

the accident as a reason. It was his own suggestion that he should stay with you. We have gone into things very carefully and we have come to the conclusion that, as Anthony made the position absolutely secure for John and everything has been set out clearly between us, our wisest course is to let matters go on outwardly as if nothing had happened! Will you fall in with this, and just meet things as naturally as you possibly can? I am delighted to know that Mrs. Ambrose is staying with you and I am at your disposal any time if you want me in any way." Beneath his signature Sir Thomas had added: "I have told your son all that passed between us this morning. I thought it only right that he should know what your intentions were."

Olivia Mary sat a very long time in the chair by the fire and then resolved to go to bed. She was so tired with all the mental strain that she had gone through during the last twenty-four hours that gradually her excitement (and the knowledge that her boy was so near to her had signified great excitement) drifted away from her. As she put off her dressing-gown she knelt down and said the few simple prayers that she had said all her life, and then she got into bed.

Payne had lit a night-light and she lay for a little while looking at the odd shapes cast on the ceiling by the flicker of this light and the glow of the fire till her eyes closed. They opened with a great start an hour or so later and she woke out of a heavy dreamless sleep to see some one standing by her bed. It was her son.

Just for an instant she lay and looked at him and he looked back. Though the light was dim they could see one another plainly. Then John Cheston said:

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