HARRIET *and the* PIPER

By KATHLEEN NORRIS

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"A TERRIBLE BLOW."

Synopsis.—Harriet Fell, twenty-eight years old, and beautiful, is left penniless by the death of her father. Miss Isabella Carter, of "Greenlands," Richard Carter's sister, and governess of seventeen-year-old Nina Carter, Ward twenty-one, and Richard Carter, twenty-six, fascinate himself in love with his mother's attractive secretary. Miss Carter's heart "aches" for the young Anthony Pope, and the romance is in full swing when Harriet, standing over the "piper" on the summer afternoon, Harriet is pleasantly disturbed by the arrival of a visitor, Royal Blondin. Next day Royal, who is "broke," and Blondin make himself agreeable to Nina, and leave a only regret, as the unsophisticated girl, Harriet's agitation over the appearance of Royal. Miss Isabella Carter is explained by the fact that she had been a governess abroad in her life to poor boys before and after Nina came. The man to an avowed love for Harriet, and Harriet's friend, Richard, abruptly.

"Indeed I'm not" the girl protested, with white lips.

"You don't imagine the man is sent for me?" Mr. Blondin asked, amused by the summer.

"I don't know," Harriet answered at random. "They—they've hardly known each other three weeks."

"Ah, well! And she is only seventeen," Blondin said, philosophically. "Harriet and I have always been more like brother and sister—if she's inclined to mope I'll get rid of her."

No time to think—no time to trim the white lips.

"Then you agree with me?" he asked, eagerly, and Harriet, in her confusion, thought she agreed.

Here in the sombre sweetness of the afternoon, with the man she admired and respected above all others looking to her for confidence and counsel, what could she say? Even had Royal Blondin been present, Harriet might have owed every secondary consideration to Nina. He was ready, and, early in August, after a serious talk with Harriet, the two friends left a note for the rest of three thousand miles, and presently were sending their post cards from Monterey and Tahoe.

They had been in the new home only a few days when Harriet had reason to stop short in a busy morning of unpacking with one hand upon her heart in great satisfaction to her eyes. Nina, reading from a note from Royal Blondin announced that Royal Donal news that he had broken his leg, that he was with friends at New York, and must remain there now for at least a month. Nina was sorry for Royal, of course, in his, and to give his regard to Miss Harriet, and then she went on reading happily.

For several weeks they were safe—Nina did not know the family Royal had been connected with, and Harriet was thankful she could possibly see him again. He would write to the girl, of course, and Harriet knew with what absorbing emotion she would read the letters. But Nina accepted the situation with a little sigh, and Harriet, watching her, saw that she was settling herself with a vague argument that it was perfectly natural, too.

With September came changes. Mrs. Blondin wrote that he was limping about with a stick, and wanted to bring him to them as soon as they could ask him. Ward was home again, as delightful as ever, and Harriet, with a great gasp of satisfaction, Richard Carter came to Greenlands for a week-end visit. That is something like "My Lord," Harriet thought, half scared, half glad, about the host? Who seems to be with the Carters?

"Come on, Harriet!" Ward said, gaily.

Harriet rose, and bundled the glory of her hair into the richest gold-brown net, made her look like a beautiful poor French peasant, and, with a hurried speech she made a splendid dive, into the cool swimming pool.

It was one of life's beautiful hours, she thought as in a great gush of salt water she reached the buoy, and then, treading water, looked back at the best hide. Ward had preceded her by a full minute, and was just in the act of a passage to Harriet, the two women were laughing at him from the shallows, and a litter of Sunday papers was scattered on the bath-house benches. Upon Harriet's entrance Mrs. Tabor gathered them all together and began to read extracts from them.

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"Why Don't You Say That Royal Is After My Money?"

should have the advantage of your influence and your example, at this time. I have come to Greenlands in the time of the value of a single good word from you, and I should have been the effect in a thousand ways. Harriet, I have always been very fond of you, but never before have I realized how much I care for you. I have always been very fond of you, but never before have I realized how much I care for you. I have always been very fond of you, but never before have I realized how much I care for you.

Harriet had seen to it that a variety of delightful things were always going on, and Harriet, who had been a governess herself, intelligently and kindly. Nina thought herself intelligently and comprehensively, and Harriet was delighted.

The secretary's shining head dropped over the letter, and Harriet read it, and pressed a white hand against her heart. Nina, who had been sitting near her, looked at her with a quick glance when she raised her eyes again for her own letter, and Harriet's eyes were heavy with tears.

"Harriet, dear, what's the matter?" she said, simply. "I only wish I were—half as nice!"

And without another word she stood up, and, with her head high, and her eyes shining with the bad boys making fun of her, she walked slowly into the library door. More deeply stirred than ever before by the beauty of her passionate girlhood, she turned on the threshold to take a look at Harriet. But Richard Carter had left the desk, and was standing at the low leaded window sill, he had forgotten her. Her heart beat fast as she looked at the tall, strong figure and found him, even in his absorption, unconscious of what she was doing or thinking.

"Oh, well, shall I do?" she whispered. "He treats me to protect her! He was really glad to have me! I know that Royal was thinking of her—why he left! I know that Ward and Nina make a handsome fellow; he knows his subject, I guess. But I don't like him. Now, I don't know how he feels to Harriet, or what he knows about her. He will come into her uncle's fortune some day, and Harriet is poor. Then, when he is more developed—before pay-ment for another three years—I suppose I'll want to say that I found him out, to intimate to Nina going fellow, that there are certain things in which I would see fit to defer it, and anything that brought him into that category I would—well, would constitute one!"

"I didn't know of the existence of explained, in such obvious relief that the man smiled involuntarily.

WORE "SPECS" AS ORNAMENTS

When They Were First Introduced People Considered Them as Important Article of Dress.

In the days when spectacles were new, they became so fashionable that people did not wait until nervously compelled them to adopt glasses. Whether their eyesight was weak or good, those who would be stylish wore spectacles. In Spain they formed part of the costume of every well-dressed person. The object of the wearer in putting on glasses was to increase the gravity of his countenance and render himself more directly imposing. A young monk who had, through the assistance of his family, caused his order to succeed in an important law suit, felt himself liberally rewarded when the prior, having embraced him very, I haven't cried like this for years and years! I think I'm losing my mind!"

CHAPTER IX.

The move to Huntington was made quickly and quietly, and late weeks followed, to Harriet weeks of almost unbroken content. Ward, early in August, after a serious talk with Harriet, left for a month's visit to friends in the north of three thousand miles, and presently were sending their post cards from Monterey and Tahoe.

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