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Winning Dorothy

"The Only Fortunate One"

By CLARISSA MACKIE Bert Chesney arose from his seat at the head of the table and lifted his

"Gentlemen," he said with flashing eyes. "I propose the health of the loveliest girl in the world!"

The toast was drunk in silence. was a singular coincidence that each one of the seven friends who had gathered to celebrate Chesney's birthday was silently drinking to the same girl, beautiful Dorothy Fair. Perhaps Chesney himself guessed the fact. At any rate, his black eyes gleamed triumphantly as they rested on one face after another until they lingered on the homely, rugged countenance of Jasper Dane. Jasper's blue eyes were still tender with thoughts of Dorothy when Chesney's voice cut into the si

"The health of the future Mrs. Robert Chesney!" Again the brimming glasses were drained, and this time troubled glances sought one another, for the second toast following so closely upon the first suggested that Bert Chesney had won out in the race for Dorothy Fair's

hand and heart, There was a little confusion of voices after that. It was time to go home, and some of the young men were making their farewells. Jasper Dane could hear Chesney's

hearty voice breaking above the murmured words of his guests. "Thanks, old man-glad of it-surely

-I am to be congratulated!" In this way Chesney accepted the perfunctory congratulations of friends upon his engagement to Dorothy Fair. Jasper beard, and with dazed eyes looked straight into Ches-

ney's bold ones. "Good night, Chesney. Many happy returns of the day and congratulations,

searched Jasper's grim face. "There is only one girl in the world tenance. for each man," said Jasper soberly and went his way. Bert Chesney stared after him. "What the dence did that fellow height.

ed home and snapped on the electric venture because they can't get the parlight in his cozy little library be look. Licular girl they want, and they usual-

2 o'clock in the morning to inquire if

and sat down at the desk. In a few moments Dorothy's sleepy voice was

Oh, Jasper! What is the matter! "Only this, Dorothy. I've been to Chesney's dinner party and"-Dorothy's voice broke in pettishly.

"Jasper Dane, do you know that you are the seventh man who has called up to congratulate me on my engagement to Bert Chesney? Won't tomorrow do? Really, I should like spetch a few hours' sleep."

"I am sorry," said Jasper quietly. "Goodby." He moved away from the desk, ble

hands deep in his pockets. He paced the floor moodily.

This was the end of his steadfast wooling of Dorothy Fair! Only last night she had given him every encour- be thankful. He thought of Professor agement, had even given him permis. Digby's words and smiled ruefully. sion to come again tomorrow evening Dorothy would never be anything but and impart some especially "wonderful" tidings of which she could not help guess the import, and now, twenty-eight hours later, to be exact, she had culmly admitted her engagement to Bert Chesney.

Poor, patient Jusper metaphorically threw up his hands and went to bed. He was done with women forever. Professor Digby of the Fanshawe museum scanned Jasper's flushed face

and resolute mouth with deep interest. "I am flattered by your offer, Mr. Dane," he said at last, "but I cannot understand why you, a prosperous young lawyer, should want to throw up a lucrative practice and go into the wilds of Africa with me. Of course there's plenty of sport in it. but you assure me that you are not a sportsman, and there's no end of hardship

and danger." "I want to go," said Jusper obstinately. "If you won't let me join your expedition, professor, I'll have to look up another one, but'l am no end of a good photographer, and I could shoot dingbats and things with a camera.

couldn't 1?" "That would be very interesting and another girl in the world like her, is very valuable," mused the professor. there, old man?" Chesney's eyes Suddenly he turned and shot a penetrating glance at Jusper's glum com-

"Who is she?" he asked bluntly. stammered Jasper, rising to his tall baven't really encouraged them, and

Jasper Dane disdained the taxicabs young men who want to go into the one—and, Cousin Peter, I never be jungle—that is, undess they have a lieved you could be so unkind!" reputation as big game hunters. Lots

bachelor quarters. When he had reach of men are driven to travel and ad-

frankness, but take my advice, Dane,

the matter open for one week, Mr. Dane. If at the end of that time you are still of the same inind I shall be happy to have you join my party es special photographer,"

mind," muttered Jasper as he return ed to his office and flung open his desk. He spent the remainder of the day in going over his affairs and in planning how he could leave his practice in the hands of a brother lawyer. Fortunately there was nothing of importance on hand. If he could come back from Africa with the picture of Dorothy Pair erased from his heart be would

That very evening Dorothy Fair was surprised to receive a visit from her mother's cousin, Professor Digby the Fanshawe museum.

"My dear Dorothy," began the professor in his stilted way, "I must beg of you to be a little more merciful." Merciful?" echoed Dorothy, her hazel eyes wide with astonishment. What do you mean, Cousin Peter?" "You know, I am organizing a special expedition to central Africa, and of course I have had many applications from men who desire to belong to the party. It usually happens that way when any expedition is going but in this particular instance have been overrun with applications." But what has that to do with me. Cousin Peter?" asked Dorothy, fear of the wizened little man's sanity. This, my dear. These eight applications all arrived on the same daythat is, this very day. All of these young men are well known to me as being sultors for the hand of my lovely young cousin. Don't blush, Doro-

thy, you naughty child! "Of these eight applications on seven can be accepted. I am asking you to help me make a choice."

"Cousin Peter, I canuot!" Dorothy, with tears in her eyes. "1 "Sit down," said the professor kird- cause of her eyes or the color of her by "I always put that question to hair I can't belp it. There is only

"Very true," said Professor Digby a very handsome coterie, I may say prose you leave "And the eighth one, Cousin Peter?"

"Jasper Dane," said Professor Dig-

found on his desk a letter from Professor Digby. It read:

My Dear Dane-I am sorry to say that your application to join my expedition to central Africa. I received eight appliescould accept only seven I placed the list of eight names in the hands of an definitely deciding that you are not to b of my party. This I regret exceedingly, choice, but I hope that you will not take this disappointment to heart. The seven Below was a typewritten list of eight names, headed by that of Bert Chesney and ending with Jasper's own name. A heavy black line was drawn through Jasper's name, and be smiled bitterly as he saw it. Then a puzzled look came into his eyes as he scanned the names of the successful seven and realized that they represented the entire party which had gathered at Bert Chesney's birthday dinner.

Why were they all going to central Africa? Why was he left behind? A line of crabbed handwriting straggled across the bottom of the page. He bent closely and read it with diffi

"I forgot to mention that the expert who decided that you must remain at home is my little cousin. Dorothy Fair." Jasper caught up the telephone receiver and called for a number.

"Professor Digby?" he asked excited "This is Jasper Dane. Bon voyand thank you, may I say, The professor's dry cackle came over

"You are quite safe in calling me that, Jasper. By the time the expedition gets home I suppose it will be a

And Jasper flung down the receiver and raced out of the office like a boy. Dorothy Fair had elected that he out of the eight, should remain at home, and it meant only one thing, and be was going to make sure of it now,

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