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THE MAN

WITH THE BLACK GLOVE.

-:0:-

The shadow of a terrible crime hung over the old mill, and most people in the neighborhood avoided it especially after nightfall. All the money in the vaults of the Treasury could hardly have tempted one of the negroes on Richmond Terrace or Parrel Chace to have willingly gone to draw in with it inspiration and courage the haunted mill when darkness had descended upon the land.

What this crime was does not enter into our story, so far as particulars are concerned, but let it suffice to say that the mad miller murdered his wife in a fit of jealousy, and also the man who was working for him, whom he suspectedwhether rightly or not was never fully proven-of being his wife's lover, ending by taking his own life.

The children of this unhappy couple had been taken in charge by relatives, back. who tried to rent out the mill, but the effort was in vain, for all united in declaring it was haunted, and that in the middle of the night they would be aroused by a terrible din, which invariably resolved itself into one set conclusion.

They declared they heard the mad miller chasing his wife and hired mar from room to room, cursing and reviling. while they prayed and pleaded their innocence with him. Then would come the sound of heavy blows with a knife, one for each person, heavy falls, terrible groans, and silence would ensue.

There were some who shook their heads wisely, and made sage remarks about vivid imaginations, wind blowing through strange knot-holes, and the like, but it part of a villain toward her Carol could your mind. I am brave, and have might have been noticed, singularly enough, that these self-same wiseacres were the very last ones to ever volunteer to spend a night in the old mill.

For some years back it had been inhabited by a woman who called herself Mrs. Randall, and it was assumed that she was a widow. She was quiet and troubled no one, and always seemed to have enough money to keep herself in existence and aid those poorer than her-

Sometimes she did a little sewing, and very often nursed the sick, but for this latter service she would take no pay. The negro doctor of the neighborhood,

a black upon Richmond's plantation, tried to make out that she was a witch because her simple decoctions of common herbs proved efficaciouc when his weird incantations proved of no avail, but he was not believed. The blecks looked upon her with reverence, while the gentry at least bore her no ill-will, though they knew fromther looks she was a woman with a history.

Carol was warmly received. She sank wearily into a chair, and the gazed about her with a trifling show of interest, while the woman went to pre-

pare a room. Mrs. Randall's eyes had rested upon her in a most singular manner, and yet to her knowledge she had never seen the lady before.

That she was a lady despite her poor surroundings was plain to be seen. Her hair had once been black, but was now a silver gray, and brushed smoothly away from a forehead that was white as snow, though furrowed by the cares of years.

The room in which Roger and Carol were left was scantily furnished, and what articles there were showed signs of age, having no doubt once been the property of the mad miller.

Upon one wall was a picture in a small frame, with its face turned away. Sever al other pictures there were, but none

had been treated in this way. She saw Roger standing near her, his eyes glued upon her form as though he was drinking in all her comparison in her wedding dress of white silk, but to the picture on the wall, and with one bright smile at her lover, she again let

her eyes fall upon it. Curiosity in itself is strong enough in disgrace.

any one but it was some greater power than this that urged Carol to walk over to the picture that hung with its face to the wall. It seemed as though some invisible power had hold of her hand and was leading her on.

She turned the little picture, gave one glance, and then, with a cry of dismay and astonishment, let it fall back in its old position.

She had gazed upon the face of her

CHAPTER XIII.

"THE LIGHT OF MY LIFE GOES OUT WITH HIM." What did it mean?

father!

This was the question that kept ringing its changes through her brain as she stood there before that mysterious pic-

The face was that of a man in the prime of life, evidently between thirtyfive and forty, and so different was it from the Lawrence Richmond of the present that she might not have recognized it had not she seen a copy of the same picture upon the wall at home.

What mystery was this? By what right did this lone woman

tho came from no one knew where, have her father's picture upon the wall? Was the fact of its face being turned in to be considered an insult, or what? Her blood began to leap through her veins

like molten lava, but she was suddenly aroused from this state of stupefaction that had come over her, spite of the manner in which her blood was boiling, by the voice of Roger.

Carol! A simple pronunciation of her name but there was that in the tone that caused her heart to seemingly stand still.

She slowly turned.

