

Thoroughbreds.

By W. A. FRASER Author of "The Outcast," "Mooswa," and Other Stories.

Copyright, 1902, by McClure, Phillips & Co. Mrs. Porter, reading a book on the "Anda, heard the crunch of wheels as a buggy, slow-moving, turned into the drive. She raised her eyes leisurely, the matter of the story still in her mind, but with a quick cry of "John!" she sprang to her feet, the volume, left to itself, rustling from her lap to the floor. The mother eyes saw that something was wrong and the mother heart felt that some evil had befallen to Allis.

"Behaved well, is it? He was like a live devil; punched them two big stallions till they took water 'n' backed out. My word! why first I see him come to the stable with Miss Allis, think I, here's was as thin as a whip; he made me tired. An' when he talked about Lausanne's knees, m'aning his books, I had to hide me behind that fork bastin' the black, you'd thought it was single sticks he was it, wit' a 'round dollar for a corner."

"You can't, son, an' yer next the truth there. I've seen a herring gutted weed as a 2-year-old—I remember now, he was a Lexington. It was at Saratoga, an' bot' 'umbe! he just made hacks av' everything in solght—spread-angled his field. Ye wouldn't give a two dollar for him, an' he come out cleaned up the Troy stake, like the great horse that he was."

"ON LAUZANNE SPED AND TO THE RHYTHM OF HIS BIG, HEAVING QUARTERS THE GIRL'S SOUL SANG A SONG OF DELIGHT."

she continued in lament. "It's contrary to the law of the church, John. It seems just like a visitation of Divine wrath the way things happen. And you're so sanguine, John; last year you were going to win a big race with Diablo, when he threw his leg—"

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Itself was distasteful. Reason as one might, it was allied to gambling. Mortimer rose with a sigh; the whole thing worried him. Why should he distress his mind over the matter? As he put the photograph back on the mantel, he held it for an instant, then suddenly, with a nervous, awkward gesture, brought it to his lips and kissed the eyes that seemed to command tribulation.

CHAPTER X. In coincidence, the two men, Mortimer and Crane, had similar thoughts the day after Mr. Dolman's discussion; and, rather remarkably, their deductions were alike, having the same subject of mental retrospect, Allis Porter.

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