

"Do let me go Hal, or everyone in the town will see us," she exclaimed, with a gasp for breath; "you'll smother me if you don't, and besides it isn't time yet, and won't be time for nearly ten minutes, but I knew of old what a restless fellow you were, so I thought I'd come early."

He took her face between his hands, and looked into her eyes.

"Maud," he said, "you're very good to me," and then as he saw how heated she was, he added: "You poor girl, and me to keep you standing here in the red hot sun all this time; but come, it won't take a minute to reach the shade, and it's nice and cool there."

When they gained the knoll Maud seated herself upon the soft grass, and Hal threw himself down at her feet without a word, and gazed at her face.

From the foot of the knoll the land falls away abruptly far down into the wide sweeping stretches of the valley till it reaches the foot of the hills that hem it in on the other side. In the valley, and cautiously climbing part way up the hill, nestles the little town. Beyond the town the river widens out into the inlet, and beyond the inlet, dimly veiled in its smoke, is the city. Hal saw nothing of this, he only looked at her face.

"Hal," she said, "you mustn't look at me in that way, you frighten me."

"Do I, Maud? I didn't mean to," he replied, "but I want to look at you. I want to get every look of your face, so that when I am far away I will be able to see you just as if we were here together again. Oh, Maud! there'll be many and many a lonely night away off there, when I'd be willing to give all in the world just to see you like this, and won't be able."

"Now, Hal, you mustn't talk that way or you'll make me cry. It's as bad for me as it is for you, isn't it? but we can never get married this way, and we both want that, don't we?"

He seized her hand and covered it with kisses.

"And then, you know," she continued prettily, "if you don't go away and build your bridges, and become a great engineer, and all that, you'll never have enough to build our home with, and we must have a home, dear, now mustn't we? And yet—and yet. Oh, Hal!" and her lips began to quiver ominously, "I don't want you to go; I'd give anything if you didn't have to go."

She drew his head up closer, and bending over kissed him on the forehead.

He felt his face wet with her tears.

"Maud," he cried, "I'm a wretch to make you feel that way. It won't be long. It will only be one short little year, and then, why then we'll just laugh at it all, and think how foolish we both were to have feared anything in the world when we loved each other as we do."

Nothing was said by either for some time now, and then he looked up and remarked quickly:

"You're going to come out in society this winter in the city, I think you said, Maud, aren't you?"

"Yes," she replied, "and mamma has promised me a big party, and oh ever so many dresses, and things. All the girls that are out have such a good time, and I'll have it, too, and write you all about it, won't I though!"

He seemed scarcely to have heard her, and continued:

"Yes, you are going into society for the first time, and I somehow wish you weren't, Maud; it spoils so many girls; they seem to grow frivolous and hard a little, and sometimes I think they get wrong ideas of life there," then noticing her gesture of disapproval, he added, reassuringly:

"But I'm not afraid of you, Maud,—no, not a bit; I love you too much for that, Maud, I'd trust you right around the world, I love you so."

Again she caressingly drew his face between her hands and kissed him.

"You needn't be afraid Hal, no not a bit; I know all you are giving up for me, and it will always be just as though you were right near me,—yes, closest of all."

The sun had gone down and it was becoming cold now. A blue haze was creeping over the valley, and far away in the distance the lights of the city were beginning to twinkle one by one through the mist.

She shivered a little, and drew a shawl around her shoulders, then she stood up.

"I must be going now, Hal," she said, and he arose and went with her down the road as far as the place where the railway track crosses it overhead.

Then she bid him good bye, and he kissed her, and looked into her eyes as if his soul would enter there.

She remembered that look for many a long day, yes and remembered it when her letters had grown cold, and even after she had forgotten to write at all, at times she would again see those dark passionate