Roger had only obtained a glimpse of the face that was inclosed in the gold frame and turned to the wall, and he had not recognized it, of course. His mind, tco, was upon other things, and he paid little heed to the emotion of the young girl save as it referred to him. Carol!

She read much in the manner of his prononncing her name. It had always sounded like music from his lips, for love made him speak it as no other could; but now, besides reverence, she could read passion but half suppressed, wild entreaty, and fadeless, deathless love in his

Gone were all other thoughts.

She knew that perhaps the greatest trial of her life was before her, and she took a long, deep breath, as if she could right, even while her heart cried out self, your humble servant, against its bitterness.

He came a step closer to her. His arms were held out, his pleading

eves fixed upon her own with a glance that was almost fascination. llow she longed to throw herself into

those arms and be forever at rest; but she knew full well guilt would never let the terrible tragedy in a fitting manner her rest, and, with a heroism worthy of the olden martyrs, she stilled her throbbing heart as best she could, and held

The temptation had just then been almost beyond her endurance, but she have seen and conversed with her, face to had triumphed, and from this time on face. the victory was in her hands.

What did she believe of him, standing there and looking him in the eyes?

The story of Nora Warner, as told b that unfortunate girl herself, must have flashed into her mind like lightning, but, with her eyes upon Roger Darrel's handsome, honest face, she was as sure that he could do no wrong to any one willfully as that she drew breath.

That Nora Warner was his wretched wife she understood too well. for had he not himself acknowledged the stain upon never believe.

riles had to say, she had deemed him innocent of any wrong, such was her love and trust, and this it was that made her side me. I have led a lonely life in the believe in him through all.

They had called Nora Warner mad Why should she not, therefore, imagine ached for its mate and in you it found even more wonderful and more terrible things than those she had told to Carol? and may God give you wisdom to decide She had seen demented people before. and knew their vagaries-knew that oft- loved, is it life or death; shall I stay-or times they cursed the hand that cared for go? them, and reviled the one who loved and cherished them since childhood, as if she and she could not have resisted even had had been a devil on earth instead of an such been her desire.

Carol, my own love, for the last time I come to you, a suppliant. Pride has the seconds composing it, but seemingly given way before the love that floods my hours in duration when there was taken soul, and, unable to restrain the words into calculation the intense anguish that never seen such an expression of wild, that rush to my lips, I speak on, it may be, to my doom. You may hate me for thus tempting you, but God knows I do not look at it in the same light you do Somehow the young girl had thought The shame of the past is buried in the mad-house. Why should this woman

> come between us? Listen to me, dear Carol, I told you once you were my first love, and I tell you the same now. No matter what happens in the future; believe that, and also, that I shall be faithful to you until death takes me hence. Oh, my poor darling why were you cursed with a love like mine, that seems to blight where it falls: and yet God is my witness that if I could serve you by having my poor body tor-

tured, willingly would I undergo the in

fliction. You believe me, do you not

beloved?

You know I do. Roger. You know that my heart is wholly yours, and ever will be, but once again I tell you what you ask can never be. There rests between us a barrier as deep and unfathomable as the abyss through which the river turning, he took his hat and left the old passes on its way to the sea-a barrier as mill. high as the noblest peaks of the Blue somehow her mind wandered back again Ridge, and over which even love as powerful as ours cannot reach. My heart

Shame and disgrace, he muttered, repeating her words almost unconsciously, and with a vague look upon his face.

Forgive me for saying it, dear, but I cannot ever be your wife while Nora Warner lives. Her death can wipe out the shame, nothing else. Until then we can be nothing to each other.

A light leaped into his face that was most wonderful to see. It seemed transfigured, and the sadness of woe unutterable gave way to the brightness of hope

Carol, he said, huskily, would you be my wife if Nora Warner were dead, so that her name would be all that was left of her? Would that, indeed, wipe out the disgrace that has fallen upon the name in your eyes?

To both of your questions I have but one answer-yes! Heaven knows how willingly I would join my lot with yours, to be with you always, in sickness or in health; but while Nora Warner lives it is impossible. Give up all thoughts of such happiness, dear Roger, for it is beyond reach.

She pitied him the more since she had seen that glad light leap into his eyes, for she felt sure that he was building up false hopes.

