

TEMPTATION:
OR
The Lady of Ashurst.

CHAPTER IV.

THE LADY OF ASHURST.

Frank had brought a small, beautiful

mounted pony, and with a

and as the carriage drove through

the park, the lady of Ashurst

just before the carriage

the carriage was stopped, and

the young man stepped out with

the carriage, after saying to his

"I shall join you in time to return

Ashurst: at present, my appearance

would only excite my uncle."

The carriage drove on, and the

capture of the lady in his new

for a few moments, the lady of

the impatience of the lady soon

words, "There, my little man, that

for the present, and I really

my gift so much, repay me for it

all my little man. What has

happened to her, my little man?

"Not much, you know she was

back to her room, but I found a

to get to her and give her my

I stood up to her every day when

not only about, and she seems to

in her room, but she is very

about to get up, and she is

in a letter, and she is

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Matthew, if you'll only go down and

watch half an hour at the lower door

no one else will see me, I will give

a saddle and bridle with my pony."

"Oh, Frank, you're worth all the

trumpets in the park," exclaimed the

lady of Ashurst, as she turned to

prepare to dash down the stairs. "If

I see old Hagar coming, I'll give

him a good thrashing, and I'll

have time enough to get down stairs

and see you myself among the

traps there before he comes in."

"I'm in for it now, and I

mean to see you and try out this

scrap."

When he was fairly gone, Wentworth

spoke to his imprisoned lover.

"I have read your letter, Evelyn, and

I do not know what to make of it."

"I have prepared to swear before the

magistrate that you are not the daughter

of my uncle."

"I shall make no objection to do so; but

I do not wish to proclaim what I did

in such a manner as to injure him. Oh,

Frank, in spite of all his business

toward me, I have a tender feeling

for him, and I cannot will him to

become the subject of a scandal. I

mean to have him treated as a

man, and I mean to have him

respected as such."

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Ashley glared on him, and with a

curious look, he replied:

"Go, then, upon your frigate, and

I shall be waiting for you."

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lady of Ashurst, as she turned to

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good at executing, all will be well; but

if that madcap boy who seduced us

with such a yell this morning is your

ally, I am afraid he will prove rather a

dangerous one."

"Oh, I have brought up Maitland,

and he has too little love for his

father to betray me. I must marry

Evelyn within the next four days, or

the estate of my grandfather may pass

into the hands of that detestable

man."

"Eh, what's that? Could so sensible

a man as Judge Ashley have made

such a provision as that? There is no

time to be lost, enough, and the young

lady must be kept in the dark for

her own good till it is too late to

give any weight to her father's

claims upon her."

"Such is my view, and that is one

reason why I withheld the proof of

Mr. Hunter's accusation from my uncle."

Hunter now spoke.

"You have acted with discretion, Mr.

Wentworth, and I feel the certainty

in your poor Eva's child will find

the protection she so greatly needs

in her own hands. I am glad that

she has the aid of that Miss Wild

with the heir of the Arden estate, all

necessity for a public exposure of

the double crime which has been

committed may be avoided. I am

glad that the prospect of such a

denouement is the only one in which

he can find safety."

"Then Delancy is really the heir

whose existence my uncle has tried

to ignore. How is it that the estate

goes to another name?"