

DAUGHTER OF CAIN

A Novel of the Present Day.

Grigg could not forbid him, but he looked somewhat uneasy, and the stranger went his way, while his companion stopped in the passage to remark upon the defective ventilation of the building, and to suggest some improvement in that line. Dr. Anthony—he who was interested in dangerous cases—stole softly down the corridor to have a glance at the "madman" confined behind that heavy grating. Howard was standing by the window, looking out upon the hills beyond, and his profile was visible. He appeared not to be conscious that any one had been watching him, but at the first glance which George Anthony bestowed upon him he started in a suppressed, horrified gasp, and uttered the words: "My God!" Howard turned suddenly to see who had spoken, and found himself confronted by an old college chum. "Heavens! Anthony!" he cried, the cold perspiration starting out all over him in great beads, "how came you here?" Then, as his friend continued speechless from surprise, he went on to say, excitedly: "I have been here so long, excitedly, that I have been obliged to grasp a chair for support. 'Hush! don't, for God's sake, let that wretched woman know that you ever saw me before, or I am lost.' Why do I find you here—in this dreadful place?" Dr. Anthony, who had his face as pale as Howard's own, said: "I cannot tell you now, but I have suffered enough to drive ten men crazy." "You are not insane," interrupted his friend, searching his face keenly; "you have not been insane since you were here." "I am in my right mind as much as you are—but I had a terrible sickness, and for a time lost my reason; but now I am sane again. Now, do as I tell you, and you can save me." Howard continued very rapidly, and earnestly above a whisper: "Go to the city, get out a warrant for the arrest of the wretch who has charge of this place—his name is Grigg. If you can get a warrant for his arrest, I will bring an officer here. The proof of what I tell you is on his person at this moment, and, besides all this, he has kept me here for two years, turning me beyond endurance for two years, for the arrest of this sufficient cause for his arrest." "But I do not understand how you ever came to such a pass—your own unlimited fortune at your command," pursued Dr. Anthony, with a glance over his shoulder to see if he was observed. His friend and Grigg had moved a little more fully. "He—that villain who has charge of this place—was to have sailed for some time ago, but he has been arrested, and he has been turned upon me, making it appear that I was the thief instead of himself. I was arrested, convicted, and sentenced to life in prison, but he has impaired my mind, being without friends or funds. I was sent here, at first I was treated kindly, but the wretch suddenly directed about a strange coincidence this wretch is appointed in his place; and, although for two years he has been as anybody, he has kept me as a prisoner and a victim to his spite." "Furious!" exclaimed George Anthony, the hot indignation blood surging over his face. "You shall not remain here another moment. My friend, if I help me, and we will liberate his instant." "No," Howard said, hurriedly; "it will be better to bring an officer here, arrest Grigg, and then we will have my trouble will be removed and beyond harming me or anyone else; he is a monster who delights to torture those around him. Hush! they are coming; do not breathe a word to let him know you ever saw me before." Howard turned away from his friend and feeling too weak to stand, sat down with his back to the door, and appeared to be looking absently from his window, as was his custom whenever any one visited the asylum. Dr. Grigg and the English physician now came up, and the former said, glancing at Dr. Anthony somewhat curiously: "You seem to be quite interested, sir, in my tough customer. What do you make out of him?" "I don't see but that he is quite enough just now. I expected to find a perfect bear from your description." Dr. Anthony tried to say indifferently, but he could not help looking like a man who had been deceived. "For three years he and Howard Montgomery had shared the same rooms at college, and their friendship had been one of the few perfect things of this earth, and for a long time after they had gone their different ways in the world—one to the south to practice medicine, the other to the great metropolis—they had kept up a regular correspondence. But this had dropped off gradually, and for the past three or four years Dr. Anthony had heard nothing concerning his friend who had been so dear to him. Nothing could have given him a greater shock than this encounter to-day—the proud, aristocratic, the wealthy Howard Montgomery is such a vile den as this, clad in rags, with shaggy beard and unkempt hair, but could scarcely credit the evidence of his own eyesight even now, and he was so excited and wrought up by the