

THE MILL MYSTERY

A sense of gloom and chill as once over-whelmed me. From the interior, which I faintly saw stretching before me, there breathed even in that first moment of hurried entrance a cold and brightly grandeur that, however rich and awe-inspiring, was anything but attractive to a nature like mine.

At daybreak the doctor came in. Taking advantage of the occasion, I slipped away to my own room, anxious for any change that would relieve me from the gloom and depression caused by this prolonged and silent tete-a-tete, with a being that at once so interested and repelled me.

CHAPTER V. DOUBTS AND QUERIES. And that will might Advise him to a caution, to hold what distance His wisdom can provide.—MACRINTYLL.

The grounds were not large, though, bounded as they were in the midst of a thickly populated district, they appeared so. It did not, therefore, take me long to exhaust their attractions, and I was about to return upon my course, when I espied a little summer-house before me, thickly shrouded in vines. Thinking what a charming retreat it offered, I stepped forward to observe it more closely, when to my great surprise I saw it was already occupied, and by a person whose attitude and appearance were such as to arouse my strongest curiosity.

Resolved to solve this simple mystery, I gave an adroit cough, and stepped into the summer-house. He rose and looked at me, and I saw that he was a young man, not much over twenty, with a look I am not sure I have ever seen elsewhere. He was tall, slender, and well-proportioned, with a face that was handsome, but not strikingly so. His eyes were dark and deep-set, and his hair was black and wavy.

Relieved, I scarcely knew why, and remembering almost at the same instant some saying which I had once heard about the rusty imbedded boy that ran the streets of London, I gave him a cheerful smile, and was about to bestow some encouraging word upon him, when he suddenly broke into a laugh, and looking at me with a meaningful stare, asked: "Who are you?"

"I am the cat that mews in the well," I replied. "Do you live here?" "No," he replied, "I am only staying here. Mrs. Pollard is sick."

"Do you like you?" "I do not know," I replied. "I am only staying here. Mrs. Pollard is sick." "Do you like you?" "I do not know," I replied. "I am only staying here. Mrs. Pollard is sick."

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