

WHICH?

From Heart and Home.

CHAPTER V.

"Did you dream," he said, passionately, "that I thought of Netta? She is a child, and she can only think of me as a pleasant companion. You would not let me woo you, Carmen; you always kept in the background. Don't you love me a little, dearest?"

She had dropped her face against him; the throbbing of her heart took her breath; the sudden joy dazed her.

"Oh," she whispered, brokenly, "I did not think—how could I?"

"You did not think," he said, tenderly, "because you have taught yourself that you were born only for self-sacrifice, and not for a man's love. But you know better now, don't you, my darling? You know that you were born to love and be loved."

Yes, Carmen knew it now, though she could not say so in words, but her eyes gave the answer. Gerald Lockwood needed, and her lips, too, in the silent, willing surrender to the long pressure of his.

By and by, sitting by his side on the settee, Carmen confessed that she had been sometimes puzzled about his feelings for Netta, and she thought to-day he was going to ask her about the "little sister." It seemed very strange, Netta being a mere school girl. "But I could not tell," Carmen said; "it might have been." Of course she could not betray Netta's secret, nor did Lockwood say that this morning when Netta entered the kitchen, it had come to him, for the first time that the child misunderstood him. How should he have thought of such a thing? Yet, with a pang of self-reproach, "Perhaps I ought to have imagined it possible!" came the reflection that the child would soon get over it. She was not of the nature, even as a woman, to break her heart for any man, and sixteen hearts—except in novels—are not breakable articles.

Poor Netta, tired of waiting, strolled down stairs. The light had faded in the west; it was deep gloaming. The parlor was almost dark when she opened the door and peeped in. Carmen's tall figure came towards her.

"Netta," she said, "come with me. I have something to tell you."

The two girls went up stairs together, into the shadowy room in which Netta slept. Well, the poor little school girl was soon told all about the secret, and the secret of the next day she learned the keepers of the woods, and believed that life was over for her. Then she changed her mind, and long before Carmen's wedding day she was drowning new Boston Miss Durfee, at the Woodlawn, right there in the wood. Who will? So Carmen grew up, learning to be quite a great lady—but less the way the neighbors put it, the way she put it was that she left the town to become Gerald Lockwood's wife.

THE END.

JENNIFER KEEPS

From Heart and Home.

CHAPTER V.

There was a dreary look in Jennifer's bright eyes as she said

thinking. Tom Marshall and Will Enderly were both rivals for her favor. Both were brave, handsome, generous young fellows; Tom had the most money; Will had only his own energy and ambition. Jessie did not know which one she liked best.

"I wish I did," she said, musing. "I wish there was some way of proving them. The man I marry must be a hero, in the best sense of the word. He must be kind, tender, and true; above all, he must be brave. More than anything else I despise a coward."

To clear her brain, she decided on a walk. She wended her way to a pretty park by the riverside, where the people of Springdale used to ramble on summer evenings, and seated herself on one of the rustic benches. She had not been there ten minutes, when the very persons of whom she had been thinking appeared, each probably hoping to meet her. Tom came first. As he drew near, a little boy, who was rolling a hoop down the smooth path, ran against Tom in his haste, and tumbled flat to the ground.

Tom passed on, merely saying, with a careless laugh: "Keep out of the way, you chit!"

Will Enderly was close behind. Seeing the accident, he stopped, picked up the little fellow, brushed the dust from his coat, and restored his hat, saying kindly:

"Hello! little man, did we upset you? Never mind; better luck next time. We didn't mean to, you know."

"You didn't," grumbled the boy, half ready to cry, "but the other fellow didn't care. And I'll upset him, if I get a chance." And off he ran, after the hoop. Tom, meantime, had gained the covered seat by Jessie, so that Will could only raise his hat in passing, and walk on.

But Jessie had not lost any of this little incident, and in her heart she had said:

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

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