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ers up to \$950.

The Knight of the Silver Star

A Romance of Drussenland BY PERCY BREBNER

CHAPTER XI (Cont'd.) "Your highness speaks truly." said

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May I not claim the same protec-

tion?" I asked. "I am almost powerless to protect you. I know not how long I may have any power at all. There are those who love not a woman to rule, and that she breaks the laws may be an occasion to rise against her. It would be good to lay aside the golden circle that stamps me sovereign and be as other women-always a woman and never a

That is not well said, your highness." said Jasar. "You were born to rule, and your duty lies in ruling." "Ah. let me forget that I am more than a woman if it pleases me," she said petulantly, and then she became calm again. "Yours was a strange coming among us."

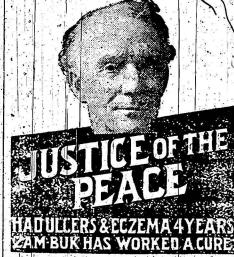
"It was indeed strange," I answered. "There is a reason in legend." she went on in a dreamy manner. Legend is the surface meaning perhaps of the deeper truths which lie beneath. When the priests, speaking by their legends, proclaimed you the expected knight, the savior of this country of ours, they may have proclaimed a truth greater than they understood.'

"I have thought that, your highness," I answered.

"Tomorrow, Sir Verrall, I will command that the prisoners be released. let whatever danger come. Tomorrow I will send for you, and see that you forget not to crave my pardon publicly, even as publicly you angered me. Tonight has satisfied the woman tomorrow satisfy the princess."

I fell upon my knee. "You say you are almost powerless to protect me, but I am not powerless to protect you. In your danger glaim me: I have a life to give. It is yours when you claim it."

"Loyal, I believe you." she answered. "As your princess I trust you. Yet I do not forget her who has a greater claim. Love shoots at queer marks sometimes You are forgiven, and I



Mr. J. E. Arsenault, a Justice of le Peace, and station master at Wellington, on the Prince Edward Island Railway, says:

"Four years ago I slipped in the station and fell on a freight truck, sustaining a bad cut on the front of my leg. I thought this would heal, but instead of doing so it developed into a bad ulcer, and later into a form of eczema which spread very rapidly and also started on the other 'leg. Both legs became so swollen and sore that I could only go about my work by having them bandaged. My doctor

said I must stop work and lay up. 'After six months of this trouble consulted another doctor, but with no better result. I tried all the salves, liniments and lotions I heard of, but instead of getting better I got worse. This was my condition when I get

my first box of Zam-Buk. Greatly to my delight that first box gave me relief. I continued to apply it to the sores, and day by day they got better. I could see that at last I had got hold of something which would cure me,

and in the end it did. "It is now over a year since Zam-Buk worked a cure in my case, and there has been no return of the

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shall receive back the Lady Aldrida into favor." "Your" highness"- I began rising to my feet.

You need not thank me. You will go as you came. Sir Verrall.". Jasar touched my arm and led me to the door, and I was shown to my

There was a council next day, and expected to be called to it. I was in readiness to attend, ready to meet the opposition which was certain to be raised when the question of the prisoners' lives was discussed, but I was not sent for. I kept to my quarters, impatient at the delay, wondering if the princess had regretted her determination of last night to save the prisoners and to recall me.

Late in the evening 1 was summoned to the palace! I passed through the streets unnoticed, but as soon as I entered the palace I was aware how unpopular I had become. I made my way at once to the room where the princess was, and there I was more kindly welcomed. Discretion, I knew. prompted this, for since the princess had recalled me it would have been unwise for those in closest attendance upon her to show any displeasure. I saw Lady Aldrida at some distance from me and was not displeased that she did not approach me. The princess was talking brightly to those close to her, but it seemed to me that she was exerting herself to appear at her ease, that her words were far from expressing what was passing through her mind.

Presently Jasar spoke to her, and her eyes wandered until they rested upon me. With a look and an almost imperceptible gesture she motioned me approach.

fell on my knee before her as I had done last night, and I smiled to myself to, think that I had already been forgiven and that this was only a show. She used almost the same words, but she spoke as the princess, not as the woman, and I was certainly unprenared for the use she was going to make of the situation.

