

The VALIANTS & VIRGINIA

OF HALLIE ERMINIE RIVES ILLUSTRATIONS OF LAUREN STOUT





SYNOPSIS.

John Vallant, a rich society favorite, suddenly discovers that the Vallant cor-poration, which his father founded and John Vallant, a rich society favorite, middenly discovers that the Vallant corporation, which his father founded and which was the principal source of his wealth, has failed. He voluntarily turns over his private fortune to the receiver for the corporation. His entire remaining possessions consist of an old motor car, a white buil dog and Damory court, a neglected estate in Virginia. On the way to Damory court he meets Shirley Dandridge, an auburn-haired beauty, and decides that he is going to like Virginia immensely. Shirley's mether, Mrs. Dandridge, and Major Eristow exchange reminiscences during which it is revealed that the najor, Valiant's father, and a man named Sassoon were rivals for the hand of Mrs. Dandridge in her youth. Sassoon and Vallant fought a duel on her account in which the former was killed. Vallant finds Damory court overgrown with weeds and creepers and decides to rehabilitate the place. Vallant saves Shirley from the bite of a snake, which bites him. Knowing the deadliness of the bite, Shirley sucks the poison from the wound and saves his life. Vallant learns for the first time that his father left Virginia on account of a duel in which Doctor Southall and Major Bristow acted as his father's seconds. Vallant and Shirley become good friends. Mrs. Dandridge faints when she meets Vallant for the first time. Vahant discovers that he has a fortune in old wainut trees. The yearly tournament, a survival of the jousting of feudal times, is held at Damory court. At the last mpment Vallant takes the place of one of the knights, who is sick, and enters the lists. He wins and chooses Shirley Dandrige as queen of beauty to the dismay of Katherine Fargo, a former sweetheart, who is visiting in Virginia. The tournament ball at Damory court draws the elite of the countryside.

CHAPTER XXIV .- Continued.

To the twanging of the deft black fingers, they passed in gorgeous array between files of low-cut gowns and flower-like faces and masculine swallow-tails, to the yellow parlor. Once there the music ceased with a splendid crash, the eleven knights each dropped upon one knee, the eleven ladies-inwaiting curtsied low, and Shirley, seated upon the dais, leaned her burnished head to receive the crown. What though the bauble was but bristolboard, its jeweled chasing but tinsel and paste? On her head it glowed and presence was singing a swift melody in his blood.

from the major's soul. He had chosen effect almost of a blow. a single paragraph he had lighted on in an old book in the library-a history-of the last Crusade in French black-letter. He had translated and memorized the archaic phrasing, keeping the quaint feeling of the original:

"These noble knights bow in your presence, fair lady, as their leige, whom they know as even in judgment, as dainty in fulfilling these our acts out, to be succeeded by a duex-temps, of arms, and do recommend their all and presently the host, in his crimson unto your Good Grace in as lowly wise cloak, was doffing his plumed hat beas they can. O queen, in whom the fore her. Circling the polished floor of the nefarious design of robbing the like deep sea-waves. whole story of virtue is written with in the maze, there was something the language of beauty, your eyes, gratefully like former days in the aswhich have been only wont to discern sured touch, the true and ready guidthe bowed knees of kneeling hearts ance. The intrusive question faded. and, inwardly turned, found always He was the John Valiant she had althe heavenly solace of a sweet mind. see them, ready in heart and able with hands not only to assailing but to pre- of dignity, too-as befitted the lord

loud: the merest whisper of silken took his arm and allowed her perfect feet and feathered fans tapped softlytestified to a widespread approbation It was the first sight many there had had of John Valiant and in both looks and manner he fitted their best ideals.

The queen's curtsey was the signal for the music, which throbbed suddenly into a march, and she stopped down beside him. Couple after couple, knights and ladles, ranged behind them, till the twenty-four stood ready for the royal quadrille. It was the oldfashioned lancers, but the deliberate strain lent the familiar measures some thing of the stately effect of the minuet.

