

**THE FAIR-HAIRED ALDA.
A NOVEL. IN THREE
VOLUMES. VOL. III**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649580637

The Fair-Haired Alda. A Novel. In Three Volumes. Vol. III by Florence Marryat

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

FLORENCE MARRYAT

**THE FAIR-HAIRED ALDA.
A NOVEL. IN THREE
VOLUMES. VOL. III**

THE
FAIR-HAIRED ALDA.

A *novel*.

BY
FLORENCE MARRYAT
(MRS. FRANCIS LEAN).

IN THREE VOLUMES.
VOL. III.



London:
SAMUEL TINSLEY & CO.,
31, SOUTHAMPTON STREET, STRAND.
1880.

[*All Rights Reserved.*]

251. f. 644

CONTENTS OF VOL. III.

CHAPTER	PAGE
I. "IT IS YOUR DUTY TO HELP HER TO SHAKE IT OFF" - - - - -	1
II. "WHAT HAVE I DONE THAT HE SHOULD ROB ME OF THIS?" - - - - -	25
III. "MY LADY CARES NO MORE FOR THEM THAN YOU DO!" - - - - -	49
IV. "COME AND DRIVE IN THE PARK WITH ME, SIDNEY" - - - - -	74
V. "HE FRIGHTENS ME," SAID THE GIRL -	98
VI. "DO YOU BELIEVE ME GUILTY, OR DO YOU NOT?" - - - - -	126
VII. "THE WHOLE HORRID TRUTH BURST UPON HER" - - - - -	149
VIII. "NO POWER SHALL INDUCE ME TO RETURN" -	173

CHAPTER	PAGE
IX. "SHE SAW A SHADOWY FIGURE SLOWLY ADVANCE" - - - - -	202
X. "HE WILL NEVER HAVE ANOTHER. HE IS DEAD !" - - - - -	236



THE FAIR-HAIRED ALDA.



CHAPTER I.

“IT IS YOUR DUTY TO HELP HER TO SHAKE IT
OFF.”

FOR some months after Alda de Beriot married Lord Sidney Carleton, she imagined, and so did her friends, that all the romance and excitement of her life was over. She settled down with her husband at Mabyn Fields as though she had never lived anywhere else, and occupied herself with her animals, and garden, and home duties to the

exclusion of every sort of gaiety and, apparently, of pleasure. The county families, who had heard many rumours of the beauty of Lady Sidney Carleton and the mysterious scandal attached to her first marriage, flocked to call upon her, filled to the brim with curiosity and expectation. But they were woefully disappointed by the results of their attempted sociability. The majority of them were informed that Lady Sidney was not at home, and the minority were received by a listless, delicate-looking girl, clad in plain grey, with no particular animation about her face or manner, who appeared, moreover, not to feel the least interest in them or their proceedings, and who looked relieved when they rose to say good-bye. The invitations they sent to the Carletons also were politely declined, whereupon the county families formed a magnificent clique against Alda, and set her down as "bad form."

Lord Sidney ought to have better known the duty he owed to the county, they main-

tained, than to marry a woman who seemed to have no idea of the obligations she incurred as the mistress of Mabyn Fields, nor the imperative necessity of returning the hospitalities her husband had enjoyed at their expense.

So the communication between Lady Sidney Carleton and the owners of the neighbouring estates was reduced thenceforward to a minimum, which began and ended in the exchange of formal bows as their carriages passed each other in the narrow country lanes, the general opinion being that Alda was either too stupid or too ignorant to take her part in society, and it was a waste of time to call upon her.

So the girl was permitted to live her dull, unexciting life in peace, and one day followed another at Mabyn Fields without a break to its monotony. But Mr. and Mrs. Capel cried out loudly against such proceedings, and were horrified when they discovered the terms to which their daughter had reduced her

intimacy with the surrounding families. They had never thought, when working so hard to induce her to become Lord Sidney's wife, that he would bury her in the country, where she could never make a sensation nor reflect any credit on her parents.

They had anticipated shining more brightly themselves in the world of fashion by the reflected glory of their child's wealth and beauty, and were as disappointed at the result of her second marriage as the county families. Mrs. Capel, who had not yet recovered the shock of a private wedding and no tour, quite anticipated that when the twelve months for which Alda had so absurdly—in her opinion—stipulated to wear half-mourning had expired, her daughter would burst upon society in all the brilliance of her position and take the *habitués* of the London season by storm. But the year elapsed, and still Alda wore a grey or black dress, and expressed her intention of spending the summer at her country house. Mrs. Capel, who, with her husband,