Not so far as you imagine my darling. Even now it seems to me the skies are growing brighter, he said, drawing forth a letter.

What do you mean, Roger? Nora Warner is dead! he replied slow-

The girl gave a start and an exclamation fell from her lips.

Impossible! she cried. Not so, dearest. Read that letter, and and will see that what I have told you was the truth. Nora Warner poor girl, has found rest. The letter was delayed in finding its destination, and some kind fate directed it into my hands. Read.

This was what she read in the great, coarse scrawl of a man who had been a scholar once, perhaps, but never a good penman:

Mr. Roger Darrel:

SIR-The young woman whom you committed to my care, Nora Warner. made her escape from the asylum a week since and drowned herself in the river. of light that was soon to overwhelm We have this day succeeded in finding Carol, came into her mind. She could the body, which, though badly mutilated only sit there with all her senses strained by the fishes, has been identified by drinking in the sweet voice of the widow articles of clothing as that of your unfortunate wife. It shall wait for you two days, and at the termination of that period, should you not come, I will have the body interred. With deepest symto do that which reason told her was pathy for your great loss, I subscribe my-

TIMOTHY GRIM, M. D. Elysium House on the Potomac.

She read this through and then handed it back to him with a look of pain on

This Timothy Grim, M. D., may on ordinary occasions be a keen man, but fate has made a football with him, or else this letter has been purposely delayed so that any deception he may have intended could be carried out. One thing is sure: Nora Warner was in the flesh for days after this letter was written.

Alive and here! What can she want. poor girl; but why need I ask? If that be so, then all is gloom again where I had caught a glimpse of dawn, and the darkness will be all the darker and the pain bitter because of it. Oh Carol, am I to go from you forever? Something seems to tell me that if we part now it will be never to meet again.

Have you ever sounded the depth of that terrible word? Think of the days weeks, months, years that must pass, and his name? But that he had acted the yet I will remain but a sad memory in faced the cannon's mouth without flinch-Ever since hearing what Barbara Mer- ing, but there are times when it seems to me I dare not face the great future, stretching out before me without you bepast and yet never have I willingly wronged man or woman. My heart has often rest. One word from you will decide all and me strength to bear. Tell me, be-

He had caught her in his arms now,

His eyes were glued on her face, full of Wonderful, is it not, what things dart the passionate fire of the absorbing love through the mind in a few seconds of that possessed his soul, and she trembled under the look, knowing her weak- a dream. for they all sleep under the Roger could bear the silence no longer. ness now that love had such a power over When he spoke his voice vibrated with her heart; but she summoned up her emotion, which he tried in vain to sup- courage and resolutely shut out the alluring scene that came before her.

That was a period, brief in regard to face.

wrung their hearts and minds. commands my life,but it can never cause me to forget that I am a Richmond. As the dearest friend I have on earth, I look to the poor lady: to you, but more than that you cannot. must not be, while she lives. My answer is--Heaven help us both-go!

He nerved himself to meet it like man, but it was a terrible blow.

the true state of affairs. Carol, it may be you are right, though I am too blinded by love and sorrow to comprehend it. In the future I shall be to you a friend in time of need. I shall come and see you here, but never again as your lover. Then, if there is any relative to whom you would like to go, I will take you there. I hear Mrs. Randall coming. Trust in her for she is a true friend. And now farewell my love, my life. Farewell, farewell.

Panting, she struggled from his fierce embrace. He stood there looking at her while he grew calm and ice cold. Then

tearful eves. Give me strength, oh Father in Heaven is breaking, Roger, but better that it should do so with love than shame and for the light of my life goes out with

"HE IS MY FATHER!" When Mrs. Randall entered the room, the mind of the young girl leaped again to the mystery that had engrossed if before Roger Darrel made his appeal for life and love-her father's picture turned with its face to the wall.

CHAPTER XIV.

What was there in the hidden past of this still handsome woman that connected her with Lawrence Richmond?

The widow had not even heard Carol's name from Roger, he having only stated the bare facts, and she had consented at once to aid him, her soul recognizing the injustice of such a forced marriage.