"You have greatly angered us. Sir verrall," she said in low but clear voice. There was silence in the great room in a moment. "By word and action you have sought to disparage our majesty and to make our authority of none effect. It was in our mind to make your banishment if not forever, at least for a much longer time, but seeing that you are a stranger among us, knowing our customs imperfectly. and that your words and actions may have been ill considered rather than ill meant, we have recalled you that slowly you may prove the loyalty of which you are so quick to boast. Learn, Sir Vernall, that he whose hand goes most readily to his sword to defend his honor is not of necessity the man whose honor needs least defending.

"I humbly crave your highness' pardon and thank you for your clemency. deeds shall speak my thanks in better fashion."

"Rise. You have our pardon See that you deserve our good will." And then, speaking a little louder, she went on: "It is indeed a time for men to prove their loyalty to their sovereign. when her actions tear hoarse disagreement from the throats of many, when the rabble in the street think fit to criticise, soldiers in the camp to whisper threats and even some at court to murmur. My actions are framed for the good of Drussenland, for the welfare of its people, high and low, and P shall be quick to deal with those, be they who they may, who attempt to thwart me. If I have hitherto erred upon the side of mercy let it serve as warning to those who cry out dissatisfaction. I may yet err upon the side of severity."

CHAPTER XII. WAS anxious to know exactly how the princess decision had been received by the council that morning, so threaded my way through the crowd to find Walen or some other friend to question. Lady Aldrida, however, intercepted me, and I was obliged to follow her to an unoccupied corner.

"I congratulate you, Sir Verrall, and also I thank you." "Why thank me?" Do I not owe it to you that I have been so graciously received tonight?" 'I assure you that I have said no

word on your behalf," I answered. A knight-one of the count's satellites—approached us.

"Your pardon and yours, my lady. come from the count, Sir Verrall. He bids me inform you that you will be intrusted with the safety of her highness tonight."

"A short notice." I said. "It has indeed only been arranged just now. The count thought it might be a pleasant duty, seeing the things which have happened so lately." It is a pleasant duty. Will you

thank Count Vasca and tell him that I shall be at my post an hour before midnight?" It is good to be a princess to command such a sentinel." said Lady Aldrida when he had gone.

I made my adieus hastily. "Good night." she said, "and if the night seems long remember my thoughts surround you."

Still, the knowledge that I was to have the companionship of her thoughts through the night hours gave me little comfort. Folly had indeed got me in a tight embrace. It was a custom in Drussenland-an

ancient one. I believe that a knight should stand sentinel until the dawn at the entrance to the sovereign's apartments. It was a custom which was rather sentimental than useful, for the palace was always well guarded. The honor was given only to an accredited knight, one who had earn ed a reputation for valor, so it was not strange that the duty had not fallen to me until now. I had certainly earn-

d the right to be considered eligible. but that I had been chosen for this particular night gave me ample food for reflection as I went back to my quarters

I had nearly reached them when at corner of the street a hand was laid non my shoulder In an instant my and was upon, my sword hilt.

"The second time you have received ne as an enemy, Sir Verrall," said

"It was your own advice that hould fear shadows and ever be ready defend myself," I answered.

"You are to be sentinel tonight?" Yes I thank her highness for this nark of her trust in me." "I am charged with a message."

The sender?" I asked For only one do carry a message ir Verrall." The message, then?" I said, my ex-

tement, I am sure, plainly discern le in my voice, Be a faithful and loyal knight, and he God you worship grant you safe.

"I pray so," I answered. "Tell me"-Sir Verrall, I was charged with no urther speech, and detain you." He turned from me abruptly and

th rapid strides left me. The entrance to the princess' apart nents was in a spacious corridor, which at one end was approached by wide staircase, the other end leading ily to rooms occupied by her suit I'wo soldiers stood at the head of the staircase, and they saluted me as Their faces were unfamiliar o, me. I took up my position at the intrance and drew my sword. It was ribout 11 o'clock, as near as I could eff. and it was evident that the prin ess had not yet retired, for servants assed in and out of her apartments or some time after I arrived But I anight his sight nor sound of her. bough I watched each opening of the listened for even a low muroor and nir to recognize. . Sounds came from her parts of the palace for some ime, and it) was certainly past mid the when the hist servant left the ertments and I heard the door arred behind him

