

sigh of relief. "If I can just keep you all on a sensible level, I shall manage everything most comfortably," he said; "only you mustn't stay here and fret all by yourself. How would you like to go away for a few days?"

She shook her head. "No: honestly, I don't think I feel equal to that."

"Then you must have somebody with you," said Sir Thomas.

"Payne will take care of me," Olivia Mary said; and then she said, speaking on an impulse: "If Helen Ambrose is in London I should like to see her."

"The very thing!" said Sir Thomas. "She is the one woman to be on in this scene! Will you write to her or shall I?"

"Oh! please don't bother. They shall telephone through to the hotel. I am sure if Mrs. Ambrose is able to come she will come, especially when she knows that I am not very well."

"Well, I shall be back again this evening to look you up," said Sir Thomas, "so take care of yourself and 'good-bye' for the moment."

As he was turning away, she clung to his arm. "You—you are going to see John. Teli him—" She leaned her head against Sir Thomas's shoulder for an instant, and then she said not very steadily: "No, don't tell him anything! He wouldn't understand!"

She turned away and went back to the chair, and Sir Thomas, just pausing a moment, hesitatingly said "good-bye" again, and then he left her. When he was in the hall slipping into his coat, he told Denton that Mrs. Cheston was anxious to see Mrs. Ambrose.