

Love and Crime

"Really, I shouldn't be justified in making any such assertion after more than twenty years, my dear!" the earl says, evasively, his lips curling sarcastically. "The women all admired him greatly. I remember, and he wasn't at all a bad fellow. A little brusque in his manner, but not at all ill-bred. I rather like what I saw of him."

"You're a bit faint, sir—that's what you are; and faith, that's no wonder!" the other man says, compassionately. "A drop of spirits'll give ye a bit of strength—so it will!"

"All right," the young man says, faintly. "Is there a bar anywhere about?" He looks helplessly around the bare, dimly lighted room, and out through the dark, rain-blurred windows which command a misty view of a long, muddy road, with the lights of St. Cray's twinkling in the dim distance.

"Poor fellow!" Lady Christabel whispers, under her breath. And with tender touches she gently slips her little, slim, white hand under the big, massive shoulders, and, exerting her utmost strength, lifts him up a little way, and puts the glass to his lips. He drinks thirstily, and, opening his eyes, looks up at his gentle nurse, with a long, earnest gaze, beneath which her own eyes droop suddenly, and her heart begins to flutter.

"I'll find one out somewhere, my dear, sir!" the Irishman says, with a grin of assurance. "More power to you, Pat," the wounded man says, essaying a faint laugh, as he puts some silver in his hand, and the man runs off on the errand.

"Sparrow, drive home to the abbey at once, and tell my father where I am, and that I am waiting to help some poor, suffering people, and that I beg he will not be uneasy about me," says Lady Christabel, hurriedly, and as soon as she has put Robin up, and got on dry clothes, and had something to eat, bring the brougham back for me."

"I'll be back in a quarter of an hour, my lady!" declares Sparrow, briskly. "You will do nothing of the kind," his mistress says. "In an hour's time will be soon enough."

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