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WHOLESALE GROCERS.

AMERICAN INSURANCE COMPANIES.

SELECT STORY.

FOR PITTY SAKE.

CHAPTER I.

It was in the year 1870 that Russian society, from the Imperial Court to the lowliest peasant, was thrown into a state of alarm and horror at the outrages perpetrated by the nihilists.

Large blocks of ice were being removed from the Neva, as the cold season had begun to break.

A few minutes' drive and they arrived at their destination.

They were both English, and were stars in their profession.

Mlle. Olga Marchmont came tripping off the stage into the green room to look for her friend, and, as she entered, all eyes were turned toward her in admiration.

By her side was a grave but handsome young man, who had been a powerful and leading member of the government, and a great favorite of the Emperor.

A lovely blush suffused Evelyn's face, that made her for the moment even more beautiful than Olga Marchmont.

"I have not seen you for two days, mademoiselle," said the prince, "this trial of the nihilists is a weary one, and a sad one, too."

"Most likely," said she, "but I have been very busy. I have had to attend to the necessities of my household, and to the care of my patients."

she said with a hard laugh "I have more than I require already. Shall I buy you a suite of jewels, Evelyn?" she said, as she passed her arm round her friend's waist.

"No, dear Olga, I want nothing from you but your friendship, and that I prize beyond any gem," she said.

Olga leaned her head against the friend's innocent cheek, but did not answer except to say:

"Let's go up stairs, Eva, we will be each other's maids-to-night, for I hate Olga's prying eyes, and that I prize beyond any gem."

"Will you escort mademoiselle home, your highness?" said Olga. "She is not very well to-night; but I have to play in the afterpiece, so must remain."

"You are faint, my dear," she said, as she entered the cloak; "you must have some wine."

"No, thank you," she returned, "I prefer a cup of coffee; it will do me much good. Will you join me, or have some wine yourself?"

"Oh course, I declared in favor of coffee." The time was very sweet to him; Evelyn it was painful, for she was trying to find words in which she could best ask for Mervyn Montrose's life.

She leaned back on her couch, looking very pale in her soft colorless dress of delicate lace, with only a cluster of carnations fastened in her bosom.

"You are faint, my dear," she said, as she entered the cloak; "you must have some wine."

"No, thank you," she returned, "I prefer a cup of coffee; it will do me much good. Will you join me, or have some wine yourself?"

"Oh course, I declared in favor of coffee." The time was very sweet to him; Evelyn it was painful, for she was trying to find words in which she could best ask for Mervyn Montrose's life.

about to add 'lover,' you must obey the summons at once."

CHAPTER III.

A hurried explanation to Olga, a murmured prayer for her success with the Emperor, and hastily donning costly gables she entered the magnificently appointed carriage, with its six thoroughbred horses clamping their bits impatiently.

They were quickly driven to the Winter Palace at the Czar.

Her excitement was intense, and her eyes were lit up with unusual splendor.

But the next minute the traitorous thought was cast from his heart by the innocent look of hope and confidence that betrayed itself in every look and gesture of the beautiful girl who sat by his side.

A cold perspiration stood upon his brow, for he contemplated the great temptation that had assailed him when she put up her little hand in his, and looking up into his face, as an adoring worshipper might into that of a saint's, said:

"How can I ever thank or repay you for your unselfish, devoted kindness to me? How I wish that my poor words could convey to you, or that my heart could reveal to you my gratitude."

"Forbear, Evelyn; you know not how you torture me," he exclaimed vehemently.

Further conversation ceased, for the equipage had now entered one of the courtways of the palace.

Evelyn was conscious of being hurriedly led through gorgeous apartments, from ante-room to ante room, where she was requested by the prince to stay until he joined her.

A perfumed search permeated the atmosphere, and Evelyn was just in the act of dipping her handkerchief into the fountain to cool her fevered brow, when Prince Salkoff entered, accompanied by two pages of honor, and she was requested to attend the imperial presence.

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