
The Forsaken

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Author: Forsaken

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THE FORSAKEN.

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THE
F O R S A K E N.

A TALE.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

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THE FORSAKEN.

CHAPTER I.

MR. O'GRADY was one of a highly respectable family, of considerable opulence in Ireland, and had been called to the bar early in life, where he acquired a name of some celebrity, and amassed a considerable property; which was afterwards much increased by the death of a friend, who bequeathed to him a handsome house in Dublin, and some thousands per annum.

Mr. O'Grady was rather advanced in life when he married; and, on doing so, retired from the pursuit of his profession, and gave himself up to the indulgence of various whims and oddities, which had been kept in subjection during

the busier part of his existence; and found most particular pleasure in the execution of plans and projects the most extraordinary and out of the way that can be possibly imagined.

His house in Merrion Square was a most strange and wonderful concern, furnished and decorated in a manner that never failed to draw smiles from the countenances of his most attached friends and well-wishers; who, however, could not avoid loving him, notwithstanding his peculiar propensities.

He was, without doubt, an excellent hearted man, kind, courteous, and benevolent; and from mixing, during a long life, in polished and well-bred society, bore the stamp of gentleman-like manners, manners now gone by, and if perchance ever met with in the present march of intellect, only laughed at as those of a tiresome and obsolete old school.

He was one day sauntering slowly along the beautiful quays of our lovely though deserted capital, when he met a gentleman with whom he was well acquainted, and for whom he had con-

ducted several suits during his professional career. Glad to encounter an old friend, the counsellor (as he was still called by most of his associates, from habit) took the arm of Captain O'Sullivan, and kindly inquired into the state of his affairs and worldly concerns, as years had elapsed since they had met, or since he had been heard of.

The Captain replied to the numerous interrogations of Mr. O'Grady with seeming gaiety and good spirits; and when their walk brought them into the yard of the Four Courts, he asked Mr. O'Grady to accompany him into the Rolls Court for a few moments. On doing so, Mr. O'Grady (who still loved to frequent his former haunts) was going to address an old acquaintance on some indifferent subject, when Captain O'Sullivan asked him not to delay, but lend his assistance as a friend to a cause of his, which was that moment pending. With much pleasure Mr. O'Grady at once consented, and found that he was only required to puff a property of Sullivan's, which was to be sold at the

suit of a creditor; and which the Captain whispered to O'Grady was of considerable value; and would in all probability be knocked down to his opponent, at a considerable loss to him; he added, his feelings were too acute at the time to allow him to appear in the business; he therefore implored his kind-hearted adviser of former days to raise it as high as he possibly could; and at all events, to rescue it out of the hands of his adversary, as he had funds within his power to redeem it, though he wished that to be secret.

Thinking little of what he was about, Mr. O'Grady acquiesced, and out-bid a person whom he was led to suppose was the enemy of O'Sullivan. He bid, and bid, determined to aid his treacherous friend as much as he could, and, at what he imagined to be a trifling act of friendship; and had the gratification of hearing himself named as the possessor and purchaser of the estate, at the sum of Ten Thousand Pounds.

When the business was concluded, Mr. O'Gra-

dy hastened to Captain O'Sullivan, and, shaking hands with him most warmly, wished him joy of his victory over Mr. Delang, his greedy and rapacious creditor.

"Yes, indeed, my friend," replied the wily Captain, "we have indeed done well, and you have behaved most handsomely and liberally to me ; I never thought you would have gone so far as you did."

"Why, my dear Sullivan, certainly I could not repress a smile, at the gravity with which many of my old chums regarded me, as they heard me rise from hundred to hundred, until I fairly beat that sneaking looking fellow who was out-bidding me from the field."

"Surely, Counsellor, it was a most fortunate circumstance for me that I met you to-day, so kind a friend, and so wealthy a man ; my inheritance would have passed away from me for nothing, to a stranger ; believe me, that there is not another being in existence that I would rather see my successor, or to whom I would so readily and gladly yield up my property."