After a time I began to feel drowsy ddenly a slight sound startled me was on the alert in a moment, but ould not locate it nor tell what man er of sound it was I was facing down the corridor toward the stair ase It was pitch dark, and I came the douclusion that I could hear nothing, and yet instinctively I knew hat the darkness hid something omething which threatened me. I eeined to palpitate in front of me Bently, but none the less certainly an out my hand, passed it in front

me and at my side. It rested minst the wall of the corridor at sunry corner, one side of the en rance to the princess' apartments. wept my sword round me at the full a out of my arm, but it touched noth something was there, and succeeding something touched me so

citty that it might have been the rush of a bat's wing. It touched my n extended to the wall. The next ment a swift blow fell upon my builder and I felt a spasm of pain through me, for sharp steel had retrated the joint of the armor. A ond blow fell so quickly after the that for a moment I thought I and more than one assallant. The ow failed in its purpose, glancing roin, my armor, and then I was grap with a desperate man. He was t elid in steel, as I was-I could fee ut-but he had the advantage of me er he losed with me and could use fis dagger, while for a time my sword was useless. He was conscious of his dvantage and struck at me again and igin of quick succession, striking where he knew my armor would serve ne least, yet, fortunately for me, strik ng beside the mark.

f gathered all my strength together and, striking out with my left arm, wrenched myself from his grasp.



DEAD MAN, I FEAR," I ANSWERED. With a low grow! like an animal at bay he sprang at me, but at last my sword arm was free. A mass of dark ness seemed to detach itself from the surrounding blackness, and then my weapon pierced it swiftly and cleanly. My wrist hardly felt the resist ance. There was a low cry, a half smothered sob and then a dull thud

at my feet "Ho, guard!" I cried, not too loudly for fear of disturbing the princess, yet my voice echoed in the silence The echo was the only answer. waited for a few moments: then called again and louder.

"Guard, ho, guard!" Again an echo, but this time other sounds. Hurrying feet ascended the stairs, there was a giare of torchlight

at the end of the corridor, and two soldiers came toward me. They were not the men I had seen on guard, There was another sound behind me. A bolt was shot back, a door opened. and Jasar stood silhonetted in light, nd behind him the princes

What is it said Jasar "A dead man, I fear," I answered The torches flared in the white face

of my enemy. It roused him. "A better death than the other," he roaned.

Jasar fell on his knees beside him and raised him a little. The princess stood at my side. "What other death?" said Jasar.

"He said I should be free if-if I "Who said it? Speak, man!"

"He." And then came a sob. The prostrate man shivered a little. his limbs twitched for a moment, and. then with one sudden thrusting out of his legs he slipped from Jasar's arms

ind lay still. I turned to look at the princess.

"You are burt." she said. "A scratch-nothing." I answered, et I felt a dizziness creeping over me. "Do you know him?" she asked harply, pointing to the dead man.

"Look." I turned almost mechanically, for my legs seemed suddenly to have grown too feeble to support me. "Do you know him?"

"No; yet— By heaven, yes. It is ne of them!"

The dead man was one of the prisoners of war.

I opened my eyes and lay still as one does when waking from a deep, refreshing, sleep. The sunlight fell upon rich hangings, antique and luxurious furniture and rugs of brilliant colors, a very different lodging to my

Presently the curtain was drawn back and Jasar entered. "Awake, Sir Verrall, at last? It has been a long sleep. Is the arm pain-

"A little." You must keep quiet. It is a bad wound, Sir Verrall, but brave men often carry ugly scars."

"Where am I?" "In the princess' apartments, a safer place than any other for you just now. Guards stand day and night without, and within are gentle hands to tend

"He died, but not last night-three nights ago. I told you your sleep had been a long. one." "Three nights" "Yes, but you must not talk now,"

"The man died last night?" I asked."

Jasar said. "Presently we will talk. and then I will answer all your ques-It was a small wound to weaken me. so. I was ashamed of it when I be came convales ent enough to notice it.

my nurse told me when she bandaged it one day. "I am glad; for it looks nothing, and I have been very ill."

"It was much worse than it is now

"Very ill," she said. "And you have nursed me all the time?" "Yes. Her highness has left you to my care."

"Does she know how ill I have been?" "I have answered her questions each day, and sometimes she has been to

look at you." I asked no more. I fancled that my nurse did not wish to be questioned. Once convalescent, I began to mend rapidly. O'Ryan was sent for to look after me, but the princess did not come, and Jasar only seldom. When the priest did come he would tell the little of what was going on. Nor was

O'Ryan much more communicative. "Faith, they've been crowding a lot of history into a few days," he said. "But see here. Sir Verrall, I am under oath to answer no questions. I should not have been allowed to come at all without giving the oath.. There have been occasions when I haven't kept this kind of bargains, but I'm going

to keep this one." "Who made you take an oath?" "Her highness."

