

'LENA RIVERS

NELLIE AND MABEL.

The next moment she was gone, and mechanically, Nellie returned to the parlor, together with Mabel, whose unusual buoyancy of spirits contrasted painfully with the silence and sadness which lay around her heart. That night, Mr. Douglass had some business in the city, and the two girls were left alone. The lamps were unlighted, for the full golden moon shone brightly through the open window-panes, suited better the mood of Nellie, who, leaning upon the arm of the sofa, looked listlessly upon the deep beauty of the night. Upon a little stool beside her, Mabel, with her head resting on her cheek and her hand clasped in prayer, gazed for another, which involuntarily moved farther and farther away, as hers

the prior, and with them Durward Belmont. His arm was thrown carelessly across the back of 'Lena's chair, while he occasionally bent forward to look at a book of prints which she was examining. The sight of him determined her to wait a little, ere she retailed her precious bit of gossip to her son. He was Nellie's cousin, and as such, would be all probability related to her, what he knew of his friend and acquaintance John Jr. might be in other respects, she knew he would never discuss his heart troubles with any one, so, upon second thought, she deemed it wiser to wait until they were alone.

Durward and 'Lena, however, needed stitching, and by a little maneuvering, he managed to separate the men, greatly to the satisfaction of Carrie, who sat upon

mother had said were true. She saw her advantage and followed it up until in a fit of anger, he rushed from the room and repaired to his own apartment, where for a time he walked backward and forward chafing like a caged lion and wishing all manner of evil upon Nellie, if she were in deed false to him.

He was very excitable and at last workeded himself up to such a pitch that he determined upon starting at once for Frankfort to demand of Nellie if what he had heard were true! Upon cooler reflection, however he concluded not to make a perfect fool of himself and plunging into bed fell fast asleep as what man will not be his trouble of what it may.

To be continued.

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