Quadrilles were not invented as aids to conversation, and John Valiant's and Shirley's was necessarily limited. "The decorations are simply deliclous!" she said as they faced each other briefly. "How did you manage

"Home talent with a vengeance. Uncle Jefferson and I did it with our lit-

tle hatchets. But the roses-" They were swooped apart and Shirley found herself curtsying to Chilly Lusk. "More than queen!" he said under his breath. "I had my heart set on naming you today. I reckon I've lost my rabbit-foot!"

Opposite, in turn, Betty Page had slipped her dainty hand in John Valiant's "Ah haven't seen such a lovely dance for yeahs!" she sighed. Isn't Shirley too sweet? If Ah had hair like hers, Ah wouldn't speak to a soul on earth!"

The exigencies of the figure gave no space for answer, and presently, after supervened and in the yellow parlor certain labyrinthine evolutions, Shirley's eyes were gazing into his again. "How adorable you look!" he whispered, as he bowed over her hand. "How does it feel to be a queen?"

"This little head was never made to wear a crown," she laughed. "Queens he said, "shan't we sit it out?" should be regal. Miss Fargo would

The music swept the rest away, but uous day, hasn't it!" not the look of blinding reproach he gave her that made her heart throb branches of rhododendron screened an court." He was silent a moment, trac- the party, but I am going right along. wildly as she glided on.

The last note of the quadrille slip- to rout. There was no drooping of ped into a waltz dreamily slow, and fringed lids, no disconcerting si- years old, I think-my father and I out here all alone." Valiant put his arm about Shirley and lences; she chattered with ease and had a play, in which we lived in a "Why, Sam, you're welcome," said they floated away. Once before, in the piquancy

moonlighted garden at Rosewood, she motion, she was another creature. Un- bigger plans, too." der the drooping tawny hair her face was almost as pale as the white satin

CHAPTER XXV.

By the Sun-Dial.

Eyes arched with fan-shielded whis-Fargo watched them with a smile that there. And then-" cloaked an increasing and unwelcome question.

Katharine had never looked more Greek patterns. From her neck, in a cidity. single splendid loop of iridescence fabulous pearls-"the kind you simply can't believe," as Betty Page conpaper reproduction (actual diameter) in their milky circlet, on her rounded municable, passed over her. breast, trembled three pale gold-veined orchids.

Watching that quadrille through her drooping emerald-tinted eyes, she had York will miss you, John." received a sudden callghtening impression of Shirley's flawless beauty. At the tournament her fleeting glimpse trembled, a true diadem. As Valiant had adjudged the other merely sweetly set the glittering thing on those rich pretty. The Chalmers' surrey had cushion, turned toward him, the pale and wonderful coils, the music of her stopped en route for Shirley, but in orchids trembling on her bosom-she her wraps and veil she had then been all but invisible. This had been Kath-His coronation address held no such arine's first adequate view, and the flowery periods as would have rolled sight of her radiant charm had the ures.

> For Katharine, be it said, had wholly traction that had swept her on the going has left-a void?" tourney field. And what had lain aladmitted purpose during the motor appeared, looking about him. ride.

In another moment the waltz fainted ways known, of flashing repartee and graceful compliment, yet with a touch of a manor-which sat well upon him. A hushed rustle of applause-not After a decorous dozen of rounds, she



Katharine Had Never Looked Handsome.

various rooms of the ground floor, muslined porch shimmered goldenly, chatting in quite the old-time way, till and beside it under the lanterns dala new gallant claimed her.

The mellow strings made on their merry tune, and at length the Washington Post marched all in flushed unity of purpose to the great muslinwalled porch with its array of tables greaning under viands concocted by Aunt Daphne for the delectation of

the palate-weary. And then once more the waltz-strain joy was again unconfined.