"The princess?" I said in astonishment. "Am I her prisoner?" "Well, I don't rightly know whose prisoner you are or why you're being kept here; but her highness sent for me and gave me my instructions. She was mighty pleasant, too, Verrall-said nice things about me and let slip a good many promises for the future. She may forget them, of course, but I'm not going to give her a chance of withdrawing them anyway. I'm going to act square with her.

I laughed and then asked, after a ause: "Did she say anything of me?" "You were mentioned as my master. that was all. No, you were not a prominent feature, of our conversation."

"And how long is this to last?" I asked, somewhat angrily. A long illness makes a man irritable. "Y'll oblige me by asking no questions. I'm on oath to a lady not to

answer them." Jaser was my only hope, and he kept out way. However, he came one morning and was not in a hurry. He expressed himself pleased at my appearance and said he had come to have a long talk with me. "And will, I hope, answer my ques-

tions." "Some of them, doubtless, but allah, Sir Verrall, that might not be wise. Stay: we will have a quiet talk."

He spoke to O'Ryan and the nurse, who left us at once. "Who is my nurse?" I asked One of the ladies attend : upon the princess. You are growing well again, so it is fair to say that her highness made a good choice. It was

suggested that Lady Aldrida should

be sent to nurse you, but there were

circumstances which might have made

ly an awkward nurse. No. tell you what the circumstances

am I a prisoner here? beaded a revolution and been Ceci Tul? he done so you would have

ignger even a prisoner. But Il will save your questionings you what I can. You perhaps 670 nome wher what the man who attacked you when he was dying?" he should be free if he killed

1 1 liged that was what he weant sar. "I tried to get him to tell pore but he died too quickly. He thus have been deceived, for freedom Hed Wready been granted to all the dr so without conditions. Therepre. Wir Verrall, an enemy has endear to take your life by the hand prisoner."

the enemy?" I asked. man died before he could, boatha Jasar answered.

Bull pay did he pass the guards at the staticase?"c Was your safety had been coke fifter and you had been brought glighness sent for the men. The thin Will perhaps never be known. Aberdas treachery in our midst." Jaingled. "The whole palace was wakehit once, and even in the town s little sleep that night. Search de for the murderers in vain. the neil next day her highness named to probe the matter to She let it be understood that self: the assassin's dagger was in-

evod it treachery against heror her, and a shout of loyalty harswer. It rang in the rafter punell hall and found an echo street in the city. Then Sir Bath mark you this well-her spid that it was you who had e life of the sovereign, coming Four own death in the act as no shout of praise, Sir Ver lingst a dead sllence followed. He lighness tried to throw her proover me and falled." I said

even worse than falled, kes. the priests attacked you breaking their laws. They your advice had been proved since one of these prisoners insted to kill the princess, and w reason in their argument." hey say that they had been n proclaiming mothe expect-

Frb priests are wiser than that "They have indicalianin. You were the knight bave broken the laws of Drus you bave angered the God ou, therefore you have failmission.

they dispatch me then and spother knight?" I asked. are many ways. You might o mountains unexpectedly, as nountains you came unex-But there is a dulcker waybe market place. They say Aldrida felt in a swoon when an told her what the priests

'Deal will end that folly at least." red. "And the princess, are messenger to tell me that the voice is too strong, their will ou un limous to resist? Well, I said my little vas bers when she should ask The time has come quickly."

My illness bas weakened you. n so desire left to cut a path these enemies of yours and of

will is my lawt" I replied. He Ser will?" The she must tell you. You you are a prisoner here. these walls dangers in crowds stand grafting you. Only now are 可可 中國 ining strength; only now are in becoming the knight who Count Vasca in the lists the so valiantly yonder before

Added No You have been a child. pattering in your sleep, too wenk to it appared to defend yourself. So of you safety you baye been Mulifring in my sleep? What all

some I annot tell you. But the princels clase your nurse. Your words are knight only to her, to the princess in to hysolf." Tell tue one thing." I said as he ose to to. "Spoke I of the princess

Of Many things strange to me, of

p my Milipium?" Her name was sometimes on Did he princess hear me? "I do ot know."

the was told?" by the Lady Aldrida was not see for to nurse me?" "It is thought that she would not be so lod a nurse as the one you Verrall-not so patient and

know no more than that." To be continued.)

F maler weather roughens and redden. rougskin, causing chaps, cillibinis eneral discomfort, thy

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