Carol possessed a part of her father's determined character, and she did not long beat about the bush. Though her question apparently startled the widow there crept a shadow of pain into he face and her voice trembled as she said People often turn to the wall the pic-

tures of those dead. He is dead to me. Was he a great friend then? asked Caro breathlessly, her eyes glued upon Mrs. Randall's face. He was more than that child. Ah! Silks,

It is a sad thing to have the one you love best upon earth turn upon you and revile you-to wrongfully accuse you of that at which your heart recoils in horror; to send you from him as he would a leper, and at one fell sweep wipe out the happy past. Pray Heaven you and Roger may never reach that point where you must part and forget.

Ah! little did the widow suspect that they had already passed that Rubiconthat their young hearts had been wrung with a pain such as seldom falls to the lot of but few upon earth to experience.

I love him, continued the widow, in low, sad tone, as man was never loved. I have loved him so truely that I have forgiven the great wrong he did me. through my pride would never allow me to seek his presence again. Upon the dear graves in the sunny South I have shed bitter tears, but when I think how I shall meet them above, where the truth will be made known, and my heart shown to be as spotless as the marble shaft that marks their grave, I take hope again.

It was at this point that the first gleam and await the coming shock.

Trouble and sorrow have been my lot. An! I never thought I should survive that dreadful night, and many a time since 1 have looked back to shudder and feel my heart grow cold with the horror that took possession of it. The proof seemed damnable in his eyes, and he turned a deaf ear to my pleadings-my vows-and cursed me; but for that I have forgiven him, for I was innocent.

His curse went home. God punished him, oh, how terribly, and yet the same time I had to suffer with him, for were they not my darlings? Not one was lef he alone remained to curse the blight that had fallen upon his home-the desolation that had robbed him even as he had robbed me.

Why do I tell you this, child? I hardly know, for I have never spoken of it to a single soul, but there is something in your face-your eyes-that makes me talk of the old happiness, the old pain, and I feel better for relieving my weary, over-burdened, pain-racked heart. I told you I loved him so well in spite of all that I forgave him, but once my heart came very near rebelling, and I could have cursed when I heard how my dear ones died, but peace from Heaven came into my heart, and I forgave him even that. I have lived here for months, and vet not once have I set eyes on him, or even heard his name mentioned by those whom I am occasionally brought into contact with. I know not whether peace will ever join us again, but I am willing to wait and leave it all in His hands. Biscuits always on hand. All this while Carol had been ntterly

unable to speak a word, but now she recovered her breath. In Heaven's name, who are you, and

what relation do you bear to Lawrence Richmond? "she gasped, her lapis lazuli eyes all aflame with eager expectancy. I was told afterwards that the courts had made us strangers, but for eight years he called me by that dearest name on earth-wife. I am nothing to him now save the wretched woman from whom he was divorced, and who loves him still in spite of her wrongs; but why do you ask? Ha! your face is white, and your hands tremble. You advance toward me -you hold out your arms. No; it must be magnolias. Girl with the eyes and face of my dead Carol, what relation does this man bear to you? and she tore down the hidden picture, holding in front of Carol's

He-is-my-father!

Roger, there is but one answer. Love tures of Mrs. Randall when she uttered those four words, so simple, and yet containing a wonderful amount of knowledge

He is my father! First of all she could trace amazement and incredulity on the face of the widow. but this quickly gave way to other feelings as her mind began to comprehend Jobbers profits.

Then a cry broke from her lips-a cry what was the relationship between them. My child! my child! Oh how could they be so cruel as to tell me all had died. I see it now! He would not let me have even one little grain of comfort and hope. but must doom me to complete despair. But the Comforter came-he could not keep Him away-and I found peace. You have looked on your mother as dead, and few there are who know different, but she stands before you Carol, seeking your pity-you love. Will you come to me, or have you learned to hate the mother that She sank back with clasped hands and bore you? Speak to me, my child; my heart trembles in anticipation. Heaven

To be continued.

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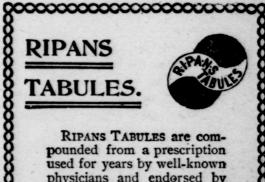
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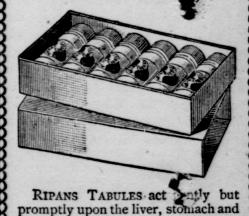
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