The American Girl Who May be a Queen

THE DUKE OF THE ABRUZZI

Washington.—If the king of Italy should die, and his son, the prince of Piedmont, and his cousins, the duke of Aosta and the count of Turin, and the duke's two sons, the Prince Amadeo and the Prince Aimone, then the duke of the Abruzzi would be king.

It is a remote possibility, of course, but the chance has given great international significance to the importunes suit of the popular duke of the Abruzzi for the hand of that athletic and charming American beauty, Miss Katherine Elkins, daughter of the senator from West Virginia.

But should it all go right—should the king of Italy give his consent—to say nothing of Mr. Elkins—then the senator's daughter will come nearer being a queen than any American girl has ever been before.

There is nothing in the Italian law to prevent it. If the marriage is legally consented to by the King, the duchess of the Abruzzi takes her place among Italian royalty. And should chance make her husband king, she would be queen. Think of it—an American girl queen of Italy!

Everybody in Washington knows Miss Katherine Elkins. She made her debut in 1903—she is 23 years old now. Her father is a multimillionaire, owning railroads, mines and another enterprises enough to capitalize the kingdom of Italy. Her grandfather, Henry Gassaway Davis, once a candidate for President, is also a wealthy man, so rich that he can buy Mr. Taft's election. Much of this wealth will eventually go to Miss Elkins. Just now Miss Elkins has $2,000,000, which she can call her own.

Insisted on Her Own Way.

When Miss Elkins was ready to enter society she showed of what stuff she was made. She rebelled against anything that savored of just a debutante tea.

"If I can't come out without this foolishness," she declared, "I won't come out at all."

So it went on, season after season, until the duke of the Abruzzi came here. He had met American girls before, but here was a different kind.

This particular pair met at the Italian embassy. The duke had come to America in command of two Italian warships sent to take part in the festivities at Jamestown.

It was very apparent that Miss Elkins made a deep impression upon the duke. He not only lost no opportunity to be near her, but he displayed a ready wit in making other opportunities.

The Italian warships sailed back to sunny Italy. The duke was in command and perforce had to go along. Washington forgot he had ever been there.

But not the duke.

Nor Miss Elkins.

In the summer she went abroad with her mother, as usual. It chanced that the duke of the Abruzzi ran across the Elkins party in Paris. They met again in Vienna.

Drawn Back to America.

Though there was no Italian fleet to come here in the autumn, the duke of the Abruzzi found it necessary to come to America. He also claimed to be whether—he [illegible] Miss Elkins [illegible] to New York. Which Miss Elkins [illegible] weeks ago, the duke was there. Which it was announced that she and her mother were going to Panama on a long cruise, the duke of the Abruzzi decided to go there, too.

Where next for Polly Holiday? Nobody knew, not even the disappointed Prince who was so devoted to Miss Elkins and somehow it happened that he did not get a chance to meet him. Had Prince Henry met Miss Elkins' "new man" was none other than a possible successor to the Italian throne?

The little party journeyed on to St. Augustine. There the social colony of Florida began to pay attentions. Could a prince of the blood royal make homage here to an American girl? Would not such an alliance be incongruous of [illegible]?

Italian law was looked up. Yes, if the king consented it wouldn't matter who the wife was at all. Queens in Italy enjoy but courtesy. Titles only, was should the duke of the Abruzzi become king his wife would princess be queen in name.

Then came the gossip.

Was there an engagement? Had the Italian duke proposed to the American girl? What would the king of Italy say? What would Senator Elkins say? Did they have a quarrel? What would the duke do?

Elkins Family Say Nothing.

The Elkins family became quite quiet. No announcement could be had from either the young woman in question or her distinguished father. Meanwhile the cables to Rome were kept hot. Would his majesty give his consent? His majesty didn't want to. He felt that a royal prince should marry into a noble family.

But I love her, was the plea of the duke's cable in reply.

And what could the poor king do?

Meanwhile Senator Elkins had to endure all kinds of chaffing in the senate.

On March 17 Miss Elkins, Miss Elkins and the duke arrived in Washington from Florida. The party breakfasted together at the Elkins house, and afterward the duke went to the Italian embassy. Then he disappeared. Dialed smiles were the only answer to inquiries for the duke. At the Elkins house no information was forthcoming.

It was very plain that the duke loved the girl, strong and true. But he wouldn't. He stayed in Washington for a few days, constantly calling at the Elkins house, [illegible] and [illegible] his [illegible]. Soon it was discovered that he would have to give up his claims to the Italian throne should he make an American girl his wife. Politically it was explained that the non-royal bird fell for a marriage contract of the kind of Italy. Love has conquered.

However, there was all kinds of delightful mystery in Washington and Rome. Not a word did we confess. Silence was formally spoken. The Elkins family [illegible] was the Italian family.

"It's All Right," Says the Duke.

Then the gallant duke decided it was time to take a hand himself. It wouldn't do to leave Washington in vain in the romantic way that would attract too much attention. So he had Miss Elkins take him to Baltimore in her automobile, and there he took the train for New York, where the Lusitania was waiting to sail.

"It's all right," was all he would say before the ship sailed with Senator Elkins, as he chooses to call himself.

Promptly the cables began to hum. Rome declared that the duke of the Abruzzi was coming home in order to get the King's full consent to his marriage with the American girl, that she would become a Roman Catholic, that her father would be ennobled and that the marriage would take place here next autumn.

Since the dispensation is obtained from the Vatican, the marriage may be solemnized anywhere in the world. The rule of the church, however, is that the bride's parish is the proper place for the ceremony. Because of this the marriage—if there is to be one—will be celebrated in the United States and not in Italy. Italian law requires that the minister of the interior and the president of the senate be present at the wedding and country of [illegible] it. That is, if it takes place in America and [illegible] consent or ambassador [illegible] be [illegible].

The duke earnestly [illegible] talk about it. He [illegible] home, he declared Elkins was to have also [illegible] of his affair.

Duke Born in Madrid.

Louis Amadeo now [illegible] was born in Madrid [illegible] before. He [illegible] the King [illegible] of Aosta and the Comte [illegible] there, however, [illegible] Italy's [illegible] Crown Prince [illegible] years old. The [illegible] has two sons, six and [illegible] and [illegible] the [illegible] between the [illegible] and the [illegible].

The duke he stands [illegible] the duke of the [illegible] claim to [illegible] and [illegible].

Who knows [illegible] Elkins, in Alaska, [illegible] American [illegible]. Two [illegible] the north [illegible] reached 80 degrees [illegible] Nansen [illegible] record with [illegible].

His Name Free from Scandal.

[illegible] and with [illegible] by any kind of [illegible] the [illegible] for his [illegible] Queen. [illegible] the [illegible] of [illegible] after the death of Queen [illegible] he was [illegible] shown his devotion in [illegible] angle. When he [illegible] Rigoroso, he gave [illegible] [illegible] peak. He is the [illegible] of three brothers, the two elder being the duke of Aosta and the count [illegible]. He has also a half-brother [illegible] the house of his father's [illegible] Princess Letitia Bonaparte.

The fortune of the duke of the Abruzzi is estimated at $[illegible]. He has less than his brothers, the fact that he has met [illegible] expenses of his various [illegible] but there is still more [illegible] to be divided among the [illegible]. He has a private income from his mother [illegible] of about $[illegible] a year. As an admiral of the royal navy, he receives an annual salary of about $[illegible] and [illegible] $[illegible] a year.

As [illegible] time [illegible] the world [illegible] discovered [illegible] the world [illegible] suggested that he will [illegible] responsibility [illegible] Miss Elkins [illegible] [illegible] Princess [illegible] married [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]