assurance that it required the force of his will to keep him from denouncing the keeper then and there, and accusing his friend at once from his power. "That's one of his tricks, you know," Grigg responded to his remark regarding the quietness of his prisoner, while he shot a suspicious glance at Howard. He had been on the "water hooks" ever since Howard any one to go there alone, but his other visitor had kept him talking upon his favorite topics, and he had not noticed anything in his behavior. "Sometimes," he continued, "he puts me into the belief that he is all right; but he carries on at a rate to make up for it all after they are gone. I suppose he's been telling you that he is as sane as you," he concluded, watching the doctor closely. "They all do that. I've seen insane people before," he returned, carelessly; "but he doesn't seem to be inclined to say anything to-day, does he? I've asked him several questions; I wanted to get an opportunity to look into his eyes, but he sits with his back to the door." "I'll stir him up for you," Grigg returned, entirely reassured and deceived by Dr. Anthony's words. "Then, these gentlemen have a look at you," he continued roughly. But Howard remained as motionless as a block of stone. He would not have turned at that moment and exposed his white, agitated face for possession of his life, while he had been seized with such a violent inward tremor that he could not utter a word, his teeth from chattering audibly. "Never mind; don't disturb him, it's of no consequence," Dr. Anthony said, while he longed to choke the heartless, miserable villain for daring to address his friend in such a tone, and to turn away from him, mentally vowing that he should pay dearly for a few hours hence, and then turning abruptly away he walked toward the place, followed by his friend and the keeper, who shot an angry glance at his victim as he went for his disobedience. Four hours later the monster again sought his victim. He had intended returning immediately after the departure of his visitors to take his revenge for the defiance which he had manifested before them, but several circumstances had transpired to detain him until now. He carried a whip in his hand, for Howard of late had refused to obey the least commands of his captor, such a spirit of defiance that, coward as he was, he thought it best to be prepared in case of any emergency. He held the door, put the key in his pocket, and then stepped up to Howard, snatching the whip almost in his eyes, and demanding to see it. "I'll see whether you'll face about when I tell you, you dog," he said, with a wicked leer. And Howard did face about now with blazing eyes, white, compressed lips and clenched hands. He had intended to strike the vile fool that he had been obliged to eat in order to keep the breath of life in him, but he had not the time, and he had no more—he was a desperate man. All the wrongs which this scoundrel had heaped upon him during the past two years arose before him, demanding to be avenged. The personal abuse which he had suffered, the insulting language which he had endured, the vile fool that he had been obliged to eat in order to keep the breath of life in him, but he had not the time, and he had no more—he was a desperate man. 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"I haven't it; I did not look the door when I came in; I forgot it; it is on the outside," he said. "You lie! you never leave it on the outside, you never forget it. I saw you put it in your pocket. Give me the key," Howard retorted, sternly; and Grigg saw that it was worse than folly for him to refuse to obey. The look in his prisoner's eye meant business, and he reluctantly drew the key forth, holding it out to him. Just as Howard's fingers were about closing over it, the wretch gave it a toss, and it fell with a ringing sound upon the floor three feet beyond his reach. The trick took him by surprise, and he relaxed the pressure of his foot somewhat. Quick as thought Grigg took advantage of this spring into an alighting posture, and, grasping Howard by the leg, tried to throw him. But the whip lash suddenly descended with stinging force across his shoulders, for the young man's patience was exhausted, and it was his only mode of defense. Grigg was a much more powerful man than he, even when he was in full strength, and he knew he must follow up his slight advantage or he had won over him victoriously, or it would be the worse for him. Fast and heavy the blows fell upon his forehead, and he shrunk from them as a dog would have shrunk before his angry master, for a desperate man was wielding that whip, and his passions were as fierce and relentless as the wretch, fearing for his life, begged and pleaded for mercy in the most craven manner. In the midst of this well-merited retribution, a clear, authoritative voice cried: "Hold!" (To be Continued.)

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