

meaning tone: "Remember, we are receiving with her a hundred and twenty-five francs a week. If she is not satisfied with us, she will go. Also, as the Count said only the other day, she may be useful to us in other ways."

Dinner time that evening, however, revealed another state of affairs. The table was set with exquisite old cut glass, a table cloth and d'oyleys, and in the middle of the table was a gold vase containing a bunch of brilliant coloured blossoms. They made a charming note of colour in the large room, and gave an air of festivity to the well-arranged dining table.

Lily was rather surprised to see that there were no fewer than six cut-glass and coloured decanters filled with various wines and liqueurs standing in a row behind the fruit plates.

That night the expected dinner visitor arrived—a big loose-limbed man, and over his dress clothes he wore a big sporting looking coat. He did all the talking at dinner, and ate but little; and Lily, who had taken a liking to the big, simple hearted man, noticed uncomfortably that the visitor was drinking very freely the three kinds of wine.

Count Polda did not take any wine himself, but he often got up and helped his guest generously.

That night Lily was wakened by mysterious sounds in the house, and a week later she came upon the dead body of their late guest in a lonely, neglected grove of orange trees. How the body came there remained a mystery, but suicides in the vicinity of Monte Carlo are all too common.

The next disturbing element was the advent of Beppo, the only son of the Count and Countess, who was both handsome and fascinating. His close association with Lily was, of course, very disturbing to Angus Stuart who, with Papa Popeau, was staying in Monte Carlo and, therefore, only caught an occasional glimpse of his beloved. The imminent arrival of Beppo was the occasion of the Countess renewing Lily's wardrobe in a way that if lavish was, even in print, exceedingly attractive.

Evidently the Countess was a woman of taste. Lily was also possessed of considerable wealth, and Beppo was fastidious. *Voilà!*

Count Beppo had all his mother's good points; her tall, upright figure, and her clear cut features, and her one time thick curling hair.

From his plain, short father, he inherited that indefinable look of race. Beppo is a remarkably well drawn character. A spoilt, careless young man of the world, he had still some quite good points, and considering his unscrupulous father and mother, he might have been a great deal worse.

He arrived suddenly upon the scene while Aunt Cosy had gone to meet her adored son by the train arriving at Monte Carlo. Lily felt a little thrilled. She had never met anyone in the least like the young man before. But how about Count Beppo's luggage? He had nothing in his hand but a malacca cane set with one large pale

green turquoise. Held by a young Englishman the cane would have looked foppish and a trifle absurd; but somehow it seemed in perfect harmony with the rest of Count Beppo's smart rather dandified appearance.

His announcement that he must go and greet his papa and mamma surprised Lily, who exclaimed:

"Didn't they meet you? They were expecting you by the two o'clock train."

Her companion laughed. "I gave them what you call in England 'the slip.' I arrived at Monte yesterday. La Solitude is a delightful place, but the last time I stayed here, I said to myself 'never again!' You know what mamma is like," he went on confidentially. "If I had told her I was going to an hotel, there would have been endless discussions and long letters for my dear mamma is a great letter writer."

Lily felt suddenly revolted by Beppo's callous indifference to the disappointment he had inflicted on his devoted father and mother.

The next moment his arms were round the old waiting woman Cristina, and he was kissing her affectionately. He was full of contradictions was this Beppo, and in our opinion if Lily had married him she would have had a more interesting if less secure life than with the rather dull young Scotchman, on whom her choice rested.

The story is engrossing from many points of view. The vivid descriptions of life and scenery in the Riviera, the character drawing which renders everyone real and convincing, and the mystery and tragedy which runs an undercurrent throughout the book.

The disappearance of the disgusting and wealthy old Dutchman brings matters to a climax at La Solitude, and the Count and Countess are denounced as swindlers and murderers. The tragedies in the concluding chapter are perhaps rather too thickly spread, and it was surely unnecessary that gay young Count Beppo should die by a shooting accident. Certainly he had received large sums of money from his "mamma" which could not have been satisfactorily accounted for, but he had no idea of the terrible lengths she went to obtain it for him.

But since there is generally an extenuating circumstance, wicked old "Aunt Cosy" did her crimes for her son.

"Cosy," by the way is a delightful name; perhaps it is enhanced in this case by being so singularly inappropriate.

This is a novel to be read.

H. H.

OUTSIDE THE GATES.

The death of Margaret the young Crown Princess of Sweden is a great grief to the Royal Families of England and Sweden. She was a very simple and generous great lady in its truest sense.

Evidence of the appreciation of her life and character is forthcoming in the following tele-

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