Again Valiant claimed Katharine and they glided off on "The Beautiful Danube." Her paleness now had a tinge of color, but nevertheless he like dawning passion. thought she drooped. "You are tired,"

"Oh. do you mind?" she responded gratefully. "It has been a fairly stren-

He guided her to a corridor, where alcove of settees and seductive cush-* long. Here, her weariness seemed put dizl's rim. "When I was very little," ginger ale, or any non-alcoholic thing

"I have been listening to paeans all | Wishing House, and it was in the mid- her spirit. She had been so certain had lain in his arm for one brief in- the evening," she said. "And you de- die of the Never-Never Land-a sort of what would happen that evening stant then she had seemed like some serve them. It's a fine big thing you of beautiful fairy country in which that when her father (between cigars trapped wood-thing resisting. Now, are attempting-the restoring of this everything happened right. I know on the porch with Judge Chalmers her slender body swaying to his every old estate. And I know you have even now that the Never-Never Land was and Doctor Southall) had searched her

of her gown; her lips were parted, and do. It's not only the house and ed back to it always! I've wanted to number followed number, and the as they moved, he could feel her heart grounds. There are . . . other make it as it was when he lived here. knight in purple and gold had not rise and fall to her languorous breath. things. For instance, back on the And I want the old dial to count happy paused again before her. Now the mountain-on my own land-is a set | hours for me. tlement they call Hell's-Half-Acre. Probably it has well earned the that struck her with a strange sweet satin gown and sparkling coronal had name. It's a wretened collection of terror and tumult of mind. The hand disappeared. The end of the next hovels and surly men and drabs of that clutched her skirts about her "round-dance" found her subsiding pers, and fair faces, foreshortened as women and unkempt children, the knees had begun to tremble and she into the flower-banked alcove suddenthey turned back over powder-white poorest of poor-whites. Not one of caught the other hand to her cheek ly distrait amid her escort's sallies. It shoulders, followed their swallow-like them can read or write, and they live in a vague hesitant gesture. The moon- was at this moment that she saw, enmovement. From an ever-widening like animals. If I'm ever able, I mean flowers seemed to be great round eyes circle of masculine devotees Katharine to put a manual-training school up staring up at her.

He ended with a half laugh, suddenly conscious that he was talking in a you make my happiness for me?" language she would scarcely underhandsome; a critical survey of her stand-in fact, in a tongue new to him- against the sun dial, both hands, laced there was in both facir faces a somemirror at Gladden Hall had assured self. But there was no smile on her together, against her breast, her eyes thing that resurgent conventionality her of that. Never had her poise been lips and her extraordinary eyes-cool more superb, her toilet more enraptur- gray, shot through with emerald- Over the hush of the garden now, like bling reflection of that "light that ing. She was exquisitely gowned in were looking into his with a frankness rose-colored mousseline-de-sole, em- and sympathy he would not have throbbed the baunting barcarole of like a death-stab to what lay far deepbroidered in tiny brilliants laid on in guessed lay beneath her glacial pla-

To Katharine, indeed, it made little against the rosy mist, depended those difference what philanthropic fads the man she had chosen might affect as regarded his tenantry. Ambitions like ed like one in sudden terror seeking fided to her partner-on whose news- these had a manorial flavor that did not displease her. And the Fargo milmetropolitan shop-girls had been wont lions would bear much harmless hamto gaze with glistening eyes; and with- mering. A change, subtle and incom-

"I shall think of you," she sighed, as working on in this splendid program. For it is splendid. But New

"Ah, no. I've no delusions on that score. I dare say I'm almost forgotten there already. Here I have a place." Her head, leaned back against the was so near that he could feel her had begun to sigh its languorous meas. since the foundation of the world. It

"Place?" she gueried. "Do you think you had no place there? Is it possible surrendered to the old, yet new, at- that you do not understand that your

He looked at her suddenly, and her ways in the back of her mind as a half- eyes fell. Before he answered, howformed intention, had become a self- ever, the big form of Major Bristow

"It has - left a void," she said eyes still downcast, her voice just low enough, "-for me."

tremulous. It had been her best avail-

able moment, and she had used it. As she moved away, her faint color slightly heightened, she was glad of the interruption. It was better as it was. When John Valiant came to her

But to him, as he stood watching her move lightly from him, there was in India. I've heard your voice calling the old days were no mask for fires always! Ah, Shirley, Shirley, Shirwithin. The exquisite husk was the ley!" real Katharine. Hers was the loveliness of some tall white lily cut in marble, splendid but chill. And with the thought, between him and her there swept through the shimmering fragrance like an impalpable cloud, and set in the midst of it a misty starfixed on his.

