

intolerant eyes. His expression in the present moment was troubled and gloomy. He frequently looked on the ground and struck the pebbles from his path with a stick. He would speak a few sentences at a time, energetically and rapidly; then relax into a moody silence, responding by a shake of the head or other brief gesture to the discomfited of his companion.

The latter was a woman whose aspect (if the distinction be permissible) was younger than her looks. Her face and figure were youthful, but her bearing and gestures were mature. Her features were of a clear paleness, regular in outline and of remarkable beauty. Bellingham's regard for her did not resemble any woman he had seen, and yet she reminded him in some intangible, elusive way of a woman whom he wished to forget. She was different—different at every point; and yet if he turned away and glanced at her from the corner of his eye there was an indescribable likeness. Was it the way she had of slowly lifting her chin? Was it the slope of her shoulder? Was it in the way the soft hair grew on the nape of her white neck? Was it in the smile that lighted her eyes before it touched her lips? It was all of these things—it was none of them! After a minute Bellingham forcibly dismissed the question from his mind. Of what earthly consequence was it?

Here was a good looking woman and an enamored young man, a common sight enough. They seemed to be in love with each other, as Helwise had said; but while the gentleman had evidently lost his head the lady was entirely self-possessed. She seemed to be amused superficially at some extravagance or imperfection of his, but there was a certain hardness or anxiety in her face as at rest, as if she were trying to make him understand or comprehend something which he refused to do or understand. As they passed the young man glanced for a moment toward Helwise and nodded recognition. The lady did not turn, nor evince consciousness of the presence of any third party. They slowly traversed the length of the terrace and disappeared through the gateway at the farther end.

"She knows how to dress," remarked Bellingham.

"And how to walk," added Helwise. "She must have learned that on the stage."

"An actress, then, you think?"

"Yes; or an opera singer, perhaps. Well, what do you think of the matter?"

"He hasn't money enough, maybe," said Bellingham; "or perhaps she likes him too well to marry him. A woman like that knows that a chance of imagination is worth a pound of reality—both to her and to him!"

"You have studied women since I knew you last," remarked Helwise with a smile.

"If I have," replied Geoffrey, "they have only taught me to disbelieve the little I ever thought I knew. Come, let us be moving."

That night Bellingham dreamt vividly of Mlle. Marana, and his dream awakened him before dawn in great distress of mind. He imagined that he was walking across the Brooklyn bridge, which on this occasion extended from the opera house to the city.

As he was on the point of reaching her, however, the plank on which he stood gave way, and at the same moment the woman he had meant to save tumbled and fell. He closed his eyes for an instant; then he felt his arm seized by some one from behind, and, looking round, he found himself standing on the stage of the opera house, with Marana herself before him in the costume of Marguerite, with a bunch of daisies in her girdle. He heard the applause of the audience, like the roar of the sea, and perceived that the performance was going forward, and that he, instead of being properly attired, was in his every day dress. It came across his mind also that the figure he had mistaken for Marana was Mephistopheles, disguised to mislead him. He looked at Marguerite; her face was deathly pale. She said below her breath, "You did not believe in me; do you know who?" Her voice died away, the lights were suddenly extinguished, and in the silence and darkness Bellingham awoke.

Too much disturbed to sleep again—for the dream, grotesquely extravagant though it was, had seemed absolutely real to him—he got up, lit a pipe, and sat smoking at his window watching the dawn slowly illuminate the eastern sky.

He took an early breakfast and went for a solitary walk along the coast, and from the summit of a lofty headland saw a great ocean steamer pass westward through the gray sea. She was bound for New York. As he watched her diminish and vanish in the distance, till only a faint plume of smoke remained on the horizon, for the first time since his journey began he was conscious of an urgent longing to return—to return at once. The unbidden question in his mind kept ringing in his ears, it assumed a momentary importance; he must know what it meant. He laughed at his absurdity, but the longing remained. At last he returned to the inn.

He found Helwise painting in the room he used as a studio; he was in his Art sleeves, slippers down at the heel, and he wore an old straw hat that shaded his eyes from the sun. He was whistling softly to himself, and would not turn his head on one side or another until he had chatted for a few minutes with her.

"What was it?"

