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MISS DICK

Lambton St. DURHAM

HIS COURTSHIP

By HELEN R. MARTIN,
Author of "Tillie: A Mennonite Maid."

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CHAPTER XXII.
IN the uncontrollable restlessness that possessed her during the dragging days while she waited for Dr. Kinross's return, Eunice became so doped (backward) that she proved a sore irritant to her already outraged foster mother.

"Can't you watch what you're about onces?" would be demanded of her a dozen times a day when, in her distraught state, she would spill, break, burn or otherwise destroy. "What's got into you these couple of days back? You don't do nothing right! What do you think pop'll say at your leavin' all them pie git spilt? I ast you did you take 'em to the spring house and you sayed yes, you did, and then here this morning there they stood standing—in this here hot kitchen all night yet! Pop'll jaw somethin' terrible!"

It was in the occasional brief respite from toll in the evening hour, just before bedtime, that her unrest became feverish, maddening; and one night it governed her to the point of driving her to seek at least a moment's diversion from her unbearable heart hunger in an unprecedented act. On her return from the spring house, where she had gone to finish her last bit of the day's drudgery, she deliberately sat down with the two young ladies on the porch steps.

Miss Ellery had become an object of engrossing interest to Eunice since Dr. Kinross had told her that he "loved Georgiana." Georgiana herself had in the past few days observed the scrutiny she underwent whenever she was in Eunice's presence. The girl seemed to watch every movement she made, to hang upon every word she uttered, in a way which secretly gratified Georgiana's love of ascendancy.

"What's the matter, Eunice?" asked Daisy in surprise and curiosity as Eunice joined them, for the farm girl had seemed during all their stay at the farm to shrink from any intercourse with them. "Have you and Abe had a scrap?"

"A scrap of what?" Daisy squealed. "You know, Eunice, the course of true love never runs smooth, so, to be sure, you and Abe must expect to have rows now and then. Is it in Shakespeare, Georgiana, or the Bible? But never mind. No doubt Eunice knows. I can't account for your favoring us with your society, Eunice, unless you've been fighting with Abe and are wanting to be sympathized with. I'm sorry to say I can't oblige you. I couldn't possibly sympathize with a girl who would or could take an interest in Abe, a brute who thinks a woman's a pack horse. Oh, that kind of a man! How I'd love to stand on my hind legs and jump at him! Eunice," she said earnestly, "you're too nice a girl for Abe. Choke it off. You don't need to throw your self away on a chump like Abe—a girl like you."

Eunice, gazing fixedly at Georgiana, made no comment upon Daisy's advice. "Would you object if I asked you a question?" she inquired timidly of Georgiana. "Certainly not," Georgiana smiled kindly. "Ask me what you like, Eunice."

"How do you occupy your time when you are at home?" "Up to home?" Georgiana answered. "I have spent all my life in school and college. Now I am going to take my place at the head of my father's home. As he is a college president, my life

clear. That which in the days just past had made the sun in the heavens shine for her as it had never before, that was over. He belonged to another. What had he to do with her or she with him? She was alone—utterly and absolutely alone.

CHAPTER XXIII.
AT 5 o'clock in the afternoon two days later Kinross was once more with the assembled Morningstars in the farm kitchen, the entire family, including Eunice, being present at the important interview he was having with them.

The withdrawal of Georgiana's all pervading presence from the farm had made the family seem to Kinross on his return quite shrunken and small. He had wondered how, after his few days' absence and his fresh contact with the world, Eunice would appear to him from the point of view of his own and her aunt's world, and it seemed to him now as he looked at her sitting opposite him at the kitchen table that she was even more detached from her environment than he had at first thought her and far more alien to his own and her aunt's sphere of life than that of the farm—to which, indeed, she seemed entirely alien.

He fancied today that the habitual melancholy of her eyes was intensified. But surely the great news he had for her would quickly dissipate it and the original "pale drab" of her existence change to rosy hues—perhaps, alas, to lurid ones—for in his heart he felt not a little misgiving as to the possibly baneful effect of her seeming good fortune.

Before returning he had sent a message ahead of him to Mr. Morningstar, warning him to be ready against his arrival to pay over to Eunice immediately the sum of \$3,000 or he prepared to accept the consequences.

The effect of this communication had been to lead the Morningstars to urge upon Eunice once more the suit of Abe, but neither their persuasions nor their anger had succeeded in moving her.

On his arrival he had of course insisted upon seeing Eunice alone. But he had met with such violent opposition to this from both Mr. and Mrs. Morningstar that even the girl herself drew back, unwilling to brave the storm that would follow her open defiance. He saw that part, at least, of what he had to tell her of her affairs would have to be told in the presence of the family. Surely the news would make her able to throw off the last vestige of her yoke.

So, first he had forced Morningstar, under the lash of his threats, to sign, in a cold perspiration of horror, the draft for \$3,000 (which in fact represented at least a fourth of his possessions) and pass it over to the bewildered Eunice.

"Now, Mr. Morningstar," he began when this transaction had been completed, leaving the farmer utterly shaken out of his orbit, "I have a piece of news for you and your wife and for Eunice."

Eunice's face was pale, and her eyes, intent upon his face, were burning bright. He wished that he had the power to read all her thoughts, unique young creature that she was. It was distasteful, even painful, to have to break his news to her in the presence of these people, who, indeed, seemed her natural enemies, but it was apparently unavoidable.

"What's your news?" Mrs. Morningstar curiously demanded, her curiosity getting the better of her rage against him, and her husband, too, bitter as was his chagrin, looked up keenly, suspicious of further calamity.

"When I spent the night in the haunted room I made some discoveries. I found out, as you know, about the \$4,000 belonging to Eunice. I found out also some other things."

He paused an instant. They all waited breathlessly.

"The man and woman who left Eunice here were not her parents."

"Now," exclaimed Mrs. Morningstar, "you ain't tellin' us that!"

"Och, my souls!" breathed Ollie. "Forevermore!"

"Kin you prove it?" demanded Mr. Morningstar sullenly.

"What did they do with her?" he then, along with "em?" cried Mrs. Morningstar.

"They had stolen her from her home."

"Well, I never!" exclaimed Mrs. Morningstar, her eyes bulging.

"I had wished to talk to Eunice of this and other details alone, but as you made that impossible I'll give you the bare facts now, after which," Eunice added in a tone of authority, "Eunice will come with me to hear in private what concerns no one but herself."

The Morningstars stared resentfully, but no one answered.

"Her father," Kinross went on, "was W. W. Wolcott of New York. He was a man of large means. Eunice was his only child. Her aunt, Miss Wolcott of Washington, who believed her to be dead, had meantime had possession of the fortune rightfully belonging to Eunice. She is ready now to make restitution."

"Kin you prove it?" Abe here repeated his father's demand.

"How did you find it out?" asked Morningstar.

"Haunted rooms reveal secrets," Kinross answered, with a solemnity that made the family shudder to a man.

"How much is comin' to her?" inquired Abe covetously.

"A very great fortune."

While the family gaped, speechless, he rose from the table and moved around to Eunice's side.

"Miss Wolcott," he said, holding out his hand, "I congratulate you."

It took the Morningstars a long time to grasp it, and Eunice herself seemed

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6.58 9.13 " Maple Hill " 9.27 12.42

7.06 9.23 " Hanover " 9.39 12.53

7.14 9.33 " Allan Park " 9.51 13. 2

7.28 9.42 " Durham " 9.57 13.12

7.38 9.43 " McWilliams " 9.47 13.22

7.50 9.47 " Princesville " 9.55 13.40

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IS PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY MORNING

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