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A QUEEN UNCROWNED

THE STORY IN THE LONE INN.

CHAPTER XXII.

"Yes, if you call Castle Hill, Inverness, home. We are going there as soon as Lella leaves England."

"Lella—who is she?"

Lord George fairly jumped from his seat.

"Why, you old hermit—you anchorite—you St. John of the Desert—you never mean to say you don't know who Lella is!"

"If you mean the French tragedy queen of that name."

"French! She's no more French than I am; she's English, man alive! Oh, ye gods! it takes away my breath only to think of her, Lella—the queen—the enchantress—the siren—the Melpomene—the conqueress! Whow! Earncliffe, I want a glass of hot water to cool me down after speaking of her—the little devouring flame of fire!"

"Really," said Disbrowe, dryly, "extraordinary transports these for a married man. I have heard—rather, read—of this Mademoiselle Lella; for the papers are full of her. Is she, then, so pretty?"

"Pretty! Earncliffe, if I had a loaded pistol here, upon my soul I would have it in me to blow your brains out for applying that word to her. Pretty—laugh! She's glorious—unadmitted—divine! That's what she is. You might as well say a tornado—a sheet of lightning—a storm at sea—was pretty, as Lella."

"Indeed! Rather a desperate little article she must be. So she has come to England. I thought she had been fifty times offered a small fortune, and refused."

"So she did. She came with us."

"With you?" said Disbrowe, with a stare.

"Yes, with us! She made one of our party. She and Norma are like sisters."

The strangest smile went wandering around Disbrowe's lips and shone bright in his eyes, when he fixed them on the face of his friend.

"Lella, the actress, and Lady Austrey!"

"Yes, Lella, the actress," said Lord George, defiantly. "Your cold English pride will have no cause to strain itself trying to stoop to her. She is the equal of any woman, peeress or not, in all broad England. I have seen her dancing with archdukes and royal highnesses without number; she has been an honored guest in the home of a duchess. Her life is above reproach, as she likely is above want. It is not necessary makes her play—she has already acquired for herself a fortune, but she has a passion for her art. Oh, Earncliffe! what a dazzling creature she is! She has flashed like a meteor through Europe, blinding, dazzling, electrifying whatever she went. Nobody knows who or what she is, except you will wonder when I tell you—Norma!"

"Normal how came she to know?"

"Well, my dear fellow, that is the strangest part of the business. It was at Florence we saw her first—as Cleopatra, I think, and a glorious queen she made, for whom a thousand heroes, might die. Every eye was, of course, bent upon her the moment she appeared; and Norma half arose, and then fell back in her seat. I looked at her, and upon my honor, Earncliffe, I never was so startled in my life; her face was perfectly colorless, her eyes darkening and dilating, and her lips white and trembling. I spoke to her, but she only grasped my arm and motioned for me to keep still, without ever removing her eyes from the stage. I confess I was puzzled, rather; but I thought it best to bide my time, and

"Reconciled? I should think so; and very proud and important she felt about it—for where archduchesses smile, it is not for insular aristocracy to sneer. And then Lella fascinates every one she meets. She is irresistible, my boy; so take care of your heart."

"It stands in no danger. I have a counter-charm, strong enough to protect me even against the all-powerful fascinations of this tragic muse. But this mystery between her and Norma—what does it mean?"

"That is just what I wish you would tell me; for he hanged if I have the least idea. Norma only laughs and says: 'Wait, the denouement is at hand.'"

"Humph! Rather singular! Is it another act of high treason to ask what this meteor looks like?"

"Well, Norma made me promise to tell you nothing until you would see for yourself."

"Really—"

"Oh, well, after all, what difference does it make, Earncliffe? It is only a woman's whim, and your curiosity will soon be gratified, for Lella plays to-night, and, of course, you will be there to worship like the rest of London."

"Can't my dear fellow; couldn't think of such a thing."

"What! you're not in earnest?" cried Lord Austrey, aghast.

"Never was I more so as I remember."

"Why, you're crazy—downright mad, you know. What's the reason?"

"Well, I have some friends staying here with me, and I can't leave them."

"Bring them with you."

"Humph! Well, of course, if they would like to go, that might do; if not—"

"If not, you go alone. I have said it Norma commanded me, under pain of her eternal displeasure, and half a score of the severest sort of curtain lectures, to bring you along; so, will ye, all ye, come you must. Not a word. I won't take any excuses; so don't go to the trouble of making them."

"Oh, but positively, you know—"

"Oh, but positively I know I won't! Who are these friends of yours?"

"My uncle, Mr. De Vere; my cousin, Miss De Vere; and that little girl you saw from America."

"Well, bring them along, of course. They want to see Lella, too—supposing they are not barbarians, like you. Come, you will just have time to dress, and be at Mrs. Tremain's in time for dinner."