"I was thinking of you," she said, smiling.

ness of a singer, as we were saying yesterday. She is a public character of some kind, and has had adventures before this. She took a great fancy to him, so he says, and I believe him. But it seems to have been somewhat as you suggested; she liked him too well to let him have his way. She wouldn't risk a disillusionment; perhaps her heart had never been touched before. She would not marry him, either; for that matter, I suppose the one thing is about the same to her as the other. But she did an odd thing—she offered to suspend her career, whatever it is, and be with him as long as he wished. And she appears to have given up some important pecuniary advantage to do so. He accepted her offer, thinking no doubt that she would capitulate in due time, in the meanwhile taking care that she should lose nothing in the way of money. He represented himself to her as inexhaustibly wealthy, and she took him at his word. But the fact is, after he had spent a hundred thousand or so, and ruined his father and sister, as he tells me, there was no more left. He was ashamed to confess this to her, and it is only within the last few days, when he had got down to his last fifty pound note, that she found it out."

"And now she means to shake him—is that it?" said Bellingham.

"Well, apparently not. She seems to have plenty of money herself, and she has made him a proposition which does her credit. She has proposed to marry him and pay back the money that he has spent on her. I have begun to fall in love with her myself! And I may do it if she'll have me; for Mr. Edwardes' pride, as he calls it, would not allow him to accept her proposal, and hence his misery, which at one time last night assumed quite a suicidal complexion, but I remonstrated with him, and he felt a little better this morning."

While they were sitting here the door was suddenly opened, and in came young Mr. Edwardes himself in a state of great excitement. He had a newspaper in his hand.

"Did you know what was in this paper?" demanded he, striding up to Helwise.

"What one generally finds in a New York Sunday paper two weeks old," returned Helwise, tipping back his hat and looking up at him. "This is Mr. Bellingham, Mr. Edwardes."

The latter looked at the architect, and seemed to hesitate whether or not to proceed, but the emotion by which he was possessed was too much for him; he went on. "It says here," he exclaimed, holding the paper toward Helwise, with his finger on the paragraph, "that—here, read it yourself!"

Helwise took the paper and read: "Mlle. Marana, the great Russian prima donna, who has endeared herself to all New Yorkers during the past season by her charming behavior as well as by her unrivaled musical powers, will next month bring to a close the most successful engagement ever known in this city. Mlle. Marana has lately been in delicate health. To those of thousands of her friends and admirers we add our own cordial hopes that she may return to us next spring with renewed strength and energy. Meanwhile we shall not look upon her like again."

"Consider the immense number of divorces and scandals that were coming to light in all degrees of the social scale; what were they but the blind and inarticulate protest of the individual against the selfish injustice of the majority? What was the remedy for these abuses? Did it not lie in the hands of the superior persons in the world—of those who could see through the show of things, who were clear headed, and possessed the courage of their convictions? Let them lead the way. Doubtless they would be pursued by the sneers and slanders of fools and bigots; but fools and bigots had ever been the foes of progress and enlightenment. We who take the broader and profounder view can afford to disregard their clamor. We said Jocelyn, taking the prima donna's hand in his, and stroking it gently; can set them the example of courage and independence, which will sooner or later be followed. It is not merely our privilege, but our duty, and it would be base for us to shrink from it."

The prima donna withdrew her hand as unobtrusively as she could, and asked her mentor what objection there was to marriage if people loved each other? He replied that if they loved each other what was the use of marriage? She rejoined that for two persons to love each other was for them to feel that they must belong to each other forever, and that marriage was simply their open declaration before God and man of the existence of this feeling in their hearts. To make such a declaration was, she conceived, a natural and inevitable impulse, and it was natural and expedient that it should be made according to certain forms, the gradual outcome of tradition and custom. Therefore she thought marriage was not so much an injustice of society to the individual, as a demand made by the individual that society be the witness and a voucher of his covenant.

But Jocelyn hereupon pointed out that a covenant always implied a binding promise, involving penalties if it were broken; that this again implied distrust in the power of pure love to hold its own, and that any outside pressure brought to bear upon a passion essentially so free as love must tend to promote the very reaction and revolt which it professed to guard against. She made answer that the covenant of marriage was not a bondage, and had not that effect upon the parties to it, but that to make one's happiness known to others endowed it with a reality and substance which were wanting to it. That every person one met tacitly or explicitly confirmed or denied the fact of their mutual relationship to others.

Jocelyn here changed his ground, the meaning, and put it whether a large percentage were not notoriety.

CHAPTER XL  
WHAT HAPPENED TO HER IN THE MEANWHILE.

Jocelyn had

Jocelyn had

Jocelyn had

showed that she was suffering quite as much as Bellingham could be supposed to be. Jocelyn's acuteness was not of a fine enough order to enable him to hit upon the real explanation. But the episode also diminished him that it was full time he himself took a leading and a winning hand in the game.

