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### CRATIC OFFICERS.

ability Well Represented in the Guards.

Battalion of the Coldstream which left Gibraltar for the

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LIZIE RUSSELL.

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## FOR LOVE AND BRIGHT

—OR—  
PLOT VS. PRINCIPLE.

Both hearts were full of what had occurred the previous day. They knew that they had betrayed, in that moment of danger, something of the tenderness which they had been learning to feel for each other during the past week; while Walter reasoned within himself that he had as yet no right to claim anything from Ruby. His sense of honor and pride forbade his making any formal declaration of love until he should attain a position that would place him above the suspicion of being a fortune-hunter.

Upon reaching the station Walter took Ruby's bags and wraps and found her a comfortable seat in a car, while Mr. Gordon remained outside to smoke his after-breakfast cigar. The road was a branch, and the train they were to leave on was obliged to wait for another train, and during this time the young people had about fifteen minutes to themselves before the final adieu would have to be said.

"I hope your trip home will be an enjoyable one," Walter remarked, after they were seated, and anxious to break the silence that seemed to haunt them so persistently.

"It was very pleasant coming; the scenery is so beautiful," she said. "But there is nothing like home. I have seen here; this has been a week of weeks to me," Ruby said, with a little sigh of pleasure, as her mind wandered back over those beautiful days.

Walter's face lighted, and his eyes glowed with pleasure. They had been together almost constantly, and surely if the time had passed so delightfully, she must have been happy in his society.

"I cannot help being exceedingly gratified to hear you say so," he said, in a low tone, "for I felt very much like an intruder, upon the evening of my arrival."

"How so?" Ruby asked, with surprise.

"Because I had come without a special invitation, although I have always had a standing one; but I feared I might interfere with other plans, and thus mar your enjoyment."

"Oh, indeed, you have not. Why do not think that you have?"

Ruby had begun impulsively, wishing to dissipate any such fancy, but she suddenly stopped short, as if she might say too much.

"What have I done, Miss Gordon? Please finish what you were going to say," Walter pleaded.

The young girl was very truthful, as we have always seen. She despised anything like deception or pretension, and so she felt obliged to complete her sentence, even though it caused her some embarrassment to do so.

a doubt, by allowing this young lady to drag me wherever her sweet will has prompted this summer," he said, softly pinching the rosy cheek next him. "But," he added, "the train is to start, and I must not detain you. Good morning, and shall look for you some evening shortly."

Walter bowed a smiling acceptance of this invitation, lifted his hat, and hastened from the car with a very happy heart, and yet feeling as he watched the train disappear around a bend in the road, as if half the sunshine had been blotted from the day.

CHAPTER XVII.  
A Call and Its Result.

Walter's second week soon slipped away, and he returned to his business with a heart full of courage and resolution. He had served two years under Mr. Conant, and had done excellent work, so that gentleman told him—work which, though it might have seemed more like a drudgery to him, he would never regret, and not he certainly two years more in the office, and in learning how to manage contracts, at a salary which would be gauged according to the progress he made.

After that he would be ready to do business for himself, if he should feel so disposed.

Mr. Conant felt that he had secured a genius in Walter, for he proved to be peculiarly adapted to the business. He was often surprised by the apt and valuable suggestions which he made regarding difficult and intricate plans, while he certainly possessed excellent taste and judgment.

Walter availed himself of Mr. Gordon's invitation to call not long after his return, and he was most cordially received by all the members of the family, although his pleasure was very shortly interrupted by the entrance of Edmund Carpenter, who had regressed his visits—attention to Ruby immediately upon discovering that she was in the city.

Young Carpenter was evidently anything but pleased to find Walter a visitor in that house, and greeted him coldly, while an unmistakable frown settled upon his brow at what he considered his impertinent assurance for daring to be upon such familiar terms with people so far above him socially.

Then he endeavored to monopolize Ruby's time and attention. She tried to divide her favors between her two callers, but Edmund Carpenter adroitly managed to make all such efforts appear so foolish that she grew embarrassed whenever she attempted to speak to Walter, and he, observing it, was upon the point of exclaiming himself and taking his leave, when Mr. Gordon drew him into a room, and regarding his new residence, which was now nearly ready for occupancy, and after that things moved along more smoothly, although the evening proved to be anything but a pleasant one.

He could not fail to perceive that Edmund had serious designs upon the young girl whom he had learned to love, and he told himself that, perhaps he had no right to interfere with her and the brilliant prospects that would be hers if he could win her for his wife; and yet the very thought was torture to him.

Ruby was not herself at all that evening; she was laboring under a painful restraint, engendered by the antagonism which she felt that Edmund Carpenter entertained for Walter, and she, too, was very miserable when at length the young man arose to take his leave.

Edmund made his adieu at the same time, and the two men passed out together, while Walter instinctively felt that he had some sinister purpose in this accompanying him.

Walter's heart sank heavily upon being told this, while a feeling of indignation sprang up within him at the tone of authority which his rival had adopted toward him.

"It is not my intention to ever interfere with any of your plans, Edmund," he returned, in the same tone as before. "You desire to win Miss Gordon—and can do so"—with a little unemphatic emphasis on those last words—"of course it is all right and proper for both Mr. and Miss Gordon to have professed their love for me, and having no congenial home, I see no reason why I should not avail myself of it occasionally."

"You are very independent about it; perhaps you do not care for Miss Gordon yourself," sneered his companion.

