ONG IVE THE KING By Mary Roberts Rinehart

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CHAPTER XVII-Continued. -16-

child's singleness of idea, he returned and carefully. Between each letter gazed at him.

he said at last. "If I were king I panic-stricken. She could not stay, ing there?" marry whoever I like."

inside the door that palace ceremonial must, she would not see it. demanded and inquired for the governess. Prince Ferdinand William Otto, who had risen at her entrance, offered you permit me to go?" to see if she still slept.

"I think you are a very good doctor," he said, smiling, and went out the "O" which he was shading. to Miss Braithwaite's sitting room. It was then that Olga Loschek



"I Have a Message for You," She Said. played the last card, and won. She moved-quickly to Nikky's side.

"I have a message for you," she A light leaped into Nikky's eyes

"For me?" "Do you know where my boudoir

"I-yes, countess." "If you will go there at once and

wait, some one will see you there as soon as possible." She put her hand on his arm. "Don't be foolish and proud," she said. "She is sorryabout last night, and she is very unhappy.

The light faded out of Nikky's eyes. She was unhappy and he could do nothing. They had a way, in the palace, of binding one's hands and leav. back. I hope to God he does not ing one helpless. He could not even come back," he added stonily. go to her.

"I cannot go, countess," he said. "She must understand. Today, of all

«days-" "You mean that you cannot leave the crown prince?" She shrugged her On the marble staircase, leading up, shoulders. "You, too! Never have I he met no one, nor on the upper floor. seen so many faint hearts, such roll- He was quite warm with running and ing eyes, such shaking knees! And he paused in his father's suite to mop for what? Because a few timid souls his face. Then he opened a window see a danger that does not exist." "I think it does exist," said Nikky

obstinately. "I am to take the word to her, then,

that you will not come?" "That I cannot."

the countess, watching him. "And up to a chimney. Below-it seemed since you are so fearful, I myself will a long way below-was the gutter. remain here. There are sentries at the There was a very considerable slant. doors, and a double guard everywhere. If one sat down, like Nikks, and slid, What, in the name of all that is ab- and did not slide over the edge, one surd, can possibly happen?"

That was when she won. For Nikky anything of a hero, and all of the ro- do a thing, better to do it and get over mantic and loving boy-Nikky wav- being afraid.

to support her shaking body.

It was done. The boy was in her driven between love and anxiety. hands. There was left only to deliver The crown prince, unaccustomed to him to those who, even now, were on tiles, turned over halfway down, and the way. Nikky was safe. He would rolled. He brought up with a jerk wait in her boudoir, and Hedwig in the gutter, quite safe, but extremely would not come. She had sent no frightened. He sat there for quite a message. She was, indeed, at that mo- few minutes. There was no ball in terrible thought came to him. Supcholy family groups which, the world from this point.

the coming of death. chatted. He got out the picture frame as a matter of fact. One of them wore "No." He hesitated. "But there are it's my birthday. I'm always allowed milk, egg, and zwieback! Bobby also for Hedwig, which was finished now, a blanket with a white "O" over a a good many soldiers here. I-I never a guest on birthdays." initials in the lower left hand corner. mask, and considerable kitchen cutiery "I should think not," boasted Bobby. went the two children, along the cob-

he burned a dot.

"I'm sure she doesn't care about it," | Suddenly, Olga Loschek became turn of the key, and the door to the "I am looking for a ball." At a quarter to four Olga Loschek passage beyond which Oskar waited

> "Highness," she said, "Lieutenant Larisch will be here in a moment. Will your voice." His voice trembled with nand William Otto was quick to hear

Otto was off his chair in an instant.

Old habit was strong in the countess. got a nerve, you have." sibly to be counted by hours, she you," he said. "Perhaps, now I'm turned at the doorway and swept him here, I'd better look for the ball." closed the door behind her.

neither one made a sign. They stared made you nervous?" ahead, and Olga Loschek went out between them.

he felt lonely. Left alone, he returned them. o his expectations for the day, and compared them with the facts. He remembered other carnivals, with his your aeroplane up here?" carriage moving through the streets, and people showering him with fresh flowers. He rather glowed at the memory. Then he recalled that the chancellor had said he needed fresh

Something occurred to him, something which combined fresh air with action, yet kept to the letter of his promise-or was there a promise?not to leave the paince.

