

with his two children, to live narrowly in a cottage on the fringe of the Ripley estate, to lose odd sums of money by speculation and to bandy grievances with his landlord. After his fever in Panama and consequent retirement from business, Raymond Stornaway would run down for a week-end, in part out of old regard and sympathy, in part to discuss the great philanthropic organisations to which he was devoting the rest of his life; of other society there was none, and Deryk himself was so highly wrought that during his school holidays he was deliberately kept away from the morbid hush of the sick-room. Not until he was halfway through his time at Eton, did his father seem to take cognisance of him; it was Hatherly who chose schools, paid bills and administered reprimands, who visited him for all school functions and carried him abroad for the holidays. The sight of the boy, with his mother's dark hair and nervous, quickly-dilating eyes, always recalled the eight years of married life on Riverside Drive, when all the world with its sunshine and flowers lay before the Lancings and their boy, and when he had for some reason failed to get the best out of life; he could never look back on that time without breaking into savage self-pity.

When Deryk was sixteen, his father discovered him. For a few days at the beginning or close of the holidays they had met at Ripley Park, each confusedly regarding the other more as an institution than as a blood relation. They had never talked together nor exchanged confidences until Hatherly raised the question what was to be done when Deryk left school. The question came with a shock, and Aylmer found himself summoning his thoughts from afar and concentrating them on an absorbing problem. Hitherto he had ridden the hobbies that his neighbours suggested, demolishing and rebuilding half the house, collecting black-figure pottery, laying out the gardens afresh, even starting a racing stable. His interests were now focussed on his family, as they had been once before when he and his wife dreamed and made plans for their boy. It seemed that Deryk had been at a public school for two and a half