The music of a two-step was languishing when, a little later, Valiant and Shirley strolled down between the garden box-hedges, cypress-shaped and lifting spire-like toward a sky which bent, a silent canopy of mauve and purplish blue. Behind them Damory court lay a nest of woven figure to be conducted through the music and laughter. The long whitelied a flirtatious couple or two, ghost- Sam Blythe, on the Water Wagon, like in the shadows.

"Come," he said. "Let me take you

to see the sun-dial now." The tangle had been cut away and

You said that when you brought me bar. here-the day we planted the ramblers: Do you remember what I said. great massion like this. It was called the boud slaves, leably.

He nodded, suddenly serious and Damory court. No wonder my father him to the right-about, laughingly dethoughtful. "There's a lot I'd like to loved it! No wonder his memory turn- clining to depart before royalty. But

"Shirley-" he said, and now his voice was shaken with longing-"will ley's cheek-that was not deep-nor

She was standing perfectly still the very soul of the passionate night, "Tales of Hoffmann:

"Night of stars and night of love-" an inarticulate echo of his longing. He took a step toward her, and she turna way of escape. But he caught her

close in his arms. "I love you!" he said. "Hear it now for you! I love you, I love you!"

For one instant she struggled. Then, sweet lips trembling, and something dawning deep in the dewy blue that turned all his leaping blood to quicksilver. "My darling!" he breathed, and their lips met.

In that delirious moment both had the sense of divine completion that comes only with love returned. For blaze, ran the legend of the calendar: "Every man carries his fate upon a not known as many months! riband about his neck." For her, some-

hand in her cavalier's arm, her eyes on it was lit from the whitest altar- away. were dewy under their long shading fires of southern girlhood. "Six weeks lashes and her fine lips ever so little ago," she whispered, "you had never seen me!"

He held her crushed to him. She could feel his heart thudding madly. "I've always known you," he said. "I've seen you a thousand times. I saw you coming to meet me down a cherryblossomed lane in Kyoto. I've seen your eyes peering from behind a veil vouchsafed illumination. It came to to me, through the padding camel's him suddenly that that placidity and feet, from the desert mirages. You

CHAPTER XXVI.

The Doctor Speaks.

candle-lighted air a breath of wet rose- and sang through the roses, and the couples drifted on tireless and content, or blissfully "sat out" dances on and vivid, her deep shadow-blue eyes stealthy doubt that was creeping over start work with a will.

scarlet cloak no longer flaunted Something had crept into his tone among the dancers, and the white fering the corridor from the garden,

the missing couple. It was not the faint flush on Shirwas it his nearness to her, though they stood closely, as lovers might. But on his with a strange startled look. had not had time to cover- a tremnever was, on sea or land"-which was er than Katharine's heart, her pride. She drew swiftly back, dismayed at the sudden verification, and for an instant her whole body chilled.

A craving for a glass of water has served its purpose a thousand times; as her cavalier solicitously departed to fetch the cooling draught, she rose, and carelessly humming the refrain in my bride's garden that I've made the music had just left off, sauntered lightly out by another door to the open air. A swift glance about her showed slowly, her eyes turned to his, the her she was unobserved and she stepped down to the grass and along the winding path to a bench at some distance in the shrubbery. Hare the smiling mask slipped from her face and with a shiver she dropped her hot face in her hands.

