

BY THOMAS SWIFT.
CHAPTER III.

The horror of Nellie Irving's position was forcing itself upon Frank's consciousness. He dropped into a chair with a groan. "Harry Redmond said yesterday that he was going to what this Courtney has done? He has married a pure and trusting Catholic girl, to whom the union means nothing—can mean nothing."

"By Jove!" exclaimed Harry Redmond. "That is bad."

"It was monstrous, horrible," said Frank Neville to himself as he went on his way homeward, dazed by the shock and awful intelligence.

In the days that followed, he made ample and careful study, which only confirmed the truth of Harry Redmond's information. Young and sensitive, in all his after years, it is doubtful if Frank Neville ever suffered such poignant grief as he experienced at the knowledge that the woman whom he loved and to whom his future life seemed impotent to cope with, had death snatched her from him he could have bowed with submission to the Divine will. But this—his whole soul revolved as the thought of the woman who had laid a young life, and in his heart he cursed the man whom he could not but look upon as her betrayer. What to do he knew not. The union was no marriage, and in Nellie's eyes, once opened, it would appear as a crime.

But the awakening—and the after. He shuddered at the black abyss into which the poor girl would be plunged. Was his the hand to push her into it? Was his the tongue to utter that which would unseat the throne of the woman he loved? He could not do it. And yet to allow things to take their

"that another woman lives, who plays as, 'is your wife'—the words were uttered with a painful effort—"your diva's wife."

Waiter Courtney did not speak trembled beneath the pure, tough, white skin of his arms like one could be released.

Nellie cringed herself from his face embrace, drew down his head and held his tenderly once on the lips then stood apart from him with his clasped on her bosom.

"I will tell me, Waiter. Is it what she asked."

"For a moment he paused. The replied,

"It is true, Nellie," and sank, H

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