
The princess gave her silvery laugh

"It will under proper help from the

"I notice that you do not seem to

"A slight injury. I fell from an un-

name of being an excellent horseman."

There are some barbarisms, but I pre-

she exclaimed, clasping her

hands and gazing raptly at the picture

Vladimir had painted. "Surely, Nicho-

las, that must be Princess Alexandra,

life, so young, with the horrible mys-

died of grief and a broken heart or by

"I fear not," said Neslerov solemnly.

she passed on, making no more of her

taughing criticisms.

She soon returned to her rooms

where her attendant was awaiting her

The woman's face was pale, and she seemed to be struggling with emotion. Olga stood before her, with a peculiar

"Therese," she said, "an oil painting my unfortunate cousin, Princess

Alexandra, hangs in Neslerov's own

"What!" gasped the woman, starting

up. They. 1 some strange terror over

came her, she shuddered, and with the whispered cry "We are lost!" she fell

CHAPTER XII.

ES OLGA BEGINS TO ACT. OW. Therese, tell me what you have learned. Why did the fact that the picture of

Alexandra hangs upon the wall of Neslerov's room make you

You have learned something

Therese was sitting in a chair, her

face white and drawn, and in her eyes was a bewildered fook.

"It was not so much what I heard

"I know what you know. I suspect

princess, as what I knew and suspected," she answered.

what you suspect. Tell me what you

heard," she said sternly.
"It was in the serfs' hall," she said

in reply to the princess. "I was cat-lag; no one seemed to ask who I was, and they talked as servants to. Vladi-

mir Paulpoff is in danger of his life." Princess Class gave a start, but re

COLDE

done by a master hand."

light in her eyes.

to the fiers unconscious.

"It was," assented Neslerov.

solved."

"I think you are mistaken," said Ne-

who married your elder brother."

ruly horse.'

"You refer to the unfortunate mystery of Graslov," he said soberly. "It nobleman I have met. I did not come was that, I fear, that ruptured the to see you. I came, first, to ride on the former friendships. Yet I have insisted and proved that our family was not discons existing in this part of the em-to blame. It was either an accident or pire, and, third, to look into this new was done by our enemies. Pardon me! proposition of the czar to induce peaswas so glad to see you that I forgot that you must be weary after your ants to settle in Siberia along the line journey. Let me have you shown your of the railway. It is a very good idea, rooms, and I will order dinner for you if the country will support settlers." when you wish."

"Thank you. We are both hungry. I government at the start," replied Nesterov. "I am gold you came to me se will be ready to go to the servants' we shall have a fine time making our investigations." will join you in ten minutes, and The-rese will be ready to go to the servants' dining room in that time."

You have become a regular cosmopolitan," laughed Neslerov. "Your vis-its to America and London have almost Ciga. "Have you been ill or injured?" taken away the traces of our Russian

Some of them could be well dispensed with," she answered.
In response to his summons a servant

appeared and conducted the women to their rooms.

"Now, what devilish luck could have brought her here at this time?" said Neslerov to himself. "I must be cautious. But it is so long-she was not born-she can know nothing. But I must be discreet."

"Well, we are here," said the princess to her companion when they alone. "Now, obey me; let me do the planning. Neslerov must not suspect us. It would ruin all, and there is no telling what he might do. The governor of a province in Siberia is almost

Her attendant shuddered.

"I lived in dread of Siberia for twenty years!" she said, with a shudder. 'And now you have brought me here." "But not as a convict-as a friend, a woman, like myself, resolved to right

The princess was soon ready and joined the governor in the dining room.
"I have just been thinking, Olga," be said, his face wreathed with smiles, "that it is at least three years since we met. Your face has not changed much. but you are now a woman and were then a little girl. You are one of the most beautiful women in Russia."

"Thank you." "And, I might say, the richest." "Nearly so. But the wealth brings its responsibilities." It is difficult in Russia to do those things that are just

and proper with our wealth."
"I never found it so," said the governor, with a laugh,

"Perhaps," said Olga, "you are not regraps," said Oiga, "you are not she continued her inspection with interested in the question. To me it is a burning one. Our nobles have too much wealth and our lower classes have too little opportunity to rise. It is have too little opportunity to rise. It is not so in England, France or Ameri-

"You had better leave those questions for older heads, princess. You will become involved with the government before you know. You were not born to matters. You were born to be admired, Alexandra."

"I do enjoy my wealth and do what . girl can do with it. As to being her. She was very beautiful. Oh, adicired. I meet few from whom admiration seems to come with sincerity." "Oh, as to that, you cannot expect to find the courtiers at beauty's court all as gruff and outspoken as a drosky driver.

I have met some who were," she said, laughing pleasantly.

They are slowly, chatting the while. You have not quenched my thirst for knowledge," said the governor. "If I were in St. Petersburg and you did me the honor to ask me to visit you, it would even then surprise me. But that you have come to Tomsk, more than half way across Siberia, to visit me is, to say the least, amazing.

