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Carol Richmond THE MAN WITH THE BLACK GLOVE.

The reaction came at last. Carol inherited some of the determined will of her father, and although the gypsy girl's words had stunned her at first, she recovered by degrees.

Her slender figure was drawn up with queenly grace, and there was a majesty in her manner, but the gypsy did not seem to be very deeply impressed by it. She laughed, and there was something in the cachinnation that grated upon the nerves, and produced an unpleasant feeling.

Dare! You are not acquainted with the gypsy character, I see, or you would not ask such a question. There is nothing that Barbara Merrilles would not dare to undertake. Hate Roger Darrel? Yes, I have cause to, but hate could never manufacture such a story.

What can I do, if what you tell me is true? Oh, my God, I cannot believe it! He is too noble, too good, too good. There is some mistake—there must be some mistake.

Girl, do you know that your words have gone to my heart like hot iron, searing and scorching my very soul, and that, though I would give worlds to weep, I cannot shed a tear?

Her apparent agony of mind was so intense that it seemed to have some effect even on the gypsy girl, who had hated her so bitterly, for when she spoke there was a vein of pity in her voice, whether real or assumed it would be hard indeed to say.

the poison of a mad dog had been sent into it. Turning the strange creature was gone. The night was one long to be remembered. In the eastern sky the round moon, walking in glory, lent her silvery light to the world below...

The air was melodious with the summer chorus of the night, as heard on the Potomac. There were mosquitoes, crickets, katydids, tree-frogs, and innumerable insects that rent their noise to swell the clamor that seemed to rise and fall like the billows of the great deep...

What, Carol, my darling, is it really you? Why are you here? he asked, tenderly.

I am here to learn the truth, Roger; where is Nora Warner? she asked, almost fiercely.

"THE GIPSEY-HAG'S CURSE HAS DOOMED ME!" Roger Darrel never came nearer to uttering an oath than when those words broke so abruptly from the lips of Carol Richmond.

She was undoubtedly taken by surprise and off his guard, else he would have at least shown more self-possession. The moon fell full upon his face, and he moved aside into the shadow, as if his light annoyed him, but not before Carol had seen the blood leap to his brow and cheeks...

She had sprung the gypsy's mine upon him unawares, and to all appearances it was working in a way that would speedily bring out the truth, though to her it might be a death-warrant.

Roger, she cried, despairingly, for the love of mercy, speak! Do you not see that I am almost dying, darling? Oh, say that it is not so; tell me it was a base calumny, and I will believe you; yes, believe you, against all the world.

The struggle in his mind was terrible, for he knew that if he denied all knowledge of Nora Warner, she would believe him as she would an angel from Heaven. Think, then, what a temptation it was to the man. Would it not be for the best in the end if he denied it?

When happiness had come to them, might she not in some way learn the truth, and then, denouncing his perfidy, scorn, upbraid and loathe the man who had deceived her?

There was, indeed, a stain upon his name, and to link her to it would be a most foul act. Better a wrenching pain in the start than the slow, consuming agony of years.

Roger Darrel was but a man, with many faults common to the best of us, but his soul was above such ignominy then and there. With a stern hand he put the temptation behind him, and he faced the pain that almost overwhelmed him.

a thing to me! How dare you, I say? Are you not content with breaking my heart, that you must needs think to write my name with shame? Oh, Roger! and she broke down with sobs.

He would have come to her again, but she motioned him away imperiously. Do not touch me Roger; I will not allow it. Remember that hereafter we can be nothing to each other.

Through openings in the branches above, the moon peeped down, casting long silver spears to the ground that seemed to vibrate as the night air rustled the leaves overhead.

Great heavens, Carol, you do not, can't mean it! You love me even as I love you. Nay I will say it in spite of you. Why then, should this terrible specter of the past haunt me? Let the dead past bury its dead; we live for the present and the future.

Part? he cried, with anguish in his voice. Is it, then, so absolute? Oh, Carol my love, my life, are you to be lost to me forever? Am I to live on in the future— not even the aimless life of the past, but one full of regrets, of pain so intense that death itself would be a mercy?

Where and from whom did you hear about—Nora Warner? he asked. From a gypsy girl who seemed to know you—Barbara Merrilles. Barbara Merrilles!

He repeated the name after her, and she knew not whether it was fear or hatred that made his voice vibrate like a cord tensely strung. You do know her, then? she asked.

I have good reason to. Why, you shall know some day, but it has nothing to do with our present trouble, though she seems to have a hand in all the pain that comes to me, and there have been times when I actually believed the old gypsy's malediction was coming true.

There is but one way, Roger. Do not try to tempt me. Let me remember you as an honorable man. I am going now. No, do not try to kiss me; it can never be again. Think of me sometimes my love, and I—I shall pray for you.

Almost before he knew it she was gone. His limbs seemed weighted with lead, for he could not follow, even though his spirit willed it.

He watched her out of sight, his whole frame stained to the utmost tension. Oh! what agony was in his heart, what longing in his eyes. The curse of Cain must be upon me, he muttered, almost groaned. I thought to live down that disgrace, but it has sprung upon me unawares, and ruined my life.

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meet father, unless by accident, and then it will be as strangers. The hand of fate has turned our lives apart, and through Nora Warner he is lost to me.

Then she has done me one good turn at last. Carol could but start when she heard these words for they told her that her father had known this mad woman in the years gone by, although it was evident that he was not acquainted with her history from the time she had come to know Roger Darrel.

This Captain Grant, who has made his appearance upon the stage of our story, was also connected with this strange and dramatic past, in what manner the reader will soon see.

That he was a bold and bad man, the young girl had been already warned by her keen sense of perception, yet the soldier had a dashing aspect, and it was only the gleam of his eye and the sneer of his voice that had warned Carol against him.

Why did I ever meet? Was it because Heaven wished to punish a Darrel for that sin! If that be so, then the blight has indeed fallen upon me; but I pray that all the bitter pain and anguish may come to me also; let not a single shadow regret touch her bright heart.

My words shall be brief and to the point. That lady you was speaking to was Miss Richmond? The words were in the form of a question, and though the Virginian had started at first, he drew his form up proudly.

My words shall be brief and to the point. That lady you was speaking to was Miss Richmond? The words were in the form of a question, and though the Virginian had started at first, he drew his form up proudly.

That it was not meant for an apology, you coward, is well known to you and I prove it thus. There was an agile spring, and with his open palm he slapped the captain in the face.

After that I will call you to account, Roger Darrel. In the meantime I wish to ask you a question in regard to this meeting. Was it a voluntary one on the part of Miss Richmond, or did you force her into making the assignment?

He readily comprehended what the object of the Captain was, and was most willing to shoulder all the blame. I am the cause of the meeting. Does that satisfy you, sir? Whatever blame there may be, put it upon me, he replied, calmly.

I accept the apology returned the Captain quickly, and with remarkable sang froid that Roger was taken completely by surprise. That it was not meant for an apology, you coward, is well known to you and I prove it thus.

There was an agile spring, and with his open palm he slapped the captain in the face. After that I will call you to account, Roger Darrel. In the meantime I wish to ask you a question in regard to this meeting.

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