

he had deferred till the morning. He again expatiated upon the worth of the young man who had received her parents warmest affections, spoke in the most exalted terms of his principles, his talents, and when Ellen, with a countenance from which every happy expression had vanished, endeavoured to confess what she feared would provoke his displeasure, he assured her that he "would not receive her answer until she had seen Mr. Dunforth which she would have an opportunity of doing in the course of the evening—and immediately left the room. Her mother followed, and when I would fain have sympathised in Ellen's sad emotions, she summoned me to accompany her. Vainly I tried to interest myself in the conversation which Mrs. Seymour introduced—my heart was with Ellen and I could hardly look with complacency upon a mother who could withhold her kind and tender sympathy, from the sensitive being who deserved her heart's fondest regard. She detained me nearly an hour, and impatiently had I counted every moment as it slowly passed away. At last with an affectionate smile she observed—"I cannot but notice your impatience to be with Ellen, and I willingly release you, assured as I am, that after you have seen her you will dispense with those unjust suspicions which I perceive you entertain towards the parents of your friend. I was perplexed, and as I could not understand her meaning did not reply—in silence we passed through the spacious hall, which led to the drawing room.—Here I found Ellen in close and apparently interesting conversation with a young man, whose noble mien and the visible union of dignity and mildness, sweetly blended in his deportment, marked the favourite of nature Every feature beamed with expression, and his large, dark eyes seemed to melt with tenderness as they gazed upon Ellen—that Ellen who but an hour before I had left a sad, unhappy being, and who now exhibited a countenance bright with happiness. I had hardly time to make these observations ere Ellen sprung from her seat and threw herself into her mother's arms—exclaiming—"forgive me my ever dear and honoured mama, that for a moment