

THE WOODS OF WISTARIA

BY ONOTO WATANNA



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Synopsis of Preceding Chapters

The earliest recollection of the Lady Wistaria goes back to the day when her father carried her in his arms to Yedo, where a great procession was passing through the principal streets.

your lover? If in order to woo you he came hither under an assumed name, then it would seem that you had some previous acquaintance with him?

"My daughter, had you a mother to love and guide you, you would not now be unhappy."

"That is well," returned the samurai, briefly. "I have a few questions first of all to put to you."

CHAPTER VII--Continued

THE Lady Evening Glory's lips became a thin pursed line. "The flowers? Whence came they?"

CHAPTER VIII

FROM the insinuations and threats of the Lady Evening Glory it might seem as if Wistaria's lover were in imminent danger, and that the Catzu family might be expected to hasten instantly to cast him out from their province or have him imprisoned as a trespasser and impostor.



"IN TEN MINUTES I SHALL SHOW YOU, MY LADY," SAID HER FATHER, "THE FATE OF ONE WHO DARES DEFY HER HONORABLE PARENT."

"Of what rank is your lover?" Wistaria trembled. "I do not know," she replied, in a low voice.

"Very good. While I have said I have nothing against this Imperialist party, I am, nevertheless, desirous of knowing all their plans and secrets. It will be your duty, therefore, to ascertain these for me."

"In ten minutes I shall show you, my lady," said her father, between angry, clinched teeth, "the fate of one who dares defy her honorable parent."

"Lady Wistaria! My sweetest Wistaria!" At first there was no response. Moving nearer the casement, he called again:

CHAPTER IX

"PRIL" danced lightly over the land. Merri-ly she flung her rainbow showers of sweetest water upon the earth, the trees, the fearsome grass which March had coaxed in vain to do more than peep its head above the soil.

daughter of a family whose women have had their honorable share in the affairs of the nation. "True, but your house has stood always on one side only. They have never deigned even to hear the argument, the pious, patriotic cry of the other side."