# MAGIC READ THE

# A Queen Among Women

CHAPTER XXVII.

"Yes, I have found you," said Mrs. turned suddenly and glanced at the bed. "This is the girl Mr. Fielding ill You must come away. Diana come with me. I-I have every right

Garling turned. He had been bending over Lucy with anxious, care-

"You've every right? Not now, Mary. She-God help her-she's my daughter"

Mrs. Burton looked at him fixedly and drew her lips together, as if to

"No. she's mine." she said in a low. expressionless voice.

"Yours!" said Garling, staring at her. "Yours? Ah! yes, you mean that you've been a mother to her."

lous and insentient. "When you left your child I meant to do my duty by her, but-but I was always respect able: and my gorge rose at her-

stood gazing at her in breathless ed over Lucy, who had sunk back, as amazement and terror-"I spent it on

Mr. Fielding stepped forward. He did not look astonished, for if the stars had fallen he would not have expressed surprise; but he took Diana's hand and held it firmly.

"We were poor, Diana and I, wellthe money on Diana As she grety up I learned that you were making a great deal of money that you were rich and-and-I pretended that Di-

piece, his hands clenched at his side. his eyes fixed on Mrs. Burton's glassy

"And my child, my own child, where-where is she?" he demanded

Mrs. Burton shook her head. "I do sinned; I have sinned, and I am ready to bear my punishment. I do not know. I lost sight of her. The people who adopted her came to London."

Diana was conscious of, rather than saw, a movement on the part of the girl lying on the bed.

"Hush!" she whispered breathless-

Lucy's head tossed from side to

away together. And we'll be married. ing before him with the savage long- to each other as, perhaps, they had No. no. I forgive you for the past, I ing for vengeance; with a nameless forgive you because you are good to horror on his face, as if the shadow

Desmond, I shall be Mrs. Desmond March-

Garling, who had been standing by he bed looking pityingly down at the evered face, started and bent lower "Desmond March!" he said in noarse whisper. "Why-Heaven and

"Hush! hush!" warned Diana. "She coming to. Stand-stand back." 'We'd better go outside," said Mr Fielding in a hushed voice; but Mrs Burton lingered, staring at the gir as if fascinated, and Garling remained standing by the head of the bed as if incapable of moving.

Diana raised Lucy to her boson and smoothed the hair from the thi face. Presently the blue eyes oper

"Where am I? Ah! yes, I remem

tell me your name?" Diana drove back her tears and

"My name is Diana. Diana-

"It is-a-pretty name," said th sick girl faintly.

"And yours? Will you-do you care to-tell me yours?" asked Diana

"Don't," she faltered so faintly that he others could scarcely hear it 'I'm-I'm not fit. You don't know.

"Oh, my dear, my dear!" breathed

Garling thrust her aside, and lean-

"Keep-keep back!" he said hoarsely. "She's-she's my child! I -I knew it. My child! My little gel!

He bent lower over her, his hands seen death too often to fail to recog-

Lucy's eyes had closed and a faint tremor ran through her frail form held her while Garling's labored breath alone broke the silence. Preand looked at Diana with a pathetic gratitude; but gradually the intelligence faded from them, she sighed, rene joy and peacefulness which was sy falsehood-"well." even more pathetic: a smile, like a

face; and, opening her lips, she mur-Garling fell on his knees beside the

bed that he might catch the words; and heard her whisper sweetly:

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ne were blind, he thrust aside those who were in his way and staggered from the room

CHAPTER XXVIII.

"I am going home." Vane had said to the policeman on the Embankment. He caught the night mail, and, there being no carriage to meet him, for he had not telegraphed, he walked from the station in the gray light of

The butler who met him in the hal started and allowed an exclamation to escape him, an exclamation of surprise and dismay; for even so strong through the fiery furnace of dissipation in which Vane had lived for the last few months scatheless; and he looked wan and haggard, the shadow of his former self.

"Don't disturb my father," he said. 'I will go and have a bath." He went up the stairs quietly; but the earl was awake, and he knew his

corridor; and he called to him. Vane stopped, hesitated for a monent, then opened the door and went into the room. The earl was sitting

son's footsteps as he passed along the

"You've-you've come back at last." he said, after they had looked into two "Caught the night train? Von -you look tired. Yes, yes! I'm-I'm glad you are back, Vane; very,

with the shock Vane's appearance gave him, and forced a smile.

"I'm afraid I awoke you, sir." said

gout, I dare say. You're looking"-

fleck of winter sunshine, lit up her a shrug of his shoulders. "I shall

"Yes, yes; Mabel is here-she'll be glad. Your Aunt Selina, too. I-I think I'll get up."

"No, no," said Vane, laying a re-"I am ready, Desmond, dear; quite straining hand on the arm of the old man, for in his excitement he made

that of the Prodigal, they mutually shrank from any signs of emotion her feeble voice. "We'll go as if he were choking, his eyes star- even while their hearts were drawn

> ired—the long night journey—you nust rest. Get some breakfast-He stopped and dropped back with his face turned from Vane.

Vane had his bath and, when he vent down, found Mabel waiting for

"Oh. Vane!" she cried, as she noted the change in him; then she bit her lip and flung her arms round his neck and pressed him to her with cirlish and yet maternal abandon "I'm so glad you've come back! We have missed you so! It's such a long JAS. R. KNIGHT. time, you see. Have I creased you collar?" with a laugh that belied the MINARD'S LINIMENT FOR SALE tears in her bright eyes. "Never

mind; I don't do it often, do I? We're not a demonstrative family. But I'm so glad; and Bertie will be glad; he's coming here to lunch after shooting Come in to breakfast. Aunt Selina's surrying up; but we won't wait. We will have it alone as we used to do n the old times.'

There was rejoicing in the serrants' hall as well as "above stairs" t the return of the son and heir; here was a flush on the butler's face as he hovered about Vane, and the ootmen cast respectfully welcoming glances at him as they served him with discreet assiduity.

Mabel chatted away to him on home and local topics as if Vane had only een absent a few weeks, but her eyes when they sought his face covertly grew troubled and anxious; for she saw that though he had returned ed to make of breakfast a solid and substantial foundation for the day.

Presently, after the servants had left the room, he caught one of those

voice. "I had hoped that you had

He shook his head and went to the we have the MOST COMPLETE STOCK OF WAR LITERATURE.

"Nothing," he said.

(To be Continued.)

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Capt. Theodore Wrig gineers-Gallantry at the lead to demolish Vailly, on 14th Septem ed the passage of the Brigade over the ponto was mortally wounded wounded men into she Battalion. The 'Roya wounded, he continued

shot. He died of his w Capt. Harry Sherw Royal Army Medical C ing wounded in the ti rifle and shrapnel fire on 19th September, and tember continuing to a wounded after his thig been shattered. He has

his wounds. Battery Sergt.-Major as Dorrell (now 2nd Li Battery, Royal Horse continuing to serve a the ammunition was all officers were killed guns and machine guns 600 vards, at Nerv, on Sergt. David Nelson Lieutenant), "L" B: Horse Artillery-Helpi the guns into action fire at Nerv on 1st S

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