

forbearance and serene faith. He was beginning to accept the world as it is, not with the air of a cynic, but with the resolve of a man and the glad enthusiasm of the poet. Madeline dwelt in his memory like a beautiful star, yet his passionate soul craved an earthly hope. After Madeline, however, only a most noble spirit could satisfy him. He was as exacting in his judgement of woman as an artist whose mind is continually haunted with resplendent ideals. This woman who had caqually flitted by him had touched him with surpassing glory; and, struggle as he might, he was held in bondage by her lovely phantom.

So he floated on, in a half-dreamy state, through the crowded thoroughfares. At length, he reached the place where he expected to see or hear something of little Pete. It was one of the most beautiful streets in the city, and the house was a large and handsome one.

"I guess the little fellow's uncle is rich," said Charlie.

He rang the bell, and asked for Miss Blanche Kennedy. He was shown by the servant into a splendidly furnished parlor. It was gorgeously yet tastefully decorated. There was an oriental magnificence about it, yet nothing glaring. All sorts of curious articles were in it, antique vases, plates, pictures, bric-a-brac, old-fashioned chairs, etc., and arranged with artistic skill. The effect was admirable; and Charlie, although his aesthetic sense was not much cultivated, could not help feeling the richness and harmony of the blending forms and colors.

"What a romance this is for little Pete!" he thought. "What a contrast to his tumble-down hut at Golden Throne! What a lucky thing that he came here! I wonder if he lives in this house. It's curious how he ever happened to drift among the hills, a poor devil, almost hung, and now perhaps he's on the high road to fortune. Blanche Kennedy is his cousin, I suppose. I wonder if she has the taste to arrange this room. How beautiful it is! So fresh, like the sea itself, with an air of welcome that puts me at ease as I would be in the woods!"

The door opened, and Charlie turned to the advancing figure. He started back in amazement; for the beautiful woman who greeted him, Blanche Kennedy, was no other than the one who had thrilled him months ago at the opera house—the same face, the same ineffable glance, the same royal bearing. The vision of his soul was before him, smiling and cordial—a glowing, wondrous reality.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

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