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https://www.100test.com/kao_ti2020/255/2021_2022__E5_A4_A7_E5_AD_A6_E8_8B_B1_E8_c67_255151.htm TEXT Romance, betrayal, intrigue and tragedy - the making of a fascinating novel - are all there in *The Gadfly*. Ethel Voynich's first novel, *The Gadfly* came out in 1897 and became one of the most widely read books of the 20th century. We join the story in the closing pages, just after Arthur has been executed. Gemma, reading his last letter from prison, recognizes Arthur as her long-lost lover, only to lose him again -- this time for ever. Epilogue (From *The Gadfly*) by Ethel L. Voynich

The stood still for a little while with the paper in her hand. then sat down by the open window to read. The letter was closely written in pencil, and in some parts hardly legible. But the first two words stood out quite clear upon the page. and they were in English: "Dear Jim." The writing grew suddenly blurred and misty. And she had lost him again -- had lost him again! At the sight of the familiar childish nickname all the hopelessness of her bereavement came over her afresh, and she put out her hands in blind desperation, as though the weight of the earth-clods that lay above him were pressing on her heart. Presently she took up the paper again and went on reading: "I am to be shot at sunrise to-morrow. So if I am to keep at all my promise to tell you everything, I must keep it now. But, after all, there is not much need of explanations between you and me. We always understood each other without many words, even when we were little thing." "And so, you see, my dear, you had no need to

break your heart over that old story of the blow. It was a hard hit, of course. but I have had plenty of others as hard, and yet I have managed to get over them, -- even to pay back a few of them, -- and here I am still, like the mackerel in our nursery-book (I forget its name), Alive and kicking, oh!" This is my last kick though. and then, to-morrow morning, and -- Finita la Commedia!" You and I will translate that: The variety show is over. and will give thanks to the gods that they have had, at least, so much mercy on us. It is not much, but it is something. and for this and all other blessings may we be truly thankful!" About that same to-morrow morning, I want both you and Martini to understand clearly that I am quite happy and satisfied, and could ask no better thing of Fate. Tell that to Martini as a message from me. he is a good fellow and a good comrade, and he will understand. You see, dear, I know that the stick-in-the-mud people are doing us a good turn and themselves a bad one by going back to secret trials and executions so soon, and I know that if you who are left stand together steadily and hit hard, you will see great things. As for me, I shall go out into the courtyard with as light a heart as any child starting home for the holidays. I have done my share of the work, and this death-sentence is the proof that I have done it thoroughly. They kill me because they are afraid of me. and what more can any mans heart desire?"It desires just one thing more, though. A man who is going to die has a right to a personal fancy, and mine is that you should see why I have always been such a sulky brute to you, and slow to forget old scores. Of course, though, you understand why, and I tell you only for the pleasure of writing the

words. I loved you, Gemma, when you were an ugly little girl in a gingham frock, with your hair in a pig-tail down your back. and I love you still. Do you remember that day when I kissed your hand, and when you so piteously begged me never to do that again? It was a scoundrelly trick to play, I know. but you must forgive that. and now I kiss the paper where I have written your name. So I have kissed you twice, and both times without your consent."That is all. Good-bye, my dear."There was no signature, but a verse which they had learned together as children was written under the letter:"Then am I A happy fly,If I liveOr if I die."Half an hour later Martini entered the room, and, startled out of the silence of half a life-time, threw down the placard he was carrying and flung his arms about her."Gemma! What is it, for Gods sake? Dont sob like that -- you that never cry! Gemma! Gemma, my darling!"Nothing, Cesare. I will tell you afterwards -- I -- cant talk about it just now."She hurriedly slipped the tear-stained letter into her pocket. and, rising, leaned out of the window to hide her face. Martini held his tongue and bit his moustache. After all these years he had betrayed himself like a schoolboy -- and she had not even noticed it!"The Cathedral bell is tolling," she said after a little while, looking round with recovered self-command. "Someone must be dead." "That is what I came to show you," Martini answered in his everyday voice. He picked up the placard from the floor and handed it to her. Hastily printed in large type was a black-bordered announcement that: "Out dearly beloved Bishop, His Eminence the Cardinal, Monsignor Lorenzo Montanelli," had died suddenly at Ravenna, "from the rupture of an aneurism of the heart."She glanced

up quickly from the paper. And Martini answered the unspoken suggestion in her eyes with a shrug of his shoulders. "What would you have, Madonna? Aneurism is as good a word as any other." NEW WORDS

epilogue. the last part of a piece of literature 尾声, 后记
gadfly. a fly that bites cattle 牛虻
legible a. (of handwriting or print) that can be read, esp. easily
blurvt. make less clear.
dimmistya. clouded with or as if with mist
childisha. of or typical of a child.
immature
nicknamen. a name used informally instead of a persons own name or a name connected with ones character or history
bereavementn. loss of relative or friend by death (亲人等的) 丧失
afreshad. once more from the beginning. again
desperationn. the state of being desperate. a hopeless or reckless feeling 拚命; 绝望
clodn. a lump or mass, esp. of clay 土块
earth-clodn. mackereln. a striped sea fish often used as food 鲭鱼
variety show 杂耍
mercyn. kind treatment of a person in ones power 慈悲
blessingn. a gift from God or anything that brings happiness. an act of asking or receiving Gods favor (祈神) 赐福
blessvt. in a sincere, honest or truthful manner. in fact or indeed
thankfula. showing or feeling gratitude.
grateful
comraden. a close companion, esp. a person who shares difficult work or danger 同志
stick-in-the-muda. extremely conservative or old-fashioned 极端保守的, 墨守成规的
executionn. (a case of) lawful killing as a punishment. performance of an order, plan, or piece of work (处) 死刑; 执行, 实施

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