

Dearest, sweetest, Caroline,

It would be impossible to describe the rapture which overwhelmed my heart at the receipt of your dear letter. A thousand and a thousand times I kissed the charming name, before I had power to examine the contents to which it was subscribed—but when I gained that power, good heaven! how much was I surprised, not, my lovely maid, at the proof you seem to require of my affection, but that there was a possibility for you to doubt if any thing in my power could be refused. Every request, every wish of yours, shall always have with me the force of a command; and it would be the greatest joy heaven ever could bestow on me, to anticipate all you can desire. I have much to say to you, on the subject which is nearest to my thoughts, and entreat you will give me an opportunity of revealing to you a secret, which indeed I never intended to have disclosed to any one, but now find an absolute necessity of entrusting to you.

Your aunt Coelia, I know, is engaged this evening at lady Merton's, I will therefore come, as if designing my visit to her, but beseech you to be at home, that I may offer you a more convincing testimony of the devotion of my passion, than that insufficient one you mention. In the meantime, my angel, be careful how your too scrupulous thoughts may wrong a heart, wholly devoted to you, and which will ever be so while sense or feeling, to see and to desire your bewitching beauties, remain in

Your most passionate and faithful admirer,

LOTHARIO.

P. S. The caution you observed in sending to me, gives me the highest idea of your prudence and sense; but you will find, when I have had the pleasure of imparting something to you, that your good genius must have inspired you on the occasion, as there was a particular necessity, for the happiness of us both, that you should have acted in the manner you did.

This letter had all the desired effect it was intended to have, in exciting the most impatient curiosity in Caroline, and engaging her to resolve upon allowing him another private interview—she longed, with no less earnestness than himself, for the appointed time of her aunt's going abroad, and of his approach, that she might have the mystery unravelled, and hear what testimony it was that her lover intended to offer of the