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ADELAIDE CAMERON'S "SHADOW LOVE.

By the Author of Dora Thorne. CHAPTER XXXIV.

(Continued.)

Most of the visitors at Combermere had gone out, some driving, some walking. Adelaide, who loved the spring with its fresh, fair flowers, went for a long walk through the park, and Margarita, seeing there would be some chance for what she wanted to say, asked permission to accompany her. The two ladies set out together, and walked to one of the prettiest parts of the grounds-the coppice.

'We shall find plenty of flowers here,' said Adelaide. 'I want some violets.' 'Are violets your favorite flowers?' asked

Margarita. The dainty bloom on the fair face deepened -a far-off look came into the gentle eyes.

'No,' she replied, 'I love mignonette best. Margarita was quick enough; she noticed the deepening color, the brightening eyes, the changing glow on the fair face. 'She loves

some one,' thought Lady Rylestone-' some

They sat down on the low stile that led from the coppice to the fields; and then Margarita thought the time had come when she could speak of Lord Hedington. She looked at Adelaide's face—the look upon it was bright and warm as the spring morning itself. She began the conversation by speaking of Lady Edgerton, then of the visitors; and so, gradually and cleverly, brought it round to the young marquis. With one so frank, frankness was best. She looked up at Adelaide with a sudden, bright smile.

'Does not his great devotion touch you in the least?' she asked. 'I have never seen any one more romantically in love.' 'He is very good,' Adelaide acknowledged;

but I cannot say I have noticed much ro-'I call his love for you a romance,' said

Margarita. 'I think he will never be the same if you are unkind to him.' 'What do you mean by being unkind?'

asked Adelaide, laughingly. 'I mean refusing to marry him,' replied

'That I shall most assuredly do, if he asks me,' said Adelaide. 'I hope he will not make

so great a mistake. The state of the state of Why should it be a mistake? asked Mar-

Because he must have seen from my manner that I do not care for him in that way at all. He is very good; and I have a great respect for him; but love and marriage are very

different matters.' 'I know you will not be angry with me, said Margarita. 'Why must it be a mistake? He is very good, this young marquis; he is rich and handsome, and talented in some de-

gree.' cas a printed out at gab done share at 'My dear Margarita, if he had the wealth of Crosus, the beauty of an Apollo, and the talent of all the talented men in the world put

together, he still would not interest me." 'I am sorry for him,' said Margarita, pity-

'It will not hurt him,' observed Adelaide,

smiling. 'Love, when it is true love, always ennobles. He will be a better man, dear, for having loved me.' as actions of sail and ble

But that is poor comfort for him; he would rather be happy than ennobled, I should say. I must not ask indiscreet questions, but will you ever be able to take an interest in him?'

'Not in the way you mean, Margarita.' She looked far away over the hedges where the green buds were springing, over the tall trees just renewing their sweet life, the fair, smiling earth seeming to grow doubly fair in that moment. 'I have not, and never shall have, any love to give away.'

'Perhaps,' observed Margarita, 'it is all

A soft, sweet laugh, like the silver chime of a bell, and a brighter blush on the fair face were the only reply.

It was one of the prettiest pictures possible to imagine—the tender spring light with its flushes of gold; the tall, arching trees with their green, springing buds, and the two girls so beautiful, yet so different-the one fair, bright and radiant, with golden hair; delicate, dainty bloom, and clear-cut, aristocratic face the other dark, bewitching, beautiful, with the richest coloring, and the most seductive

style of features. They were so utterly different, yet both were young, beautiful and charm-

Presently, the golden head drooped over the Margarita, I will tell you a secret, if you

will keep it a secret?" 'That I faithfully promise to do,' was the

grave reply.

'It is a secret,' she continued: 'for, do you know, Margarita, although it has filled my heart and my soul-although it has been part of my life-still, I have never even whispered the words to myself? But I am in love-in love with a shadow.'

'With a shadow?' exclaimed Margarita. How can that be?'

'It is so. I half loved my shadow-shall I call him so?-before I saw him, from what I heard of him-for he is one of the most noble and generous of men. I used to hear little anecdotes about him, and mused over them. I made a hero of him long before I saw him. Without my knowing it, he filled the whole of my thoughts and dreams even before I had

'And when you did see him?' interrogated Margarita-for the girl had paused with a mile on her lips.

'When I did see him, my whole heart went out to meet him, and I knew the love of my life had come to me. I knew that-let it be for weal or for woe-my fate was there. Still I call it loving a shadow, for he whom T leve does not love me.'

No suspicion of the truth occurred to Margarita. She looked into the shining depths of the beautiful eyes.

'He must be hard of heart not to love you, she said, gently.

'Ah. no! He is not. He has never spoken one word of love to me, but I have the shadow of a hope. He may perhaps care for

'Are you sure he does not care for you now?' asked Margarita.

'Quite sure. He would have said so if had been the case. He does not love me, Margarita: you are not horrified to find that I care for some one who does not care for me?'

'I am not horrified at all,' said Margarita. Well, he has not the least idea of it. It is only a dream.'

'Why have you the shadow of a hope, if it is only a dream?"

Because, when I saw him last, he was kinder to me than he had ever been before, and he said that whenever he saw a spray of mignonette he should think of me. I think that when a man in his thoughts begins to associate a girl with a flower he loves her, or at least is beginning to love her. What do you say?"

'It is probably true,' said Margarita, wondering in her own mind if Lord Rylestone had ever associated her with any flower.

'You see I am right in saying that I love a shadow. When I look back on all the interviews I have ever had with him, I must honestly say there is not one which shows that I am anything more to him than the rest of the world. Still I cannot divest myself of this

'But,' said Margarita, 'suppose that it is never realized; you will have wasted your life

'I shall be content. I could not learn even in the course of long years to care for anyone else. I shall live my life happily enough, although in place of love it may be filled with a passionate yearning and a passionate regret. Right or wrong, for weal or woe, all the love I gave him, and there is none left for any one

'I am sorry,' said Margarita, in a pitying

'There is no need for sorrow, dear. I do not know if I have ever looked for any return for all I have given. I think not. I am happy because this great love of mine has changed all the world for me-has made it fairer, brighter, better-has opened my heart, given me greater sympathy and greater joy-has made me think more of others. It has ennobled me, and, if I have no return, I shall cherish my love in my heart of hearts, and carry it with me to the grave.' 'It is a romance,' said Margarita.

'Yes; and the prosaic side of the romance is that I shall probably live and die an old

'You, with your beautiful face and charm of manner, live and die unloved! I do not believe it,' cried Margarita.

'My beautiful face, as you are pleased to call it, will shine only on one man, dear. If not for him, then it will never brighten any other home. I do not say I shall never be loved, but I have no love to give in return, save to him who will perhaps never claim it-

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JOHN MAGOR.