The idea pleased him. It set him to smiling, and his bright hair to bloodshed. quivering with excitement. It was find the ball. And he would have to gravely at attention, "I think he behurry. Nikky would be sure to return longs to our crew. What say, old

He opened the door on to the great corridor, and stepped out, saluting the entries, as he always did.

"I'll be back in a moment," he informed them. He was always on terms of great friendliness with the guard, and he knew these men by sight. "Are you going to be stationed here now?"

ne inquired pleasantly. The two guards were at a loss. But and replied that he knew not.

"I hope you are," said Ferdinand William Otto, and went on.

"Let him go!" said the one who was a father.

The other one moved uneasily. "Our orders cover no such contingency," he muttered. "And, besides, he will come

Five minutes to four. The crown prince hurried. The corridors were almost empty. Here and there he met servants, who stood stiff against the wall until he had passed. and went out on the roof. From the balustrade, it looked extremely far to

the ground. Nevertheless, although his heart beat a trifle fast, he was still determined. A climb which Nikky with his long . "You are a very foolish boy," said legs had achieved in a leap, took him

should fetch up in the gutter. He felt a trifle dizzy. But Nikky's who has never been, in all his history, theory was, that if one is afraid to

So the crown prince sat down on the When Prince Ferdinand William sloping roof behind the chimney and Otto returned, it was with the word gathered his legs under him for a that Miss Braithwaite still slept, and slide. Well for him that the ancient that she looked very comfortable, builders of the palace had been reck-Nikky was gone, and the countess less with lend, that the gutter was both stood by a window, holding to the sill wide and deep. Well for Nikky, too, waiting in the boudoir below and hard

over, in palace or peasant's hut, await Being completely self-engrossed, he was! therefore, he did not see that the roof | "It looks like a big place. Is it a Prince Ferdinand William Otto had another visitor. Had two visitors, barracks?" with the exception of burning his white "X" on it, and the other wore a saw these steps before." After inquiring politely if the smell of fastened to his belt. They had come "I discovered them. I guess nobody ble-paved streets of the ancient town, first cravings appeared, they sat back workers needed to repair rat damage

"F," a weakkneed "W," and an irreg- over the parapet and admired the view, possession. They're mine." Some of it the boy grasped. A Lavy, ular "O" in the corner and proceeded They climbed on one of the garden ships, a railroad to the sea-those he to burn them in. He sat bent over the chairs and looked over the expanse of William Otto, quite delighted. He wormed their way between; and so, with a bottle wrapped in a newspaper, could understand. Treaties were be- desk, the very tip of his tongue pro- the roof, which was when they saw would never have thought of such a finally, to the door of a tall building and sat down again. youd his comprehension. And, with a truding, and worked conscientiously Prince Ferdinand William Otto, and thing.

through his mask. "What are you do- four of them-stood open. Here day-

"You're looking for a fall, I guess," was announced. She made the curtsy would be closed off. Let follow what observed the pirate. "You don't remember me, kid, do you?" "I can't see your face, but I know

> excitement. "Lemme give you a hand," said the "Certainly," he said, his mind still on pirate, whipping off his mask. "You ciothes," he protested. And to prove dren. The two youngsters laughed across the sea, and was trying to make

Although the boy's rank was numbered | The crown prince looked gratified. by moments, although his life was pos- "I don't need any assistance, thank

a curtsy. Then she went out, and "I wouldn't bother about the old ball," said the pirate, rather nervous-The two sentries stood outside, ly for an old sea-dog. "You better They were of the terrorists. She get back to a safe place. Say, what knew, and they knew she knew. But made you pretend that our railway

Prince Ferdinand William Otto climbed up the tiles, trying to look as The Crown Prince Ferdinand Wil- though tiles were his native habitat. liam Otto was only a small boy, for all The pirates both regarded him with his title and dignity. And suddenly admiration, as he dropped beside

> "How did you happen to come here?" asked the crown prince. "Did you lose

"We came on business," said the pirate importantly. "Two of the enemy entered our cave. We were guarding it from the underbrush, and saw them go in. We trailed them. They must die!"

