

Ray and Her Mother

the tranquil, useful woman we are familiar with."

"Elsie has a genius for goodness," said Ray. "She is vain of it, vainer of it than of her beauty. Do you think she will satisfy Mr. Meredith, mother?"

"I cannot say. He is the best judge. There is an affinity of souls which logic can't gainsay. I think whoever marries Mr. Meredith will find opportunities to exercise forbearance and patience. Supposing he chose a nervous, excitable person like himself and they both effervesced at once,—or a talkative woman with decided opinions. That would drive him crazy. I've found out no one is wise enough to pick a wife for another. Married happiness is a little bark easily capsized."

"What treason that nautical figure sounds to your experience, mother. I feel moved to mend it and compare yours, at least, to a life-boat that couldn't be swamped."

"No union was ever closer than ours, Ray," said Mrs. Gilmour, with a touch of yearning in her voice, "but we ourselves fashioned the bonds which knit us to each other. Two hearts are never so perfectly mated that there will not arise differences between them, even annoying differences, and no two ever lived long