

Love's Awakening

By ALBERT J. KLINCK

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THE two had long sat silent, the husband holding a folded newspaper, the wife toying with a costly fan. The light from the single lamp hardly penetrated to the corners of the large room, and the fire in the grate had burned so low that it was all but out.

"Yes," the wife said, "it is time a change took place. We cannot agree. There is no comfort for either of us here."

He went on rolling the paper in his hands, his eyes averted, his lips firmly set.

"Why should we both suffer?" asked Constance Harcourt, after a pause. "There is no reason why. And if not both, then one of us at least. But for once I am going to be selfish, Arthur. I am going to be happy. I am going to leave you to-night."

He sat more erect in his seat, raised his eyes to hers, but still sat silent.

"It is the only way," she went on. "We are not at all suited to each other. It has been some time in dawning upon me, but I see it all now. Mistakes will happen. Of course we are neither of us to blame. I have packed up a few of my belongings. I suppose you will allow Chalmers to convey them from the house?"

His grip upon the newspaper became more tense.

"There need be no scene when I go," she continued. "Our little drama has already been brought to a fitting climax. I'll just slip out. That will be all."

Constance Harcourt rose from her seat, cast the fan carelessly upon the table, took up a book that was lying there, and left the room.

Arthur Harcourt did not move until he heard footsteps in the room above; then he roused himself and thought over what his wife had said. His brow was furrowed as he thought, his hands were clenched, his lips were set in a grimace. Then he laughed. It really was such a huge joke. Constance going to leave him! Constance going to— He laughed again. But his levity was suddenly cut short, for he heard a swish of skirts in the hallway, and a few hurried words spoken in an undertone. A moment later Chalmers, the butler, came into the room, placed upon the table a tray holding a bottle and a single glass, and was about to withdraw when Harcourt asked:

"To whom were you just speaking?"

"Mrs. Harcourt, sir," he replied.

"And what was the conversation about?"

"She asked me would I please carry some parcels for her," said Chalmers. "Is she dressed for the street?"

"Yes, sir."

"Tell Mrs. Harcourt I desire to see her at once."

"Yes, sir," said Chalmers, leaving the room.

Arthur Harcourt was walking up and down when his wife entered. She came in noiselessly, and he was not aware of her presence until he heard her "Well!" in a high, clear voice.

"You are carrying this farce too far, Constance," he began.

"You forget," she said. "We have already gone beyond the bounds of farce. We have entered the realm of drama."

"Be careful that the end of it will not be tragedy," he said coldly. "Where are you going?"

"And if I refuse to answer your question?"

"Where are you going?" he asked again.

Constance said nothing.

"Are you going to your father?"

"Perhaps, and perhaps not."

"Say yes or no," Harcourt demanded.

"I shall do neither."

Arthur Harcourt stood still. For one awful moment his eyes were fiercely upon her. Then he stretched forth his hands to clutch at her white throat, but she quickly withdrew, closing the door behind her and locking it from the outside. Then she motioned to Chalmers, and led the way to an unused wing of the large house. Here she removed her gloves, hat and wraps, and turning up the lamp, addressed the bewildered butler:

"You are to tell me of my presence here. When the opportunity presents itself bring my meals to me. In case cook questions you, tell her to mind what I have told her. She'll understand. Should my husband ask where you went with me, tell him I entered a cab at the corner, and dismissed you. You are positively not to tell him I am here. Do you understand, Chalmers?"

"Yes, Mrs. Harcourt, I understand," he replied.

For the next two or three days Arthur Harcourt was in a daze. He shunned his friends, acted queerly when at his business, and when evening came sat alone in the great room that had been the scene of his last interview with his wife. He could not read, he could not sleep. The memory of that evening clung to him like a leech. There were times when Chalmers felt extremely sorry for his master, especially when he found him sitting alone in the evening. And it was because he felt this way that he one night admitted Sam Truxton into Harcourt's presence. Chalmers had strict orders to state that his master was at home to no one. On this occasion, however, he saw fit to disobey, reasoning that a quiet little chat with a friend would be of great benefit to his master.

Upon entering the room Truxton started at sight of the dejected figure in the large armchair. Harcourt looked bad enough in the daytime, but at night, in the yellow glow of the lamp, he looked positively ghastly.

"This 'I never do, Arthur,' Truxton began. 'And I'm going to be frank with you. This story about your wife's being away is all bosh. She's here in the very city. She's—'

"Good God, Truxton," cried Harcourt, "where is she?"

"Then you don't know?"

"No."

"I suspected that from the first," said Truxton. "I knew it was that

that worried you. And as a friend I feel it my duty to tell you what I heard last evening."

"What did you hear?" broke in Harcourt.

"That the veiled dancer at the Alcazar is Mrs. Harcourt," replied Truxton.

"The veiled—the Alcazar—" Then Harcourt put his hands to his temples. "She used to be a good dancer," he went on, as if to himself. "Yes, but the Alcazar—that of all places!"

"Come, Truxton," he said, "we must get to the Alcazar at once. I must get her out of that place as soon as possible. Come, Truxton, come."

