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# HIS COURTSHIP

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

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## CHAPTER XXV.

GEORGIANA, robed in an exquisite gown of white cashmere, whose long graceful lines gave her a quite regal figure, was thoughtfully pacing the drawing room of her home. It was just a week after the opening of the fall term of the college, and President Ellery was going to hold his annual reception tonight for the members of the faculty and their wives. Georgiana, now at home and at the head of her father's household, was ready to receive with him and do the honors as hostess.

As she paced the floor, her long skirts sweeping about her, her thoughts—serious, as usual—were occasionally broken in upon by the flippant remarks of Daisy, who, also in gala attire, was ready to assist her this evening to receive her father's guests. "Hadn't I better go and tell uncle to hurry up, Georgiana? They will begin to come soon," Daisy suggested from her place on an old davenport which stood against the wall. "He will be down in time, I suppose. He has a watch," Georgiana answered absently.

"But can he tell the time?" Georgiana ignored her. "Because I've always suspected he couldn't he's so invariably late to everything."

Georgiana's gaze was far away. "You look stunning, Georgiana. That's a scrum gown." "What adjectives, Daisy?" "If the combination of you and that robe of snowy white doesn't roast Kinross, then he is fireproof, as they all say he is."

Georgiana laughed indulgently. "I do hope, Georgie, that you'll be quite cruel to him to avenge the rest of them."

"Daisy," Georgiana gently chided her, "you put it on such a low plane!" "It? What's it?" "My prospective acquaintance with Dr. Kinross?"

"Oh, Georgiana! Why, I'm expecting it's going to be most inspiring and uplifting—to see you flirt him, you know."

"I'm not even sure that he's going to be here tonight."

"Oh!" said Daisy blankly. "Gracious! And here I'm standing on my hind legs in glad expectation!" "He wrote me that he had an engagement for part of the evening with a Miss Wolcott, who was passing through town on her way to New York, but that if he might come early and leave early he would be delighted to do so. The tone of his note," she added critically, "was manly."

"Dear me! How did he manage to be manly in a note like that?" "There was an atmosphere about it," Georgiana insisted.

"Why do you keep walking about, Georgie? Are you nervous?" Georgiana came and stood in front of the davenport.

"Daisy," she said earnestly, "he will probably be the first one to arrive, and—"

"Meaning Kinross?" Daisy inquired sympathetically. "Dr. Kinross, yes. I fancy he will be here before any one else comes. Tell me, if you were I, would you be in the room when he comes or would you enter after he is here?" "Which do I think would impress him more?"

"I merely mean," Georgiana explained, "would it seem more easy and graceful—to be already in the room or to come in after he is here—or perhaps to enter from the piazza? Which would seem more—well—"

"Effective? Suppose you advance from the piano, Georgie?" Daisy flippantly advised, growing hilarious. "Daisy, why can't you look at the serious side of life sometimes?" "Well, then, to be really serious, Georgiana, I don't think Kinross will

"We have heard a great deal about Dr. Kinross," Georgiana said, with gracious condescension, speaking like a royal personage in the plural. "His fame followed us even into our rural retreat this summer to a Pennsylvania Dutch farm, our letters from home discussing him as if— She stopped short, her eyes fixed upon his face, her self-consciousness suddenly dropping from her like a cloak.

"Was it only his fame which followed you?" Kinross spoke. "Or was it you who followed him? I think he was there first, wasn't he?"

Georgiana stood transfixed, her eyes growing wider and wider with wonder and amazement. The shock of recognition had startled her out of herself, and for the first time in his acquaintance with her Kinross saw her before him unaffected, natural, herself, and for the first time her face in its freedom from self-consciousness seemed to him unqualifiedly beautiful. As for Daisy, she forgot herself so far as to grip Gateshead by the arm to keep herself from tottering.

"Yes," acknowledged Kinross in an apologetic tone, replying to Georgiana's speechless stare, "you're right, I'm Pete. Reproach me as much as you want to—I deserve a roasting, I know."

"But," she breathed, "how can you be? What—what are you?" "Gracious!" gasped Daisy. "Good gracious!"

"So many things," gulped Georgiana, her face colorless, "come to my mind to confirm it—that you are Pete—I mean that Pete was you?"