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s there is an American-I do nilway. He knows Vladimir Paulooff. girl-you remember-we met at the cur of a fete in St. Petersburg or Par-He is also a friend of that American

She gave liberally to the charities. Well?" "Frances Gordon? I remember her.

00

"It would seem from what I heard that the governor is in love with her. and that she rejected him. These things are well known among the servants. It seems the American and Neslerov had a fight and Neslerov was

"He told me be fell from a bosse

"It is believed among the serv that Vladimir is also in love with American girl and that she is in with him. And the American-1 d know-but he may be in love with her

"Three lovers! She is fortunate-no. I would say most unfortunate. With one true and honorable lover any woman is fortunate, but with three-and one like Neslerov! It is too much." "You do not seem to suspect where the picture came from."

"Do you mean the oil painting of my consin, the Princess Alexandra?" "I mean it. You say it hangs on the wall of Neslerov's room. It is undoubtedly the one painted by Vladimir."

"You must be more captious. It must have been a wild beast." You have the "And when Vladimir and his parents were sent to Siberia Neslerov took the painting?

When their meal was finished, they "Yes. Vladimir is talented, as you strolled together through the rooms of know-at least as I have told you." "Then Vladimir must be near this "I am quite interested in your palace," said the princess. "It is not the finest I have seen, but it is excellent.

"He is-he is in the dungeons under this palace," she whispered in terror. A sudden change came over the priness. She walked in agitation to and fro across the room.

"Then Neslerov must suspect that Vladimir holds the key to the mystery of Graslov," she said, stopping again before Therese. "I do not know what he thinks. The American also is here under a charge

of conspiring against the czar." "Oh, then it becomes clearer. These Americans are shrewd. This one, per haps, in order to gratify his love truth, has set himself the task of dis-

covering the truth about Graslov."
"Who knows?" asked Therese. "But how would be know anything about the mystery of Graslov?" "True, but you say Vladimir and the American girl are in love. Vladimir

may have discovered something and told the girl. She may have told the American, who may not be a lover, but a friend. She may have enlisted his efforts in the task of unraveling the

"It is possible." "What else did you hear?"

"Nothing; that is all. The American sume you get accustomed to them-in was arrested as he was about to leave "Yes, in Siberia one gets accustomed for Perm. Vladimir was brought from to almost anything," he answered.

She continued her inspection with in-Tivoloffsky, a small village near here." "By the orders of Neslerov?"

"It must be, since they are in the dungeons of his palace."

"And that is all you beard?"
"All-everything." "It is enough to place me upon the You must not, however, give way to these fits of unconscious ness. Be stronger, be brave."

"It is all very well, princess; but if you had lived for twenty years wan the horror of that crime overshadowslerov. "You surely must have seen ing you, with a constant fear of the Siberian mines weighing upon you, you "Yes, when a mere infant. It is only from other portraits that I recognize would not be calm." woman! I appreciate you

what a terrible sorrow to her! To-lose her child, heir to a fine estate and feelings in the matter. But try to main tain your composure, for one mistake now, the slightest suspicion on the part princely title, and then lose her own of Neslerov, may destroy the efforts we have made during the last two years." tery still unsolved as to whether she "Six months, princess."
"For you, since your Lusband died. 1

the hand of an enemy. Oh, that mys-tery of Graslov! Will it ever be have be en working upon this mystery since I returned from Paris two years ago. If God s ares my life, I will avenge the crime that was committed "I did not know you had this pic-ure," said Olga. "It is much finer against our branch of the Neslerovs." than any we have at home. It was That evening the princess met Neslerov in the dining room with no show of emotion. Her smile was as winning The painting had saddened Olga, and and her wit as sharn as ever.

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MR. G. W. PARISH, Sturgeon Bay Ont. writes:—"In the year 1867 I was very bad with my kidneys. I could not work on account of my back being lame, sore and rainful all the time. Though I carefully followed the directions of our family doctor he was unable to do me much good. At this time Dr. Chase was becoming known as an especially successful physician, and on the advice of my uncle, Charles Williams, I went to Dr. Chase at Ann Arbor, Michigan, and he gave me a box of his pills for ki hey disease. gave me a box of his pills for ki lney disease

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ok author, are on every box of his

"It does not take long to arrange such a thing here. We have so few social pleasures that when the opportunity occurs we grasp it greedily. cers of the garrison and the head offi-cials, with their families, will attend. You must not expect to see the grand-

The perfecting arrangements for the fete made Neslerov hurry away, and Olga was soon left to herself. The had resolved upon certain plans, but the activity of the palace in the prepara tions for the coming festivities seemed destined to balk her. She roamed through the great rooms alone, scan-ning the faces of these she met, speak-

unity she craved. It was nearly midnight when she be came discouraged and went to her room. The servants of the palace were still at work arranging the rooms for the dance.

g to few, but watchful for the oppor-

But the princess did not retire. She in near a window and waited. the ballroom windows the glare of lights spread out upon the surround ing trees and buildings. From below came voices of those who were making ready for the reception.