"Really-die?" "Of course. Death to those who defy us.'

"Death to those who defy us!" rehimself hugely, and quite ready for

"Look here, Dick Deadeye," said the nothing less than to go on the roof and larger pirate to the smaller, who stood

Dick Deadeye wagged his tail. pirate oath of no quarter, except to doors. women and children, was on his way

to the pirate cave. not disobedient. He was breaking no every man." promises. Because, from the moment he saw the two confederates, and par- the crown prince, who had also studied one of them, who had a son of his own, ticularly from the moment he swore strategy and tactics, and felt that an and hated the whole business, saluted the delightful oath, his past was wiped unarmed man should be taken prisaway. There was, in his conscious- oner. ness, no palace, no grandfather, no Miss Braithwaite, even no Nikky, silly. Now. Get in step." The sentries regarded one another. There was only a boy and a dog, and a pirate den awaiting him.

"How'd you happen to be in that gutter?" Bobby demanded, as they started down the staircase in the wall. "Watch out, son, it's pretty steep."

"I was getting a ball." "Is this your house?" "Well, I live here," temporized

Prince Ferdinand William Otto,



Dick Deadeye Wagged His Tail.

kings and princes, should learn who willing?"

"Gee whiz!" said the larger pirate, the long flight of steps-there were stewing garlic. would not let her do it. And"-he and see this thing out. Let them fol- The crown prince started, and entirely ceased. And here Bobby, hav- which had, almost suddenly, succeeded comes a big one, we might drink a sat very erect and swung his short low her and punish her. She could stared. "I am sitting here," explained ing replaced his mask, placed an air the noise of the carnival. What few toast to it." legs-"when I grow up, I shall fight not! She had done her part. The the crown prince, trying to look as rifle over his shoulder, and lighted a passers-by they had seen had been for a navy, if I want one, and I shall governess lay in a drugged sleep. A though he usually sat in lead gutters, candle and held it out to the crown hurrying in the direction of the palace. mother, prince.

don't let it drip on you. You'll spoil and flashed a light on them. your clothes." There was a faintly

make me nervous, sitting there. You've it he deliberately tilted the candle and consumedly at the witticism. let a thin stream of paraffin run down his short jacket.

When they reached the old dungeon the candle was about done. There was governess was darning a hole in a only time to fashion another black small stocking. She looked at the mask out of a piece of cloth that bore | clock. a strange resemblance to a black waistcoat. The crown prince donned snapped, and bit the darning threadthis with a wildly beating heart. Never not with rage, but because she had in all his life had he been so excited. forgotten her scissors.

"We can get another candle, and come back and cook something," said the senior pirate, tying the mask on with pieces of brown string. "It gets a whit daunted, pretty smoky, but I can cook, you'd better believe."

her first real glimpse of Ferdinand So this wonderful boy could cook, also! The crown prince had never William Otto, and she staggered met any one with so many varied at- back. tainments. He gazed through the eyeholes, which were rather too far apart, white. Then she stared at the boy,

in rapt admiration. "As you haven't got a belt," Bobby ment," she muttered "-but no. He said generously, "I'll give you the rifle. Ever hold a gun?"

"Oh, yes," said the crown prince. peated the crown prince, enjoying He did not explain that he had been taught to shoot on the rifle range of measured to the top of a crown. very perfect guns.

the children prepared to depart. The so that the cake really read: "Boby senior pirate had already forgotten the Some two minutes later, the crown two men he had trailed through the

"Ready!" he said. "Now, remember, He was not running away. He was except to women and children. Shoot the doll was a joke of Pepy's, Bobby

"Even if he is unarmed?" inquired

"Sure. We don't really shoot them,

Then began, for the crown prince, such a day of joy as he had never on the ground and ate sausages and not at the kiss, but at the grace with little cakes. Here and there, where which the tribute was rendered. a party had moved on, they salvaged a bit of food-the heel of a loaf, one stored her composure to find that Ferof the court physicians, under whose eyes toward the cake. He was, after fed a carefully balanced ration!