"Oh," cried Daisy, staring wildly. "Georgiana and I called you Pete all summer! You!"

"That's my classic name."

"And all the while you were Dr. Kinross!" breathed Georgiana.

"And I lent you 'The Story of the Great Back Boned Family'! Oh!" shrieked Daisy hysterically.

"And didn't think me a shining success as a farmhand, did you?" "I can't grasp it!" half-whispered Georgiana.

"It will come to you gradually no doubt," he consoled her.

"That we were under the same roof with you for four weeks and never dreamed of it—of who you were," she amended her remark. "How did you manage it?"

"It wasn't very difficult," he answered, not intending an aspersion on their intelligence.

"I never dreamed of suspecting anything. How could I," she said, looking dazed, "when you used bad English and washed at the pump, though I remember you always had a separate towel, but you ate with your knife?"

"One can rise superior to a mere prejudice like a fork, Miss Ellery, in a good cause."

"Miss Ellery? Why don't you call her Georgie? She calls you Pete," maddly suggested Daisy.

Georgiana, flushing, glanced haughtily at Daisy. "A good cause," she quickly repeated. "That's just the point. What was the cause? Why did you deceive us?"

"It's up to you, Peter, to explain satisfactorily your gay deception," said Daisy. "If you aren't the limit! Of all the foxy tricks I ever heard of! Didn't I always say there was something foxy about you? I did! Well, talk it out with Georgie, and I'll receive your apologies later—alone in the conservatory. Come, Mr. Gateshead, we'll leave them alone in this sacred moment of their coming to an understanding. Let's console each other."

She drew him away, scarcely heeded by Georgiana, though Kinross' glance followed them for an instant.

He laughed as his eyes returned to Georgiana's fixed gaze. "She's a jolly little fellow, isn't she? I mean Daisy," he explained as Georgiana looked blank. "Shall we sit down and talk it out?"

Daisy had taken Gateshead to the bay window, so Georgiana led the way across the room to the davenport.

As they sat down together Kinross realized at once that her self-forgetfulness had passed and that she was again intensely conscious of herself from the graceful poise of her head and the sweep of her skirts on the floor to every tone of her voice and curve of her lips.

"Now that she knows who I am," he thought, "she'll recall the fact that Eunice told her I loved her. What the devil's to pay?"

"Why," she inquired, "did you conceal your identity? If you chose to hire yourself out as a farmhand for the summer you need not have been ashamed of it—I would only have honored you for it. Your laboring in conjunction with nature—I can quite understand how it satisfied a want in your soul. How little you understood me when you thought I would look down upon you for it!"

Kinross mentally sighed. She was being superior again, and putting him on the head for hiring out to old Morningstar and consorting with nature!

"It was so original of you!" she smiled, "quite idyllic, really! A farmhand who read the 'Vedanta Philosophy' by Swami Vivekananda, who took a half day off when he pleased, was treated by his employers like a privileged boarder, smoked fine cigars and had occasional relapses into good English!"

She was certainly carrying it off very easily, all things considered—more easily than he was, in fact. He was relieved at her interpretation of his escapade, for he would have found it rather difficult explaining his disguise if she had not done it for him.

"But how did we both happen to get to the Morningstar farm?" she suddenly asked. "You could not have known that I was going there, for I did not know it myself until the very day I went."

"Your supposing that I would have pursued you thither, if I had known, is

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Road down	Read up
4:45 P.M. Lv. Walkerton Ar. 9:40 12:55	4:45 P.M. Lv. Maple Hill " 9:27 12:42
5:58 8:13 " " " " " 9:19 12:28	7:04 3:23 " " " " " 9:11 12:22
7:16 3:33 " " " " " 8:57 12:12	7:38 4:03 " " " " " 8:47 12:02
7:50 4:17 " " " " " 8:35 11:50	8:00 4:30 " " " " " 8:25 11:40

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certainly a compliment to my taste," he bowed.

She looked at him with a slight suspicion in her eyes, and a faint color came into her cheeks. But her native egotism blinded her to irony directed against herself.

"It was a strange coincidence, wasn't it?" she said; "but hardly fair," she added archly, "that you should have

Continued on page 7.