

'Now I come to think of it,' Carpentaria said.
'Juliette did kiss me this morning rather fervently and I wondered why.'

'You wonder no longer,' observed Pauline smiling. 'It was just a little plot.'

'Extraordinary! Most extraordinary!' Carpentaria exclaimed.

'I don't think it's quite so extraordinary as that!' said Pauline.

'You don't know what I mean,' Carpentaria replied. 'I also have a message—for you. I have just come from our friend Mr. Jetsam Ilam and your sister. Have you seen Miss Rosie since this morning?'

'No,' said Pauline; 'she went with Juliette.'

'Exactly. She went with Juliette. And she has done what Juliette has done. I was asked by Mr. Jetsam Ilam to inform you that instead of marrying your sister next week he has married her this week. He is very sorry. He has a perfect horror of publicity. In fact they chose the registry office.'

'What a shame!' cried Pauline. 'What a shame!'

'Ah,' said Carpentaria, 'you didn't mind them deceiving me! But when it comes to deceiving you——! It must have been a united plot on the part of those two pairs of people to deceive us two; and, I must say, they manage the thing pretty well. Don't you think so?'