and laughter. "Oh, both of you—both of you! It's like having two birthdays on one day!"

"What troubles you, of course, is that you can't listen and speak to both at the same time," he said. "But I think the best way out of the difficulty would be for you to talk, Cynthia, and us to listen; at any rate, it would be in conformity with the usual practice of your sex."

"But, dear, I've nothing to say!" she responded; "excepting that I am not Aunt Gwen's heiress, as I've already told Darrel—here she lifted Darrel's hand to her soft, warm cheek—and that, like a certain dairy-maid, my face—and what is left of the thousand pounds which aunt bequeathed me—are all my fortune."

"Hem!" said Drayle. "Faces are all very well, and I am not prepared to admit that I have not a certain value; but a thousand pounds are soon spent, and then I presume you contemplate a sweet retirement to that luxurious home for the thrifless misnamed Workhouse."

"Oh, dear, no!" said Cynthia, with quibbled chin. "We are going to take a farm—"

"How far do you propose to take it?" inquired Drayle, politely. "All the way," retorted Cynthia.

promptly, her old knack of meeting her father's humorous thrusts coming back to her. "We are going to make a great success of it. You, father, will keep the accounts, I will keep the dairy, and Darrel will keep the cows and sheep—and other things."

"And who is to keep us?" asked Drayle, with bland interest. "My dear Cynthia, you have not, I perceive, grown out of your old habit of dreaming. As an experiment in a novel, your farm is admirable; but Cynthia," with a change of tone, "do you know why I always refused to sell the moor to Sir Anson? Can you guess, Darrel?" Cynthia shook her head, and Darrel smiled a negative.

"Because I made a certain discovery; copper. To persons of such marked intelligence and acuteness I need say no more."

Cynthia exclaimed with surprise and pleasure; then her face fell. "Oh, father, you don't mean that you intend to—what do you call it?—sink a shaft, dig a mine, on the moor?" she faltered, quite aghast at the idea.

"I certainly do not," he replied emphatically. "And I have no intention of permitting any one else to do it; Mr. Burridge, for instance."

"Then—then I don't see—"

"I am about to explain. Please sit tight both of you, and don't scream, Cynthia; my nerves have not been improved by my trappings. When your Aunt Gwen adopted you, I had my doubts as to how the thing would pan out—you appreciate, I trust, the mining phrase, which seems particularly appropriate. I have known similar instances of the slip 'twixt the cup and the lip which has befallen you; and I was therefore glad that I had the moorland up my sleeve. As I might want, or, rather, be compelled, to sink for that copper, I thought I had better become acquainted with the mining business; so I went abroad to study it. It is an extremely interesting, not to say absorbing, study; and it took me, as you are aware, to South America, Australia and India. In the course of my travels, I was thrown among men who were not only working mines, but fealing in them."

Cynthia clasped her hands. "And you bought a mine for nothing, and it turned out full of gold!" she cried.

"Well—er—not exactly," he said, rubbing his eyebrows; "that, again, is the Lovellist's way of putting the thing; what I really bought was a quantity of shares in gold mines, silver mines, ruby mines, all sort of mines; and some of these shares have turned out all right."

"And you have come home a millionaire!" said Cynthia.

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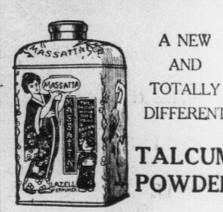
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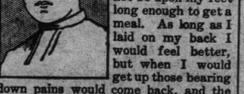
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Notice is hereby given that all persons claiming to be creditors of, or who have any claim or demand upon or affecting the estate or assets of the said CATHERINE MORRIS, of whose estate administration was granted to the RIGHT REV. M. F. HOWLEY, D.D., Archbishop of St. John's, are required to send particulars of their claim duly attested to the undersigned Solicitor for the said Administrator on or before the fourteenth day of June, A.D. 1913; and notice is hereby given that after the said fourteenth day of June, A.D. 1913, the said Administrator will proceed to distribute the assets of the said estate amongst the persons entitled thereto, having regard only to the claims of which he shall then have had notice. Saint John's, May 1st, 1913. WILLIAM R. HOWLEY, Solicitor for Administrator.

Per S.S. "Stephano."

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