In a short time the two were seated in a box at the theatre.

When the great act finally came Harcourt leaned out on the box railing, awaiting the dancer's appearance, which was heralded with a dreamy waltz by the orchestra and the sputtering of the calcium. Then a figure leaped lightly into the silvery patch of radiance. It was clothed in a spangled costume, long and of ample folds, while covering the whole there fell from the crown of the head yard upon yard of the thinnest illusion.

Now the swaying figure was like burning gold, now like shining silver. At the next moment it looked as if bathed in blood; then changed to fiery red. Next followed such a rapid succession of colors as seemed beyond man's ingenuity to produce. And finally total darkness prevailed. Distant thunder began to rumble, with faint flashes of lightning. Louder and louder it grew, brighter and brighter became the lightning, each time bringing into view the undulating figure of the dancer. Then came a blinding flash, followed by a deafening roar. The bespangled figure fell to the floor, writhing in apparent agony. A few ghastly contortions, the uplifting of a snowy arm and the dancer was over.

Harcourt sat through it all, entranced. He seemed to have forgotten everything save the mystic, gyrating figure. The evolution from one stage to another of the dance enthralled him. Even when it was all over he remained sitting, his eyes staring at the stage curtain. But Truxton finally roused him, and once out on the street, Harcourt turned to his friend and said:

"Jove, it was wonderful!"

They walked on. Truxton wondered at the other's silence, but said nothing. When they reached Harcourt's home Truxton noticed his friend turn suddenly round, and seizing him by the arm, cried out:

"My God, Truxton, I must go back! It was my wife. I had forgotten."

He tried to lead him up the steps into his home; but Harcourt was determined to go back to the theatre, and Truxton, despairing of changing his mind, at last consented, and together they retraced their steps to the place of amusement. "To think that in the wonder of it all I should forget she was my wife!" Harcourt repeated again and again.

The next day he left when they reached the theatre. The manager was standing in the lobby, and Harcourt opened up a conversation with him. He was a gruff man, and in a few words told that the dancer would receive no one, nor would she condescend to accept written matter other than that relating to her vaudeville engagements.

After this Harcourt tried his best to secure an interview with the dancer. He went to the theatre night after night, waiting at the stage entrance to see her come out.

One evening he came home, and taking a revolver from his pocket, laid it upon the table before him.

"You'll dance for the last time to-night, Nyganza," he said half aloud. "Your agony will not be feigned. The lightning will strike in earnest to-night."

He put the weapon into his pocket, donned his hat and coat, and went out into the street.

As the door closed after him Chalmers, the butler, rapped up the stairs and along the hall to the rooms which Mrs. Harcourt had chosen to occupy. He rapped at the door. It was cautiously opened. A few moments' breathless conversation followed. Then Mrs. Harcourt came.

"Order the carriage, Chalmers, quick. Tell Marie to get ready with all speed. I must reach the Alcazar before—"

The door closed and Chalmers bounded through the passage.

Mrs. Harcourt succeeded in getting a box directly back of the one her husband occupied. There was but a thin silken curtain between them.

When the glittering figure appeared Mrs. Harcourt moved still closer to her husband, her eyes wild, her breath coming quickly. Her mind was centered upon reaching over and touching him—to speak a word that would tell him she was not there upon all stage, but in the box behind him, ready to forgive and forget. But she could not reach him. The curtain was between them.

The vivid flashes of mock lightning now began to light up the stage. The thunder was gradually becoming louder. The figure on the stage was twisting, swaying, gyrating.

The final great flash was about to illuminate the stage. In the short interval of darkness Harcourt raised his revolver into the air, pointing it at the spot where he knew the dancer to be.

A beam of light zigzagged across the stage, lit up the body of the house, and when Mrs. Harcourt saw it reflected upon the weapon in her husband's hand, she leaned over and, touching him upon the arm, whispered hoarsely:

"Arthur!"

The revolver fell from his grasp. He turned round, his face deathly, his eyes opened to their widest.

"Constance!" he cried softly. "Constance!"

When they reached the rear of the theater both looked back at the stage. In the dazzling light they saw a writhing figure, the uplifting of a snowy arm, then dense gloom.

Once more in the costly lighted drawing room Arthur Harcourt sat down and drew his wife to him.

"Constance," he said, "I did not know how dear you were to me until you had gone. Oh, how miserable I have been! I'll be different now, Constance. Forgive me."

"I forgive you, Arthur," she whispered.

CHICAGO UP-TO-DATE

REVIEW OF SOME OF DOINGS IN LAKE METROPOLIS.

CANDIDATES FOR GOVERNOR

Chicago Indifferent to Grand Opera and Partial to Revival Services—The "Gambling Phone"—The Dress-Makers' Convention.

Chicago.—That Chicago is the political center of Illinois has again been strikingly demonstrated after another of the candidates for the republic nomination for governor of the state has opened up headquarters here. The only one of the six "possibilities" who has not a Chicago headquarters is Sherman, who has made his reputation in the legislature, both as a political fighter, and able in the handling of the business end of a party caucus or a legislature.