When they were weary, they kissed him gravely on the forehead. stretched out on the ground, and the crown prince, whose bed was nightly William Otto. His warm little heart dried with a warming pan for fear of leaped and pounded. At that moment, dampness, wallowed blissfully on he would have died for her! earth still soft with the melting frosts

ually dispersed, some to supper, but Then he drew his wife aside. some to gather in the place and in the

not down. a large nickel watch.

"Gee! it's almost supper time," he Prince Ferdinand William Otto con-

communion." "Why can't you come home to sup-'Would your folks kick up a row?" "I beg your pardon?"

"Would your family object?" "There is only one person who would nind," reflected the crown prince, aloud, "and she will be angry, anyhow.

"Willing? Sure she will! My governess-but I'll fix her. She's a German, and they're always cranky. Anyhow,

So home together, gayly chatting, guished, burning would among her, the crown out of a small door in the turret and else in the world knows about them. past old characters that had been sacked in their chairs while Pepy cleared the number 30,000.

A door of iron bars at the foot of side the entrance, came a reek of real occasion, not exactly Robert's

light, which had been growing fainter, the unwonted silence of the streets, he ceases to be a small boy and be-Twice they had passed soldiers, with "You can carry it," he said. "Only lanterns, and once one had stopped begged. "It changes it from a mere

"Well, old sport!" said Bobby in scornful note in his voice, and Ferdi- English, "anything you can do for the children's glasses, and filled them

"I don't care at all about my ing at the insolence of American chil- man, who had brought his loved ones

admitted them, and went back to her smelled of garlic. "You're a pretty good sport," Bobby Interrupted cooking. The children hurobserved. And from that time on he ried up the winding stone staircase, addressed his royal highness as "old with its fron rail and its gas lantern, to the second floor.

In the sitting room, the sour-faced

"You are fifteen minutes late," she

"I'm sorry, but you see-"Whom have you there?" "A friend of mine," said Bobby, not

The governess put down the stocking and rose. In so doing, she caught

"Holy Saints!" she said, and went and her color came back. "For a mo-

is not so tall, nor has he the manner. Yes, he is much smaller!" Which proves that, whether it wears it or not, royalty is always

his own regiment, and had won quite In the next room Bobby's mother a number of medals. He possessed, was arranging candles on a birthday indeed, quite a number of small but cake in the center of the table. Pepy had iced the cake herself, and had With the last gasp of the candle, forgotten one of the "b's" in "Bobby"

-XIL' However, it looked delicious, and prince of Livonia, having sworn the passage, and was eager to get out- inside had been baked a tiny black china doll and a new American penny, with Abraham Lincoln's head on it. old sport, we are pirates. No quarter, The penny was for good fortune, but

being aggressively masculine. Bobby, having passed the eutpost, carried the rest of the situation by assault. Mrs. Thorpe saw Ferdinand William Otto, and went over, somewhat puzzled, with her hand out. "I am very glad Bobby brought you," she

said. "He has so few little friends-" Then she stopped, for the prince had brought his heels together sharply, and known before. Even the Land of De- bending over her hand, had kissed it, light faded before this new bliss of exactly as he kissed his Aunt Annuntalking from tree to tree, of killing clata's when he went to have tea with unsuspecting citizens who sat on rugs her. Mrs. Thorpe was fairly startled,

Then she looked down, and it reof the small country apples. Shades dinand William Otto, too, had turned direction the crown prince was dafly all, only a hungry small boy. With quick tenderness she stooped and Caresses were strange to Ferdinand

Mr. Thorpe came home a little late. of the winter. He grew muddy and He kissed Bobby twelve times, and one dirty. He had had no hat, of course, to grow on. He shook hands absently and his bright hair hung over his fore- with the visitor, and gave the Frauhead in moist strands. Now and then lein the evening paper-an extrahe drew a long breath of sheer happi- vagance on which he insisted, although one could read the news for nothing As dusk descended, the crowd grad- by going to the cafe on the corner.

