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CHAPTER II What Has Happened Before

The Russia that Katusha Maslov a poor peasant girl knew, was a country under the hell of a cruel Czar. But it was awakening to the realization that all is not right when millions sweat that one may loll in luxury. One of the firmest believers in the new cause is Prince Dmitri Ivanovich, the master of the farm on which Katusha works, and who was brought up with her. He comes back from school and is amazed at her beauty, and, against the orders of his aunts, who tell him their two classes are different and must never mix, - he plans to meet her.

Now Go On With the Story

earth, and brimming over with the unequal things are." He put his beauty of her parent, sat milking a cow in the great barn of the estate her again. "It was only a discuswhen Prince Dmitri Ivanovich came in, carrying a book under his arm.

"What a book!" the Prince cried to her. "What marvelous thoughts this writer has! You've got to read it!"

Katusha smiled. "What's is called?" she asked,

"The Land and Freedom." A fellow named Simonson wrote it. I've met him. A great thinker. The police are after him. He says that all people are equal, and that the land -the land you and I are on right this minute-belongs to everybody equally."

But Katusha didn't understand. "Is it a love story?" she asked the Prince, timidly.

"A love story!" he cried. "Love! What's that? Now, look here, Katusha, why do you do things?" and without waiting for an answer he went on. "You do them because you're told to, not because you want to. For instance-" he paused, loking about the barnyard. Then he went on, "now suppose I should tell you to kiss me. What would you do?"

"I'd kiss you," the girl said simply.

"Exactly," he cried, triumphantly, "and why? Because you're told to, and just because I was born into one family and you into another, you must do what I tell you."

Katusha smiled. "But you haven't told me to kiss you."

He hesitated. "All right," he said, after a minute, "I'll show you. I, Prince Dmitri Ivanovich, command you, Servant Katusha, to kiss me."

Smilingly, the girl got up, and put her arms around the neck of the young Prince who was more than her master. And on his young lips she pressed hers, fresh as the morning, and soft as the new grass which was even then springing from the ground .

She released him. "Now, do you see?" he cried. "Now, do you see?"

"No,' she said. He put his hands to his head in a gesture of hopelessness. "Can't you see," he roared, "that I've no mances that will never fade so long right to be master over you? That as man retains his high estate you're every bit as good as I?" He are nutured by obstacles and mis-

"why you kissed me? You kissed me because I-like a King, forced you to."

"But you didn't exactly force me," she said.

"Keep quiet," he bellowed at her Who it it that gave me that privilege? The Lord? No! Accident of birth? Perhaps. But why-"

Under this verbal hammering the girl had burst into tears. The boy stopped abruptly, and looked at her, 'What's the matter," he said, wonderingly.

"First," she sobbed, "you asked me to kiss you. And then, when I do what you want, you shout at me."

The look of annoyance passed from his face and in its place pity shown. "Now, now, dear Katusha, don't cry. I was just arguing. I Katusha Maslova, child of the was only trying to show you how arms about her, tenderly, kissing sion. I didn't have any desire to an apple tree they sat, hand in hand.

more than that. Their prying eyes saw nothing glorious in the affection between the two young people; to them, looking through eyes soiled by a wrong philosophy-it was a horrible travesty.

And so, as summer changed to fall, with the leaves of the trees their thoughts grew darker and their fears for the "class-purity" of their nephew became more desparate. It was with profound relief they saw the dawn of the day which would take Dmitri back to Moscow back to the army.

Katusha woke that morning with an aching heart. Some curious premonition told her as she dressed her strong young body, that out of her life that day would go the only thing that made her life worth living: Dmitri. She wondered, in the great city with its million lures, would he remember the simple peasant girl whose life was built around her love for him. He had told her she was beautiful; he had told her she was his love. She knew she would not forget those ectasies easily. But would he?