Accordingly Jocelyn insensibly began to draw nearer to the object of his attentions. He talked to her a great deal about her profession, about the prerogatives of genius, and the peculiar privileges permitted to the artistic and especially to the musical temperament.

He said that love did unquestionably exist, and that it was the strongest and most enduring passion of the human heart, but that it by no means followed that we could always love the same person with equal fervor. Life was growth, and love, which was the essence of life, must therefore be subject to growth likewise. As we developed, as our minds and capacities expanded, we would love the things of our less mature and embraced the interests corresponding to our larger growth.

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been mistaken in each other. Upon his maintaining that every institution must be judged by its practical application, she rejoined that if there were no such thing as love, there was an end to all argument about it.

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tered out an entreaty to be lifted to a sitting position, and when she clasped her strong young arms about him to accomplish his desire she found herself unawares entangled in his embrace, and before she could extricate herself she felt his lips on her cheek.

She placed him in the attitude he wished, and then got slowly and wearily to her feet, her face pale and her eyes dark.

"So," she said, with a perceptible intonation of contempt, "I was not mistaken!"

"Forgive me, Beatrix," he sighed out, still affecting to be overcome by weakness. "I could not help it. Darling girl, I love you so! I cannot resist it no longer."

"I might have known that you were like the others—or worse," said she, "but I could not believe it till now. I shall never be mistaken again."

"Oh, Beatrix! have you no pity—no consideration for—for my condition? Heaven knows how I have struggled! Take off this bandage," he continued querulously, snatching away the handkerchief from his forehead. "Let me bleed to death—I will not live without you!"

"It will take you a long time to bleed to death, Mr. Jocelyn," returned she quietly. "I shall not be able to wait for you. Perhaps Madame Bemax will. Shall I call her?"

"You shall not speak to me in that tone!" exclaimed Jocelyn, raising himself on his couch in real or feigned passion. "I have not deserved it! Have I not done everything for you? Have you forgotten what you owe me?"

"You cannot have forgotten that I long since told you I could never marry you, so how could you expect that I would pay you what I owe with myself?"

"I am not a man to make cold blooded calculations!" said he, getting impulsively on his legs. "If you had any heart you would understand, Beatrix," he went on, suddenly changing his tone and attempting to seize her hands; "I do not ask an irrevocable compact—I do not hope that you can love me always. You will go on, I know, and leave me behind. But, oh! my dearest one, would you regret in the future that is before you, and which my poor aid will have helped you to enjoy—will you regret, then, having made a man who loves you insanely—having made him, for a little while only, the happiest of human beings? You may be loved by younger men than I, and handsomer and richer, but never!"

"Mr. Jocelyn," she interposed, with a manner that indicated a lamentable hardening of her once sweet and gracious nature, "if you would look at yourself in the glass you would understand why I appear so unsympathetic. Even a prima donna, who holds herself at the beck and call of every good looking fellow who happens to take a fancy to her—even I cannot listen to you until you have washed your face. Perhaps you had better not use my washstand—people are so censorious, and your sensibilities are so delicate; but if you will go to your own place and get yourself in presentable condition then you may come to-morrow and we will talk over your proposal as quietly as your passion will admit. I will ask my father and Gen. Inigo to be present as witnesses and to offer suggestions; for you are so young and impulsive that perhaps I might otherwise get the better of you. I think I hear some one coming," she added, laying her hand upon the door latch; "perhaps it would be pleasanter for you to go out of your own accord, instead of being assisted."

Jocelyn departed, feeling sore outside and in. But he fancied he knew a way to make the prima donna regret his dismissal.

Jocelyn's ghastly aspect and tender compassion and tender down beside him where he dipped her handkerchief into the blood.

A Unique Defense.  
In a case some years ago involving relatives claimed \$5,000 loss of a man's life occasioned runaway horse of the defendant. Following defenses were put in: First—The horse was a kind horse, and would have run away had he not been frightened, so the party who frightened the horse was to blame. Second—Even if the horse started some person did not knock the defendant down, so the party who knocked the horse was to blame. Third—The defendant was to blame for diverting the horse was to blame. Fourth—The defendant was to blame for diverting the horse was to blame. Fifth—The defendant was to blame for diverting the horse was to blame. Sixth—The defendant was to blame for diverting the horse was to blame. Seventh—The defendant was to blame for diverting the horse was to blame. Eighth—The defendant was to blame for diverting the horse was to blame. Ninth—The defendant was to blame for diverting the horse was to blame. Tenth—The defendant was to blame for diverting the horse was to blame. 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