Howland J. Hamlin, the attorney general of the state, is the latest addition to the bunch of governorship aspirants here. He has opened up his headquarters on the same floor at the Great Northern hotel with those of the Yates and Lowden forces. In fact, he has secured a strategic point between the two, and will be able to keep his eyes on the moves of his rivals. Warner is also at the Great Northern, and he keeps busy out in the state while his forces here direct the campaign.

Densen, the state's attorney, is the only one of the five who has not his headquarters at the Great Northern. He occupies rooms at the Grand Pacific hotel, one block due west of the camps of his competitors in this six-cornered fight for the governorship plum. With Chicago away up in the northeast corner of the state, one might wonder why political headquarters here was an important factor in a state political campaign. One reason, as already intimated, is that Chicago is the political center of the state, and another is that the newspaper publicity which may be gained through the location of headquarters here proves invaluable and indispensable.

Grand Opera and the Revival.

The two weeks of grand opera which have just closed have not been marked by what are called "crush" houses at any of the performances. The singers have gone through with their parts with precision and punctiliousness, because they were paid to do it and a "paying" house was their aim. There was no "crush" here, but there was lacking that enthusiasm which comes from the packed house and strong sympathy of the audience. Grand opera in Chicago is always an uncertain quantity, as far as audiences go. The artists never know whether they are going to sing to a crowded house or to well-filled upper galleries and empty first floor seats until the stars before the footlights.

But such is not the fate of the evangelist when he comes to Chicago. Whether revival services are more to the taste of Chicagoans than grand opera or not, we would not like to state, but the fact remains that the well-advertised religious meeting with its big preacher or evangelist always draws its "crush" house.

Take it when Moody was alive and came to town. Day after day and night after night he packed the same building where grand opera has been given to comparatively small audiences, from "cellar to garret," and then thousands were left outside, unable to get in. To be sure, they did not have to pay anywhere from \$1.50 to \$3.50 per, but it has always been observed that when Chicagoans go to religious meetings they do not leave their pocketbooks at home, and such evangelists as do not hesitate to give when the call comes. And, taking the difference in the expenses of producing grand opera and the revival meeting, with star preacher included, the margin of profit of the latter is greater than the former.

The Presbyterians have just inaugurated a movement which takes in all three sides of the city. Dr. J. Wilbur Chapman is directing the religious campaign, and such evangelists as Dr. John Robinson of London, Dr. J. M. Gray, of Boston; Rev. Thomas Houston, "blind evangelist"; Rev. A. H. Biedewolf, and a score of others, are his helpers. The Methodists have united in the series of meetings, and audiences are gathering nightly in various parts of the city which would make the departing opera singers green with envy if they would only tarry long enough to see them.

The Religious Worker in Jail.

But the people who walk out in the free air and sunshine—Chicago does get its share of the latter—in spite of the weather man and the smoke consumers?—and are at liberty to go where they please, even to the revival meeting, are not the only ones who have a chance to hear the great evangelists and the Gospel sung, for the jails are regularly visited by religious workers, and the big preachers are not infrequent callers upon those shut behind the bars. A work which came very close to the heart of Mr. Moody during the latter years of his life was the prison work, and many a criminal felt the warm touch of his hand

and the throb of his great heart as he talked of the soul's needs.

The revival meetings being held in Chicago at the present time have had their echo in the jail on the North side, where the car barn bandits await the sentence of death. Dr. Robertson, the London evangelist, has talked with all of the men, and especially Van Dine, who seems specially susceptible to religious influence. Just how deep the repentance and conversion which the prisoner claims to have experienced goes, perhaps no human mind can judge. The fact that he has, furnishes an interesting chapter in the career of the young desperado.

Van Dine is the only one of the "Automatic trio" who has a Sunday school record behind him. When he was a little fellow he used to go regularly, and to church, too, with his mother. She was quite prominent in religious work, and taught her boy religious things, but there was a fatal weakness in the home training and discipline. Bad reading and companions did the rest, and instead of filling a place of usefulness in the world, he now faces the gallows for his desperate crimes. And, face to face with death, how easy it must be to repent. It is a natural and logical development for Van Dine, perhaps, because the religious instinct was inbred from his earliest childhood. His repentance may be genuine, and then again the young criminal's subtle nature may be deceiving him just as he used to deceive his mother as to his whereabouts and his companions.

Another Reform Spasm.

The all-night saloon made a generous contribution towards the education and the reform of the city.

For this reason the reform forces have brought pressure to bear to have the midnight closing ordinance rigidly enforced. In some sections of the city, notably in the South side districts, they succeeded to a limited extent, but the reform campaign stirred up the powerful saloon element, which saw that it was only a question of time when the city officials would be obliged to enforce the law or face impeachment and trial for wilful neglect of duty, and so, believing that half a loaf was better than none at all, an ordinance was quickly drafted and placed before the council extending the time of closing until one o'clock. This was passed by a narrow majority, and now it is up to the liquor men to decide whether they will enforce the law or face impeachment and trial for wilful neglect of duty, and so, believing that half a loaf was better than none at all, an ordinance was quickly drafted and placed before the council extending the time of closing until one o'clock. 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