

"But after he was disposed of? After I had said——"

"You said nothing, dear. And I am a woman. I must hear the words. Why, you even woke up scowling after Krieg shot you, and I had just ——"

"I thought it was an old aunt of mine. I was dreaming of her."

Their laughter rang out, as if this was all taking place in some comfortable nook of earth, and not in the pitiless heavens where the *Scorpion* was slowly creeping to the edge of doom.

"You certainly can act, if I cannot," Purdy continued. "That is, if you——"

"I did! I did almost from the first. And it interfered dreadfully with my plans. Krieg became an impossibility after that. Oh, if I have had caprices, you must forgive me."

"Speaking of forgiveness," put in Tommy from across the car, "I've been a miserable cur. I told Purdy——"