Therese came in to prepare her mis tress for bed. "Not yet, Therese," said the princes rearily. "I shall not retire."

"You will make yourself Ill," said Therese nervously. "Do not fear-I shall not be ill. But I am not ready for bed. I must wait-

"You will learn nothing tonight." "It is a night to learn. Leave me

Therese stood a moment watching the princess with a wistful, loving glance, and then she went to her own

The princess sat with scarcely a motion for : re than two hours. An observer might easily have supposed she had gone to sleep. But suddenly the glare of the lights from the ballroom died away, and the princess rose to ber

feet. "It is finished," she said, "and they are weary. Tomorrow night will be a severe one, and they will retire at ence. Some one must be on guardand gold is powerful. Tonight I must learn something."

Still she waited and soon all was silent in the palace.

"I wonder if Neslerov i asleep," she said. "Neslerov! I could almost hats the name, though it is my own. How so cruel and heartless a man became a member of our family I cannot conceive. Even though the relationship is remote, some cousinships removed. I believe, yet I regret that any should exist. No-not now-I am glad; for were he not sufficient relation to was rant my presence in his detestable palace I could not have this oppor-tunity to learn the truth. Oh, Nesleroy! Vengeance will be mine-and t will be sweet."

She had incased her feet in light Parisian slippers, and in these she step-ped noiselessly from the room. The great bare corridor was dimly lighted and no person could be seen.

While caution was necessary, it was not because Olga feared. She was too powerful herself to fear injury in the palace of Neslerov. If the governor suspected the purpose of her visit, she would be no longer welcome, and the solution she had so long sought would be delayed.

Silently she crept down the great winding stairs into the main hall. This was a wide, high apartment, and from opened many doors into other apartments. On one side were the offices of the government of the province, on the other the living rooms of the govern-

or's hotschold. The doors upon the left, leading to the reception room, the governor's room, the great ballroom and the dining room, were closed. Two of those on the right were open. In one room there was a light, and from it came the subdued voices of two men and the odor of tobacco. The other room was

The princess ' remembered thes rooms. She had seen them in her in-spection of the palace. That from

which came the voices and in which a ht was burning was the office of the perintendent of police. The one next it was a smaller room, connected ith the other by a door, which was ked. This small room had been inaded for an office, but was now used r the purpose of storing books, rec ls, police material and desks. It was

rt of the suit allotted to the superin endent of police. Olga stood in the hall and listened. She heard the name of Paulpoff. With

a fluttering heart she darted into the darbened room and took up her position near the closed door between that and the office. .

The two speakers sat near that door, with a round table between them, and upon the table was a supply of liquor and cigars.

The work of preparing the palace for the festivities on the following night did not come under the supervision of the police, but all connected with the palace were interested, and these two were the last to retire.

The speakers in that other room were Jansky, superintendent of police, and Inspector Unsgethop. "The whole thing is a complete mys

The whole thing is a complete mystery to me," said Unsgethop, specting somewhat thickly, having drunk 4 on-siderable liquor, "it is a mystery, First we receive one command, then another, and we do not know what to do. The governor is not wont to act You are not the first to have felt

the influence of this great mystery," said Jansky. "The governor is dis-

would not call it a great mystery. That would being it to the digality of a celebrated case."

"So it is. It is one of the most celeorated cases in all Russia."

"That is too much! One of the most celebrated cases in all Russia, and they have not been in the dungeons more than three days! The matter could scarcely have gone beyond Toms ... ' "Nevertheless I spoke truly."

"Then there is something about it I do not know. When I reflect, it seems of course that this must be the case



"It is a mustery. First we receive one command, then another." Else why should we receive secret orders to capture-arrest, if you like-an American and a convict already punish-

ed and-well, see that they become lost to the world?" Princess Olga gave a gasp as she heard this.

"There is one thing about it." said Unsgethop, who was now gett drunk enough to be independent and indis-creet, "if something is not done soon I shall wash my hands of it. I don't like the looks of it. Of course, one might kill a blacksmith convict and no inquiry would be made, but that American-that is different."

"Keep quiet for a few days. Have you not seen that the governor has a

"Yes, a beautiful one." "That is Princess Olga of the great and powerful Neslerovs. She is distantly related to the governor. And, since you are interested, I will teil you the story as I know it." "Oh, there is a story, then. I thought

"There is a story, and it is one which e governor would not like to have brought into prominence while the princess is here. The elder brother of Neslerov married Alexandra, a cousin of Princess Olga. This was something like twenty-three or twenty-four years ago. No; I think it must be twenty five cr six. Well, they were well mated e two. Prince Alexis was the heir to the great estate of Graslov and his hereditary title, besides being Prince Neslerov, was Duke of Graslov. A year or so after this happy marriage a son was born to this couple. He was named Alexis, after his father. He was a fine young fellow, so I have

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