Break-up Foreshadowed

That last day they walked in the fields, for one final look at the growing things on whose frutition their love had been a parallel. The wheat was beginning to ripen, waving shimmeringly before them as far as the eye could see. Beneath



"It it a love story?" she asked the Prince timidly. The aunts were relieved to see the train which was to take him back to Moscow.

kiss you"-he kissed her again, this time more warmly - "No, nothing like that. It was all pure logic, an illustration of an unjust social cond tion-" again he pressed his lips poets dream, played about the hair to hers, and this time, she closed her tear-wet eyes, and returned his caress with all the warmth of her peasant soul . . .

-from which so many different tri. things can spring-grew love of a for a peasant.

gave forth the green and the beautiful, their love drew them closer and closer together, until between them there was no bar of class. Katusha to Dmitri, sweetheart to sweetheart, nothing more than that. | terror, she laughed, "I'll remember But what can be more than that? Tyrants forget two things: That life." men are not machines, and that men, at heart, are lovers.

And all great loves - those rong him with a mixture of good and Dmitri was his aunts, reared in know, you little nitwit," he said, and their "masters" must never be

looking at the flying clouds above them through the red, round firm fruit pandant from the gnarled boughs. A breeze, gossamer as a of Katusha, twirling it about her finely moulded head, like a silken aureole.

"This is the syrup cup of our hap-And so, from a study of economics piness, isn't it, darling?" said Dmi-

A cold fear tugged at Katusha's peasant for a prince, and a prince heart. So he felt this was the beginning of the end, too. Well, it was All that summer , while the soil his place to command. All his nonsense abou ttheir equality was so much talk; she knew. But it was as hard for a servant to tear a part of her heart away as for a queen.

> But, fighting back her growing you, Dmitri, for all the days of my

"And, I'll remember you. And sweetheart, in four years, when I'm through with the Army I'll come back, and we can say farewell to farewells, and be alone somewhere and listen to the rain outside, knowlooked at the girl, who was regard- fortune. The tragedy of Katusha ing no one - not even my awful aunts"-he screwed up his nose, and humor and toleration. "Do you the tyranical tradition that servants they both laughed-"can touch us." Katusha was deep in thought.

"Four years," she said half to herself. "Sounds almost like forever. doesn't it, Dmitri?"

"Nonsense!" he snorted. He laughed. "You think of me thinking of you, and it'll be just a minute. What are four years in a love that's destined - I know it - to be eternal?"

He glanced at his watch, and shrugged his shoulders. "Well" he said. "it's time for your soldier to go off to the wars. And his little Katusha musn't cry. Just kiss me, darling, so I'll leave here with you as much a part of me, as I'm part of you."

He took her in his arms, and for the time of a long kiss, the world. in its crazy course, passed them by. At last ,he arose and walked away from the girl, who sat under the apple tree as in a daze. She didn't move for a long long time. Suddenly she straightened up. From the distance, like a thin wail, she heard the whistle of a train. It rose and time to time she heard it, until died a promise and a threat. From finally; after its noise sounded from many miles off, she heard it no longer.

Katusha, the peasant, was alone. Her Prince had left her . . .

TO BE CONTINUED

By Dr. ALLEN G. IRELAND Director, Physical and Health Education New Jersey State Department of Public Instruction

A Valuable Lesson

Last week I started the story of the school literally surrounded by milk but none for children to drink. The reason came out when in



answer to my question one child said: "My Dad sends all our milk to the city."

On the surface, then, it was a matter of income. But, obviously, it went deeper than that.

Milk was being regarded as a mere commodity rather than as essential food for growing children.

To get on with the story, the teacher bought canned milk from her own funds. She used it herself at noon in sight of the children. Naturally, they asked questions. It was her opportunity. She launched a class study of milk, emphasizing especially the advantages of plenty of fresh, pure milk for health. As its values were learned, the children became interested. They wanted to try it and gradually the whole class was enlisted, the teacher still supplying the milk.

After awhile an interesting thing occurred. Apparently, the children had carried the message of milk into the homes, for one day a small group of mothers waited upon the teacher with a message which was, in effect, that the farmers, who were also the fathers, had decided to supply the school with good fresh milk throughout the year, enough for each pupil to have one glass at noon. This was, indeed, a case of "casting bread upon the waters, to have it return a hundredfold."

"School Companions" will be the subject of Dr. Ireland's next article.

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