

His lips moved, down to catch the
 Margharita that this
 er. "I have heard
 ver the sea, and—
 acinth forgives. I
 understand."
 sobbed, "your ven-
 er.
 ngeance!" he said.
 ath!"
 is eyes, and a gray
 is pallid face. A
 from the sea, and
 d poppies, which
 id him like a regi-
 ent their quivering
 vo of them actually
 He did not move;
 * *
 umley had lingered
 d now, on the eve
 e, they had spent
 of a bright Novem-
 following page

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ber afternoon buying curios of a wiz-
 ened old dealer, whose shop they had
 found in one of the dark narrow
 streets at the back of the Piazza
 Angelo. Lady Lumley had taken up
 a curious old ring, and was examining
 it with a vague sense of familiarity.
 "Ten pounds for that ring, my
 lady," the curio dealer remarked, "and
 it has a history. You will see that it
 bears the arms and motto of the
 Marionis, once the most powerful fam-
 ily in Sicily. I had it from the late
 Count himself."
 Lady Lumley sank into the little
 chair by the counter, holding the ring
 tightly in her hand.
 "Will you tell us the history?" she
 asked in a low tone.
 The man hesitated.
 "If I do so," he said doubtfully,
 "will you promise to keep it abso-
 lutely secret?"
 "Yes."
 "Well, then, I have told it to no
 one yet, but I will tell it to you.
 Many years ago I was a chemist, and
 among my customers was Count Leo-
 nardo di Marioni. His history was a
 very sad one, as doubtless you may
 have heard. When he was quite a
 young man he was arrested on some
 political charge, and imprisoned for
 five-and-twenty years—a cruel time.
 Well, scarcely more than twelve
 months ago he came to me here, so
 altered that I found it hard indeed to
 recognize him. Poor old gentleman,
 when he had talked for a while, I
 felt quite sure that his long confine-
 ment had affected his mind, and his
 errand with me made me sure of it.
 He came to buy a celebrated poison
 which I used at one time to be secretly
 noted for, and I could tell from his
 manner that he wanted it for some
 fatal use. Well, I thought at first
 of refusing it altogether, but what
 was the use of that? Some one else
 would have sold him an equally pow-
 erful poison, and the mischief would
 be done all the same. So, after a
 little consideration, I made up quite
 an innocent powder, which might
 cause a little momentary faintness,
 but which could do no further harm,
 and I gave it to him as the real thing.
 I couldn't take money for doing a
 thing like that, so he pressed this
 ring upon me. You see, it really has
 a history."
 Lord Lumley took his wife's hand
 and pressed it tenderly. In the deep
 gloom of the shop the curio dealer
 could not see the tears which glistened
 in her dark eyes.
 "We will have the ring!" Lord
 Lumley said, taking a note from his
 pocket-book and handing it across the
 counter.
 The man held it up to the light.
 "One hundred pounds," he remark-
 ed. "I shall owe your lordship
 ninety."
 Lord Lumley shook his head.
 "No, Signor Paschuli, you owe me
 nothing; it is I who owe you a wife.
 Come, Margharita, let us get out into
 the sunshine again."
 And Signor Paschuli kept the note.
 But he has come to the conclusion
 that all Englishmen traveling on their
 honeymoon are mad.
 THE END

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 husbands of wives, those who fall
 in love with them need not think it
 necessary to start in on a trial mar-
 riage basis.

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