There were no tears. The wave that was welling over her was one of him there was but the woman in his bitter humiliation. She had shot her breath on his cheek. A new waltz arms, the one woman created for him bolt and missed-slie, Katharine Fargo! For three years she had held was Kismet. For this he had come to John Valiant, romai tically speaking in Virginia. For this fate had turned the hollow of her shapely hand. Now and twisted a thousand ways. Through she had all but thrown herself at his the riot of his senses, like a silver feet-and he had turned away to this flame-haired, vivid girl whom he had

Heavy footfalls all at once aproachthing seemed to pass from her soul ed her-two men were coming from with that kiss, some deep irrevocable the house. There was the spitting thing, shy but flercely strong, that had crackle of a match, and as she peersprung to him at that lip-contact as out, its red flare lighted the massive steel to magnet. The foliage about face and floating hair of Major Bris-The major pounced upon them at them flared up in green light and the tow. His companion's face was in the this juncture, feelingly accusing John ground under her feet rose and fell shadow. She waited, thinking they would pass; but to her annoyance, She lifted her face to him. It was when she looked again, they had seatular star. When Katharine put her deathly pale, but the light that burned ed themselves on a bench a few paces

> To be found mooning in the shrubbery like a schoolgirl did not please her, but it seemed there was no racourse, and she had half arisen, when the major's gruff-voiced companion spoke a name that caused her to sit down abruptly.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

Sometimes Thus.

That cry in a London paper of a journalist who "finds it impossible to few shillings thus acquired on meat to



MADE HIM FEEL LONESOME

Found That He Had No One to Play With,

Two years ago Sam Blythe, the a narrow gravel-path led through the writer, elected to mount the water pruned creepers. She made an excla- cart. He became boastfully, painfully, mation of delight. The onyx-pillar selfishly arid. For a time false friends stood in an easis of white-moonflow- tried to lure him back into the shackclasus; bars of late lilies-of-the-val- June 23, 1912, he received 418 bottles ley beyond these, bordered with Arum- of whisky from 312 persons-but they lilies, white clematis, iris and bridal- finally gave it up as a bad job. The hues that ringed the spotless purity serfs of the demon at the Waldorf. By and by their mania came upon

"Well, Sam, see you later," they

said? That some day, perhaps, I should "No," said Blythe, "Dunno, You love this spot the best of all at Damory may not care to have me in your liting with his finger the motto on the I will drink water, or buttermilk, or he went on-"hardly more than three you say, but I am not going to stay

"No. I am not," said Blythe. "I can tell by the tone of your voices. spent the best 20 years of my life making a collection of drinking friends, and now I have no one to play with."-Cincinnati Times-Star.

Concave Cinema Screen. . Eliminating false prespective and making every portion of the picture equally distant from the projecting ers, white dahlias, mignonette and nar- les-between September 15, 1911, and light, a Chicago inventor has patent ed and placed on the market a concave screen for which much is claim ed. The screen is a segment of & wreath, shading out into tender paler other day Blythe was talking with two sphere, the lens of the projecting ap paratus being at the focal point of the screen, and as a result all the "White for happiness," he quoted them. They began to edge toward the rays of light strike the surface at the same angle, and are reflected to the visitors without distortion. An other virture claimed for the concave screen, says Popular Mechanics is that it improves the scoustic proper ties of the hall, or theater, he which it is used. As sound waves are projected and reflected in the same marner, the concave screen reflects' the music of the orchestra and songs to all parts of the theater, avaiding s very common fault.

LESSON FOR JULY 26

THE POUNDS AND THE TALENTS. LESSON TEXT-Luke 19:11-27, cf. Matt.

GOLDEN TEXT—"Well done, good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will set thee over many things; enter into the joy of thy lord." Matt. 25:21 R. V.

We are told plainly why Jesus spoke the first parable (v. 11). We must beware of confusing these two parables. though they are one in their essential teachings.

The parable of the pounds was uttered before the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem while that of the talents was spoken subsequently. This association does not mean identity for each has a separate lesson. Both have to do with an absent lord whose return was imminent. The Jews looked for a temporal visible Kingdom and many were associating the earthly life of our Lord with that expected manifestation. Hence this

parable as recorded by Luke. Issue Is Fidelity.

