



The Black Douglas By J.R. Crockett.

Synopsis of Preceding Chapters.

William, sixth earl of Douglas, the most powerful man in Scotland, falls in love with the Lady Sybilla, the niece of the French ambassador...

CHAPTER XLIII.

The Wolf Astarte.

In a dark walled room overlooking that branch of the Seine which divides the northern part of Paris from the island of the city...

CHAPTER XLIV.

Laurence Takes New Service.

Every day James Douglas and Sholto haunted the precincts of the Hotel de Porc...

chair, and bending his slender white fingers together he looked up at her. Sybilla went to the door and stood again by the curtain.

"This is the keeper of our humble store, noble sir," answered the Lord James Douglas quietly, indicating the giant Malise with his left hand...

"Well, Poltu, does it go better?" he said, cheerfully, "or must we try them of the other sex and somewhat younger, as I at sweep of his hand he thrust his manuscript into an open drawer of the cabinet...

CHAPTER XLV.

Malise Fetches a Clout.

The four men who were the Messire Gilles did not see standing in the doorway opposite the Hotel de Porc were attired in the habit of pilgrims to the shrine of St. James of Compostella...

CHAPTER XLVI.

Sholto's Pair of Assassins Received.

Next Sholto's pair of assassins received each a mighty buffet and went down with cracked skulls. The rest seeing this revolting and degrading scene still rushing down upon them as Malise waved the torches round his head turned tail and fled incontinently into the narrow alleys which radiated in all directions from the Hotel de Porc.

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The youths accepted the proposal of their leader with alacrity. "Let us have the blessing of the holy palmers," they cried, "and eke the contents of their pockets."

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