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Ruled Destiny!

CHAPTER XIV. A DIABOLICAL PLOT.

With a fast-beating heart she went to her room, and sitting down before the glass scanned her face anxiously. When Josine came there must be no chink in the mask through which the girl might catch a glimpse of the troubled soul within!

me, in everything!" she added, significantly. "I am sure of that, Josine," said Lady Blanche. Josine hesitated a moment, as she put the ring in her pocket, then turned to leave the room.

"I hope the flowers will prove suitable, miladi," she said, in a low voice. "I did not gather them myself, an old man picked them for me."

Lady Blanche flushed for an instant and seemed about to speak, then inclined her head, and with a reverential sweep of the body, Josine took herself off.

Lady Blanche remained in her room nearly all that day; she was "learning her part," a part difficult to play, for the words were of necessity unwritten and would depend upon circumstances; but as the dressing-bell rang she rose from the sofa, on which she had thrown herself for a few minutes' rest, and sleep if possible, prepared to play that part, though its failure, as she had told Oscar Raymond, would mean shame and disgrace to her.

With the sound of the dressing-bell the great place began to echo to the voices of the gentlemen who had been out since luncheon after grouse. Floris, who was in the pretty little boudoir which she shared with Lady Betty, heard Lord Norman stop outside, and opened to his knock.

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glancing in at the dressing-room saw Josine standing with the hair brush in her hand a little distance from the table, her face pale and troubled, while Lady Betty was holding her head as if she had been suffering untold agonies.

"What is the matter?" asked Floris, gently. "That is what I should like to know!" answered Lady Betty. Here has Josine been tearing my hair out by handfuls for the last quarter of an hour! I don't know what has come over her! She used to be so careful; and now—I declare she seems half idiotic! She doesn't hear one-half the words I speak to her!"

Floris glanced at the dark face, and met an appealing, pathetic look from the black eyes.

that is the sort of work you are best fitted for, I should apply for the next postman's situation that may be vacant."

Floris wanted to ask if that was the letter Josine had lost, or if there was another for Lady Betty, but thought that she would reserve the inquiry for a more fitting time, and went to her room and began to dress herself.

As there was to be a dance that evening, she selected one of her prettiest dresses, and before she had got it on, Josine came softly in to help her.

Floris had accepted her assistance once or twice lately, and though she had never quite liked or believed in the girl, had, from pure good nature, grown to tolerate her.

But this evening Josine's manner attracted her attention very much and puzzled her.

Every now and then the girl drew a long breath and sighed; and once or twice Floris happening to glance up at the glass, caught the black eyes fixed upon her with an expression that was almost one of absolute pity.

"Josine," she said at last, "I am sure that you are ill. Why do you not tell your mistress and ask her to let you go to bed? I will tell her if you do not like to. Go and lie down this evening and rest."

"Thank you, miss; thank you," Josine murmured. "You are always good and kind—"

"Oh, nonsense," said Floris, with a little smile. "Ah, yes, miss, but it is always that you are good and kind to me, while I—"

She stopped and turned away, taking up a neat dress and carrying it to the wardrobe.

"While you, what?" asked Floris. "No matter, miss. It is not I who should speak," said Josine, shutting her lips tightly. "No, it is not I; a servant has no business with a heart! Ah, no, she must use her hands and her eyes, but her heart—ah, it is not fitting that she have one."

"I don't understand you in the least," Josine said Floris, half puzzled and half amused. "If you are in any trouble, why not confide in Lady Pendleton? I am sure she will help you."

"No, it is not I; and miladi cannot help. No one can help!" said Josine, almost tragically, but with an air of quiet dignity that impressed Floris, though she tried to think lightly of the matter, putting the whole thing down to French sentiment.

"Well, I am sorry if you are in trouble, Josine," she said, "either on your own account or on any one else's; but you must not make yourself ill."

"Thank you, miss!" responded Josine, gratefully, and she knelt down and arranged the folds of Floris' dress with a careful, one would almost have said, seeing her, a loving attention.

Floris took up her fan and went downstairs with Lady Betty, and Josine stole on tiptoe to the door, and watched them as they passed below her.

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WAR SUMMARY.

With the return of almost no conditions on the Italian front with no indications that it is the intention of the Austrians to launch a stroke against General Diaz's eyes of the world are being tired once more in expectancy of as the possible theatre of early counters on a large scale. The expectancy is heightened rather by utterance of Premier Lloyd George the House of Commons on Monday when he said another enemy may be looked for in a few hours certainly within the next few days blow on which the issue of the campaign might depend, than by the ward signs of great preparation the enemy to loose their armies an attempt at the capture of the Channel ports. Although infantry operations, except by Americans in the Belleau Wood, may be dropped for a time, unless the Germans are trying their artillery the stability of British and French positions on the German front in Flanders to the north of the River Lys and between Ghent and Rotterdam have been heavily attacked with guns of all calibres and large numbers of gas projectiles. French have been recording successes between the Oise and Aisne Rivers, especially in the north of Villers Cottet and the German army has been reaching the greatest depth in the attempt to Paris. When or where the drive is to be launched cannot be said, but it is expected it will be carried out in an unusual manner. It is seemingly the German army in the west is being deeply retrained, especially as it is daily with the arrival of the American Army and is coming to the front and they are forming the highest of the moment the Germans resign to their loss to the American of the Belleau Wood and the Chateau Thierry, and ten aviation machines and ten anti-aircraft rifles, a large quantity of machine guns and other war stores. The Italian theatre, where the Italian securing their positions from the west bank of the river, in the town fighting, in which the Italian seems to have had the upper hand. Announcement has been made by Secretary of War Baker that a regular force of General Pershing's army has been ordered to Italy from their arrival, which is expected by the Austrians will have them men from Italy, Great Britain and the United States.

THE PARIS AIR RAID.

(Via Havas Agency.) PARIS, June 27.—The morning newspapers report that the German air raid which raided Paris last night, according to the Parisian report, was an attempt at an air bombardment. It appears, says the press, that there were two groups of planes, the greater part of them being in the effort to regain their base material for the previous battle. It is pointed out that whereas the German had six attacks on Paris, the British had only one, and that since the early of June 15th and

BRITISH PRESS ON KEREK.

LONDON, June 27.—The morning newspapers to space in their news to Kereker's appearance in London, but only

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