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## A Terrible Disclosure; OR, What Fools Men Are!

CHAPTER XIX

She heard Bowen shout from the box, with an oath, "Too late!" and would have fainted but that something within her compelled her to see and watch, to see for herself what must happen.

She let her hands fall from her eyes and strained them on the course, and saw her darling on the accursed horse, even before Lovel, potating a shaking finger, cried:

"There he is, my lady! There's my lord! He's safe! He will win! Take heart, my lady—see how he rides him, easily, easily. He is safe! He—oh, oh, Heaven! the horse is swerving, he—Come away, my lady, for Heaven's sake, come away," and he even had to force her from the window, for he and she had seen the great beast stagger and fall, hurling Lord Edgar to the ground, amid the fearful yells of the vast multitude.

With a shriek, Lela sprang to her feet and tore at the handle of the door as if to get near the awful spot, that was a quarter of a mile beneath them; but Bowen leaped from the box, and white and trembling, put up his hand.

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He held up his finger warningly, and his lips formed the word "No." With a shudder of relief that was so fierce that it was almost a pain, her face fell on her hands.

A moment passed, then she knew that some one had touched her, and looking up, she saw the marquis standing beside her.

She had no fear of him now; there was only a look of stupor and surprise in her eyes that any one should speak to her.

"Come with me!" he whispered.

She looked at him wearily. Did he mean leave her husband? She did not move.

"Come with me," he said, again. "I ask it for his sake," and he pointed to the bed.

Something in his voice touched her. She looked at the doctor, and he nodded.

"Please do so," he said. He had no idea who she was.

"I cannot leave him," she panted, almost inaudibly. "Why do you ask me?" Then it flashed upon her. "Ah, you do not know! I am his wife!"

The marquis did not start, but his hand, which he had laid gently upon her shoulder, fell to his side, and his lips closed.

"I am his wife!" she repeated, piteously.

"That is not true," said a voice, a strained voice, almost hoarse in its intensity.

All eyes were turned in its direction, and Lela, turning hers wearily, saw Edith Drayton standing beside the bed, her hand clinched at her heart as if to still its fierce throbbing, her eyes fixed with an awful, passionate yearning upon the white face beneath her.

The doctor looked from one to the other with a frown.

"Not—true!" said Lela, mechanically, as if she had dreamed the words. "Who says that? I am his wife—his wife!"

"It is not true," said the voice again, and this time the dark eyes met hers with a defiant hate.

Lela staggered, and she turned to the bed; then she turned suddenly.

"Yes—I will go. I am—not fit to stay. I shall be stronger directly. You will—pitiably—let me come back!" to the marquis. For she thought that the words, the very face of Edith Drayton, were phantoms of her disordered brain.

The marquis drew her arm within his and led her out, and the doctor, turning to Edith Drayton, somewhat sternly pointed to the door.

She knelt at the bedside for a moment and touched Lord Edgar's hand with her lips, then followed.

Trembling, Lela allowed the marquis to take her into a room on the same floor and place her in a chair. Then she looked up at him.

"A few minutes"—she breathed—"a few minutes! I shall be strong then! Oh, my lord, my lord, have pity on me! Don't let them keep me from him because I seem weak! I—I saw him fall!" and she shuddered.

The marquis looked down at her, and his stern, white face quivered.

"My child," he said, then his voice grew harder. "Girl, I know not what to think. Why are you here?"

"Why?" She stared at him with her pain-dimmed eyes, then she laughed, a hushed, discordant laugh. "Are you mad to ask such a question?" she said. "Why am I—I, his wife?"

The marquis turned to where Edith Drayton stood white and picturesque. "Perhaps, madam," he said, "you can explain this mystery. Perhaps you will tell me why at such a moment as this you—and she are here." Edith Drayton looked at him steadily.

"I am here because"—her voice did not falter, it grew if anything fuller and deeper—"I love him. She"—and she pointed to Lela—"is here because she thinks herself his wife!"

The marquis turned to Lela; to Lela staring as if through a mist for a moment, then, the full meaning of the words, the cruel words, seemed to strike her, and slowly she rose and stood upright.

"You hear?" said the marquis, sternly. "What have you to say?"

Lela struggled for breath, for strength.

"I say that I am Lord Edgar's wife," she said, and her voice, low and hushed as it was, was full of sweet dignity. "It is my husband who lies in that next room, and I must—I will—go to him!" and the slight, slim figure seemed to dilate.

The marquis' brow grew dark. "Either you are deceived, or"—he

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Report and Application can be sent through the Post Office or may be made personally at the Militia Building to the Registrar.

Claims for exemption must be made on the following grounds:

- That it is expedient in the national interest that the applicant should, instead of being employed in military service, be engaged otherwise.
- That he has one or two brothers and one of them is serving, or has served, in His Majesty's Naval or Military Forces during the present war.
- That he has three or more brothers and two of them are serving, or have served in His Majesty's Naval or Military Forces during the war.
- That he has persons mainly dependent upon him for support, such as parents, brothers or sisters and
- Ill health or infirmity.

EXEMPTION APPLICATIONS may be made to the Tribunal in St. John's through the Registrar and outside St. John's direct to the Commissioners (magistrates) appointed by the Tribunal. Commissioners have power to grant exemptions subject to confirmation by the Tribunal on grounds (b), (c), (d), and in cases where a man is so obviously infirm as to be unfit for military service. Applications for exemption may be made by the

MAN SEEKING EXEMPTION or on his behalf by his employer, or business partner or near relative. Application forms will be found at all Post Offices as soon as they can be printed and hurried there by mail.

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Issued by Military Service Board, may 21, 1918.

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St. John's, Nfld., May 23rd, 1918.

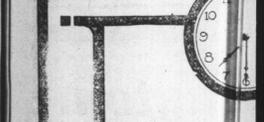
Editor Evening Telegram.

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