1. "Occupy Till I Come," vv. 11-14. Both of these parables have to do with the return of an absent lord who will then establish his kingdom. In view of this return and consummation, his servants are to give their undivided attention to their immediate responsibilities. They are to trade, to do business with that that has been intrusted to them They are to actively discharge their duty. Ere the visible kingdom is established, Jesus told these Jews, there must be a period of preparation. Jesus, himself, is the "nobleman" whose ascension into heaven where he is to receive a kingdom fulfils the "departure into a far country." He will return to set up that kingdom, Acts 1:9-11, with "all authority," Matt. 28:18 R. V., Eph. 1: 18-23; I Pet. 3:22. He may return at any time. In neither parable is therea full description of the kingdom as it is to be established, for both have to do with the servants. The issue is

that of adelity in each case. The "citizens" (v. 14) include his proper subjects the Jews, John 1:11; Acts 4:27-28, and in this connection we recall their cry, "Away with him, crucify," Luke 23:8; John 19:15. These "citizens," also include all of his professed followers but not necessarily regenerated men, Matt. 7:22-33. The king gives to each servant (v. 13) a pound (about \$18.00). His deposit is equal in each case. In the parable of he talents there is a difference in the amounts bestowed. This last emphasizes the fact that each is to be held responsible according to the measure of his own personal ability. Putting these two together we see that all the servants of the king are responsible for the one pound which is a symbol of the common fact of the kingdom power. At the same time the servant is also responsible for that common power according to the measure in which it is entrusted to him, in which he is able to deal with it. The small amount of one pound indicates our responsibility for the smallest gifts.

Parable of Pounds. 11. "When He Was Returned." vv-15-30. The parable of the pounds was spoken to those who thought he must maintain that appearance so essential at once establish he kingdom of God. hauteur which he had so admired in are the dream I have gone searching in his profession" carries one back That of the talents was given in anto the past with a ferk. Back to the swer to the disciples' inquiry as todays when appearance was not al- when certain things which he had foreways "so essential" to the writer. One | told would take place. Upon his rerecalls Samuel Boyse, a contemporary turn all these servants will be sumof Johnson, for instance, who worked moned before him, Matt. 25:18, Rom. only when his clothes were in pawn. 14:10-12. II Cor. 5:10. As Jesus stood While the vibrant strings hummed | His dress pledged, he would spend a there, he, likewise of that as of all other ages, saw ahead of him Jerueat with his truffles and mushrooms salem with its scourging, suffering and then take to his bed. There he and death. He also saw beyond that tinted gown sprayed with lilies-of-the- the stairway. Katharine Fargo held would get under a blanket, slit to al- his resurrection and departure to revalley, and above it a girl's face clear her stately court no less gaily for the low free play of his pen hand, and ceive a kingdom (v. 12), a period therefore in this world during which his servants shall be responsible for the came of his interests, a time during which they shall occupy, do business with what he has entrusted them of the kingdom authority and power. All of this will culminate in his return when he will deal with those to whom this responsibility has been given, and then establish finally his kingdom. In the parable Jesus deals with each servant separately, and emphasizes the fact of stewardship. The pound belonged to the king. For his faithfulness the first servant received, v. 17, (a) the king's commendation and (b) authority over ten cities. Later, (v. 24) he also received another pound. The second did not give quite so good a report, and his reward lasked the approbation of the king,

> faithfulness. The third report was bad. It reveals neglect, laziness, and a wrong conception regarding the king. He sought to excuse his sloth by blaming another. The excuses of the sinner always condemn himself, not God, and augment the sinner's guilt. The "wicked servant" lost what he would not use. If we will not use we must lose. Doubtless this servant considered himself unfortunate, though he was judged "out of his own mouth." Reverting again to those citizens who bated him and would not have the king to "reign over them." Jesus closes his parable (v. 27).

though he is placed over "five cities."

His reward was in proportion to his