FOR THE SAKE OF THE DUCHESSE; A PAGE FROM THE LIFE OF THE VICOMTE DE CHAMPIONNET

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649383924

For the sake of the duchesse; a page from the life of the Vicomte de Championnet by S. Walkey

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A page from the Life of the Vicomte de Championnet

S. WALKEY



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FOR THE SAKE OF THE DUCHESSE

CHAPTER I

A ROYAL TEMPTER

"No !" I cried. "There's my answer, Monseigneur ! "

" Then you refuse to obey me?"

"Absolutely," I returned. "I am not a murderer!"

And with this I lounged off towards an oriel, leaving the Regent of France and Dubois to stare at one another across the wine-stained, card-strewn table. Snow was driving against the windows of the Luxembourg, and a red gush of light, pouring from the great portico out upon the wide, glittering gardens, created a scene of exquisite romance that held me chained, until a shuffling of feet caused me to glance round on my companions, and I saw that Dubois was kindling some fresh candles. I hated Dubois ; he was coarse to the marrow, despicably sleek and low,