

# THE FATAL REQUEST OR FOUND OUT

By A. L. Harris Author of "Mine Own Familiar Friend," etc.  
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## CHAPTER XXII

Perkins' Revenge.  
Friday morning came, bringing with it the reason for his extraordinary conduct, unless he was the Prince in disguise, after all.

"There are family reasons," was the answer.  
"Family reasons? A man servant with family reasons, just as though he were any old fellow, and not a gentleman sort of machine, hired out at so much a year, with board and lodging? No wonder there was something incongruous about it."

"I have nothing to do with your reasons," was the answer, "and I must absolutely decline to retain any one in my weekly household."

"How now is that one to a gentleman and the other only a servant?"  
"Was there ever such a combination met with before, and what—oh, what is the reason for this extraordinary conduct, unless—unless he was the Prince in disguise, after all?"

"How the girl at school would envy me!" he said, in the same tone as when he said, "What a lovely mystery!"  
"Perkins' Revenge."  
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"What's that you're doing?"  
The individual thus addressed started violently, and something fell to the ground with a clink—something which he immediately covered with his foot before he turned and faced Perkins without making any reply.

"You've changed your ways lately," said Perkins, leaning his head against the door.  
"What's your game, I should like to know. Anyhow, you aren't up to no good. People as gets into respectable houses under false names very seldom is up to any good."

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apartment, locked the door, and throwing the now despised magazine into a corner, sat down to confide the state of her feelings to the keeping of her faithful diary.

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