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## THE MYSTERIES OF UDOLPHO.

A ROMANCE BY ANN RATCLIFFE

Synopsis of What's Gone Before.

The story opens in Gascony, France date 1654, characters so far are M. St Aubert, his wife and daughter Emily, Emily is musical and charming, blue eyes &c. M. Quesnel is M. St. Aubert's brother-in-law. Madam St. Aubert dies--St. Aubert and Emily go to M. Quesnel's meet two Italians sinner Cavigni and Montoni--St. Aubert's health fails he is ordered to go to Languedoc--Emily and her father start on the journey.

Valancourt leaves St. Aubert and Emily.

St. Aubert very ill is taken to cottage of a farmer: he gives Emily instructions how after his death to find papers and money under the floor at his house, La Vallee and instructs her to burn all papers without reading them.

St. Aubert dies, Emily accepts an invitation to visit the lady abbess of the convent nearby.

St. Aubert had given orders that his body be buried near the tomb of the Villerois.

Madame Cheron sent servants to bring Emily to her. Emily stops at La Vallee her old home.

Madame Cheron rebukes Emily for entertaining Valancourt and hastens her departure for Tholouse.

At Madame Cheron's chateau Emily is unhappy. At a dinner she meets Signor Montoni and his friend Cavigni.

Emily, who, during the greater part of this conversation, had been so absorbed in thought as to be spared the pain of hearing it, was now extremely surprised by her aunt's praise of Valancourt, with whose relationship to Madame Clairval she was unacquainted; but she was not sorry when Madame Cheron, who, though she now tried to appear unconcerned was really much embarrassed, prepared to withdraw immediately after

supper. Montoni then came to hand Madam Cheron to her carriage, and Cavigni, with an arch solemnity of countenance, followed with Emily, who, as she wished them good night, and drew up the glass, saw Valancourt among the crowd at the gates. Before the carriage drove off, he disappeared. Madame Cheron forbore to mention to Emily, and, as soon as they reached the chateau, they separated for the night.

On the following morning, as Emily sat at breakfast with her aunt, a letter was brought to her, of which she knew the hand-writing upon the cover; and as she received it with a trembling hand, Madame Cheron hastily enquired from whom it came. Emily with her leave, broke the seal, and, observing the signature of Valancourt, gave it unread to her aunt, who received it with impatience; and, as she looked it over, Emily endeavoured to read on her countenance its contents. Having returned the letter to her niece, whose eyes asked if she might examine it, "Yes, read it, child," said Madame Cheron, in a manner less reserve than she had expected, and Emily had, perhaps, never before so willingly obeyed her aunt. In this letter Valancourt said little of the interview of the preceding day, but concluding with declaring that he would accept his dismissal from Emily only, and with entreating, that she would allow him to wait upon her, on the approaching evening. When she read this, she was astonished at the moderate of Madame Cheron, and looked at her with timid expectation, as she said sorrowfully-- "What am I to say, madam?"

"Why--we must see the young man, I believe," replied her aunt, "and hear what he has further to say for himself. You may tell him he may come." Emily dared scarcely credit what she heard. "Yet, stay," added Madame Cheron, "I will tell him so myself." She called for pen and ink; Emily still not daring to trust the emotions she felt, and almost sinking beneath them. Her surprise would have been less had she overheard, on the preceding evening, what Madame Cheron had not forgotten--that Valancourt was the nephew of Madam Clairval. What were the particulars of her aunt's note Emily did not learn, but the result was a visit from Valancourt in the evening, whom Ma-

game Cheron received next morn, and they had a long conversation before Emily was called down. When she entered the room, her aunt was conversing with complacency, and she saw the eyes of Valancourt, as he impatiently rose, animated with hope.

We have been talking over this affair, said Madame Cheron, the chevalier has been telling me, that the late Monsieur Clairval was the brother of the Countess de Duvarney, his mother. I only wish he had mentioned his relationship to Madame Clairval before I certainly should have considered that circumstance as a sufficient introduction to my house. Valancourt bowed, and was going to address Emily, but her aunt prevented him. I have therefore, consented, that you shall receive his visit; and, though I will not bind myself by any promise, or say, that I shall consider him as my nephew, yet I shall permit the intercourse, and shall look forward to any further connection as an event, which may possibly take place in a course of years, provided the chevalier rises in his profession, or any circumstance occurs, which may make it prudent for him to take a wife. But Mon. Valancourt will observe, and you too, Emily, that till that happens, I positively forbid any thoughts of marrying.

Emily's countenance, during this coarse speech, varied every instant, and towards its conclusion, her distress had so much increased, that she was on the point of leaving the room, Valancourt, meanwhile, scarcely less embarrassed, did not dare to look at her, for whom he was thus distressed; but, when Madame Cheron was silent, he said, Flattering, madam, as your approbation is to me--highly as I am honored by it--I have yet so much to fear, that I scarcely dare to hope. Pray, Sir, explain yourself, said Madame Cheron; an unexpected requisition, which embarrassed Valancourt again, and almost overcame him with confusion, at circumstances, on which had been only a spectator of the scene he would have smiled.

