

## THE PAGE.

### Heiress of Lawrence Park.

#### A STORY OF ABSORBING INTEREST.

BY MRS. H. B. GOURLEY.

**CHAPTER V.—CONTINUED.**

She kept him a long, low, careful glance from under her silken eyelashes, and her red lips curled slightly.

"Many years? You must be mad!" she cried.

"It is absurd—out of the question."

He bowed mockingly.

"Aburd! Out of the question?" he repeated, his voice quivering perceptibly. "Adèle St. Cyr, you will excuse the day that you spoke those words to me! If you know, if you dreamed of the power that I hold over you, you would tell a different tale."

She checked him with a haughty gesture.

"You have said enough," she was beginning, freezing, but her mother gave her a warning look and she hesitated.

"But," intervened Gabrielle, "my plot can never be carried out without Mark's assistance."

Then, in a low tone, she added, as Mark moved away to the window, and stood gazing upon the scene without:

"Do not reject my new. You will run in. We can do nothing without him."

Down in her heart Adele was saying over and over:

"I have him! I have him! And I love Arthur Wynne! Every atom of my being is for him, and him alone! I shall be his wife, or no man's!"

But she said, softly:

"Mark!"

He turned swiftly, his dark face all aglow, his eyes shining with rapture, at the sound of that low, tender tone.

"Forgive me for being so saugthy," she went on, slipping her small, white hand into his.

A look of happiness flashed over his face, and crept tenderly into his eyes. He lifted the little hand to his lips, and covered it with a kiss.

"I knew that you could not be so cruel," he cried, eagerly. "Oh, Adele, you will be my wife!"

Her eyes drooped before his passionate gaze.

"We will not speak of that now," she said, softly, "not until our plans are carried out. If we succeed (and we must), come this to me again, and I will answer you."

"But you will be mine, my beautiful darling?" he pleaded, rapturously.

"She gave him one more, silent look.

Mark's passion was heaven to him.

His dream of bliss was broken by Gabrielle's voice.

"A noise is flying," she said, vaguely.

"The door has opened, to speak. I must go to Lawrence Park, or I will give the chance of the room. Go now, Mark, and order a carriage while I dress for the expedition. I shall wear deep mourning, and my sorrow state will appear to the strongest heart present. Adele, you will remain in your own room, and it shall be announced that you are ill—seriously ill—of a contagious fever; therefore you will not be troubled with visitors. This is the first act in the play. The curtain rises, the drama begins! Ah, me! it may prove a tragedy before we are done."

**CHAPTER VI.—AN ANGRY CHARGE.**

Arthur Wynne stood beside that still, dead form in the library of Lawrence Park.

The chief of the detective police force stood near, viewing the scene with a composed expression, making every little detail which had not of an apparent value, might yet hold the key to the mystery.

"A mysterious affair!" Chief Ludlowe exclaimed, at length. "A dark mystery, indeed! Ah!" (turning swiftly)

"Is that you, Wynne? Right glad to see you!"

And he shook the young man's hand.

"Sorry that you have left the force, Mr. Wynne." He went on slowly. "I had always great confidence in your abilities, you remember. I really

want you resign, and—what you

want to be engaged in this case? Why,

I thought that since you came into your uncle's fortune you would be above the old calling, and forget old associations. I'm heartily glad that I am mistaken, and I welcome you back to the force once more. Here is a hedge, get into it, for you may need it. Ah, that is right."

Arthur Wynne clasped the silver hilt of his broadsword, and squared it from view with the lapel of his coat.

"And now let me see," Chief Ludlowe went on, in a confidential tone. "This is the case precisely: A murderer—my services to the last degree—has been committed in our midst. A wealthy and influential citizen has been stricken down in cold blood in his library at the dead of night, or—rather the early morning."

"The Chief added, with a swift glance at the clock, pointing grimly to half-past two.

"Yet no outcry was made—no noise heard. The murderer even waited after his bloody work was done to withdraw the weapon from the fatal wound. There must have been a terrible struggle, as he went on, comprehensively, for the clock was thrown from the stand, a chair overturned, and the furniture in general disordered.

"Yet, the very fact of the clock having stopped at the hour when that struggle for his tool, will prove a formidable clue to the police. Wynne, why are you so anxious? Have you made any discovery? What have you made?"

Arthur Wynne bit his lip.

"If I then permit us to remain in this room for a few moments alone," he "spurred. "I will show you something."

The room was cleared, and the door

"Then Arthur lifted the clock

and placed it upon the

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