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# BLACK 15

CHAPTER XVII—Yvonne goes to Frederic in the jade-room and asks him to go away with her. He refuses. She taunts, then tempts him. Brood comes through the doorway. Ranjab behind him.

CHAPTER XXII—Brood goes to see his wounded son.

closed door. It was she who finally called out: "Come in!"

Doctor Hodder, coatless and barearmed, came into the room.

CHAPTER XXII.

The Closed Door. The doctor blinked for a moment. The two were leaning forward with alarm in their eyes, their hands grip-

"Well, are we to send for an under-taker?" demanded Hodder irritably. Brood started forward. "Is-is he

"Of course not, but he might as well be," exclaimed the other, and it was but even as she checked it another and plain to be seen that he was very much more unaccountable force ordered her out of patience. "You've called in another doctor and a priest and now I hear that a Presbyterian parson is in the library. Hang it all, Brood, why don't you send for the coroner and undertaker and have done with it? I'm

Yvonne came swiftly to his side. "Is he conscious? Does he know?"
"For God's sake, Hodder, is there

"I'll be honest with you, Jim. I don't believe there is. It went in here, above the heart, and it's lodged back there by the spine somewhere. We haven't located it yet, but we will. Had to let up on the ether for awhile, you see. He opened his eyes a few minutes ago, Mrs. Brood, and my assistant is certain that he whispered Lydia Desmond's name. Sounded that way to him, but, of course-"

to him, but, of course—"
"There! You see, James?" she cried.
whirling upon her husband.
"I think you'd better step in and see
him now, Jim," said the doctor, suddenly becoming very gentle. "He may
come to again and—well, it may be the

Hodder stared for a second or two. "He'll need a lot of courage and if anything can put it into him, he'll make a better fight. If you get a chance, it to him, Jim. I—I—if it's got any thing to do with his mother, say it, fo pity's sake. He has mouned the word

"It has to do with his mother," Brood

"There isn't much time to lose, I'm afraid," began Hodder, shaking his head. His gaze suddenly rested on Mrs. Brood's face. She was very erect and a smile such as he had never see before was on her lips-a smile tha puzzled and yet inspired him with positive, undeniable feeling of encouragement!

"He is not going to die, Doctor Hod der," she said quietly. Something went through his body that warmed it curiously. He felt a thrill, as one who is seized by a great overpowering ex-

She preceded them into the hall Brood came last. He closed the door behind him after a swift glance about the room that had been his most pri ate retreat for years.

He was never to set foot inside its walls again. In that single glance he ade farewell to it forever. ated, unlovely spot. He had spent a ge in it during those bitter mornin curs, an age of imprisonment.

On the landing below they came up n Lydia. She was seated on a wir dow ledge, leaning wearily agains the casement. She did not rise as the approached, but watched them with steady, smoldering eyes in which there was no friendliness, no compassio They were her enemies, they had killed the thing she loved.

Brood's eyes met hers for an instant and then fell before the bitter look they encountered. His shoulders drooped as he passed close by her motionless figure and followed the doctor down the hall to the bedroom door. It opened and closed an instant later and he was with his son,

For a long time, Lydia's somber, pit-

which he had passed and which was closed so cruelly against her, the one

willing to be a witness to this shallow mockery. She was herself innately religious. In her secret soul she resented an appeal to heaven by this luxurious wordling; she could not bring herself to think of her as anything else. Prayer seemed a profanation on her scarlet lips.

Lydia believed that Frederic had shot himself. She put Yvonne down as the real cause of the calamity that had fallen upon the house. But for her, James Brood would never have had a motive for striking the blow that crushed all desire to live out of the unhappy boy. She had made of her husband an unfeeling monster, and now she prayed! She had played with the emotions of two men and now she begged to be pardoned for her folly!
An inexplicable desire to laugh at the plight of the trifler came over the girl to obey the impulse to turn once more to look into the face of her companion.

Yvonne was looking at her. She had ceased running the beads and her hands hung limply at her side. For a full minute, perhaps, the two regarded each other without speaking.

'He is not going to die, Lydia," said Yvonne gravely.

The girl started to her feet. "Do you think it is your prayer and not mine that has reached God's ear?" she cried in real amazement.

"The prayer of a nobler woman than either you or I has gone to the throne," said the other. Lydia's eyes grew dark with resent-

"You could have prevented "Be good enough to remember that you have said all that to me before,

Lydia. away from him at such a time as this, Mrs. Brood?" demanded Lydia. "You refuse to let me go in to him. Is it be-

"There are trying days ahead of us, Lydia," interrupted Yvonne. "We shall have to face them together. I can promise you this: Frederic will be saved for you. Tomorrow, next day perhaps, I may be able to explain everything to you. You hate me to-day. Everyone in this house bates me. day. Everyone in this house hates me ing when you will not hate me. That ing for Frederic, but for myself."

Lydia started. "For yourself? I

'You hesitate? Perhaps it is just as

want to say to you, Mrs. Brood, that it is my purpose to remain in this house as long as I can be-"

(To be continued)



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closed so cruelly against her, the one who loved him best of all. At last she looked away, her attention caught by a queer clicking sound near at hand. She was surprised to find Yvonne Brood standing close beside her, her eyes closed and her fingers telling the beads that ran through her fingers, her lips moving in voiceless prayer.

The girl watched her dully for a few moments, then with growing fascination. The incomprehensible creature was praying! To Lydia this seemed to be the most unnatural thing in all the world. She could not associate prayer with this woman's character; she could not imagine her having been in all her life possessed of a fervent religious thought. It was impossible to think of her as being even hypocritically plous. Somehow the girl began to experience a strange feeling of irritation. She turned her face away, unwilling to be a witness to this shallow willing to be a witness to this shallow. can now discard them in a reasonable the Valmas Drug Co., Toronto, if your time and multitudes more will be able druggist has none in stock.

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trict willing to give preference to re-turned disabled soldiers as employees, and all returned discharged soldiers wanting employment residing therein, are requested to notify the secretary. JUDGE WILSON.

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