Till I receive mademoiselle St. Aubert's permission to accept your indulgence, said he, falteringly--till she allows me to hope--

Oh! is that all? interrupted Madame Cheron. Well, I will take upon me to answer for her. But at the same time, Sir, give me leave to observe to you, that I am her guardian, and that I expect in every instance, that my will is hers.

It was a considerable time before she was sufficiently recovered to deal with a distinctness his sollicitations and enquiries.

From this period Valancourt made frequent visits to Madame Cheron and Emily passed in his society the happiest hours she had known since the death of her father. They were both too much engaged by the present moments to give serious consideration to the future. They loved and were beloved, and saw not, that the very attachment, which formed the delight of their present days, might possibly occasion the sufferings of years. Meanwhile, Madame Cheron's intercourse with Madam Clairval became more frequent than before, and her vanity was already gratified by the opportunity of proclaiming, wherever she went, the attachment that subsisted between their nephew and niece.

Montoni was also become a daily guest at the chateau, and Emily was compelled to observe, that he really was a suitor, and a favourite suitor, to her aunt.

Thus passed the winter months, not only in peace but in happiness, to Valancourt and Emily; the station of his regiment being so near Tholouse, as to allow this frequent intercourse. The pavilion on the terrace was the favourite scene of their interviews, and there Emily, with Madame Cheron, would work, while Valancourt read aloud works of genius and taste, listen to her enthusiasm, expressed his own, and caught new opportunities of observing, that their minds were formed to constitute the happiness of each other, the same taste, the same noble and benevolent sentiments animating each.

### CHAP. XIV.

Emily observed with concern the ascendancy, which Montoni had acquired over Madame Cheron, as well as the increasing frequency of his visits; and her own opinion of this Italian was confirmed by that of Valancourt, who had always expressed a dislike of him. As she was, one morning sitting at work in the pavilion, enjoying the pleasant freshness of spring, whose colours were now spread upon the landscape, and listening to Valancourt, who was reading, but who often laid aside the book to converse, she received a summons to attend Madame Cheron immediately, and had scarcely entered the dressing room, when she observed with surprise the dejection of her aunt's countenance, and the contrasted gaiety of her dress. Po, niece--said madame, and she stopped under some degree of embarrassment--I am for you,--I wished to see you; and I have news to tell you. From this hour you must consider the sig-

As astonished--not so much at the marriage, as at the secrecy with which it had been concluded, and the agitation with which it was announced. Emily, at length, attributed the privacy to the wish of Montoni, rather than of her aunt. His wife however, intended, that the contrary should be believed, and therefore added, You see I wished to avoid a bustle; but now the ceremony is over I shall do so no longer; and I wish to announce to my servants, that they must receive the signor Montoni for their master. Emily made a feeble attempt to congratulate her on these apparently imprudent nuptials. I shall now celebrate my marriage with some splendour, continued Madame Montoni, and to save time I shall avail myself of the preparation that has been made for yours, which will, of course, be delayed a little while. Such of your wedding clothes as are ready I shall expect you will appear in, to do honour to this festival. I also wish you to inform Monsieur Valancourt, that I have changed my name, and he will acquaint Madame Clairval. In a few days I shall give a grand entertainment, at which I shall request their presence.

Emily was so lost in surprise and various thought, that she made Madame Montoni scarcely any reply, but at her desire, she returned to inform Valancourt of what had passed. Surprise was not his predominant emotion on hearing of these hasty nuptials; and, when he learned, that they were to be the means of delaying his own, and that the very ornaments of the chateau, which had been prepared to grace the nuptial day of his Emily, were to be degraded to the celebration of Madame Montoni's grief and indignation agitated him alternately. He could conceal neither from the observation of Emily, whose efforts to abstract him from these serious emotions, and to laugh at the apprehensive considerations, that assailed him, were ineffectual; and, when, at length, he took leave, there was an earnest tenderness in his manner, that extremely affected her; she even shed tears, when he disappeared at the end of the terrace, yet knew not exactly why she should do so.

Montoni now took possession of the chateau and the command of its inhabitants, with the ease of a man who had long considered it to be his own. His friend Cavigni, who had been extremely serviceable, in having paid Madame Cheron the attention and flattery, which she required, but from which Montoni too often revolted had apartments assigned to him, and received from the domestics an equal degree of obedience with the master of the mansion.

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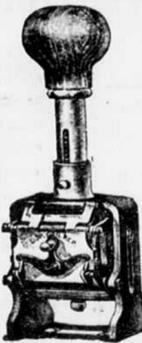
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