# MARY ROBERTS RINEHART TOWAY COMMANY

CHAPTER III.

At the Riding School. His royal highness the Crown Prince ordinand William Otto was in dis-

He had risen at six, bathed, dressed, ad gone to mass, in disgrace. He al breakfasted at seven-thirty on but, cereal, and one egg, in disgrace. te had gone to his study at eight tock for lessons, in disgrace, A ong line of tutors came and went all orning, and he worked diligently, but was still in disgrace. All moral arm, "You and I," ng long and in the intervals between rutors he had tried to catch Miss Braithwaite's eye.

Except for the most ordinary civilties, she had refused to look in his direction.

The French tutor was standing near photograph of Hedwig, and pretendng not to look at it. Prince Ferdinand William Otto had a suspicion that the ator was in love with Hedwig.

Prince Ferdinand William Otto did of like the French tutor.

He also found the sun unsettling. Besides, he hated verbs. Nouns were ifferent. One could do something with nouns, although even they had way of having genders. Into his ead popped a recollection of a deightful pastime of the day beforething more nor less than flipping paper wads at the guard on the scenic railway as the car went past him.

Prince Ferdinand William Otto tore if the corner of a piece of paper, hewed it deliberately, rounded and burdened it with his royal fingers, and simed it at M. Punux. It struck him

Instantly things happened, M. Pusux yelled, and clapped a hand to his eye. Miss Braithwalte rose. His ovel highness wrote a rather shaky French verb, with the wrong termina-And on to this scene came Vikky for the riding lesson,

Milky surveyed the scene. He had, course, bowed inside the door, and I that sort of thing. But Nikky was m informal person, and was quite apt bow deeply before his future soverelgn, and then poke blin in the chest.

"Well!" said Nikky. "Good morning." said Prince Ferdi mand William Otto, in a small and ervous voice.

"Nothing wrong, is there?" de manded Nikky. M. Pusux got out his handkerchief

and sald nothing violently.

"Otto!" said Miss Braithwaite.

What did you do?" "Nothing." He looked about. He was quite convinced that M. Puaux was what Bobby would have termed sport, and had not played the game fairly. The guard at the railway, he felt, would not have yelled and wept. "Oh. well, I threw a piece breath. of paper. That's all. I didn't think

would hurt." shiny foot over the paper wad.

"Paper!" said Miss Braithwaite, yard watched them gravely. "Why did you throw paper? And at M. Punux?"

"I-just felt like throwing something," explained his royal highness, a dog. It sleeps on his bed at night." "I guess it's the sun, or something." little wad was gone.

Humph! For pocketing sugar square to the riding school. om the ten tray, ten marks! Humph!

sugar, and only five for inattention women bowed. religious instruction! What have Il to say, wir you

Prince Ferdinand William Ofto neared the riding school, at Nikky and Nikky looked I don't really need a dog," cooney of strange things that the yesterday." to prince had tapped the previous

the leating the eye to discover if he quite forgot the ragging he had preand see through it. "I am sure his pared for Otto. oyal highness meant no harm." M. may went out, with his handker | mind."

hief to his eye. While Oskar, his valet, put the fown prince into riding clothes, Nikky and Miss Braithwalte had a talk. It can by Nikky's stating that she was lkely to see him a great deal now, and he hoped she would not find him if the way. He had been made aidele-camp to the crown prince, vice Count Lussin, who had resigned on account of Hiness, having been roused

at day-break out or a hearing steep Not that Nikky said Just that. What

he really observed was: "The king sent for me last night, Miss Braithwaite, and-and asked me to hang around.

Thus Nikky, of his sacred trust None the less sacred to him, either that he spoke lightly. He glanced up at the crossed swords, and his eyes were hard.

And Miss Braithwaite knew. She reached over and put a hand on his she said. "Out of all the people in this palace, only you and I! The archduchess bates him. I see it in her eyes. She car never forgive him for keeping the throne from Hedwig. The very



As He Passed Men Lifted Their Hats and Women Bowed.

guards down below, the sentries at our doors, how do we know they are loyal?"

"The people love him," raid Nikky doggedly.

"The people! Sheep. I do not trust the people. I do not trust any one. I watch, but what can I do? The very

food we ent-"He is coming," said Nikky softly. And fell to whistling under his

Together Nikky and Prince Ferdipand William Otto went out and down Miss Braithwaite rose and glanced the great marble staircase. Sentries at the carpet. But Nikky was quick. saluted. Two flunkles in scarlet and Quick and understanding. He put his gold threw open the doors. A stray dog that had wandered into the court

"I wish," said Prince Ferdinand William Otto, "that I might have a dog. Yesterday I met a boy who has

Nikky looked back. Although it had Nikky dropped his glove, and mirac- been the boast of the royal family for alously, when he had picked it up the a century that it could go about unattended, that its only danger was "For throwing paper, five marks," from the overzeal of the people in said Miss Braithwaite, and put it showing their loyalty, not since the down in the book she carried in her death of Prince Hubert had this been pocket. It was rather an awful book, true in fact. No guards or soldiers On Saturdays the king looked it over, accompanied them, but the secret poand demanded explanations: "For lice were always near at hand. So untidy natis, five marks! A gentle Nikky looked, made sure that a man man never has untidy nails, Otto. For in civilian clothing was close at their objecting to winter flannels, two heels, and led the way across the

A small crowd lined up and watched he lack of attention during religious the passing of the little prince. As fruction, five marks. Ten off for he passed, men lifted their hats and

"I have a great many friends," he said with a sigh of content, as they

Then Ferdinand William Otto's "Look here," said Nikky, after a cyclid drooped. Nikky was pause, "Look here, highness, you anded. How was he to know the didn't treat your friends very well

"I know," said Prince Ferdinand ermoon? But, after a glance around William Otto megkly. But Prince 20. Nikky's cyclid drooped also Ferdinand William Otto had thought I'd the paper wad into his pocket, out a defense. "I got back all right has afraid his royal highness has didn't 17". He considered, "It was

your eye, M. Phanx," said Miss worth it. A policeman shook me!" "Which policeman?" demanded Nik-Not stall," said the unhappy young ky in a terrible tone, and in his fury

"I think I'll not tell you, if you don't

(To be continued)

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