

# Chapter V -Derrick Vaughan--Novelist

In Chapter V of "Derrick Vaughan--Novelist," the narrative continues with Lawrence going to war, while the protagonist Derrick stays in Bath, enduring the discomfort of his father, Major Vaughan's, unwelcome companionship. Derrick finds solace as the Major's health appears to improve with sobriety and Bath water. However, upon an unannounced visit, the narrator discovers Derrick with a broken arm, the circumstances of which are suspicious and lead to speculation about an altercation with his father, who had relapsed into drinking.

The chapter delves into the struggles Derrick faces in caring for his father while trying to maintain his writing career. Through an incident of the Major obtaining and consuming brandy, leading to an altercation that results in Derrick's arm injury, the story portrays the toxic and dangerous environment Derrick endures. The landlady's concern for Derrick's safety highlights the severity of the situation, suggesting it's unsafe for Derrick to be alone with his father.

Despite his injury, Derrick continues his writing with adaptability, showing resilience by adapting his writing process to accommodate his broken arm. The chapter also touches upon Derrick's social life and his reactions to hearing about Freda Merrifield, indicating a potential romantic interest, and his literary career, especially the process and anticipation surrounding the publication of his novel "Lynwood's Heritage."

"Lynwood's Heritage" faces a mix of critical reception, with some positive reviews and others sharply critical, affecting Derrick personally and professionally. Despite the anticipation and effort, the novel does not achieve commercial success, leading to Derrick's profound disappointment and reflection on his efforts and sacrifices. This chapter vividly illustrates the personal and professional challenges Derrick faces, encapsulating themes of resilience, the complexities of familial relationships, and the struggles of a budding novelist against the backdrop of personal turmoil and Victorian society's expectations.