

to meet him—one of her "company" dresses on, some knots of velvet fastening her collar, and seeming to give a glow and brightness to her white skin. He took her hand, she raised her face, and with a wild heart-bound he kissed it, as he had not for years before. She was coming back to him again. That was the thought that thrilled him. Her infatuation—it such it had been—was at an end. She was his once more! And then, close upon his new happiness, came the dreary recollection of his lost situation. He thrust the money in his pocket. By-and-by he would tell her all.

"You won't mind waiting supper for an hour, will you, John?" she asked as she led him in. "I am going to give you something nice, by-and-by, and—I think Mr. Haliburton will be in."

John Randall's blood froze once more. It was not for him, then, that all these preparations were made. Georgie had never spoken Mr. Haliburton's name to him before. He could feel that she was embarrassed as she did so.

"I want you to dress, John," she added, coaxingly. "I have laid everything out for you."

It seemed to him that he would have turned upon her but that he felt so broken by the thought of losing his place, and resented her gaiety, her indifference, her secret—all that made him so miserable through this long year. But he had not the spirit.

He went to dress as she had asked him. When he returned to the parlor Stephen Haliburton and his wife sat upon the sofa side by side. It was rare indeed to see Georgie's fair face so illuminated. Her cheeks were glowing, her eyes were sparkling.

As for Mr. Haliburton he was always the quiet gentleman, with no sense of being out of his place, no apparent suspicion of what was rankling in the heart of his employee.

What a nice little supper Georgie had ready. Yet nobody ate.

Finally the supper was over, and they went back to the parlor.

Georgie disappeared for a moment, and, returning, approached her husband, gazing shyly at the same time to her guest, whose face brightened beyond its wont, as he caught her eye.

"We meant to make it all very formal, John; but I see Mr. Haliburton thinks I might as well tell it in my own way."

She paused, and a sober pallor overspread her husband's face.

"What was coming?" his eyes asked, with no faith that it was anything to lighten his secret burden.

Georgie nervously folded and unfolded a slip of paper which she held.

"This is for you, John," and she held it shyly towards him. "My anniversary gift. I have been working for Mr. Haliburton, too, this year. And I have thirty guineas here—the price of the designs I have made for the calicoes."

"Georgie?"

"You never suspected it? I did not want you to till I knew whether I could succeed."

John Randall had no voice in which to word his amazement, or his gratitude for his restored faith, which, though his wife did not suspect it, was by far his most precious anniversary gift. She went on:—

"I could always use my pencil nimbly, you know, John. And it had occurred to me one day why I couldn't do something with it for profit. I spoke to Mr. Haliburton, and he was so kind—you must thank him, John—he took so much trouble with my crude attempts; he did so much to encourage me. And now I am fairly in the way of work. I shall work better to know that you know of it. I want to design for carpets by-and-by, as for prints, that pays so well—a percentage on the sale."

She stopped short, suddenly conscious of how much she was saying.

"I have a surprise, also, for you, Mr. Randall," added Stephen Haliburton, quietly. "I hope it, too, will prove agreeable. The univer-

sal testimony of the officials, as to your efficiency and trustiness, make me feel that I am not showing you a proper appreciation, and I desire to give you a somewhat more responsible position, with an increase of salary!"

The very glory of heaven seemed to be opening a way to John Randall out of all his trouble.

"I am too happy, Mr. Haliburton, to talk much," he said in his straightforward way. "I have been depressed lately—the sudden removal of all cause for low spirits—"

He stopped short. Two big tears rolled down his cheeks. Stephen Haliburton alone perceived what Georgie never suspected, that her secret had made her husband jealous. He grasped John's hand.

"My dear fellow it's too bad! I feared it a little once or twice. Of course I could not hint to Mrs. Randall."

"What, John? What, Mr. Haliburton?"

"Nothing, Georgie, that you will ever know."

They were alone together, by-and-by, with their new-found happiness. Perhaps Georgie was equally relieved that there was no more need of mystification.

"What ever made you think of it, Georgie?" her husband asked.

"Why, John, it was that day about the gloves. I set myself considering why you should have all the toil, and I all the indulgence. I pondered how I could make or save something."

"I am happier than I ever thought I could be again, dear."

"Do you know, I have fancied you were unhappy lately, John, because you thought I was longing for things you could not give me? I could hardly wait for to-night to come to tell you all."

"My darling!"

And he folded his arms about her, with his face on her shoulder; and in the brightness and silence of the room, with its odor of flowers and glow of leaves, they felt their way through the coming future, safe, confident out of the reach of any bitter trouble, since they loved and trusted one another.

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