"Look here!" he said. "Don't tell streets around the palace. For the Bobby-no use exciting him, and of rumor that the king was dying would course it's not our funeral, anyhowbut there's a report that the crown At last the senior pirate consulted prince has been kidnaped. And that's his young daughter's new English govnot all. The old king is dying!"

"How terrible!" sulted his own watch, the one with almost any sort of trouble! I've tainly do," replied Turgenev; "it makes the inscription: "To Ferdinand Wil- closed up at the park for the night." the charity workers realize everyday liam Otto, from his grandfather, on His arm around his wife, he looked needs." "And I think that a wellthe occasion of his taking his first through the doorway to where Bobby dressed girl with filthy, malodorous per with me?" asked the senior pirate. hard," he said. "Bobby mustn't go you not to say that," exclaimed Turcould go, think how easy-"

His arm tightened around his wife, ment a part of one of those melan- sight, and the roof looked even steeper pose this American boy, who detested I-do you think your mother will be day feast. Ferdinand William Otto ward these famous men became recfruit compote, potato salad-again wrote an affecting note to Tolstoy, adfed him at night a balanced ration of our Russian land."-Outlook,

prince drew a rather broken backed were very much at ease. They leaned I put up a flag at the bottom and took and pillaged by the very ancestors of table and brought in a knife to cut the one of them, taking short cuts through cake. Mr. Thorpe had excused him-"Really!" said Prince Ferdinand narrow passages that twisted and self for a moment. Now he came back,

> where, from the conclerge's room be- "I thought," he said, "as this is a coming of age, but marking his arrival Neither of the children had noticed at years of discretion, the period when

> > "Robert!" objected the big boy's

"A teaspoonful each, honey," he

supper to a festivity." He poured a few drops of wine into up with water. Then he filled the The soldier had passed on, mutter- others, and sat smiling, this big young them happy up a flight of stone stairs, The concierge was out. His niece above a concierge's bureau that

"First," he said, "I believe it is customary to toast the king. Friends, I



"No Quarter, Except to Women and

Children." give you the good king and brave soldier. Ferdinand of Livonia.'

They stood up to drink it, and even Pepy had a glass. Ferdinand William Otto was on his feet first. He held his glass up in his right hand, and his eyes shone. He knew what to do. He had seen the king's health drunk any number off

"To his majesty, Ferdinand of Livonia," he said solemnly. "God keep

the king!" Over their glasses Mrs. Thorpe's eyes met her husband's. How they trained their children here!

But Ferdinand William Otto had not finished. "I give you," he said, ip his clear young treble, holding his glass, "the president of the United Statesthe president!" "The president!" said Mr. Thorpe. They drank again, except the Frau-

(TO BE CONTINUED.) GREAT WRITERS NEAR DUEL

to sip her wine.

lein, who disapproved of children be-

ing made much of, and only pretended

Tolstoy and Turgenev in Fierce Dispute That Might Have Led to

Deadly Encounter. Tolstoy and Turgenev, famous Russian novelists, were contemporaries and friends, but on one occasion they had a serious falling out. As gathered from a recent biography, this is the story of their quarrel: The two famouse novelists met at a friend's house. Turgenev spoke enthusiastically of erness, mentioning that she required the child to mend old, ragged clothes "Worse than that. The old king gone to give to the poor. "Do you consider and no crown prince! It may mean that good?" demanded Tolstoy, "I cerand Ferdinand were counting the rags in her hands is acting an insincere candles. "It's made me think pretty farce," commented Tolstoy. "I ask around alone the way he's been doing. genev, hotly. "Why should I not say All Americans here are considered what I am convinced is true?" retorted millionaires. If the crown prince Tolstoy. "If you say that again I will box your ears!" Turgenev cried, white with rage, and rushed from the room. and together they went into the birth- A duel was narrowly averted. Afterwas hungry. He ats eagerly-chicken, onciled, and on his deathbed Turgenev shades of the court physicians, who dressing him as "the great writer of

The rats keep 150,000 farmers oc-Then the moment came when, the cupled feeding them, and the other