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Romance , betrayal , intrigue and tragedy - the making of a fascinating novel - are all there in The Gadfly. Ethel Voynichs 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 hissed you twice , and both times without your consent. 100Test 下载频道开通 , 各类考试题目直接下载。详细请访问 www.100test.com