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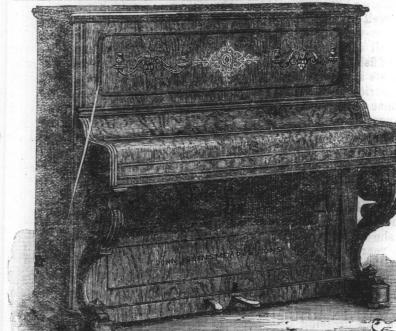
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ADELAIDE CAMERON'S "SHADOW LOVE.

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CHAPTER XXXII.

(Continued.) 'It is your right hand, too, Miss Cameron You will not be able to use it for some weeks. When he was gone, and the proper remedies had been applied, Adelaide looked wistfully at

the little clock upon the mantel-piece.'

'It is nearly five,' she said; 'my day has been a terrible failure. Margarita, you must please write to Lord Rylestone for me.'

The book that she was holding fell from Margarita's hand. 'Write to Lord Rylestone!' she said. Oh.

no! I cannot do that.' Miss Cameron did not see the deadly pallor that came over the beautiful face. She laughed at the tragic tone.

'Are you frightened!' she said. ' Have you never written to a gentleman before!'

'Yes, but I cannot write your letter; I should not know what to say. I have never written a business letter in all my life. I cannot do it.'

Miss Cameron laughed again.

'My dear Margarita,' she said, 'what a waste of earnestnes \ What a tempest in tea-cup! Why should you frighten yourself: will dictate the letter and you shall write it. Margarita trembled so that she could hardly speak. Surely no one was ever placed in a more terrible dilemma. She could not persist in her refusal. Miss Cameron would not only be annoyed, but she would wonder greatly and perhaps her continued refusal might give

rise to suspicion. As to writing she dared not do it. She had never tried to disguise her hand-writing, and Lord Rylestone would recognize it at once, and then there would be a terrible denouement. In her unutterable dismay she wrung her hands, and Miss Cameron laughed again.

'My head aches-I am tired,' said Margarita. 'I am not in the humor for letterwriting.

'It is because the letter is to a handsome young unmarried gentleman,' commented Adelaide. 'If it were to our good old rector, you would not object. Now be reasonable, Margarita. Lord Rylestone would not have asked for this information unless he really needed it. I cannot write. If I called Mrs. Grame in, she would be hours over it. Surely you will not persist in what is a most ungracious refusal? It is so unlike you, dear.'

There was no help for it.

'I must write the letter to disarm suspicion, Margarita said to herself, 'but it must never

As she drew the writing materials together she was thinking all the time what she could do to prevent the dispatch of the letter.

'Now I will dictate to you,' said Miss Cameron. " ' Dear Lord Rylestone." ' And like one in a dream, moving mechanically, Margarita wrote, 'Dear Lord Rylestone.' The very letters of the name seemed to look up at her with a smile. Presently a sense of burning anger and burning indignation came over her as she reflected that she was writing to her own husband at another woman's dictation.

"I'm sorry to tell you that I have sprained my rist," 'continued Miss Cameron; " "but a lady friend has consented to write this letter for me."' Margarita set down the words.

'Now,' said Miss Cameron, 'I am quite sure that nothing could be more severely proper than that. And then she went on with the business details about Luck's Farm and the Home Farm, followed by numerous particulars about the Court, the park, the deer, and other matters, until Margarita looked up, and said, gently, 'My hand aches, Miss Cameron.'

'It is a long letter,' said the heiress, complacently; 'but then I know how Lord Rylestone loves Walton. He never tires of reading about it. Give him my very kind regards. Thank you. I will just read the letter to see that there is nothing omitted."

Margarita thanked heaven that she had written just what she had been told. Miss Cameron read the letter through attentively.

'It is quite right,' she said. 'Just touch the bell, dear. Now let me see it sealed, stamped, and addressed, and then my mind will be at ease.'

footman came in,

' Bring me the post-bag, please? said Miss Cameron; and in less than two minutes h eturned with the post-bag in his hands.

Miss Cameron produced a little key, opened the bag, placed the letter in it, locked and gave it into his hands before Margarita had time to

'Let Gregson take that at once,' she said; he will be in time for the Lutdale post.'

Margarita grew distressed; a sense of the irrevocable seized her. What could she do? What should she do?

Quick as thought she seized pen and paper and wrote about three lines, addressing them at random—she hardly knew to whom—and then she looked up at Miss Cameron, and said, quietly:

'Will you please lend me your key to put this letter into the bag? I had forgotten it.'

Miss Cameron gave her the key, not noticing how her hand trembled, or how ghastly white her face had grown; and, with the kev and the letter, Margarita hastened into the hall, and saw the footman closing the door. 'Where is Gregson?' she asked, breath-

lessly. 'He has just started with the post-bag,' the servant replied.

With a low cry of anguish and dismay she opened the door, and hastened out into the cold, dark, snowy night. She ran as though she were running for dear life. She heard the sound of a horse's feet at the end of the

'Stop!' she cried, in a voice so full of agony that it frightened herself. 'Stop!' and the next moment, breathless and gasping, she stood by the side of the animal.

'Give me the bag,' she said; 'there has been an important letter forgotten.'

The man placed the bag in her hands. She opened it, put in her own letter, and drew out the Canadian one.

'Thank Heaven!' she said to herself. 'If that had gone, I must have killed myself! And that same night, standing by the fire in her own room, she burned the letter.

CHAPTER XXXIII.

How Lady Rylestone hated herself as she destroyed Miss Cameron's letter! She had entered on her plan with the sole idea of helping her husband, of solving a mystery which she felt was in some vague way prejudicial to him, of trying if her woman's wit could not find some way out of the difficulty that surrounded him, let it be what it might, which had not occurred to him; but she had not thought she would have to practice such deception, to engage in such intrigue. She was not perhaps cast in the noblest mold; as she had said of herself, she had a leaning toward expediency, she lost sight of the means in her great desire to reach the end. She hated herself now for the duplicity she had been compelled to practice with regard to the letter; but how could she have avoided it? As she stood watching the paper burn away, she thought of Scott's lines-

> "Oh, what a tangled web we weave When first we practice to deceive!"

She longed for the time when she should have done with all, and be once more at rest. She began to think seriously when that time would be. She had been some time at Walton now, and she was no nearer the wished-for discovery than she had been when she had first come; she had, however, confirmed all her suspicions—they were no longer doubts, but

What was she to do? How could she find out that which was so well hidden? Miss Cameron was kindness itself to her, but she never showed the least inclination to confide in her; she never told her any secrets, or hinted, after the fashion of young ladies, that she had anything to conceal. She was kind, cordial, affectionate, but not confidential. Margarita found herself greatly disappointed; she had thought it only needful to be at Walton, where she honestly believed that everything must come out—that she would discover the secret easily, and soon be able to help her husband. She had been for long months with Miss Cameron now, and she was no nearer the secret. Adelaide had never hinted at it, and Margarita felt discouraged. 'I must do something soon, she said to herself; 'I must take more active steps than these. I am looking on passively and doing nothing.'

Of late, too, she had grown more anxious. When she had first decided on coming to Walton, she had been so engrossed with the idea of doing her husband good and of rendering him some important service, that she had entirely overlooked the fact that he might view her conduct with displeasure—that he might think she had doue him some great discredit, Margarita did as she was told, copying the had disgraced him by making her way into his address and sealing the letter, and then the house secretly and in an underhand fashion. (To be continued.)

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