"Well, there is no resisting you, I see. Make yourself at home, while I go and consult my respected uncle on the subject."

"All right, only hurry up—there is no time to spare, I wouldn't miss seeing Lella play 'Joanne D'Arc' tonight for 'The Crown Diamonds'! Tell the old gentlemen, with my respects, that I won't take 'No' for an answer at any price."

Disbrowe laughed, and snatched up, and, after a brief period, returned with his uncle, to whom he pres-

ented Lord George, with due decorum.

"You have met, with better success than you deserve, my Lord Austrey," he said; "for my cousin not only consents to go, but is dressing even now; and my uncle is quite delighted at the prospect of seeing Lella, whose fame has reached from Dan to Beersheba, yes, even unto the far and fastidious regions of New Jersey. I have ordered my 'coach and six,' and nothing remains but to make a few alterations in my outer man. So, for a few moments, au revoir!"

(To be continued.)

let her ladyship have her own way; and faith, she had it, too—for, before Cleopatra had uttered half a dozen words, she says a low cry, and fell back fainting—stiff, sir, in a dead swoon!"

"Hum-m-m! Very strange, indeed! What then?"

"Why, we brought her home, of course; but as soon as she recovered, she insisted on going back—no persuasion could induce her to remain; and she promptly ordered me to give a small note she wrote to the manager of the theatre to be delivered to Madam Lella. Well, sir, he did it; and the next thing was an earnest request from Lella herself, that Norma would wait in her private dressing-room until after the play."

"And did she?"

"Yes; and a precious long interview they had of it. Like the 'five minutes' it takes a lady to put on her bonnet, it was over two hours before she made her appearance; and then in such a state of delight; by George! if my Jewish money-lender turned Christian and burned his books, I couldn't get up to such a pitch of rapture."

"Well, what was the result?"

"Why, that Lella became our travelling companion, or we here—I don't know which—from that day until we reached Paris. And there, to the great surprise of every one, she accepted an offer from Mr. M— of the theatre, to make her debut in London, and astonish the natives, as I flatter myself she will do, slightly."

"And was our aristocratic friend, Miss Emily Tremain, reconciled to the idea of traveling en famille with an actress?"

"Reconciled? I should think so; and very proud and important she felt about it—for where archduchesses smile, it is not for insular aristocracy to sneer. And then Lella fascinates every one she meets. She is irresistible, my boy; so take care of your heart."

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CUSTARD PIE—2 eggs, ¼ teaspoonful salt, 3 tablespoonfuls sugar, 1 cup water, ½ teaspoonful vanilla, ½ cup Carnation Milk, few grains nutmeg. Beat eggs slightly, add sugar, salt and milk, diluted with water. Line a pie tin with pastry; pour in the mixture to which the vanilla has been added. Sprinkle the top with nutmeg. Bake in hot oven at first to set the rim, then reduce the heat to an egg and milk in combination should be cooked at a low temperature. This recipe makes one pie.

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In Yer Wife's Name

"You're no' lookin' weel, Wullie."

"No. Ah've been in the hospital, an' the doctors have taken aw' me appendix."

"Man, these doctors will tak' aw' anything. It's a pity ye didn't ha'e it in yer wife's name."—Evening News.

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Wants Other Women To Know About Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound

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THE OUTSIDER.

The smiling stranger comes to me, where I am swatting flies, and says, "I've samples fair to see, of shirts and silken ties; you'll purchase six, or twenty-three, if you are truly wise. For I can save you many per your affairs; your local dealers, Jinx & Jones—a robber price is theirs;" and thus he talks in dulcet tones, and waves his shining wares. "But Jinx & Jones," I make reply, "do much to help the town; when tax collecting day is nigh, they lay their rubles down; if we would give the paupers pie, they dig without a frown. And Jinx & Jones are always here; they're at the same old stand; and if the shirt I buy don't please, year after year, they know their trade—is ganked. You are a most engaging skat, I like your sunny smile; and I believe you're good and straight, and free from sin and guile; the goods you sell, as you relate, are doubtless all the style. But if I bought a nightie brown, and it should shrink and fade, where would I find you—in what town— to ask you for a trade? Who would return the cash paid down? Who'd comfort? Who would aid? Ah, no, my friend, I've heard the moans of men in many grades, who 'turned down' firms like Jinx & Jones to deal with stranger lads, and they bewailed their wasted bones, their guilders and their soads."

Canadian Canada

"Canada is still overwhelmingly Canadian and British. Of the 1 1/2 million people added to the Canadian population in the last decade the proportions were:—

Canadian born	1,212,045
From British Isles	220,287
Other British Possessions	10,233
From non-British sources	127,550

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Children suffering from Eye Strain are working under a great handicap, which properly fitted Glasses will correct.

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"The cleansing action of the gum between the teeth helps to keep them free from the particles which lodge in the crevices and cause decay."

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