

*If she had only gone on being high-spirited and flippant, but this unconscious appeal to his protective instinct was more than he could bear.*

*When they sat out dances, the Irishman's eyes would wander to the blue windows where the curtains were still undrawn. O'Grady was there in the starlight, a grey ghost. It was a banshee wailing to his honour to rise and flee.*

*"Julia," he said in mad impulse, "if something happened—if I had to go on the 'Britannia' to-morrow."*

*"But you won't have to," said the woman.*

*"If I did—if there were forces stronger than we are?" Now he was in his barren fields with his people.*

*"I could go back to Beauport . . . I could wait . . ."*

*"Suppose the waiting was just . . . waiting . . ."*

*"I should grow old and take to a cap and a cat perhaps. I won't say that I would n't*