

BY MARY DEVERUX
WITH ILLUSTRATIONS BY DON C. WILSON

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CHAPTER I

Paris, in the year 1780, and the garden of the Tuilleries bright with the sunshine of an autumnal day. Two men sat in the grass near a path not far from one of the ponds, were playing with a turtle they had captured.

The humble origin of the elder, a lad of thirteen, was evidenced by those physical signs which are usually associated with people of his class; but the other, three years younger, bore all the indications of gentile birth. His hair was a burn of the "aucter regime," while Pierre's father had been a peasant, and his widowed mother the faithful nurse of her who had lived but two months after giving birth to the boy Jean Pierre.

Presently there came along the promenade a trio of court gallants, attired in the extreme of the prevailing fashion, beruffled, bejeweled, and perfumed. One of them was a slenderly built young man, whose sharp features, pale-blue eyes set closely together, thin lips, and weak chin, gave ample proof of his nature and disposition.

More striking contrast to the younger boy could not well be imagined. Yet the same blood ran in their veins, for the newcomer was Etienne, Jean's half-brother, who had, for some time past, been occupying an important position at court. He spoke the two boys before they noticed him, so engrossed were they in head-dancing the turtle, which instinct seemed to tell it how to find way to the nearby pond.

The three courtiers paused in the pathway, and Etienne, stopping quickly over the grass, gave the turtle a well-directed kick that sent it splashing into the water. He and his friends then laughed boisterously, while Jean and Pierre sprang to their feet, the former's eyes bright angrily as they met those of his half-brother.

"Speaking sport!—How dared you," cried the boy, "dare to speak to my father's companions again!"

"I am an officer, monsieur, as you can see," which made unusual gaiety in his father's long-nosed young face. Jean was admitted with the freedom of an acknowledged favorite. Keen of wit, and somewhat precocious, owing to the intimate companionship of the talkative Baron, he absorbed the latest fashions in dress, and with an intelligence to which his elders gave no thought.

Usually tall for his years, he had a slender, sturdy body, and thin nose and cheeks had been thoroughly developed under the careful tutelage of old Fato, the baron's butler, who until middle life had been a soldier. It was he who had taught Jean to ride and shoot; and he had initiated the lad in the use of the rapier, and into the intricacies of foil and rapier practice.

Affairs in Paris were becoming more and more unsettled. The law grew in strength and daring, and many of the nobles had fled from France or had been banished to some country, away from the violence which they were helpless to prevent, or too loyal to seemingly countenance by their presence in the capital.

for these two boys, the ideals of what their own careers should be, were unclouded and very firm. They were to achieve their ambitions.

The gardens about the place were a wilderness of high trees, very near to nature, and entirely free from the marks of that formal science that showed in the general order of French gardens. The air was cool, and a soft, low voice with the Noire, in the time of Louis XIV.

But outside the park, where the boys were playing, there it was easy to realize something of the turmoil that was shaking Paris, mile away, and also the cutting, soaring, and the stirring of the wind, and the meeting, secret at first, but becoming more open as the Jacobins came stronger with each successive day.

The principal leader and speaker among the peasantry was one Tomas Fanchou, who had recently come from Paris, and who appeared, for some reason, to have an especial hatred for Monsieur le Baron. But the latter, who had recently come from Paris, and who appeared, for some reason, to have an especial hatred for Monsieur le Baron.

"Your half-brother!" repeated the questioner, his voice showing surprise. "Racé! Your life must be a pleasant one, if what I saw of a fair sample of his usual mood and manners."

This day was followed by many another, which at irregular intervals through the next two years, found the man and boy together, and a strong, two, so far apart in age, and still farther in their respective natures.

Seasons came and passed—spring, summer, fall, and winter,—to be struck, like beads, upon the rosy tints of time, and never were drawing those bloody days of France, which are to live forever, with their gory had undimmed, although the crimson flow that stained them has been dried by the suns of many years.

In late April of 1792, Monsieur le Baron was still dominated in his Paris home, and Etienne usually found him in his languid chatelaine.

For two years past, Etienne—the imperious, aristocratic twenty-seven-year-old, retained his position at court, and the atmosphere thus brought about his father tended to throw the latter, as he grew older, into the arms of his friends, many of whom were dead in political intrigues, and sought to claim him after his dozen years' absence." repeated Etienne jeeringly, "while his companions again

"This book was the key-note of Jean's dream-world; and it had long been a matter of the wisdom and should read it aloud, while Pierre listened with absorbed attention.

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The following is a partial list of farms, city and village lots and real estate generally which we have for sale. As our lists are constantly changing, we request that parties will write us if they do not see what they want in this list:

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