

and again in passing to what casual observers might otherwise have overlooked—her Tyrolese origin and her Parisian training.

'And Gascoyne, the scallywag,' Armitage went on reflectively, 'appears to be a sort of tutor or something of the kind to the other one—Thistleton.'

Madame Ceriolo's back collapsed altogether.

'An Oxford tutor!' she cried, smiling most genially. 'Why, that's quite respectable. The pink of propriety. Tout ce qu'il y-a de plus comme il faut! Nothing could be more proper.'

'I don't think he's exactly a tutor—not in the sense you mean,' Armitage continued hastily, afraid of guaranteeing the scallywag too far. 'I think he's merely come abroad for the vacation, you know, bringing this other young fellow along with him as a private pupil, to give him a few hours' reading and accompany him generally. I fancy he hasn't taken his own degree yet.'

'Then they're both of them students still?' Isabel Boyton interjected. 'Oh my! Ain't that nice! Two Oxford students! You always read in English books, you know, about students at Oxford.'

Armitage smiled.

'We don't call them students at Oxford or Cambridge, though, for obvious reasons,' he said, with British tolerance for Transatlantic ignorance; 'we know too well what they go there for, Miss Boyton, for that. We call them undergraduates.'

'Well, undergraduates, any way,' Isabel answered good-humouredly. She was accustomed to snubbing. 'It don't much matter what you call them, I guess, as long as they're men, and come from Oxford. Are you satisfied about them now in your own mind, Madame Ceriolo?'

Madame Ceriolo smiled her gracious little smile. She was as pretty and well preserved a woman of forty as you would wish to see across a *table d'hôte* at dinner any day.

'If they're really Oxford men, and your momma approves of them,' she replied, with just the faintest little undertone of malice, 'I'm sure they'll be an acquisition to Mentone society. Though I could wish that one of them was not a scallywag, if Mr. Armitage has explained the meaning of the name he applies to him correctly.'