A swift flush mounted to Walter's brow, and an angry retort rushed to his lips. He checked it, however, and said, gravely:

"I am not in a position to aspire to anything of the kind at present," he said.

"You are the most sensible thing that I have heard you say to-night," Mr. Carpenter returned in a somewhat mollified tone. "All the same," he added, "it might be just as well to keep out of temptation, and out of the way of doing an injury to others."

"I do not think I clearly understand the latter part of your remark."

"Well, then, to be plain, it may do you some harm if you continue to visit the Gordons."

"Surely you cannot feel very confident of succeeding in your designs if you fear that the occasional visits of mine will mar your plans?"

Edmund turned upon him fiercely.

"None of your sarcasms to me, if you please. I know what I am about. I am bound to win the pretty heiress if I can, and it won't be healthy for me, or any one, to balk me in my purpose."

"Then it is the heiress not a wife—not the sweet, gentle woman—whom you wish to win," said Walter, a note of scorn in his tone, for all his manhood arose indignantly against such a fate for beautiful Ruby Gordon.

"Sweet and gentle fiddlerstick!" was the contemptuous retort. "Don't be absurdly sentimental, Walter. Of course I adore Ruby Gordon—love her, if you will. Who wouldn't love a pretty girl like that, with thirty thousand dollars tacked on as an additional charm? I am going to marry her if I can get her, and I want you to keep out of my way. Do you understand?"

return my affection. I should try—provided I was in a position to warrant my doing so before all the world. Any other man has the same privilege and right in this free country, and no one has any authority to lay restrictions upon another. Good-night, Edmund."

He turned upon his heel and walked resolutely away, but very soon he had caught the ominous words that were thrown savagely after him: "Braggart, I have only one word to say to you—behave!"

CHAPTER XVIII.  
Mr. and Mrs. Ruggles Come to Philadelphia.

Mr. Robert Gordon's house was at last completed, furnished and ready for occupancy, and a veritable palace of luxury and elegance it was, too.

The site upon which it had been built was unexceptional, while the grounds had all been laid out with exquisite taste before the house was erected.

There were long, smoothly graveled walks, overarched with wide-spreading, luxuriant trees, leading up to it. There was a beautiful lawn, green and smooth as velvet, in front, and this was ornamented with choice shrubs, lovely beds, with here and there a fountain and choice pieces of gleaming white statuary.

Wide marble steps led up to the spacious mansion, and elegant turnings gave but a faint idea of the magnificence awaiting beyond.

On one side of this was the grand drawing-room, extending the full length of the house, and furnished with almost royal splendor. Opposite was a reception-room, the library and dining-room, all marvels of luxury; while beyond these were a music-conservatory, filled with choice plants and exotics.

An imposing stairway of carved oak led to the rooms above which were arranged on suits, and which were also as rich and beautiful as money and good taste could make them.

Ruby's apartments, comprising a parlor, bedroom and dressing-room, were upon the south side of the house, commanding a delightful view of the Schuylkill and Fairmount Park, and were fitted up with a daintiness just suited to the lovely girl.

The family moved into the luxurious abode about the first of December, and Mr. Gordon and his wife planned to give a grand house-warming not far from Christmas time.

Robert, let us send for Mr. and Mrs. Ruggles; it would be something grand for them to be at such a party," Ruby said, when they were making out their list for invitations.

Mr. Gordon laughed and glanced at his wife.

and asked her advice and help in obtaining it.

"You are not to count the cost before you do anything," she said, "I want mother to do you credit, so you just get the best—what you would want your own to wear to such a party."

Ruby's eyes twinkled at these instructions, for she remembered Estelle's fears regarding the cost of the costume, and she resolved to give her sister a surprise such as she had not had for many a day.

"Some one has come at a very unfashionable hour, and unattended, too. She is nicely dressed, and looks exceedingly genteel, but I do not know her."

"Let us go and see," she said, linking her arm in Ruby's; and you know you are a trifle near-sighted, Estelle, and, perhaps, you may have met after all."

"She led her to Mrs. Ruggles and formally introduced her. You know your ladies had a merry laugh over the incident."

And Ruby! Who shall do justice to the straight, slender, white-robed figure that came fitting down the magnificent staircase a few moments before her sister?

She wore a dress of glistening white silk, the sash made low, but filled in with some fine rich lace; that was drawn up close about her throat, and fastened with a string of large, rare pearls.

There was no ornament about her save that string of pearls, and one small, beautiful white lily that nestled lovingly above her forehead among the masses of her golden hair; but she was simply exquisite from top to toe, while upon her bright face there rested such a tender grace that it was the loveliest feature of all.

"What spirit from the upper world has visited her?" asked her brother, meeting her at the foot of the stairs, and stooping to wind the arms around her, while he gazed with a world of love and pride upon her.

She stood on tiptoe, put up her scarlet lips and kissed him.

"No spirit at all, Robert, but a very substantial piece of humanity, who is bubbling over with health and indignation until her very toes are tingling to the strains of your music," she replied, laughing and tapping her satin-slipped foot in time with the gay waltz that came floating in from beyond the conservatory.

"You are very lovely, Ruby—like some 'fair lady garmented in light,'" said her brother, with another fond caress.

fair of the same costly material perched above the white hair, which Ruby thought was "so soft and pretty," and which she had persuaded her to have arranged in a more modern fashion than she was accustomed to wear it.

"She had been 'a surprise' to Mrs. Gordon, who, on going below before the arrival of any of her guests, espied her from the hall, at the farther end of the long drawing-room, and did not recognize her."

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